

Newsletter

May 2026

NEWS, AGRI ADVICE AND PROMOTIONS



Roughy Valley Pig farm, Kilgarvan, Co. Kerry which was purchased by Stauntons in 2024

Maximising Silage Quality This Summer

Silage remains the main conserved forage on most farms, making up a significant part of livestock diets for up to six months of the year. Producing high-quality silage is essential to maintain animal performance, reduce feed costs, and maximise forage value.

The key targets for quality silage are:

- **Dry Matter (DM):** 28–32%
- **Digestible Dry Matter (DMD):** 75+

Following best practice at every stage of the silage-making process can help achieve these targets.

Step 1: Choose the Right Cutting Date:

Timing plays a major role in silage quality and preservation.

- Cut silage approximately **6–7 weeks after fertiliser application**.
- Before cutting, ensure nitrate levels are below **600 ppm** to aid fermentation and preservation. Contact your local advisor for **nitrogen testing** on grass swards and receive fast, accurate results instantly.
- As a general guideline, the crop uses around **2 units of nitrogen per day**.
- Where possible, cut grass in the **afternoon**, when natural sugar levels are at their highest. Sugar levels above **3%** help improve fermentation quality.

Step 2: Ensile the Crop Correctly: Good wilting and chop management are essential for producing stable, high-feed-value silage.

- Spread the grass over as wide an area

as possible immediately after mowing to encourage rapid wilting.

- Aim for a wilting period of **12–24 hours** to achieve the target DM of **28–32%**.
- Avoid over-wilting, as prolonged exposure can reduce energy content and increase field losses.

Recommended Chop Length: Adjust chop length depending on crop conditions:

- Dry crops: 20–30 mm
- Wet crops: 35–50 mm

Discuss chop length requirements with your contractor so adjustments can be made according to weather and crop conditions to support better fermentation.

Step 3: Fill and Seal the Pit Properly:

Correct pit management is critical to minimise air infiltration and preserve feed quality.

- Fill the pit efficiently and safely.
- Roll each layer evenly to a depth of approximately **15 cm (6 inches)** to remove trapped air.
- Use sufficient layers of plastic sheeting to create a strong airtight seal.
- Apply adequate weight across the pit to help initiate and maintain effective fermentation.

By following these key steps, farmers can improve silage preservation, reduce feed losses, and produce a higher-quality forage that supports herd performance throughout the winter months.

NEWS WATCH

MILK SUPPLY AND PRICE

April milk supply amounted to 11,699,344 litres which was a 3% decrease on April 2025, year-to-date supply is up 1% on the prior year. This month, the Co-op decreased its base price by 0.5c/L but the payment from the stability fund increased by the same amount, bringing the stability fund contribution to 2 c/L. The combined effect of these changes is that the price remains the same as the previous month.

The Co-op's base price, including the Stability fund contribution, is 39.45 C/L for April milk. Barryroe is paying €7.0272 per kg of protein and €4.6848 per kg of butterfat. Our average constituents for the month are 3.47% protein 4.26% butterfat and our average price paid is 43.95 c/L, including 0.5 SCC bonus and VAT @4.5%.

DISPOSAL OF POOR-QUALITY MILK

Following agreement with Carbery, compensation for the disposal of poor-quality milk, including antibiotic-positive milk or milk with high TBC levels, has been increased from 30% to 50%.

Suppliers who believe their milk may be affected due to antibiotics or elevated TBC levels are strongly encouraged to contact Hugh Holland or their milk driver immediately and advise that the milk should not be collected.

Poor-quality milk has the potential to contaminate an entire tanker or bulk silo, which may prevent Carbery from using that milk in the production of premium cheeses. This can result in significantly reduced financial returns on the affected milk.

END OF YEAR CASH BONUS

The Co-op's profitable performance in 2025 allowed your committee to approve funding for:

- **Milk Bonus** 1 cent per litre supplied.
- **Fertiliser and compound feed** €5 per tonne purchased.
- **Grain Bonus** €12 per tonne supplied at harvest.

The overall bonus amounts to €1.45 million and, as in previous years, loyalty criteria apply. Payment will be made with your May statements.

GARDEN & PAINT OFFERS



K5 Power washer
ONLY €299



Levington Tomorite
1 Litre
BUY 2 FOR €12



Protekk 15ltr Sprayer battery
ONLY €99



Legacy 139cc 18"
Push Lawn Mower
ONLY €299



Dulux Weathershield
White 10Ltr



Slug Clear Slug Pellets
685g
ONLY €7.95



Sandtex 12Ltr
Masonry White
ONLY €49.95



Westland Jacks Magic
All Purpose 40L
BUY 3 & GET 3 FREE



Dulux Weathershield
Colour 10Ltr
ONLY €79.95

AGRI OFFERS



**Buy 2 Dockleen 5Ltr and
get a Scrubkiller 1Ltr FREE**



**20%
OFF**

Ecosyl Silage Additives



Farmstokk Tail Paint 750ml
ONLY €16.50



**10%
OFF**

Clingseal



Farmstokk Pigtail Posts
Black PK 10
ONLY €27.95



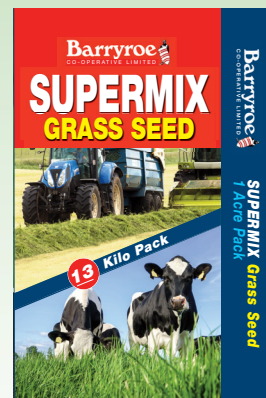
**10%
OFF**

Crystalx
Cattle Booster

Crystalx New Product
INTRO 10% DISCOUNT



Farmstokk Screw in Ring Insulator
Bucket 100
ONLY €21.95



Barryroe Supermix Grass seed
**BUY 5 & SAVE €25
BUY 10 & SAVE €75**



Kerry Pig Farm, Causeway which was purchased by Stauntons in 2025

The Importance of Silage Additives in 2026

With rising concentrate costs and increasing pressure to maximise forage quality, silage additives will continue to play a key role on farms in 2026. Producing top-quality silage starts with growing a strong perennial ryegrass sward, ideally from recently reseeded ground, harvesting at the correct stage before heading, mowing and harvesting in favourable conditions, and ensuring the pit is well compacted and sealed.

However, silage additives can make a significant difference to both fermentation quality and animal performance, delivering an excellent return on investment when used correctly.

Recommended Additive: Ecosyl Inoculant (Liquid or Powder): Ecosyl contains a unique strain of *Lactobacillus plantarum* supported by more trial data than any other

silage inoculant on the market. Available in both liquid and powder form, Ecosyl is designed to rapidly produce high levels of lactic acid, improving fermentation efficiency across a wide range of conditions. Both liquid and powder packs treat up to 100 tonnes of silage.

Benefits of Ecosyl

- Improves silage fermentation and reduces wastage.
- Delivers an average increase of 3 DMD units across 26 feeding trials.
- Achieved an average increase of 1.2 litres of milk per cow per day in 15 independent dairy trials.
- Recorded an average 11% increase in daily liveweight gain across 19 beef trials.
- Helps improve the protein content of silage.

Using a proven silage additive such as Ecosyl can help farmers preserve more nutrients, improve feed efficiency, and ultimately increase animal performance throughout the winter feeding period.



Quantifying the value of organic slurry

- To summarise this table, applying 1,000 gallons of good quality cattle slurry can be considered equivalent, in chemical fertiliser terms, to a 50kg bag of an NPK product 6 – 5 32.
- Similarly, applying 1,000 gallons of pig slurry can be considered equivalent, in chemical fertiliser terms, to a 50kg bag of an NPK product 19- 7-20.
- With the rising cost in chemical fertilisers this spring, organic fertilisers used correctly may help with reducing the overall chemical fertiliser usage on farm.

Available N, P & K values for a range of organic manures			
	Units/1,000 gallons		
Manure type	N	P	K
Cattle slurry (7% DM)	6	5	32
Cattle slurry (3.5% DM)	5	3	15
Pig slurry (4% DM)	19	7	20
	Units/tonne		
FYM	3	2	12



Tropicana Smooth/Original Orange Juice
1.5lt €2.99 per lt



SPAR Granulated Sugar
1kg €1.50 per kg



Clonkilly Irish Pork Sausages
227g €8.81 per kg



Fairy Washing Up Liquid Lemon/Original
320ml €2.99 per lt



Colour Catcher Protection Sheets
22 Pack See in store for details



SPAR Classic Olive Oil
500ml €6 per lt



ONLY
€6.50

Aveeno Daily Moisturising Body Lotion
300ml €21.67 per lt



ONLY
€3.99
EACH

Innocent Kids Smoothies Range
4 Pack 4x150ml €6.65 per lt



ONLY
€2
EACH

HB Viennetta Range
650ml €3.08 per lt



ONLY
€1.75
EACH

Palmolive Naturals Milk & Honey/Almond Milk Handwash
300ml €5.83 per lt



ONLY
€10

Cushelle Original Longer Roll
12 Rolls See in store for details



ONLY
€3.25

Regina Blitz Household Towel
1 Roll €3.25 per roll



ONLY
€6.50

Nescafé Azera Americano
90g €7.22 per kg



ONLY
€10.99
EACH

Finish Ultimate All in One Lemon
55 Wash See in store for details



ONLY
€22.09

Paddy Irish Whiskey
700ml €22.09 per 70cl



ONLY
€2.75
EACH

Danone Activia Yogurts Range
4 Pack See in store for details



ONLY
€2.50
EACH

Alpro Dairy Alternative Milks Range
1lt €2.50 per lt



ONLY
€4.50
EACH

Comfort Fabric Conditioner Range
48 Wash See in store for details



ONLY
€6

Weetabix
48 Pack 860g €6.98 per kg



ONLY
€7.50
EACH

Go-Cat Cat Food Range
2kg €3.75 per kg



ONLY
€2
EACH

Baker Street Sesame/Plain Burger Buns
300g €6.67 per kg | Hot Dog Rolls 250g €8 per kg



ONLY
€6.50
EACH

Felix As Good As It Looks Cat Food Pouches Range
12 Pack 12x85g
Winalot Dog Food Pouches Range
12 Pack 12x85g/100g See in store for details



ONLY
€8.99
EACH

Soroca Wines Range
750ml €8.99 per 75cl



ONLY
€3.99
EACH
ONLY
€4.99
EACH
ONLY
€5.99
EACH
ONLY
€6.99
EACH
ONLY
€9.99
EACH

Socialite Non Alcoholic Cabernet Sauvignon/Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio 750ml €3.99 per 75cl | **Nozeco Non Alcoholic Chardonnay/Rose 750ml €4.99 per 75cl** | **JP Chenet Non Alcoholic Ice Sparkling 750ml €5.99 per 75cl** | **Monetto Prosecco 0.0% 750ml €6.99 per 75cl** | **Hans Greyi Sauvignon Blanc 750ml €9.99 per 75cl**



ONLY
€1
+25c Deposit

SPAR Still Water
2lt 50c per lt



ONLY €3.99 EACH

Kellogg's Corn Flakes 670g €5.96 per kg | **Coco Pops Chocos/Rice Krispies** 430g €9.28 per kg | **Frosties** 470g €8.49 per kg | **Crunchy Nut Granola Caramelised Hazelnuts/Chocolate & Nuts/Fruit & Nuts** 380g €10.50 per kg



ONLY
€21.49

Sminoff Vodka
700ml €21.49 per 70cl



ONLY
€7.50
+60c Deposit

Guinness Draught Cans 0% Multi Pack
4 Pack 4x500ml €3.75 per lt



ONLY
€15.95

Corona Cero 00 Non Alcoholic Lager
12 Pack 12x330ml €4.03 per lt



ONLY
€16.49

Gordon's Alcohol Free 0.0%
700ml €16.49 per 70cl

CHEAPEST IN IRELAND



Molson Canadian Lager Cans 8 Pack 8x500ml €3.16 per lt
Stella Artois Cans 8 Pack 8x500ml €3.63 per lt
Bavaria Bottles 12 Pack 12x330ml €3.94 per lt
Budweiser Beer Bottles 15 Pack 15x300ml €3.39 per lt

ANY 2 FOR €5.50



Fresh Choice Market Selected Berries Range
227g/125g See in store for details



McVitie's Milk/Dark/White Chocolate Digestive Biscuits
266g/232g €9.40/€10.78 per kg



Dairygold Original/Light Spread
454g €7.16 per kg

ZERO ZONE

Prices correct at the time of going to print. Offers available from 28/05/26 to 17/06/26, unless otherwise stated.
Customer quotas may apply. All savings shown are versus recommended retail price.