



*Congratulations to Chris O'Driscoll on her retirement from our Eurospar supermarket, Lislevane, pictured receiving a presentation from her colleagues, Shauna Casey, Christina Cahalane, Joe O'Leary, Geraldine Collins, John Cuddihy and Hannah Whelton.*

## PREVENTING SUB-ACUTE RUMINAL ACIDOSIS (SARA) IN DAIRY COWS

Sub-Acute Ruminal Acidosis (SARA) is a metabolic disease of cattle that is commonly seen in freshly calved dairy cows at grass in springtime. It has a significant negative effect on incomes on dairy farms due to loss of milk yield, lower quality milk constituents, poorer BCS, infertility, etc. It is present in 10 to 15% of grazing cows and in 20 to 40% of cows in confined high production systems. **We have seen an increase with cattle being affected by SARA in recent years.**

### What is SARA?

- SARA is a metabolic disease that occurs when the pH in the rumen goes below 5.5 pH. The digestive system is at its most efficient at a pH of between 5.8 and 6.3 and the maximum benefit from the diet is achieved.
- Below 5.5 pH, the digestive system is less efficient, with fibre digestion decreasing by up to 25% due to the bacteria responsible for fibre breakdown being intolerant to changes in pH. Rumen bacteria, in general, are less efficient at lower pH levels as is nutrient absorption across the rumen wall.

### What causes it?

- Diets containing high levels of rapidly fermentable carbohydrates (starches and sugars) will reduce rumen pH. Diets with low fibre content, particularly,

structural fibre will also contribute to SARA.

- Cows fed on diets that consist of fresh spring grass and concentrates with high levels of cereal/maize are prone to SARA.
- Feeding programmes, such as feeding high levels of concentrates twice a day, can influence SARA susceptibility, as ruminal pH fluctuates during the day, being at its lowest during night hours. Diet formulations that are nutritionally unbalanced will contribute to SARA.

### Symptoms

- There is no one indicator that confirms SARA is present in the herd. It is a combination of factors that will determine if SARA is present.
- Reduced feed intake, poor milk composition, reduced milk yield, scouring, etc. may be indicators of SARA, but they may not be all present at the same time.
- A very soft, watery dung pat with bubbles present is a strong indication of reduced ruminal pH, particularly if there is some undigested fibre present.
- If milk fat is less than milk protein by 0.4% for 10% of the herd or if milk fat is less than 2.5% for 10% of the herd, then SARA could be suspected.
- Lack of rumination (chewing the cud) is another indication of SARA – 80% of the herd should be lying down chewing the cud 2 to 3 hours after being turned out into the paddock.

## NEWS WATCH

### MILK SUPPLY AND PRICE

December milk supply amounted to 3,170,216 litres which was a 19% decrease on December 2022. An improvement in market conditions resulted in Barryroe increasing its price to €6.7665 per kg of protein and €4.511 per kg of butterfat,

which represents a 1 c/L increase for variable priced milk. Carbery is continuing to support from its stability fund with 2c/L for both variable and fixed-price milk. Our average constituents for the month are 3.59% protein 4.62% butterfat and our average price paid for variable priced milk is 45.15 c/L, including 0.88c SCC bonus and VAT @4.8%. Included in this month's milk statements is the FutureProof sustainability bonus for 2023 and the interim winter milk bonus payments.

# DETERGENT OFFERS



**SAVE  
€99**

Deosan Teatfoam 200Ltr  
**WAS €499 NOW €400**  
Deosan Teatfoam 950Ltr IBC  
**SAVE €195**



**SAVE  
€349**

DUO CEL 1000Ltr  
**WAS €1495 NOW €1146**



**25%  
OFF**

Deosan Osa-N 20Ltr  
**25% OFF**  
Deosan Osa-N 200Ltr  
**WAS €825 NOW €595**



**SAVE  
€50**

Deosan Target Pre Post 200Ltr  
**WAS €349 NOW €299**  
Deosan Target Pre Post  
950Ltr IBC  
**SAVE €249**



**SAVE  
€99**

Superclean Descaler  
**WAS €595 NOW €496**



**SAVE  
€129**

Clus-ster XX 200Ltr  
**WAS €925  
NOW ONLY €795**



**SAVE  
€100**

Deosan PRIME CIP VC93 200L  
**WAS €595  
NOW ONLY €495**



**20%  
OFF**

Superclean Locount 20Kg



Deosan Teatfoam 20Ltr  
**BUY 2 FOR €110**



Virodox 200Ltr  
( PERACETIC ACID 5% )  
**ONLY €419**

## NEW OCTA PRODUCT RANGE LAUNCH ( ONE OF THE MOST MODERN & COST EFFECTIVE WASH ROUTINE'S AVAILABLE )



OCTACID ONE 22KG  
**WAS €119 NOW €95**



**SAVE  
€150**  
OCTAKLEAN 250KG  
**WAS €519 NOW €369**

# CALVING SPECIALS



Iodine 10%  
**BUY 2 FOR €20**



**10%  
OFF**

INTERKOKASK  
CONCENTRATE 1KG



Albex 10% 5Ltr  
**ONLY €79**



Lectade Box 48  
**ONLY €89**



Forcefield Milking gloves  
**BUY 2 FOR €25**



Barryroe Calf Jackets  
**BUY 3 FOR €75**

# PREVENTING SUB-ACUTE RUMINAL ACIDOSIS (SARA) IN DAIRY COWS Continued

## Consequences

- Low ruminal function and poor utilization of the diet are probably the most significant consequences of SARA. Everything else leads on from these issues.
- Low rumen pH greatly inhibits fibre digestion which has a negative influence on milk fat percentage which, in turn, has financial implications. Because the diet is not digested efficiently, a lot of nutrients and energy are not available to the cow.
- This means that BCS, overall milk composition, milk yield and fertility will suffer. Cows use up their body/fat reserves to produce milk ("milking off their back") and thin cows are difficult to get back in calf!
- The immune system is also compromised, which means the cow is more susceptible to diseases and illnesses such as mastitis and grass tetany. SARA may also have an effect on lameness but this is not certain.

## Prevention

SARA is difficult to prevent as it can occur at various times during the cow's lactation, especially in early lactation. It is essential to provide a fibre source or rumen buffers to the cow at vulnerable times. Diets should have at least 21% NDF (neutral detergent fibre) coming from forage to buffer against pH drops in the rumen.

There should not be more than 35% starch & sugar in the diet for the same reason. Straw (chop length = 7cm), good quality high dry matter baled silage, maize silage, etc., are excellent sources of fibre/buffer feeds for dairy herds grazing lush spring grass. Concentrates should also have a good source of fibre included, such as, soya hulls and beet pulp. Other ingredients, such as, palm kernel meal and sunflower meal, may also be included in spring/summer concentrates, as a fibre source only.

## BARRYROE FEED: NEW PRODUCT UPDATE

Barryroe Co-op is releasing a new dairy nut including a buffer and yeast to specifically target digestion and PH issues in animals to help prevent issues such as acidosis and scouring. Rumbuff and Actisaf can now be included in our 16% elite range if requested. Below are the reasons why Rumbuff and Actisaf can be an option for your animals this spring.

### RUMBUFF

- RUMBUFF is a feed buffer for dairy cows, beef cattle and calves.
- RUMBUFF is a breakthrough in the search for an ideal buffering agent. It has many properties, which make it the only and obvious choice for inclusion in feeds where a buffering agent is desirable.
- RUMBUFF is long-acting and regulates rumen pH for optimum digestion and performance.
- RUMBUFF is a veterinary approved, time released buffer and alkaliser with 5 different buffering sources that regulates rumen Ph.

### RUMBUFF is ideal for:

- ✓ High Cereal Diets
- ✓ High starch diets and Spring/ Summer grazing.
- ✓ Cows that are cud coughing.
- ✓ Where high feed intakes are required.
- ✓ Lush green grass.
- ✓ Supporting the control of SARA.

### ACTISAF

Actisaf is the market leader in protected live yeast. Adding Actisaf to animal feeds has been seen to boost the performance of animals by improving their rumen/gut microbiota biotop. Not only does Actisaf improve feed digestibility and energy supply but also the overall health status and well-being of animals, even in challenging conditions such as heat stress and feed transition. (Transitioning from silage/winter grass to fresh leafy grass).

### Main benefits of Actisaf:

1. Actisaf improves rumen and gut ecosystem balance. This leads to a reduction in the use of antibiotics, helping to reduce antibiotic resistance.
2. Actisaf increases feed digestibility and assimilation, maximising animal growth, fertility, well-being, and performance.
3. Actisaf improves the immunological and nutritional qualities of both milk and colostrum, leading to smoother gestation and lactation periods.
4. Actisaf optimises herd management to deliver full genetic potential and productivity.
5. Actisaf improves consistency for better herd management, even in challenging conditions.

Actisaf helps farmers to improve animal performance, promoting a better return on investment.

**Want to know more:** In Barryroe, we provide an excellent service with internal and external nutritionists on hand to all customers. Talk to your local Barryroe advisor to find out how to improve animal performance on your farm: David Walsh 086-8073953, Amanda Nugent 087-2720716, Dave Nyhan 087- 4433376.



## CALVING SPECIALS



Farmosan Reviva



**MHC Pure Mineral Blocks  
BUY 10 & GET  
A FREE PAIR TECHNO  
WELLINGTONS  
WORTH €44.95**



Buffalo De Horning Crate

**NOW OPEN EVERY SUNDAY 9am - 2pm**

All imagery is serving suggestion, imagery

## CHICKEN DINNER FOR UNDER €10

**Inishella**  
 Fresh Irish Whole Chicken 2kg €3.50 per kg €7  
**Peter Keogh & Sons**  
 Rooster Potatoes 1kg €0.89 per kg 89c  
**Fresh Choice**  
 Brussell Sprouts 500g €1.78 per kg 89c  
 Carrots Tray 400g €1.73 per kg 69c

### SUPER EASY DINNER

**ONLY €2.99**

SPAR  
 Real Irish Butter  
 454g €6.59 per kg

**ONLY €2**

Gem  
 Caster Sugar  
 1kg €2 per kg

**ONLY €3.50**

Actimel  
 Yogurt Drink Range  
 8 Pack 8x100g €4.37 per kg

**ONLY €2.50**

Chef  
 Tomato Ketchup  
 390g €6.41 per kg

**ONLY €1**

SPAR  
 Pasta Range  
 500g €2.00 per kg

**ONLY €21.49**

Smirnoff  
 Vodka  
 700ml €21.49 per 70cl

**ONLY €3.50**

Hellmann's  
 Light/Real Mayonnaise  
 400g €8.75 per kg

**ONLY €2.79**

Alpro  
 Dairy Alternative Range  
 1L €2.79 per L

**ONLY €2.25**

Cully & Sully  
 Chilled Soup Range  
 400g €5.63 per kg

**ONLY €1.99**

Chicago Town  
 Thin & Crispy Cheese/Double Pepperoni  
 305g €6.52 per kg

**ONLY €6**

SPAR  
 Firelog  
 4 Pack 4x600g See Shelf for Information

**ONLY €2.50**

Mi Wadi  
 0% Sugar Squash Range  
 1L €2.50 per L

**ONLY 69c EACH**

**ONLY 69c EACH**

Fresh Choice  
 Shapes and Sizes Mushrooms  
 200g €3.45 per kg

**ONLY €3.99**

Tropicana  
 Orange Smooth/Original  
 1.35L €2.95 per L

**ONLY €5**

Whiskas  
 Pouch Multipack Range  
 12 Pack 12x85g €4.90 per kg

**ONLY €4.75**

Surf  
 Liquid Detergent Range  
 24 Wash 648ml €7.33 per L

**ONLY €3.99**

Kellogg's  
 Cornflakes/Crunchy Nut Honey & Nut Flakes  
 720g/500g €5.54/€7.98 per kg

**ONLY €3**

Birds Eye  
 The Original Potato Waffles  
 10 Pack 567g €5.29 per kg

**ONLY €5.90**

Weetabix  
 Biscuits  
 48 Pack 860g €6.86 per kg

**ANY 4 FOR €4**

Müller  
 Crunch/Fruit/Light Corners Range  
 Various See Shelf for Information

**ONLY €9.99**

Santa Rita 120  
 Wines Range  
 750ml €9.99 per 75cl

**6 PACK BOTTLES**

**ONLY €8.95**

**ONLY €9.95**

Bulmers  
 Light Cider Bottles  
 6 Pack 6x300ml €4.97 per L

Bulmers  
 Irish Cider Bottles  
 6 Pack 6x300ml €5.53 per L

Prices correct at the time of going to print. Offers available from 18th January to 7th February 2024, unless otherwise stated. Customer quotas may apply. All savings shown are versus recommended retail price.