

## Best Practice at Lakeland Dairies



Lakeland Dairies in Killeshandra are well used to working with Repak to improve their environmental performance. Already keen recyclers (Lakelands won the Repak Member of the Year Award in 2007), Lakelands were one of the first companies to use the Packaging Optimisation service in November 2007. As a result of recommendations generated by this survey as well as the commitment of the Lakelands staff, a number of measures have been implemented to reduce the amount of packaging material placed onto the market. The following initiatives were all seen on a recent visit where even further packaging optimisation issues are now being explored by Lakelands.

### Segregation of material for recycling.

Different packaging types are segregated to achieve the best value for the recycled material. These include tetra-pak containers, EPS ice cream tubs, PS milk tubs and the webbing used to seal milk containers.



Segregated PS milk tubs (above)  
& webbing seal (below)



Ice cream is now being re-worked through return piping which eliminates the need for large plastic tubs that were once used to store re-worked product.

### Reduced input packaging.

Input packaging has been reduced in several areas including tubs for ice cream. Cardboard cases are no longer being used to pack the tubs and a basic pallet frame is being used instead.



Basic pallet frame to pack tubs

### Re-use of woven plastic sacks.

Woven plastic sacks for raw material deliveries to Lakelands are re-used to store and return recyclable materials.



Woven plastic sacks for re-use

### Reduced output packaging.

A lot of work has been done in the finished goods area to minimize packaging. Standard size pallets are used, very little secondary cardboard is in evidence, and pallet covers, base sheets and layer pads are kept to a minimum.



Minimal packaging on items in the finished goods area

### Returnable input packaging.

Pallets, pallet tops and other input packaging are being returned to input packaging suppliers. Plastic film cores are returned for re-use and cardboard cores are returned for recycling.



Plastic film cores and cardboard cores - returnable input packaging

### Re-use and repair of pallets.

Pallets for Tetra Pak product are collected free of charge by a supplier who assesses them for damage before returning them to Tetra-pak for re-use thus forming a closed loop system for the pallets.



Repaired Pallet in re-use as part of closed loop system

