

Milk Manager NEWS



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Milk Market Update

UK Wholesale Dairy Commodity Market

- Fonterra's latest on-line GDT auction (5th of March) resulted in a 2.3% decrease in the weighted average price across all products, reaching US \$3,630/t. This was the first drop since November, after a run of six positive movements in the price index. While cheddar was up 4% (to \$4,277/t), the biggest reductions were seen in skim milk powder (down 5.2% to \$2,640/t) and whole milk powder (down 2.8% to \$3,286/t). Full results are available at <https://www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/>
- In the UK wholesale markets, only butter showed a positive movement in price from the last reporting period, up 2% on the back of increased EU demand and tight supply. Butter increased by \$600/t in the early February GDT auction and held for the second auction, further stimulating EU prices, with spot trade reaching €6,500/t. Other commodities were back slightly with markets generally quiet, with buyers fairly well covered and waiting to see what happens with prices as milk volumes increase.

Commodity	Feb 2024 £/t	Jan 2024 £/t	% Difference Monthly	Feb 2023 £/t	% Diff 2024-2023
Bulk Cream	1,996	2,021	-1	1,508	+32
Butter	4,850	4,750	+2	3,920	+24
SMP	2,140	2,170	-1	2,200	-3
Mild Cheddar	3,530	3,600	-2	3,680	-4

Source: AHDB Dairy - based on trade agreed from w/b 22nd Jan - 12th Feb 2024. Note prices for butter, SMP and mild cheddar are indicative of values achieved over the reporting period for spot trade (excludes contracted prices and forward sales). Bulk cream price is a weighted average price based on agreed spot trade and volumes traded.

- Cream responded slightly to the rise in butter price towards the end of the reporting period but overall there has been little movement in price but it is still 32% above this time last year.
- SMP prices have been stagnant over the last few months with little demand as buyers are well covered. Cheese has also shown little movement, but it is thought that the significant reduction in Irish milk volumes and their sellers pushing for higher prices should bolster the UK cheddar market going forward.

- There was little movement in the market indicators, with AMPE up 0.21ppl from the previous month and MCVE down 0.86ppl. The rise in AMPE was due to the increase in the butter component and the drop in mild cheddar affecting the MCVE price. The Milk Market Value (MMV) for February was 36.95ppl, down 0.64ppl from January, the first decline since September last year. Movements in MMV tend to closely reflect changes in farm-gate prices in three months' time.

	Feb 2024 ppl	Jan 2024 ppl	12 months previously ppl	Net amount in ppl less 2.4ppl average haulage - Feb 2024
AMPE	37.65	37.44	33.47	35.24
MCVE	36.77	37.63	38.26	34.37

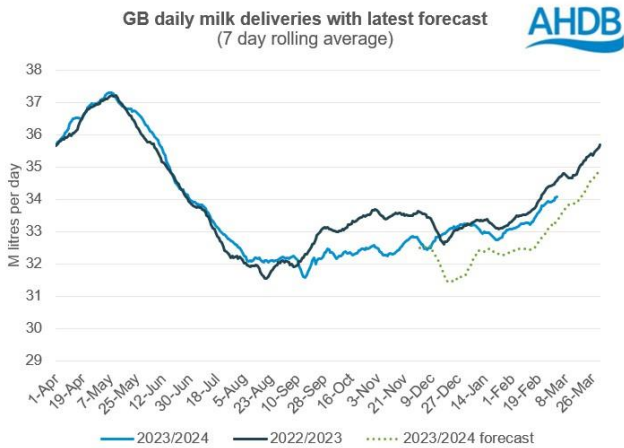
Source: AHDB Dairy

- Defra put the UK average farm-gate milk price at 37.68ppl for January, just 0.24ppl less than the December price. The UK volume for January was 1,238 million litres, which was 1.0% more than the previous month but 0.6% less than the January 2023 volume.
- The March and April forecasted milk prices by The Dairy Group are estimated at 39ppl based on current milk prices and returns from the commodity markets. Due to the poor, wet start to spring, markets will likely be supported as milk supply lags behind last year and could keep any expectations of a decent spring flush in check. As always, farm-gate prices and market returns are highly dependent on spring weather and grazing conditions.

GB Milk Deliveries and Global Production

- For the week ending 2nd of March, milk deliveries were up 0.6% on the previous week with a daily average of 34.09 million litres/day. Deliveries are still below the same week last year, down by 1.4% or 480,000 litres less per day. While production is still lower than this time last year, the gap has closed significantly compared to six months ago.
- The estimated GB milk deliveries for January were 1,023 million litres and for February, 973 million litres. Despite the drop in February, milk production is now on its seasonal increase as the spring flush approaches, which normally peaks in early May.

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- Global milk production for December from the key milk producing regions was back 0.4% to 804.5 million litres/day, compared to December 2022, equivalent to 3.4 million litres less per day. Apart from Australia and New Zealand, declines were seen in the EU-27, UK, Argentina and the US.
- The biggest decline in the EU was in Ireland, with the December volume down 27% on the previous year. This is due to milk price below the cost of production, very wet weather conditions forcing cows to be housed earlier and new nitrate restrictions coming into force from January 2024.
- Out of the six regions, Argentina showed the biggest drop with production down 7.7% on the back of falling milk prices from the Government's devaluation of currency and farmers either stopping production, culling cows or feeding less concentrates to lower costs.

Other News

- From April, dairy farmers will see their AHDB levy increase by 33%, from 0.06ppl to 0.08ppl. This is the first rise for 20 years and Chairman Nicholas Saphir said the rise would allow AHDB to increase spending in priority areas identified by farmers e.g. finding new export opportunities and more marketing campaigns.
- New legislation on dairy contracts is now being finalised by Parliament and is expected to be fully implemented by summer 2025. The areas that the new contract reform covers includes:
 1. Pricing, with greater transparency.
 2. Cooling off periods.
 3. Notice periods.

4. Contract agreement by both farmer and processor.
5. Exclusivity - with farmers able to sell their milk to more than one processor.
6. Farmer representation.

For more information see:

<https://www.nfuonline.com/updates-and-information/dairy-contract-legislation-essential-information/>

- A new way of detecting lameness is currently being trialled at Agri-EPI's Southwest Dairy Development Centre in Somerset. The AI-powered device, called Hoof Monitor, identifies lame cows through thermal imaging. This detects a rise in leg temperature due to an increase in blood flow, which is a clear indicator that something is wrong in the cow's foot. The monitor can be mounted somewhere (e.g. a cattle race or on exit from the milking parlour) where the cows walk past to analyse their feet and legs. The device is thought to detect lameness much earlier than current methods and was developed by ex-army man James Wilcox who has expertise in drone technology and runs a small holding in Devon.

Monthly Price Movements for March 2024

Commodity Produced	Company Contract	Price Change from Feb 2024	Standard Litre Price Mar 2024
Liquid & Cheese	Arla Farmers UK	+0.88ppl <i>manufacture</i>	40.06ppl manufacture
Cheese, Liquid & Brokored Milk	First Milk	+1ppl	38.0ppl manufacture
Cheese	Fresh Milk Company (Lactalis)	+0.52ppl	37.72ppl manufacture
Liquid & Manufacture	Grahams		35.0ppl*
Liquid & Manufacture	Müller Direct	<i>No change</i>	36.5ppl (includes 1ppl direct premium. Does not include haulage charge)
Liquid & Manufacture	Müller (Co-op)	<i>No change</i>	39.84ppl
Liquid & Manufacture	Müller (Tesco)	<i>No change</i>	42.42ppl

*Feb 2024 price

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- Both First Milk and Müller have announced price rises of 0.75ppl and 1.0ppl respectively for April.

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Straights Update

UK Cereals Market Update and Global Impacts

Wheat prices in Europe have been capped both by higher global maize supplies expected out of South America, (notably Argentina and Brazil) and slow EU wheat export demand coupled with rising in-house inventories. Maize into the UK is anticipated to increase by 9% this coming season.

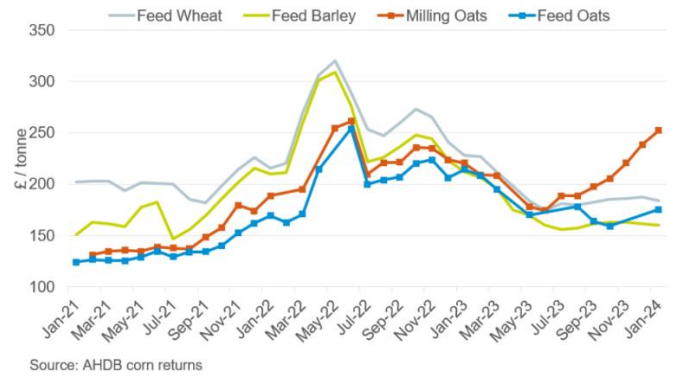
UK feed wheat Futures (May 24) currently stand at £159.40 (as of 14th of March) losing the short-term gains previously made in February. The Nov 24 wheat Futures contract appears reluctant to hold above the £185/t mark.

With the UK wheat supply and demand balance 31% tighter this year than last year, wheat exports are expected to be at minimum levels for 2023/24. Exports are currently forecast down from last season by 83% and the UK is expected to be a net importer this season and next, aligning with AHDB's early indications of a 2024 wheat harvest of between 12-13Mt. Currently fresh farm supplies are just about accounting for the slow consumption offtake and limited buying activity.

For feed barley, export pricing is uncompetitive, and exports are currently forecast for this season down 38% from last season. With a move from winter to spring cropping for harvest 2024 expected, the size of the barley crop remains a key watchpoint for new season export values.

Milling oats prices are achieving highs not seen since June 22, with substantial premiums over feed quality exceeding £70/t in early 2024 (see following graph).

Oat exports this season have hit a stronger pace than expected, especially considering the tighter oat supply and demand balance year-on-year. This season, UK oat exports are in line with the previous five-year average. Looking ahead, oat supply is expected to see a boost for harvest 2024 due to a larger intended planted area. This could see strong exports continue in 2024/25, providing the UK stays price-competitive to the continent.



Global factors mean oilseed rape (OSR) prices have fallen sharply. As of early March 2024, domestic OSR spot delivered prices were over £200/t lower than the peak in 2022. The lower prices combined with the 2023 harvest not delivering, means a drop in the OSR area for 2024 harvest is anticipated. The 20% price drop seen over the last 12 months is partly due to cheaper Ukrainian oilseed rape coming into the European market. Further to that, the overall bearish sentiment of the soyabean market has weighed on prices as record South American soyabean crops are starting to come to the market.

Ex farm prices for cereals and proteins are as follows:

£ per tonne	March '24	May'24	Nov'24
Wheat	160	168	180
Feed Barley	140	148	160
Malt. dist. Barley	240	245	
Milling oats	240	245	
Oilseed Rape	331	333	343
Beans	236		

Sources - AHDB, United oilseeds

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How Long are your Heifers Lasting?

According to the recently published NMR 500 Herd KPI Report for 2023, the medium number of lactations per cow at exit was 3.6 and the culling rate was 28%, with the top 25% of herds achieving 4.2 lactations at exit and a culling rate of 22%.

When it came to looking at the longevity of 1st lactation heifers, 17% failed to calve down for a 2nd time and around one quarter exited within the first

100 days. As a heifer calving at 24 months does not pay back her rearing costs until at least halfway through her second lactation, heifer longevity is key to profitability considering that rearing costs account for around 20% of total production costs and it costs on average £2000 to rear a heifer to the point of calving.

How good the heifer rearing system is can be critically assessed by two measures:

- **Rearing efficiency** - this refers to the percentage of heifers born alive that calve at (or below) the target age at first calving. This provides an indicator as to how good the rearing process is. The target is >85%.
- **Heifer effectiveness** - this is a measure based on the rearing efficiency but only includes heifers that have completed three lactations. The target is >75%.

The target for heifers to last for three lactations is challenging and the likelihood of achieving this target will greatly depend on the herd's culling policy, number of replacements coming through and the desire to make space for what should be a genetically superior heifer coming into the herd.

It is a fact that the performance of heifers in their first lactation is closely related to how well they perform in the first few weeks of life. Nutrition has a huge part to play with generally the more milk that is fed, the higher the growth rate. When comparing ad lib milk systems with restricted milk systems, studies have shown that heifer calves on ad lib milk gained on average 190g/day more in the first five weeks of life and then went on to produce on average 677kg more milk in their first lactation, compared to heifers that were fed on a restrictive milk feeding system.

Performance is programmed early on in life, with nutrient supply regulating the rate of cell division in the first 50 days after birth. After that, growth of tissues and organs is through cell growth so maximising nutrient supply in the first few weeks has an impact on the growth of mammary tissue (and the number of milk secreting cells), as well as other organs. Some studies comparing restrictive versus intensive feeding of calf milk replacer showed that the more intensively fed calves had nearly six times more milk secreting cells within the mammary tissue and had significantly greater mass of the thymus and spleen, organs critical for immunity. While it has been common guidance to

feed calves six litres of milk (at 15% inclusion of milk powder, so 900g/day), many farmers are seeing better growth performance (and health benefits) of higher rates. It is not unusual to hear of calves being fed in the region of 8-10 litres of milk and between 1 - 1.5kg powder/day.

Higher rates of milk feeding suits automatic feeding systems when calves can drink little and often and it more difficult to implement in a bucket feeding system without introducing a 3rd feed, which greatly increases labour. However, care must be taken when feeding high rates of milk to ensure a minimum 14-day step down period to ensure calves are eating sufficient starter feed in preparation for weaning. Ideally calves should be eating 2kg starter feed/day when weaned at 8 weeks of age but 3kg would be the target for calves being weaned at 12 weeks of age.

While heifer longevity will be influenced by culling decisions based on milking performance, fertility, health and management in that first lactation, the growth performance and health of calves in those first few weeks of life go a long way to help set them up for a long and productive life.

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Rumen Microbes - Adapting to Change

The rumen is a diverse and complex ecosystem of microbes comprising of bacteria, archaea, protozoa and fungi. These rumen microbes are vital in the digestion and breakdown of fibre, starch and protein in the ration. Maintaining this ecosystem is important to ensure the growth and activity of these rumen microbes; this done through a nutritionally balanced diet which optimises rumen pH. A particularly challenging time for rumen microbes is the change from the winter ration to spring grass at turnout.

The winter ration is typically very well balanced for protein and energy supply, along with sufficient fibre to maintain rumen health which suits the rumen microbes. However, spring grass can be variable on a day-to-day basis, particularly the sugar levels which can change depending on cloud cover and sunshine. Spring grass is highly digestible with low structural fibre compared to grass silage; it tends to have a lower dry matter but higher sugar and protein levels. These differences between spring

grass and grass silage can pose challenges for the rumen microbes if grass is not introduced slowly.

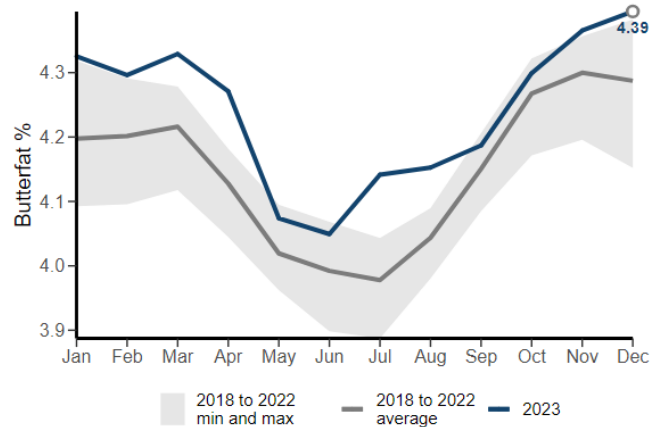
The rumen microbes can take up to three weeks to adjust to a new diet; the fibre digesting microbes will digest the grass quicker due to its lower level of structural fibre. Similarly, spring grass is high in protein, typically this is rumen degradable protein (RDP) which is rapidly broken down by the microbes, rather than by-passing the rumen to be digested and absorbed in the small intestine. Due to these high levels of RDP, the microbes will struggle to utilise all of the protein available, so the excess is broken down into ammonia which is converted to urea in the liver and then excreted via urine and milk. This is why we often see a rise in milk urea at turnout.

The lower structural fibre and high sugars in grass can pose a challenge to rumen function which can lead to sub-acute ruminal acidosis (SARA). This occurs when the rumen pH has fallen below 5.8 for a period of 2 - 3 hours or more, resulting in reduced activity by the fibre digesting microbes following the excess production of acid. Fibre in the diet is important to provide “scratch factor” in the rumen, which is key for saliva production and good cudging rates; the optimum chews per cud is 65 to 75. Saliva production helps regulate rumen pH. However, when dietary fibre levels are low, the “scratch factor” is limited. This can reduce saliva production and cudging rates, potentially impacting rumen function, feed conversion efficiency and cow performance. Therefore, it is vital that the change from the winter ration to spring grass is gradual to allow rumen microbes sufficient time to adapt to the variations in fibre, sugar and protein levels.

The best way to give the rumen microbes time to adapt is to gradually increase the amount of time cows spend at grass, starting with cows out during the day for at least a week before going out 24 hours. Buffer feeding offers the opportunity to provide a balanced diet during the transition period. The buffer feed should provide high energy and low protein forage and concentrates, such as wholecrop silage, sugar beet pulp, soya hulls, and high fibre cakes as opposed to high starch cakes. These will complement the nutritive quality of the spring grass and slow down the rumen transit rate, allowing the microbes time to fully breakdown and digest the feed. Similarly, the addition of high fibre in the buffer feed will help reduce the risk of SARA, as well as a

significant drop in butterfat levels in the milk post-turnout, which are typical in spring as shown below.

Average butterfat content of UK produced milk



Source: Defra

Giving the rumen microbes time to adjust to spring grass will benefit the overall function of the rumen and milking performance by the cow. Utilising buffer feeding during the transition period is key for a smooth adaption of microbes whilst reducing the impact on rumen function and milk output. If you are considering buffer feeding this spring, speak to your nutritionist for further advice.

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Are Robots for Me?

With the ongoing problem of finding good reliable labour, dairy farmers are increasingly asking themselves: Should I be looking at robots to milk my herd? In the following article I will aim to give some advice on what to consider and avoid some of the pitfalls associated with them.

Labour saving?

If you have a pre-conceived idea of using robots to milk your herd so you can walk away from the cows, you had better keep your money in your pocket! Don't get me wrong, robots will 'harvest' milk from the cow and do a very good job of it, but the cows still need daily attention. The twice (or thrice) daily contact with the cows through the parlour will be lost so you will have to rely on data generated by the robot to make informed decisions on udder health, bulling activity, feeding management etc. There are some labour savings but there will also be a change in labour structure to more of a management style,

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meaning you will have more time to look after foot health, fertility etc.

Robots will be running for 24 hours/day, 365 days a year so it is inevitable they will break down at some point and not necessarily during the working day, so expect the odd twilight hours alarm call! Ideally you need at least two people to share alarm calls so that there is cover for holidays, nights out etc.

Type of herd

Herds kept indoors on an all-year-round calving pattern are more suited to robots although the availability of grazing gates along with good grassland management means cows can be grazed successfully on a robotic system. The optimum level of performance is not necessarily cows/robot but litres/robot, although the target will vary depending on breed and if you decide to graze the herd or not. Targets of 2000 litres/robot/day are often quoted.

Changing to a robotic milking system will no doubt increase milk yield, with a change in milking frequency, but KPI's such as pregnancy rate and age at first calving will still need focussing on to maintain efficiencies within the herd. Poor mobility within a dairy herd will mean reduced robot visits so this is another area that needs managing correctly. Due to individual quarter milking, over milking and the risk of teat end damage is virtually eliminated which can mean less mastitis. Also, somatic cell counts often tend to be lower.

Building design

If the decision to go down the robotic route has been taken, building layout is the next step to consider. Think how you are going to handle breeding cows, sick cows, routine fertility visits by your vet and TB testing. Once cows are settled into a robotic milking environment, they don't like being herded, so TB testing ideally needs to be done in the same building using self-locking yokes for instance.

In an ideal world there should be a small pen located on the exit of the robot, with a few cubicles and access to feed (see photo) so cows can be automatically drafted for breeding, vet visits or just checking the animal over if the robot has detected any abnormalities in the milking data. It is far easier and hence more likely to get done if the cows are readily accessible rather than chasing them around the shed when you have to AI them!



The other decision with regards to building design is between free-access and guided entry. Different manufacturers will advise you differently, but generally free access allows cows to express themselves naturally and do what they want and is the most common system in the UK. Guided comes in two variations: milk first or feed first. Milk first is probably the second most common system and means cows must visit the robot, which decides if they need to be milked, before they can access the feed fence. Feed first is a reversal of milk first whereby the cow can only access the resting area, from the feed fence via the robot. Studies have revealed that milking frequency is greater in early lactation with free access systems and higher in late lactation for guided traffic. Generally, guided traffic systems can also be more efficient in terms of feed as there is less risk of over feeding late lactation cows and also means that there are less 'fetch cows' to deal with.

Which make?

This comes down to a farmer's individual preference but one of the key considerations to this is dealer back-up. Engineers that are not local and don't carry the required parts can be frustrating when your cows aren't getting milked!

In conclusion, there are many very successful robotic systems out there that perform well, producing large amounts of milk and that is down to understanding the principles of robotics and excellent attention to detail in management. It is about making sure a robotic milking system is right for you, your cows and having the mindset to make it a success.

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Dairy Cow Building Design

Building layout is important to ensure that dairy cows have good access to feed, water and space for lying to maximise cow comfort and productivity.

Feeding

It is important to ensure cattle have ample access to feed to reduce queuing, congestion and bullying in the passageways and to maximise dry matter intake. As a rule of thumb most Holstein-Friesian dairy cows require 0.7m/cow trough space. In early lactation it would be advantageous to offer additional space, with some herds offering 1m/cow. Sufficient feed trough space is even more important when mixed ages are housed together, as it is essential that heifers feed when they want to, rather than after the dominant cows have eaten.

Hair loss or swelling on the neck can indicate that the neck rail is too low, or that feed is not pushed up frequently enough. Cows should always have access to feed, which generally requires feed to be pushed up every two to three hours. Pushing up feed can lift intakes and drive milk production and reduces feed sorting. Research by Bach *et al.* (2008) found that pushing up feed frequently on average produced 3.6kg more of milk as opposed to herds that did not push up.

Water

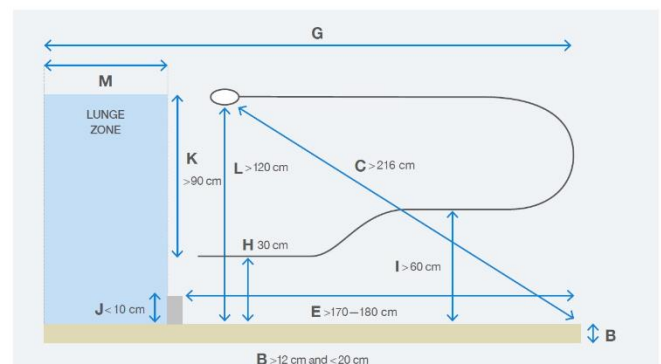
To ensure cows can access sufficient water there should be 10cm space at the water trough per cow at all stages of the production cycle. Having sufficient clean water is vital as dairy cows can drink between 30-50% of their daily requirements within an hour of milking (AHDB, 2020). Cows will be inclined to drink more when the water is fresh, therefore water troughs should be monitored for cleanliness (contamination with feed material and faecal matter) and cleaned out regularly.

Cubicles

The design of cubicles is important to encourage cows to lie down. Ideally, cows should be lying down for 12-14 hours per day which will promote milk production, rumination, and reduces lameness. Research by Galindo and Broom (2000) found that cows that had longer daily standing times were found to have more claw lesions (i.e. sole ulcers and white line disease).

Cubicles need to be large enough that cows can easily lie down and get up without coming into contact with the infrastructure. For a Holstein-Friesian cow the general rule of thumb is that the cubicle should be 8 x 4 foot, although the ideal dimensions will vary with cattle breed and mature cow size. The image below gives recommended cubicle dimensions for Holstein-Friesian cows over 600kg (AHDB, 2023).

Cubicle dimensions for Holstein-Friesian cows over 600kg



- B - Cubicle rear curb height
- C - Diagonal neck rail to rear
- E - Brisket to rear of cubicle
- G - Total length
- H - Height of lowest rail at head end
- I - Height of lowest rail at rear
- J - Brisket board's height
- K - Side lunge
- L - Neck rail height
- M - Lunge zone

(Source: Leach and Why, 2009)

Cow comfort can be assessed in multiple ways including hock damage, which suggests that bedding is too abrasive. Ideally, less than 10% of the cows should have hock damage. Observing the Cubicle Comfort Index, which shows how willing cows are to lie down, can be helpful; at least 85% of cows in cubicles should be lying down at any one time. If cows are sat like a dog, it suggests the cubicles are too short, and there is not enough

lunge room for the cattle to sit and rise easily, cows should be offered 0.7 - 1m of lunge room (AHDB, 2020). If cubicles are too long, dung is more likely to be deposited at the back of the cubicle bed which increases the risk of mastitis. Therefore, to ensure the length of the cubicle is appropriate there should be an adjustable brisket board set at 75% of the length of the cubicle to ensure that at least 90% of the cow's dung enters the passageway. Ideally there should be 5% more cubicles than cows in the building.

Passageways

The layout of the passageways is vital to allow cows to access feed, water and the cubicles. Preferably, passageways should be a minimum of 3.6m wide, and 4.6m adjacent to a feed passage to allow the flow of cattle. Ensure there are no dead ends and provide crossovers every 20-25 cubicles for better cow flow.

Key considerations for dairy shed design:

1. A minimum of 0.7m/cow of trough space.
2. 10cm/cow space at the water trough at all stages of the production cycle.
3. To ensure cubicles are suitable considerations should be given to the image above and using indicators such as hock lesions to determine whether lying conditions are fit for purpose.
4. Passageway ways should be a minimum of 3.6m wide, and 4.6m adjacent to a feed passage.

References available upon request.

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Renewed Support for Slurry Storage

Nothing says Happy Valentine's Day like support for slurry storage! Eagle-eyed readers of Milk Manager News will have noticed that it has been some time since the announcement of continued support for slurry storage in 2024. Well on Wednesday 14th of February, Scottish Government launched the next round of support for slurry storage under the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS).

The return of the funding will be welcome news for many in the dairy sector as farmers across Scotland prepare themselves for enhanced storage requirements. In the updated guidance for the

funding the Rural Payments and Inspections Division reiterate the significance of the new legislation:

"The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 transition period concludes on 1st of January 2026. From that date all businesses that produce slurry by housed livestock must have sufficient slurry storage capacity to store the total quantity of slurry likely to be produced in 26 weeks by housed pigs or 22 weeks by housed cattle."

The support under AECS is aimed at providing a mechanism for farmers to invest in new storage capacity that will bring them up to 6-months' capacity. This is beyond the 5-month requirement but is reflective of the future-proofing required to deal with the likelihood of increased rainfall and poorer ground conditions from climate change. Importantly, **the grant should not be used to facilitate an increase in herd size.**

In a lot of ways, the criteria for funding will look very similar to previous rounds of funding, with a requirement to complete the slurry storage calculator provided on the webpage, as well as produce a slurry and nutrient management plan justifying the construction of the additional storage. However, some key differences should be noted for anyone who is interested:

1. Payment rates for creation of storage capacity has increased from £15/m³ to £20/m³, with an additional 10% uplift for farmers and crofters on island communities.
2. Businesses who historically received funding towards slurry under SRDP who are farming outside of an NVZ are now eligible to apply for this new round.
3. If approved, the expectation is that all works must be completed and claimed for by Monday 31st of March 2025.
4. Farmers will be able to submit interim claims for work undertaken in advance of Monday 31st March 2025.

However, many of the same rules and requirements remain, perhaps the most important being that **this option is not available in areas that are designated as NVZ areas and grant aid is not available for slatted tanks.** In addition, due to the transition to the new support framework, **this will**

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be the last opportunity to apply for slurry storage support before 2026.

The deadline for applications is Friday 19th of April 2024 and successful applicants will receive their contracts in May 2024. A full breakdown of the slurry storage guidance is available here: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment-climate-scheme/management-options-and-capital-items/slurry-storage/>

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Dates for Your Diary

- 15th - 16th March - **Borderway UK Dairy Expo.** Borderway Mart, Rosehill, Carlisle, CA1 2RS.
- 19th March - **Ayrshire: Mastitis Causes, Symptoms, Prevention and Treatment.** Ayrshire Food Hub, Crossroads, Hurlford, Kilmarnock, KA1 5JQ. Time: 18.30. To book your place please visit: https://commsahdborguk.ctml2.com/ahdbzl//EventMgr_BookEvent1.aspx?eID=1961&_gl=1*171kgs8*_ga*Nzg4MDQyLjE2ODY3NDUxNDY.*_ga_SGVNlVJRVM*MTcwODcxOTE3Mi41NC4xLjE3MDg3MjA3OTluNiAuMC4w
- 8th - 10th April - **Embryonic Course: DIY AI - Aberdeen.** To book your place please contact Embryonics on 01606 854411 or see www.embryonicsltd.co.uk for more information.
- 10th April - **Heifer Rearing: Maximising Potential and Minimising Costs - Easy Wins and Tough Challenges.** Time: 10.30-14.00. Laigh Tarbeg Farm, Ochiltree, Ayrshire, KA18 2RL. To book your place please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/maximising-potential-and-minimising-costs-easy-wins-and-tough-challenges-tickets-852926575347?aff=erelexpmlt>
- 10th April - **AHDB On-Farm Event - Lockerbie: Turn Out for Magic Day.** Nether Garrel Dairy Farm, Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, DG11 1TN. Time 10.30. To book your place please visit: https://commsahdborguk.ctml2.com/ahdbzl//EventMgr_BookEvent1.aspx?eID=1972&_gl=1*8lrmtu*_ga*MjA2NzYxNDg3Ni4xNjgwMTC3NDI1*_ga_SGVNlVJRVM*MTcwOTEyNTE3Mi44OS4xLjE3MDkxMjUyMTEuMjEuMC4w
- 16th - 19th April - **Foot Trimming and Mobility Scoring Training.** Stranraer, Wigtownshire. For more information contact Stella Rutter at Embryonics on 01606 854411.
- 23rd April - **Think Dairy Careers Expo Event - Digital Dairy Chain.** Borderway Mart, Rosehill, Carlisle, CA1 2RS. Time: 09.00-17.00. For more information see: <https://www.digitaldairychain.co.uk/think-dairy-careers-expo/>

For any further enquiries regarding the information in this newsletter please contact:



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