

LKL Newsletter

July 2017



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ARLA + 1.65PPL TO 29.17PPL

Arla has increased its milk price for July by 1.65ppl. With currency adjustments the increase stands at 1.44ppl, taking the manufacturing standard litre price to 29.17ppl. Arla Foods director, Jonathan Ovens, said: "This will be welcome news for our owners that we are reflecting current market returns from rising fat prices in our July milk price." He said the market for protein was also firming but at a lower level.

FREE ASTROTUFT FOR COW TRACKS

LKL helping clients get hold of free Astroturf to cover their cow tracks. One lorry load cover @ 500 metres with 2 metre wide Astroturf. We have helped the Astroturf contractors to find homes on a few occasions and can call in the odd favour to get Astroturf to LKL clients.



It makes a superb walking surface and cows visibly speed up when walking to a section of cow track covered in Astroturf and it lowers lameness levels. If you are interested please ring the office on 01722 323546 or email amanda.hargrave@lkl-services.co.uk Please supply your address, sat nav postcode and mobile number of a person to unload. You need to be able to accommodate and unload an artic with pallet forks.

MICHAEL GOVE, THE NEW DEFRA LEADER

Michael Gove has taken over from Andrea Leadsom as the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and his views on trade may alarm some farmers' leaders. In an interview with the Daily Mail before the EU referendum, Michael Gove said that leaving the European Union could provide British consumers with cheap food as a result of trade deals with emerging nations. "An independent Britain could choose to strike free trade agreements with emerging economies and lower tariffs, extending new opportunities to developing nations and in the process allowing prices in Britain to become cheaper," he said. The new Environment Secretary said in the interview, in April 2016: "We can strip out the protectionism and special interests that drag down EU negotiations." In a separate interview with Nick Robinson on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, he said he would like to see the UK removing trade barriers with the rest of the world. "We would benefit from being able to take back control of our seat at the World Trade Organisation. "I'd like to see a Britton on the WTO determining trade policy. More than that, I would like to see barriers - trade barriers - that we've erected in the EU against developing nations come down."

WANT TO GET MORE FROM YOUR GRASS?

IRISH GRAZING STUDY TOUR 2017

LED BY NOEL GOWEN

WEDNESDAY 11TH AND THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER

LKL and Grasstec are hosting a Grazing and Grassland Study Tour to Ireland for a seventh time to see the latest cutting edge research findings on grassland based dairy farming at Moorepark and to visit three top performing Irish commercial farms. Only **£139 + VAT (excluding flights)** includes: all meals, hotel accommodation, coach transfers and entrance to Moorepark. To secure your place or for more information please call the office on 01722 323546.



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NEWS

BOVINE TB DROPS 35%

Control measures for bovine TB in Wales' Intensive Action Area (IAA) of north Pembrokeshire have resulted in a significant drop in the incidence of the disease. Numbers were down 35% in that area since the IAA was established in 2010. The proportion of herds under restriction for bovine TB has also fallen to 14%, compared with 22% in 2010.

IFCN SAY MARK PRICES SHORT-TERM STABILISING BUT LONG-TERM VOLATILITY EXPECTED

World prices are expected to stabilise on the back of global milk price rises and recovering demand according to the International Farm Comparison Network's short-term outlook. However, IFCN points out market uncertainties and longer term volatility.

17% SLUMP IN HORTICULTURE MIGRANT WORKERS

A major shortage of migrant workers to harvest fruit and veg crops is being reported by UK farmers. NFU horticulture chairman Ali Capper issued the warning. The NFU's latest labour survey, published on 23 June, showed the number of seasonal workers coming to work on UK farms has dropped 17%. There were more than 1,500 unfilled vacancies on British farms in May alone. Some migrant workers are shunning the UK because the fall in the value of sterling since the Brexit vote. Others are not coming because they don't feel welcome.

INPUT PRICES INCREASE, RUNNING AT + 6.2%

Anglia Farmers sources £230 million of agricultural inputs each year. The AF AgInflation Index is a weighted average of nine cost centres and 132 cost items. The average cost of agricultural inputs has increased 6.23% between September 2016 and February 2017, according to the AF AgInflation Index. The prime driver is 4.06% inflation in fuel attributable to devaluation of Sterling against the Dollar. Only agrochemicals saw deflation at minus 0.28%.

SOYA MILK IS NO LONGER MILK!

Plant-based foods cannot be sold in the European Union using terms such as milk, butter and cheese, the European Court of Justice has ruled. The ECJ ruling in a case referred to it by a German court involving German food company TofuTown. The company sells plant-based products with names including "Soyatoo Tofu Butter" and "Veggie Cheese". Since December 2013 EU regulations have stated that designations such as milk, butter, cheese cream and yogurt can only be used for marketing and advertising products which are derived from animal milk. There are exceptions. Coconut milk is allowed, for example, as are peanut butter, almond milk and ice cream. However, soya and tofu are not exempted.



BLUETONGUE WARNING

Farmers in the south east of England have been urged to be vigilant for signs of bluetongue in the wake of a confirmed case of BTV-8 in northern France. The midge-borne virus had been confirmed in more than 500 suspected cases in France since December.



4,000 COWS FLY TO QATAR TO BUILD DAIRY INDUSTRY AND BEAT BLOCKADES

A Qatari businessman will airlift 4,000 Holstein cows on 60 flights to create a local dairy industry. It is part of efforts to maintain milk supplies during the blockade by Qatar's Gulf Arab neighbours. Cows will come from Australia and the US to the farm, which is north of Doha, the country's capital city. Qatar has imported most of its dairy products from neighbouring countries. Qatar's isolation forced Qatar to open new routes to import food. The UK has pushed its exports towards Gulf states recently. The Gulf is the UK's third largest export market - worth more than £1.5bn and is already home to more than 5,000 UK companies and 4,000 British brands.

SELECTIVE CULL IN WALES

Targeted badger removal in cattle herds with persistent bovine TB has been sanctioned in Wales as the country prepares for a tougher approach to disease eradication. In high TB areas, a cull of infected badgers is one of several new tactics. Badgers in herds with chronic breakdowns will be trapped and blood tested; if they test positive for TB, they will be humanely culled. Those that test negative will be microchipped and released.

NEWS

COURT RULING TO OPEN UP SEXED SEMEN MARKET

Genus has been granted a permanent injunction in connection with its litigation against Inguran LLC, operating as Sexing Technologies (ST). The court found that ST had "wilfully maintained" a monopoly in the sexed semen market since 2012, and confirmed ST is prevented from enforcing non-competing restrictions under the 2012 Semen Sorting Agreement between ST and Genus. Genus will still have to pay patent payments and ongoing royalties per straw. Genus will be launching their own brand of sexed semen called Sexcel, in 2017, which uses a different technology. Rather than separating the cells, they are sexed using a microfluid. Farm trials across Europe indicate a comparable cost and performance similar to conventional semen and on a par with ST's Sexed Ultra.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

A number of capital items are now available via the countryside stewardship scheme 'high priority catchment areas' which extends to quite a large geography is the South of England. Examples include:-

- ◆ Concrete yard renewal @ £27.14/square metre
- ◆ Livestock and Machinery tracks @ £33/metre
- ◆ Roofing of manure stores, silage stores, slurry stores etc @ £62/square metre
- ◆ Livestock troughs @ £110/trough
- ◆ Fencing from £4/metre

There is a deadline of the end of July to register your interest for the scheme.

BURNING LEYS 'A BETTER STRATEGY THAN OVERSEEDING'

Burning off an existing grass ley with glyphosate to rejuvenate pasture that has low levels of perennial ryegrass is a better approach than overseeding, grassland farmers are being advised. Applying a small quantity of lime can be beneficial at this stage, even if the soil is at the correct pH, because dying vegetation can create acidic conditions at the soil surface. Underperforming grasses are costly. Direct drilling is cheaper than ploughing but, if the grass



is not performing because of compaction, this technique won't alleviate that problem. The seed will germinate but then hit a ceiling of compaction and suffer.

WASHABLE CLOTHS PROVE BEST

A Farming Connect trial compared the total bacterial count in milk produced by cows wiped with washable cloths and those wiped with disposable single-service paper towels. The washable cloths resulted in 95.3% reduction in TBC compared with a control group that were not wiped. In cows whose teats were cleaned with paper towels, the reduction was 48.8%. The reasons washable cloths are more effective are threefold. They are slightly moist, the structure of the cloth is more fibrous, which helps to remove contamination from teats and their size is also more manageable.



MANAGING YOUR RESEEDS

Siwan Howaston, AHDB dairy scientist, says: "Frequently, the initial grazing of reseeded is delayed on farms. Early grazing accelerates growth rates and the tillering process in spring reseeded. The sward should be grazed as soon as new roots are strong enough to withstand grazing, usually five to six weeks. Test this by using your fingers to see if roots stay anchored in the ground when pulled." Grazing removes the existing leaf and encourages a new generation of tillers to emerge at the base of the sward. Graze lightly with youngstock to a post-grazing residual of no lower than 40mm. New swards require frequent grazing of light covers during the first year post-establishment.

Top tips:-

- ◆ Walk your reseed twice/week.
- ◆ Avoid overgrazing.
- ◆ Avoid cutting for silage in the first six months, as it does not encourage the sward to tiller.
- ◆ Avoid applying excessive slurry.
- ◆ Review weed control.

TEXT YOUR COWS TO COME IN FOR MILKING AND SAVE 20 MINUTES

Imagine cows that fetch themselves in for milking, 20 minutes saved every time! Kiwikit are now offering an improved version of the popular Batt-Latch alarm clock gate which releases a spring gate for cows on a timer. It was originally designed for giving fresh allocations when break feeding crops over winter. Cows quickly get used to heading for the dairy when the gate opens automatically and emits a distinctive noise. The new version has a 3G modem option and SIM card. You can send a text to open the gate and let cows start coming in to save you time. Alternatively, send a text to alter a preset release time. Handy for getting a herd moving or getting a second group in for milking etc etc. Contact www.kiwikit.co.uk or telephone 01584 879959.

PEOPLE CELEBRATING SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS!

Constantin Ababei, Stefan Hawkins, Allen Hunter, Adrian Tomaszewski, Richard Stirman, Mariusz Mroziak, Daniel Dixon



WELCOME TO:

FARMERS

A L & S L Dewey



Congratulations to Jim and Marie Taylor, at Linekiln Dairy, on their 20th Wedding Anniversary on 12 July!



Behind every successful student, there is a deactivated Facebook account.

When I see ads on TV with smiling, happy housewives using a new cleaning product, the only thing I want to buy are the meds they must be on.

FOR SALE

2 Bray Boards.

For further information please contact Steven Barbour, Haywards Heath, on 07720 455533.

I changed my password to "incorrect". So, whenever I forget what it is the computer will say "your password is incorrect".

I said: "How long will my spaghetti be?" The waiter said: "I don't know. We never measure it."

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.

This Officer stopped me and said: "Why are you driving with a bucket of water on the passengers seat?" I said: "So that I can dip my headlights."

Child's experience: if mother is laughing at father's jokes, it means we have visitors!

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2018 Calendar Photos

Please submit your photos for the 2018 LKL Calendar.

Email to carol.adlem@lkl-services.co.uk



www.lklservices.co.uk