

# Galway farmer has nearly 50 cows wiped from his herd in seven years

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Cyprian Fahey is a dairy farmer from Kilbeacanty, Co Galway. His herd has been locked up with TB since the start of May this year but TB has been a running problem for him since 2013.

"Five went on the skin test and then another 17 on the blood test this year. There are nearly 50 cows gone in the last seven years.

"We'd have had small numbers in some years but in 2013 the skin test took 19 and then another five," he told the *Irish Farmers Journal*.

In October of last year, his neighbour told him that five cows in his herd tested positive for TB. "I had to test mine then and five came up in the skin test. The Department vet who came out said that they're getting it under control but that there are a couple of areas that are stubborn," he said.

Fahey was milking 98 cows this year before he had to get rid of the 22 reactors. Two of the reactors that went were in-calf heifers.

"They're blaming the badgers around



here. We don't know where half the sets are – there's a lot of bog. They're vaccinating them but I don't know if it's working," he said.

## Valuation

He said the compensation from the Department for the cows is fine, but there's nothing to account for the milk that is

lost from the cows he has had to get rid of. "It's the value of the milk you're losing," he said, adding that farmers don't have great faith in the TB test, with false positives cropping up.

"I want to get my numbers back up. It's going to take me five years to get back up to 98 cows and we're just after putting in a new milk tank."

**Twenty-two animals from Cyprian Fahey's herd had TB this year.** \ Donal O'Leary

## TB rates stop falling in Northern Ireland

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After falling throughout 2019, bovine TB rates in Northern Ireland have levelled out and remain well ahead of the levels seen in the Republic of Ireland.

The latest figures show herd incidence was 7.79% in May 2020.

This means that of the 21,905 herds tested during the previous 12 months, 1,706 went down with TB.

May's herd incidence rate is similar to previous months and is down from 8.47% recorded during the same month last year.

**4,926** reactor animals in NI from January to May.

In the first five months of the year, there were 4,926 reactor animals identified across Northern Ireland, down 10.3% on the same period in 2019.

Across Northern Ireland's 10 divisional veterinary office (DVO) areas, Newtownards has the highest incidence rate of 10.92% and the lowest rate is Derry's 4.04%.

## ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

# Maximise Home Grown Grains with KERVA!

Noonan Agri Contractors Ltd are based in Conna, Co Cork. Maurice Noonan (Moss) started the business in 1970.

His sons Padraig and Seamus run the business now with five full-time workers, with Moss still involved as well. They carry out contract work in a radius of approximately 15km from their successful tillage farm in Conna. Contracting duties include harvesting silage and maize, reseedling, slurry spreading, combining crops and crimping over 1,000t of grain per year.

Noonan Agri Contractors started the crimping side of the business in 2000 and since then Padraig has seen a shift from wet crimp to alkaline-based grain treatment systems over the last 20 years as farmers see the benefits of increased protein and pH for buffering from products like KERVA.

Sam Sweetnam of Inform Nutrition spoke to Padraig ahead of the upcoming season about his experience of using KERVA last year. Padraig made the move to KERVAtreated grain last year with no regrets. He stated that the combined product in a single 20kg bag per ton of grain makes the whole operation much more efficient and simpler. Competitor products on the market involve the mixing of products to get the desired result, whereas KERVA is a lot more straightforward, with the added benefit of the product activating faster, speeding up the whole process. Farmers who con-

tracted Noonan Agri and treated their grain with KERVA were very happy with the results.

KERVA is an Alkaline Grain-treatment system for the treatment of whole or rolled grains for storage. KERVA can be used to preserve or treat a variety of grains such as fresh mature grains at harvest (Barley, wheat, oats, beans and maize, moisture content 14-22%). Rolled, crimped or whole grains can be also treated, as well as mature whole crop and mature straw. Treating grain with KERVA produces a nutritionally enhanced

feed (increased protein content by approximately 30%), reducing the need for additional protein in the diet. KERVA increases the pH of the grain (pH 8.5-9.0) which results in better rumen buffering and a reduction in acidosis and laminitis. It is possible to safely feed higher levels of KERVA-treated grain within your finished feed while also increasing feed intake and fibre digestion in the rumen.

Padraig has seen that when the farmer has the correct storage facilities on farm for grain, such as clean dry storage area with good floor qual-

ity or lined with plastic, then KERVA is a great option. The higher pH of KERVA grain ensures grain can be stored on farm for longer periods and without aeration.

Padraig is optimistic for the coming season for treating grain with KERVA as crops of barley and wheat are looking promising and farmers will be looking for better value for their winter feed options.

Padraig purchased the KERVA from AMAC farm supplies in Midleton and is extremely happy with the back up and service provided by AMAC.



Padraig, left, with Stephen Gumbleton of AMAC farm supplies in Midleton, Co Cork.

## Maximise Home Grown Grains

**An Alkaline Grain-treatment system for whole or rolled grains**

- ✓ Less acidosis and laminitis
- ✓ Feed higher levels of home produced grains
- ✓ Less requirement for purchased proteins
- ✓ Healthy Animals
- ✓ Better Animal Performance
- ✓ No Waste or fermentation losses
- ✓ Longer shelf life in storage
- ✓ Cost effective feed

**INCREASE**  
30%  
**GRAIN PROTEIN**

**NUTRITIONALLY**  
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Manufactured and produced by Inform Nutrition in Ireland for Irish Grain and Irish Conditions

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