

FarmLab Cow-Life

Cow health monitoring programme

Proactive cow health monitoring

- ✓ Infectious disease
- ✓ Parasites
- ✓ Mastitis



FarmLab

The FarmLab **Cow-Life** programme monitors key health parameters in the herd on a continuous basis throughout lactation, thereby ensuring problems relating to health, parasites and mastitis can be proactively detected.

- Bulk tank milk is monitored throughout the lactation for:
 - **Infectious disease** - Leptospirosis, IBR, Salmonella, Mycoplasma, Neospora
 - **Parasites** - Gutworm and Liver Fluke
 - **Mastitis**
 - Individual culture of clinical mastitis/ high SCC cases,
 - Bulk tank milk PCR to detect the main mastitis causing organisms

	June	July	August	Sept	Oct/ Nov
Parasite test (BTM)	Ostertagia	Ostertagia	Ostertagia	Ostertagia	Fasciola
Infectious disease test (BTM)	Leptospirosis	IBR*	Salmonella	Mycoplasma	Neospora
Mastitis test	1X mastitis/ high SCC sample (IM)#	1 X mastitis/ high SCC sample (IM) #	1 X mastitis/ high SCC sample (IM) #	1 X mastitis/ high SCC sample (IM) #	Mastitis PCR (BTM)

BTM : Bulk Tank Milk. IM: Individual Milk . # Additional IM samples may be added for an extra charge. Parasite testing monitors antibody levels for gutworm (ostertagia) and liver fluke (Fasciola)

Parasite testing : Gutworm and liver fluke are major causes of reduced productivity. Strategic monitoring of bulk tank antibody levels for these key parasites can identify factors contributing to reduced milk yield and help with the correct timing of anti-parasitic treatments, giving the cow the help she needs, when she needs it

Infectious Disease: Leptospirosis, IBR, Salmonella, Mycoplasma, Neospora are some of the most common and serious diseases on Irish dairy farms and can lead to a range of problems including poor fertility, reduced immunity, respiratory disease and diarrhoea. Testing for these diseases allows control measures to be put in place and vaccination programmes to be monitored (* Different tests available for IBR vaccinated/ non-vaccinated herds)

Mastitis testing: Mastitis/ High SCC is the biggest cause of culling/ poor lifetime performance and disease-related cost on dairy farms. Sustainable management and of mastitis requires identification of the bacteria which cause mastitis on farms, and appropriate treatment selection.

By taking individual milk samples from cows with clinical mastitis before treatment or cows with high SCC during lactation, a picture can be built up of the bacteria which are causing problems, together with the most effective treatments. Mastitis PCR testing on the bulk tank before drying off can indicate the herd level presence of the main causes of mastitis such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus uberis*, *Mycoplasma bovis*



FarmLab