

AGRINEWS

MILK MARKET OVERVIEW

Butter prices continue to move slightly from week to week but are broadly holding steady. Skim milk powder markets have been more changeable in recent weeks, with weaker results at the latest GDT auction putting pressure on prices.

Global Supply

Milk production remains strong globally, although growth is starting to slow. In Europe, production increased by 3.2% in May, building on solid output last year. Germany continues to see strong year-on-year growth. Recent high temperatures across parts of Europe may begin to affect milk yields, as

many farms are not well set up for prolonged heat. Weather remains an important factor for supply, with a potential El Niño event being closely watched.

In New Zealand, the 2025/26 season has ended on a strong note, helped by good weather, favourable margins and higher feed use. In the US, margins have eased compared to earlier in the year, but milk production is still up 4.0% for May. Output remains strong on many farms, supported in part by good returns from beef. In Australia, production is also running ahead of last year, with April output up 6.1%.

Global Demand

Demand has slowed following a long period of steady buying since late summer last year. Buyers are taking a more cautious approach at present. However, if concerns around weather increase, we could see buyers return more actively to the market.

MILK SUPPLY AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Kerry Creameries Limited
and
Milk Supplier

REMINDER: MILK SUPPLY AND PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Suppliers are reminded that the closing date for receipt of the signed Milk Supply and Purchase Agreement is the 4th August 2026.

Please return your completed Agreement using the stamped addressed envelope provided to ensure it is received by the closing date. If you have any queries or require another copy of the Agreement, please contact your local Area Office or Agribusiness Representative.

CHARLEVILLE SHOW

Kinisla was once again pleased to support the Charleville Agricultural Show, continuing a long-standing association with an event that plays an important role in the local farming calendar. This year's show brought together farmers, families and exhibitors from across the region, with a strong turnout and a great sense of community throughout the day. We would like to acknowledge the ongoing work of the organisers and all involved in delivering another successful event.



John Kerrisk and James Tangney pictured with Handler Will Jones and the All-Ireland Junior Pedigree Friesian Cow (owned by Daniel and Emer Curtin)

CASEY FAMILY FARM WALK

The Casey family, John and his wife Orla, his parents Michael and Colette, and his brother Micheál, winners of the Kinisla 2025 Milk Quality and Sustainability Awards, hosted a farm walk on 18 June in Causeway, Co. Kerry. There was a strong turnout of farmers, advisors and industry colleagues, keen to see what underpins the family's success.

Visitors moved through a series of stands across the farm, with practical insights into grassland management, milk quality and environmental efficiency. A clear message from the day was the value of experience. John and Micheál reflected on time spent working on farms both at home and in New Zealand, and how this helped build skills and confidence, particularly for younger farmers starting out.

The farm is built on strong fundamentals, including consistent grass measurement, a focused breeding strategy, high standards of milk quality and nutrient use efficiency. Participation in the Evolve RegenDairy programme is supporting continued progress in both production and environmental performance.

Strong engagement reflected the value of coming together to share practical experience and ideas. A sincere thank you to the Casey family for hosting and sharing their experience.

Scan QR code to view highlights from the day.



Micheál & John Casey



REAPING THE REWARDS OF RESEEDING AND RED CLOVER SILAGE IN EAST LIMERICK

Ian Fox farms with his parents, Mary and John, in Bulgaden, Co. Limerick, milking 180 cows. With a stocking rate of 4.0 cows per hectare, strong grass growth and utilisation are essential.

Around 10% of the grazing platform is reseeded annually. Last year, Top Sward TS1, a tetraploid-based grazing mix, improved palatability and digestibility, leading to better utilisation and cow performance. It has also shown a strong response to nitrogen, currently receiving around 19 units per acre. As Ian says, "cows are grazing it out very well and we're seeing improved performance."

A further 12 acres were sown with Top Sward TS2, a red clover silage mix, producing high-quality forage while reducing chemical nitrogen use, particularly in spring.

During spring 2026, Ian zero grazed this sward to address a feed deficit, feeding ryegrass and red clover at night while cows grazed by day. This eased pressure on the milking platform and maintained performance.

Overall, the farm has delivered improved grass utilisation, strong silage yields, reduced reliance on chemical nitrogen, and an additional high-protein feed source. Red clover silage will be used for milking cows and youngstock over winter and early spring.



Jack Donovan, Sales Liaison Manager pictured with Ian Fox.

CONTROLLING SOMATIC CELL COUNT DURING MID-LACTATION

If your bulk tank Somatic Cell Count (SCC) starts to rise during summer, act quickly. It signals increased infection pressure and is unlikely to resolve on its own. Early intervention helps reduce mastitis and protect milk production later in lactation.

Good SCC control depends on consistent practices and attention to detail. Focus on five key steps:

- Wear clean gloves when milking
- Use sufficient post-milking teat disinfectant (15mls per cow per milking)
- Change cluster liners every 2,000 milkings
- Service the milking parlour regularly
- Monitor individual cows through milk recording

If your herd is milk recorded and genotyped, the Genocells bulk tank test can support more informed decisions on SCC management. See the enclosed Genocells flyer or visit the Munster Bovine website for details.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION THROUGH FARM VISITS: EVOLVE REGENDAIRY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Building on the success of the Kinisla Primary School Farm Visit Initiative, launched in 2024, this year's programme was delivered under the Future Focused Dairying pillar of the Evolve RegenDairy Sustainability Programme, recognising the ongoing support of our host farmers.

Over recent weeks, almost 1,700 children from 51 schools visited participating farms, giving them a first-hand look at where their food comes from and how modern dairy farming works.

For many, it was their first time on a farm. Children saw cows being milked, fed calves and learned about grass, clover and hedgerows, along with how technology supports day-to-day farming.

They were intrigued with the automatic calf feeders and herd monitoring systems which they referred to as "necklaces". From ear tags and freeze branding to the milk

tank, or as many called it, the "big fridge", they gained a real insight into how milk is produced every day.

The enthusiasm and curiosity of the children stood out on every visit. Questions such as "Why do some cows have red paint on their backs?" and "What's the green strap on her leg for?" were a reminder of just how observant and inquisitive young minds can be. Many also got hands-on, exploring soil, searching for worms and learning about the importance of healthy soil and biodiversity, with some farms also including tree and shrub planting.

Key highlights:

- Nearly 1,700 students visited farms across the region
- Strong engagement from both students and teachers
- Practical learning on farming, sustainability and food production
- A positive experience for farms, schools and local communities

We would like to thank all the schools who took part and, in particular, the host farmers who opened their gates and shared their time and knowledge. Their support continues to play an important role in inspiring the next generation.



FARM SAFETY

The Health and Safety Authority reports that the agriculture sector, with 23 deaths in 2025, continues to account for the highest number of fatalities in work related incidents in Ireland. The summer is one of the busiest times on farms with many essential activities taking place. Children are on holidays from school and may be out and about on farms.

Tips to Keep Children Safe on Farm

- Talk to children about safety on the farm.
- Provide a secure play area for young children.
- Supervise children on the farm at all times.
- Teach children to maintain a safe distance from milk tankers, tractors and all heavy machinery.
- Keep harmful substances such as pesticides and veterinary medicines in a locked store.
- Keep children a safe distance from livestock.
- Cover and protect water hazards on the farm.
- Make all contractors aware of children on the farm.



Supporting Farm Safety Week with Great Value on Safety Essentials

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