

## Teagasc Notes for the week ending Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> 2017

### Farm Hazardous Waste Collection in Kilkenny

Hazardous Farm Waste is present on every farm. Not only is it an environmental risk, it poses a threat to you and your family's health. Now there is a chance to dispose of farm hazardous wastes safely and at a reduced price. Go for it and start tidying out all those sheds and use this opportunity as a Pre-winter clean up on your farm. DAFM and Bord Bia farm audits may look for information on how you store and dispose of these wastes on your farm.

Teagasc has teamed up with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM), Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA), Local Authorities, WEEE Ireland, European Recycling Platform (ERP) and a hazardous waste contractor, to operate ten collection centres for the collection of Farm Hazardous Waste across the country during October and November. This provides farmers with an excellent opportunity to dispose of their hazardous wastes in a manner that protects human health, livestock and the environment.

After 4 years and 35 sites, the Farm Hazardous waste collection scheme, has been a significant success, only made possible by the support of all the stakeholder bodies but most importantly the farmers who availed of the opportunity to clear out a range of listed hazardous products that have accumulated, on farm, over the years, and in some cases over a generation. Over the 4 years just short of 7,000 farmers availed of the Farm Hazardous Waste Collection Scheme (FHWCS) disposing of 800 tonnes of waste.

For farmers in Kilkenny and surrounding counties, a collection point has been organised at Cillin Hill Mart, Kilkenny on Wednesday November 8<sup>th</sup> from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

### Guidance for Farmers:

By noting the guidance and information given below, farmers will greatly assist in the efficient and safe operation of the farm hazardous waste collection centre.

1. Each waste type must be clearly identifiable.
2. Each waste must be segregated and packaged to avoid leaks during transport and off-loading
3. Mixed waste and unidentifiable waste will NOT BE ACCEPTED.
4. Waste engine and hydraulic oils should not be mixed with any other substances including vegetable oil.
5. All needles and syringes to be delivered to the centres in a separate sealed container.
6. Farmers should segregate and package their wastes to avoid leaks during transport.
7. Farmers should load their wastes so that they can be off-loaded at the 4 main operational areas on the site
  - Waste oil acceptance area
  - WEEE and battery acceptance area
  - Hazardous waste acceptance area
  - Empty Containers acceptance area
8. Farmers will be responsible for all their farm hazardous waste until the hazardous waste contractor confirms acceptance of the waste.
9. Payment by cash, cheque or card required on the day. All wastes will be rounded up to the nearest kilogram and charged accordingly. €2/Kg except for contaminated empty plastic containers which are charged for at €4/Kg - (excl. VAT @ 13.5%).
10. Farmers will be issued with a receipt of payment and a certificate of transfer of the control of waste on each day.
11. The following wastes **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**; farm plastics such as clean triple rinsed empty pesticide & dairy hygiene containers, silage wrap, fertiliser & feed bags, netting and twine.

Wastes cannot be dropped off before or after the designated collection day or time.

## Cost

- Free of charge: waste engine and hydraulic oil, electrical equipment and batteries.
- €2/kg + vat: pesticides, veterinary medicines, mastitis tubes, syringes, paint, acids, oily wastes etc.

## Dairying

### The feed value of late autumn grass

A common observation by dairy farmers is that late autumn grass does not have the same 'power' as spring or summer swards. Teagasc analysis of good quality autumn swards over a number of seasons has shown that:

1. DMD is still high at +80% because the fibre content remains digestible;
2. Sugars content is lower than for summer grass;
3. Energy content is 80-85% of the value of spring grass at 0.85-0.90 UFL per kg DM; and,
4. Crude protein content is high at 21 -23%. Much of this is rumen-degradable nitrogen (N), which is adequate for late lactation cows, but not for freshly-calved cows.

These compositional changes reduce milk

production potential for autumn grass – for example 16kg DM intake of autumn grass supports a daily milk yield of approximately 5.5 litres less than an equivalent allowance of summer pasture. Also, the surplus of feed protein relative to energy is greater for autumn grass. This is not to say that autumn grass is a poor feed, however. On the contrary, it is possible to achieve excellent milk solids output (1.2+ kg per day) from spring-calved cows fed 2kg/day of high energy (e.g., 0.94 UFL) concentrate in late lactation, provided grass is well managed as part of the diet.

For freshly-calved cows on autumn grass, higher rates of concentrate supplementation (5-6kg) and inclusion of quality protein ingredients (e.g., soya, distillers) are required. A high-energy (0.94 UFL) ration at protein equivalent of 16% is complementary to autumn grass – higher crude protein levels are of limited benefit until grass is removed from the diet.

### Prevent health issues

- Consult your Vet and/or dose at housing and be aware of using the correct drug; the required quantity per weight of animal and milk and meat withdrawal times. Confirm the presence of liver or rumen fluke by dung analysis.
- All weanlings must be dosed for stomach worms (Type 11), hoose, and liver fluke and treated for lice.
- Cows must be treated for stomach/liver fluke and lice. Make sure that you observe correct withdrawal times
- Incalf heifers should be managed the same as the cows and you may need to dose for worms (have it confirmed)
- Lameness is always a problem, resulting in severe condition loss. Use the Farm Relief Service to examine, and act on their advice. This is money well spent. Footbath cows on 3 consecutive days every month during winter. Use bluestone at 4-5 Kgs in 100 litres water. Dung must not be allowed build up in yards.