

“Your education, your future, just better”

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Welcome to our first weekly newsletter of 2022, where we give an overview of college and farm activities.

Dairy Herd

On December 31st the early calving cows were vaccinated with Bovilis Rotavec Corona. This vaccine provides passive immunity to calves against E. coli, rotavirus and coronavirus pathogens through the cows colostrum. Late March and April calving cows will be vaccinated in late January. Twenty seven cows were hoof paired on January 3rd. All cows and heifers are footbathed twice per week, we use Podocur SV. Preparations are now well underway for the 2022 calving season. All calf houses have been powerwashed, disinfected and straw bedded. The group calving shed and individual calving pens are fully bedded. Fresh supplies of calving equipment including gloves, marking sprays, lubricant, calving ropes and stomach tube bottles are now in stock.



Drystock Enterprise

The finishing beef cattle were weighed on January 11th. The 2020 born home bred steers have an average weight of 598Kgs and an ADG since Decembers weighing of 0.83Kgs. The heaviest steer is 680Kgs. This Saler cross was born on March 18th 2020. The bought in beef heifers have an average weight of 522Kgs with an ADG of 0.91Kgs since Decembers weighing. Scanning of the mid-season lambing flock took place on Tuesday last with very good results as outlined in the two tables below. Ewes are now grouped according to scan results and concentrates were introduced this week into the diet of the triplet ewes and ewe lambs carrying twins.

No of Ewe Lambs Scanned	No. Lambs	Total Lambs
1	0	0
14	1	14
17	2	34
32		48
Scanning Rate (Lambs per ewe lamb bred)		1.50

No of Mature Ewes Scanned	No. Lambs	Total Lambs
6	0	0
10	1	10
43	2	86
18	3	54
0	4	0
77		150
Scanning Rate (Lambs per mature ewe bred)		1.95

Farm and Farmyard

On New Year's Eve we took delivery from Clarkes Machinery Ltd, Cavan of two new Valtra tractors. The G115 and N175 models will be used for both farming and teaching purposes. A third tractor will arrive shortly. We finished feeding the 2020 pit silage over the Christmas period and we are now feeding from the second cut 2021 silage pit. This silage was made on July 16th 2021. The DMD of this silage is 74%. Silage from last year's first crop will be fed to cows in early lactation as it is higher in energy and has a DMD of 82%.

College Activities

We are continuing to successfully deliver all our courses in spite of the challenges, which Covid19 presents. Our Level 6 Dairy, Drystock and Mechanisation students will begin 16 weeks of work placement at the end of January where they will have an opportunity to further develop their farming and management skills.

Photo of the Week



The picturesque Shannongrove with her winter care takers.

Dates for Your Diary

Our college Open Day takes place on Saturday March 26th.

Our new Distance Education and Part-Time "Green Cert" courses will commence on April 2nd 2022. Visit our website www.salesianag.ie for further details.

Applications are now open for our full time Level 5 Certificate in Agriculture course, which commences in September 2022. Visit our website for more details.

Group Visits

We are now open to accepting visiting groups, be that schools, groups of farmers or individuals. Contact Mary in admin at 061-393100 and we will be happy to tailor a package to suit your needs.

Social Media

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok for daily updates on college and farm activities.

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