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co-op STORES

CUSTOMER NOTICE

dairygol Golden Valleys, Growing Nations **AGRI BUSINESS**

THIS STORE WILL BE CLOSING ON FRIDAY 19TH OF OCTOBER

We value your business

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End of an era: the run to the creamery

Next Friday, October 19, will see the closure of the Muskerry branch of Dairygold after 126 years in business. Founded in 1892 as the East Muskerry Co-Op, at the start of the co-op movement, it would become central to farming and community life in the parish of Kilmurry and the phrase 'giving a run to creamery' became part of everyday conversation.

Its butter was sold with the Kilcrea brand after the nearby abbey. In 1928, a branch was opened in Templemartin and in 1951 it merged with nearby Lissarda. It joined Ballyclough in 1967, which itself merged with Mitchelstown to form Dairygold.

At one time Muskerry employed more than 60 people but in recent years the number has fallen to just three. With over 50 years experience between them, Donald, Dave and Ann will be a great asset to the Dairygold branches they will transfer to. Hopefully a new use will be found for the building (as was the case previously with Lissarda) rather than see it stand as a silent witness to a time in rural Ireland when communities were rightly proud of their local shops, post offices, pubs and creamery and the essential part they played in rural life.

Sadly, after Friday, giving a run to the creamery in Muskerry's case will be no more.

Michael Goulding
Kilmurry
Co Cork

Democratic right