

Milk Manager NEWS



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This month's editor: Lorna MacPherson	



Milk Market Update

UK Wholesale Dairy Commodity Market

- Fonterra's latest on-line GDT auction (7th of November) resulted in a 0.7% decrease in the weighted average price across all products, reaching US \$3,255/t. Given that the last four auctions showed a positive movement in price, this small decline was perhaps unexpected. Only butter and whole milk powder were down on the previous auction, with butter back 1.6% (to \$4,890/t) and whole milk powder back 2.7% (to \$2,971/t). The biggest price rise was seen in lactose (+19.2% to \$718/t) and cheddar was also up 4.5% (to \$4,042/t). Full results are available at <https://www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/>
- All dairy commodities showed an increase in average price for October on the back of milk supplies in decline and demand increasing slightly. Butter, cream and SMP were up 10%, 9% and 19% respectively, while mild cheddar was only up 1%. These price movements are in line with EU commodity prices for October, where butter and SMP swiftly increased by 6.9% and 10.3% respectively, while the cheddar price did not change.

Commodity	Oct 2023 £/t	Sep 2023 £/t	% Difference Monthly	Oct 2022 £/t	% Diff 2023-2022
Bulk Cream	1,791	1,648	+9	2,807	-36
Butter	4,070	3,710	+10	5,860	-31
SMP	2,220	1,860	+19	2,980	-26
Mild Cheddar	3,290	3,260	+1	4,860	-32

Source: AHDB Dairy - based on trade agreed from 25th Sep – 22nd Oct 2023. 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.

- The UK butter market moved up on average £360/t, following the rise in cream price. With milk supplies easing both here and on the continent, cream exports to the EU have increased. Prices have also been supported by the volatility in exchange rates.
- Positive movements in the recent GDT auctions have helped support the SMP price. The average price increase from September was £380/t and this was also helped by greater

demand for SMP exports to the Middle East and southeast Asia.

- Cheese markets have not been fairing as well, with little trading activity and the average price up by only £30/t from September. Cheese makers are struggling with continued subdued demand on the back of retail inflation and reduced consumer spending. Global demand has also been weak, with a stagnant export market.
- On the back of rising wholesale prices, the market indicators AMPE and MCVE have risen in October, with AMPE up significantly more than MCVE (+5.72ppl versus 1.19ppl). The Milk Market Value (MMV) for October was 34.57ppl, up by 2.09ppl from September, which gives an indication that farmgate prices may start to rise in three months' time.

	Oct 2023	Sep 2023	12 months previously	Net amount less 2.4ppl average haulage – Oct 2023
AMPE	34.53ppl	28.82ppl	51.27ppl	32.13ppl
MCVE	34.58ppl	33.39ppl	53.95ppl	32.18ppl

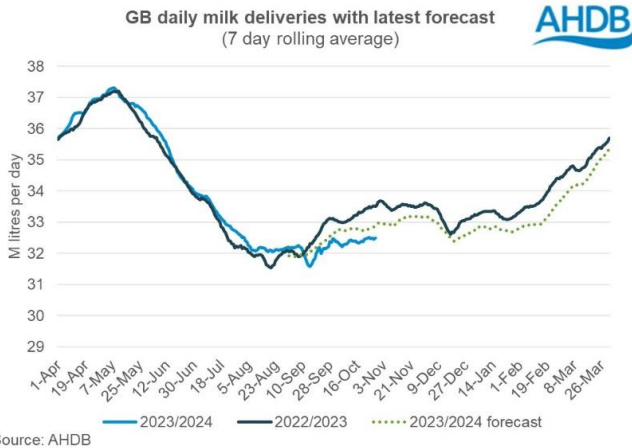
Source: AHDB Dairy

- Defra put the UK average farm-gate milk price at 36.36ppl for September, which was up 0.16ppl from August. The UK volume for September was 1,136 million litres, which was 4.5% less than the previous month and 1.3% less than September 2022. With milk supply currently contracting, the markets have been responding and the decline in October milk production looks set to continue. It is a similar picture globally in some of the main dairy exporting regions and this should help to exert upward pressure on the milk price.

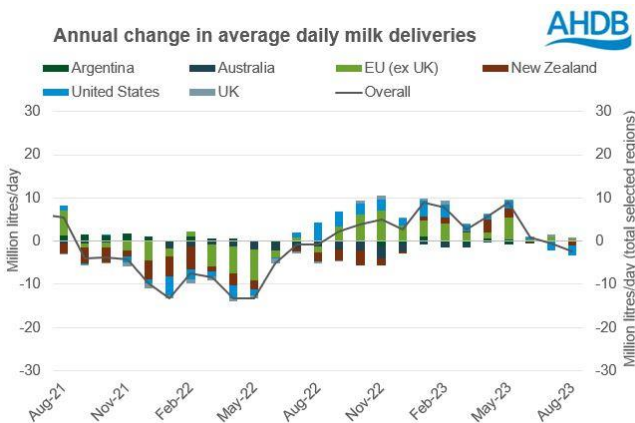
GB Milk Deliveries and Global Production

- For the week ending 28th October deliveries were up just 0.1% on the previous week with a daily average of 32.48 million litres/day. Deliveries are now 3.1% below the same week in 2022, equating to 1,030,000 litres/day less, partly due to the deterioration of grazing conditions with the very wet weather. For the 2023/24 milk year, recent revised estimates for GB milk production is forecast to be 0.5% down on the previous year, reaching 12.32 billion litres.

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- The main global exporting regions are also seeing a slowdown in growth. AHDB data for August show that global daily deliveries were back 0.3% on August 2022 (2.4 million litres/day less). The biggest declines in milk output were in the US (-0.8%) and New Zealand (-2.1%) due to tighter margins and farmers responding to lower milk prices by reducing purchased feed and fertiliser use. However, growth in milk production was seen in the UK, EU and Australia in August. The graph below shows the annual change in global milk deliveries, which have been falling over the last few months.



Other News

- Data released from Promar International on their Milkfinder monthly dairy costings revealed that for August 2023, margin over purchased feeds was 24.27ppl, back almost 11ppl from August 2022 (MOPF 35.37ppl). While the average concentrate cost fell only by £10/t, the milk price dropped 11.77ppl, accounting for the lower margin. Yield from forage was just over 8 litres/day and concentrate use was 0.32kg/day for an average daily yield of 25.33 litres.

- The Digital Dairy Chain has recently named the winners of an Innovate UK grant competition to support collaborative research and development work. The Digital Dairy Chain is a 5-year project which offers a range of services to improve productivity in the dairy sector right across the supply chain in the geographical area of southwest Scotland and Cumbria. One project that received support was for the development and testing of an innovative, cost-effective, ventilated environment for calves. Galebreaker Ltd will design, build and test the system in collaboration with dairy farmer Ross Vance, High Skeog Farm, Whithorn, and researchers from SRUC. Another successful application was to create a new model with the use of genomics and IVF to accelerate the breeding of lower methane producing, more sustainable cattle. For more information on the Digital Dairy Chain see: <https://www.digitaldairychain.co.uk/>

Monthly Price Movements for November 2023

Commodity Produced	Company Contract	Price Change from Oct 2023	Standard Litre Price Nov 2023
Liquid & Cheese	Arla Farmers UK	No change	33.83ppl liquid 35.21ppl manufacture
Cheese, Liquid & Brokered Milk	First Milk	-0.85ppl	36.0ppl manufacture
Cheese	Fresh Milk Company (Lactalis)	-1.5ppl	34.0ppl liquid 35.39ppl manufacture
Liquid & Manufacture	Grahams	-1ppl	35.0ppl
Liquid & Manufacture	Müller Direct	-0.5ppl	36.25ppl (includes 1ppl direct premium & -0.25ppl Scottish haulage charge)
Liquid & Manufacture	Müller (Co-op)	-0.29ppl	39.62ppl
Liquid & Manufacture	Müller (Tesco)	-0.10ppl	41.73ppl
Liquid, Powder & Brokered	Yew Tree Dairies		36ppl* Standard A litre price

*Oct price – Nov price not confirmed at time of writing.

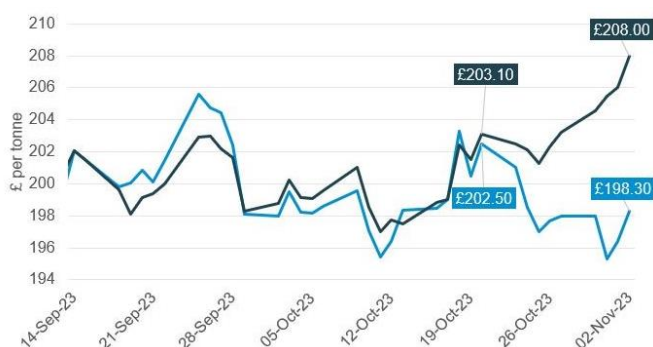
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Straights Update

UK Cereals Market Update and Global Impacts

The impact of the recent storms in the UK on autumn planting programmes has started to filter through to the markets, with concern that the wheat area for harvest 2024 could fall and lead to a smaller crop and higher values. Consequently, we've seen Nov '24 feed wheat futures (new crop) rising £10/t since mid-October to currently stand at £208/t. 'Old crop' values however are not affected in the same way and continue to remain in the doldrums (Figure 1). This could be an incentive to lock into a proportion of winter '24 feed supplies as a hedge against prices rising further as the year progresses.

Figure 1. Diverging values of May '24 (old crop) and Nov '24 (new crop) UK feed wheat



Source: ICE AHDB

Globally however, commodity markets have been looking to various fundamentals to warrant support to prices. These include weather conditions in South America, increased demand for U.S. exports, surging crush and ethanol demand, growing Chinese interest, a potential resurgence of wheat imports in India, and reduced Russian exports which could boost export demand in Europe.

The U.S. markets were particularly active, with wheat, maize and soyabean all testing resistance levels. However, all these attempts failed, and the markets then began testing recent support levels to the downside.

All of this meant the markets experienced a recurring pattern of rebounding briefly only to face subsequent price drops again. The abundance of cheap Russian wheat supplies, (Russia has about one third of the world's supply of wheat), continues to exert downward pressure on markets. By way of

example, Russian Black Sea wheat (FOB) has been trading at a 15% discount to EU wheat available out of Black Sea ports.

This reduced export demand for European-origin wheat therefore, coupled with a lack of tenders from major importers, continues to weigh on prices. UK wheat into Spain and Ireland is facing fierce competition from Germany and Denmark. European markets are also following the global trend, facing a decrease week-on-week in the most active contracts. Furthermore, recent rainfall in Australia and Argentina is easing concerns in these countries, which are expected to contribute significantly to global wheat exports in the 2023/24 marketing year.

AHDB market data is not surprisingly illustrating a bearish longer-term outlook for grains, in part attributed to the global oversupply situation, especially in maize markets, with a near-record U.S. maize crop now entering the market, and South America expected to fill the seasonal gap from early 2024.

In the UK, feed barley has seen demand rise considering its competitiveness versus wheat and maize in feed rations. Malting barley markets remain quiet, and the large carryover of stocks seen into this year is unlikely to be repeated in 2024 given the low yields seen across much of Europe. With storm Babet more than likely to push more area into spring cropping, and inevitably more spring barley planted, a reduced or negligible carry-over can only be price-supportive for 2024's harvest.

Ex farm prices for cereals and proteins are as follows:

	Feed wheat £/t	Feed barley £/t	Beans £/t	OSR £/t
Nov 23	190	170	212	340
Mar 24	196	176	215	345
Jul 24	204	180	220	350
Nov 24	208	188	225	350

Source: AHDB and Farmers Weekly

Other Global News

- In terms of oilseeds, market indicators point towards downward pressure on rapeseed

prices, with the Australian harvest likely to meet production forecasts, although is not likely to be as much as last year's 6.7mT harvest. Surplus is likely to enter Europe to source further demand. In addition, rapeseed exports from the Black Sea corridor continue with little disruption.

- On the other hand, supporting oilseed prices is the delay in soyabean plantings in central and northern Brazil, as well as replantings which could impact final yields. Current drought conditions and little rain in the short-term forecast means that the crop may be negatively affected during the crucial flowering and pod development phase in November and December. If the situation doesn't improve, global soyabean prices will likely increase, also supporting other oilseeds and their by-products.

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Optimal Lighting for Dairy Cows

With margins being tight, it is important to consider marginal gains and what can be done to improve your existing system. There is widespread consensus around the beneficial effects of optimising lighting in housing across all stock ages. Natural day length is insufficient for most of the housed period in Scottish systems, so to optimise light levels natural light must be supplemented with modern energy-efficient artificial light.

What is the optimal lighting level?

Lighting level is measured using light/lux meters and these are available to buy for between £30 to £150 online. These devices measure illuminance in the shed, giving a reading for the strength of the light shining on a surface, with a unit called a lux. The optimal lighting cycle varies depending on the age of the stock and what stage of the production cycle they are in.

Stock Class	Optimal photo-period light level (lux)	Optimal photo-period length (hrs)	Optimal darkness light level (lux)	Period of darkness length (hrs)
Young-stock	150 - 200	16hrs	<10	8
Milking cows	150 - 200	16hrs	<10	8
Dry cows	80	8hrs	<10	16

What are the benefits of optimal lighting?

Implementing optimal lighting has multiple benefits for your herd including increased milk yields, enhanced growth rates in youngstock, higher feed intake, reduced stress, improved fertility and better cow movement through the shed. In addition, a well-lit shed also benefits you and your staff, making jobs in previously poorly lit areas easier and allowing staff to see cattle exhibiting bullying behaviour or ill cows easier.

Providing in excess of 150 lux at cow eye level for 16-18 hours a day has been shown by multiple studies to lift milk yields by around 7-8% with a 2-3 week lag in effect and a 7-9 week lag in feed intake increases.

How can I provide optimal lighting levels for my cattle?

Optimal lighting levels cannot be provided by natural light for the entire year in Scotland. As such, artificial lighting must be used to supplement natural light, although natural light should be utilised as much as possible to reduce energy costs.

Natural light can be increased by cleaning and maintaining skylights in existing sheds or installing new skylights. In addition, the sides of the shed could be altered to increase natural light in the shed, but this work should be undertaken with consideration for ventilation.

There are many different options available when considering artificial lighting. To provide adequate lux levels, lights chosen could be high-pressure sodium lights, metal halide lights or multiple fluorescent fittings. However, LED lighting is generally recommended as they are more efficient and also have benefits such as spectral output control and dimming capability.

The artificial lighting should be controlled by a timer, with light level sensing and a manual override. Different areas of the shed should have separate controls to enable staff to light certain areas as required during periods of darkness. Red lighting could also be incorporated into the system as this would allow staff to conduct night checks without disturbing the cattle during the period of darkness.

In addition to improving natural light and installing an artificial lighting system, the reflectivity of walls and roof material should be considered. Painting

surfaces white or light-coloured is a cheap and easy way to increase light levels.

Cost vs benefit

Natural light can be improved at quite a low cost through maintenance and minor shed alterations. The implementation of a new controlled artificial lighting system varies in cost depending on the existing system and light levels. A case study conducted by AHDB found that the cost of replacing an old sodium lighting system with a new LED lighting system was £6,000, with energy savings giving the business a payback period of 8 years. However, when increased milk yields were factored in the payback period reduced to 6 weeks. This case study was conducted in 2021 and costs will have since increased, but it is still the case that the payback period will be far shorter than the lifespan of the artificial lighting system implemented.

Further information

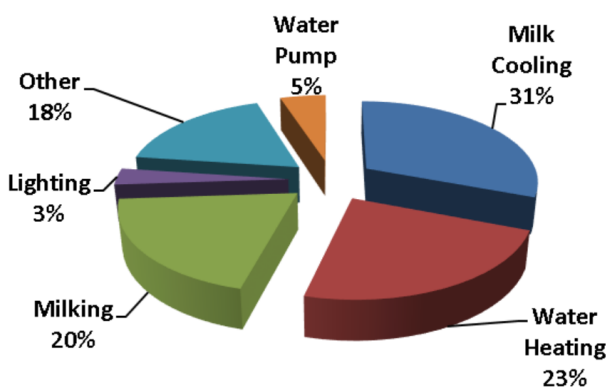
[BRP+ Better cattle housing design | AHDB](#)
[Dairy Lighting Technology Review | AHDB](#)

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Reducing Electricity Costs on Dairy Farms

Electricity typically represents 4% of a dairy farm's variable costs (AHDB, 2021). The main areas of energy consumption are milk cooling (31%), water heating (23%) and the milking machine (20%) (Figure 1). Understanding where and how energy can be reduced in these areas can result in significant savings.

Figure 1. Average electricity component consumption (60 commercial dairy farms)



Source: Teagasc, 2021

Variable speed drive for the milking vacuum

Vacuum pumps can consume between 20-25% of all electricity used on dairy farms. Vacuum pumps are least efficient when the vacuum level increases, therefore farmers should ensure their vacuum is running at the correct level to conserve energy. Installing a variable speed vacuum pump can reduce energy consumption by 40-50% through altering the motor speed, and running at the lowest output needed for adequate vacuum for the milking system (Penn State, 2023). Moreover, through lower RPMs of the vacuum pump it is possible to extend its lifetime and have lower maintenance and oil costs.

Recover heat from milk coolers

There may be an opportunity to transfer heat energy generated from milk cooling to heat up water. Dairy Heat Recovery Units (HRU) use the 'waste' heat released from the milk cooling units to heat water. A HRU can raise the temperature of water up to 60°C, which can offer a saving of between 30-70% of heating costs. The warm water can have multiple uses, including washing down the parlour, feeding calves or heating up water in troughs. In a study by Petersen et al. (2016), cows drinking warm water as opposed to cold water drank 30% more (cold water = 8.2°C, warm water = 31.1°C) which could help drive higher milk production.

Plate coolers

The temperature of milk needs to drop from 37°C to 4°C within 30 minutes of milking, which is an energy demanding process. Plate coolers can be fitted prior to the bulk tank to help reduce the milk temperature. Plate coolers are metal plates which run parallel to each other with cold water running in the alternate direction to the milk. A plate cooler can reduce the temperature of the milk down to 10-20°C before entering the bulk tank, which can reduce milk cooling costs by up to 50%. AHDB studies (2023) found that a 200-cow herd producing 1.6 million litres of milk annually with a plate cooler installed could save 20,666 kWh of electricity, which equates to just over £2,000 per annum.

Tariffs

Farmers should maximise the use of lower rate electricity tariffs. AHDB claim that an appropriate tariff and good timer control offers the biggest savings and quickest payback. It is possible for savings to exceed 15%, particularly for a first-time tariff mover.

Lighting

There are many types of bulbs available for lighting which vary in terms of light output in regard to energy consumption. If light bulbs were 100% efficient all electric would be converted to light with no heat production. Generally, LED bulbs are 90% efficient, compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs 85% efficient, but incandescent bulbs are only 10% efficient. Therefore, farmers should look to replace inefficient light sources with those which are more efficient and result in better task lighting.

Consider the following four areas to help reduce electricity costs on dairy farms:

1. Install a variable speed drive for vacuum pumps.
2. Recycle 'waste' heat from milk coolers.
3. Using a plate cooler to drop milk temperature before it enters the bulk tank.
4. Review tariffs and opt to utilise energy at lower night-time tariffs.
5. Consider replacing inefficient lighting.

References available upon request.

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Investigating the Cause of Poor Milk Production

It can often be the case that cows are not milking according to expectation. While reviewing the current ration is a good starting point along with up-to-date forage analysis, there could be other reasons why milk output is below expectation. Some potential areas to investigate are discussed below:

Feeding management

Firstly, how much are the cows eating? Work out the dry matter intake of the herd – is it as expected given the stage of lactation? Very wet and very dry forages can impact on intake. Wet silages tend to be more acidic, with higher levels of volatile fatty acids and are not as palatable. Combined with a high starchy diet, there is risk of acidosis which could also be affecting intake. On the other hand, dry silages can also restrict intakes and this is where the addition of water can help. Target a dry matter of the TMR of around 40%. It goes without saying that regular forage analysis is essential, especially if forages have changed in terms of cut, dry matter or even appearance.

Remember to check the number of portions being fed for the number of cows and if it is more than 5% out, then get the ration reformulated. For example, if silage is drier than the analysis suggests, cows will not be able to eat as much and the number of portions fed might have been reduced to avoid too much waste, rather than reducing the amount of silage fed. In this case, concentrates will also be underfed.

Mycotoxins

Mycotoxins can be present in feed even in the absence of obvious signs of mould/spoilage. There are a number of symptoms of mycotoxin poisoning in dairy cattle ranging from abortion, scouring, reduced feed intake and milk yield, raised somatic cell counts and swollen hocks, plus many others. Either test the TMR for the presence of mycotoxins or try a binder for 3 weeks to see whether symptoms subside. This will help determine whether mycotoxins are an issue in the feed. For more information on mycotoxins see:

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/forage/mycotoxin-effects-on-dairy-cattle/>

Body condition score

Is body condition score acceptable? Cows that have lost a lot of condition in early lactation will not milk to their potential and will also be more at risk of poorer fertility which will have a knock-on effect on milk production further down the line. Thin cows may be due to them being in poor condition during the dry period, or transition disease lowering feed intake and cows losing condition quickly in early lactation. These cows will not milk or peak as well.

Days in milk

The target for an all-year-round calving herd is an average of 180 days in milk. Milk yield declines at a rate of around 10% per month. A herd normally averaging 30 litres/day could be "losing" 3 litres of milk if the herd is 210 days in milk.

Peak milk yield and persistency

Investigate peak yields by lactation. Poorly performing heifers could be due to problems during the rearing period and inadequate size at calving. If stocking density is high, with lying space and feed space restricted, heifers will tend to suffer the most.

If cows are failing to reach expected peak yield, assess transition period nutrition and incidence of transition diseases. Complications at calving will impact peak milk yield and how quickly cows get

back in calf. Nutrition especially in the last 3 weeks before calving is critical for transition success.

Is the decline in milk production post peak greater than normal? Look for excessive body condition loss indicative of underfeeding energy (this may show up as low milk protein %).

Stocking density

Have cow numbers increased lately? If so, is there a minimum 0.7m of feed space per cow and 5-10% free cubicle space? Overcrowding in fresh/early lactation cows can reduce peak milk yields and the more feed space the better for this group of cows. Also, if feed space is restricted the yields will be down across the board.

Herd health

It goes without saying that herd health will also have an impact. Has the incidence of lameness increased recently? Also, a common cause of declining milk production is subclinical or clinical mastitis, and this can also shorten lactations. Monitor the incidence of transition diseases and intervene when incidence is above your target level. A guide to transition disease targets is given below.

Health performance indicator	Target performance
Milk fever	3-5%
Retained placenta (>12 hours after calving)	3-5%
Metritis (% infected after 21 days)	<5%
Mastitis	<2 in 12 in 1 st 30 days
Ketosis	<5% in 1 st 3 weeks
Displaced abomasum	<3%
Culled in 1 st 60 days	<3%

Many factors can impact on poor milking performance and the above list is not exhaustive, with heat stress being a key one in the warmer summer months, even in Scotland. If you would like some advice on herd nutrition this winter, please contact the Farm Advisory Service on 0300 323 0161 or email advice@fas.scot

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The Power of Benchmarking

The importance of understanding the financial data within your business was one of the sessions at a recent dairy conference “Challenging the Norm:

Future Dairy Systems”, held by SAC Consulting and funded by the Universities Innovation Fund. Dairy farmer and past First Milk director, Jim Baird spoke about how he has seen first-hand the positive impact that being part of a benchmarking group has had on his own and other farm businesses.

Understanding your own figures

“If you don’t measure it you can’t change it”. Understanding the financial health of your own business is extremely important if you are to withstand the volatility of the dairy market. Having a good grasp of the costs associated with your business allows you to react to and understand how fluctuating milk and input prices will affect your bottom line.

When the market is buoyant, you will be able to see what surplus is available for investment, and when prices are poor or inputs are high you can identify where costs can be controlled.

It may seem like there is already a never-ending amount of paperwork to tackle on farms and adding to it by collating financial and physical performance information in a way that allows benchmarking can seem like another job which there is no time for. However, the level of digitisation on modern dairy farms now means that without too much extra work you should be able to make the information easily available to access.

Parlour and herd management software will give all the physical information required regarding fertility, health, cow performance – providing accurate information is added to the system. In terms of health recording, one of the most important pieces of information you can record is the reason why cows leave the herd, either as culls or casualties. This is powerful information which can be reviewed at the end of the year to identify the main causes of cow losses – this can guide a discussion with your vet and farm team to determine if there is one particular area where changes can be made to improve cow health and increase herd longevity.

As we have moved to cloud-based accounting and VAT submission this gives a great opportunity to create valuable benchmarking information while completing the VAT return. Spending a little extra time recording the tonnage of feed delivered and whether it was for cows or youngstock, recording medicine use accurately, and allocating sundry costs to more specific accounts will then allow the

information to be easily drawn off to populate some benchmarks too.

Benchmarking with others

Sometimes the most important benchmarking you do is against yourself year-on-year. However, there are many benefits to being part of a group, sharing information and picking up best practice and ideas from fellow farmers. It can be a daunting prospect to share financial information with your peers and it is important that there is trust amongst the group that information will be treated confidentially. No rent and finance information should be shared. Comparing data sparks conversations and allows the sharing of best practice and top tips to control costs and drive income. AHDB published a report a few years ago which looked at the attributes of the most successful farming businesses and one of those was benchmarking and reviewing that information as part of a group.

[Preparing for change the characteristics of top performing farms-1.pdf \(windows.net\)](#)

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The Low-Down on Winter Dysentery

Every year we hear reports of winter dysentery outbreaks in dairy herds. The clinical signs of the disease can be dramatic, with a significant reduction in milk production in conjunction with profuse, watery diarrhoea. Like most cattle diseases the presentation and causes can be variable with a combination of nutritional, managerial and infectious disease risk factors implicated which can vary from farm to farm.

In its simplest form, winter dysentery is a highly contagious disease affecting the gastrointestinal tract and although not fully understood, a particular strain of coronavirus is implicated as a cause. It spreads rapidly throughout the herd with the majority of animals affected, mainly being transmitted by the faecal-oral route from faecal contamination of feed or water. However, respiratory secretions can also carry the virus, further increasing the rate of transmission. The disease can occur in all cattle but is more often seen in adult dairy cows during the winter months and newly calved cows tend to be more severely affected. Symptoms include:

- Extremely watery and foul-smelling diarrhoea (which may be explosive).

- Blood may be present in faeces.
- Sudden reduction in milk (up to 50% in some cases).
- Reduced feed intake.
- Dehydration.
- Mild coughing and nasal discharge may be present.
- From initial symptoms in one or two animals, the disease spreads quickly with most cattle affected within a fortnight. Symptoms can last up to a week, but milk production can take much longer to recover. The condition is rarely fatal.

In the early stages, symptoms may be indicative of a nutritional issue, but the rapid spread and severity of the disease means that diagnosis is fairly quick and easy.

Faecal sampling to confirm diagnosis of coronavirus by ELISA has poor sensitivity and can result in false negative results, so many outbreaks are not confirmed by testing.

However, it is important to be aware that the symptoms are similar to other diseases such as Salmonella (which is very common) and Schmallenberg, so it is advisable to contact your vet for immediate investigation and to consider the full range of differential diagnoses.

From a disease surveillance perspective our SRUC Veterinary Services colleagues are particularly interested in investigating herd level outbreaks of milk drop and scour.

There is no specific treatment for classical winter dysentery although cows showing signs of dehydration will benefit from supportive fluid therapy.

To combat dehydration, good access to clean, fresh water is very important so ideally there should be a minimum of 10cm water trough space per cow and more than one water trough per group of cows. It is a good idea to provide free access rock salt to encourage water intake to aid rehydration.

Preventive measures include making sure all staff (including external visitors e.g. vets, consultants, hoof trimmers) wear clean, sanitised footwear and clean clothing upon entry to the farm, as well as disinfecting footwear, clothing and equipment before leaving the farm. Limit any non-essential personnel coming onto the farm during an outbreak.

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Purchased cattle can also bring in the disease, so quarantining of purchased stock should take place for two weeks to ensure they are not carrying the disease and allow time for health checks for other potential diseases.

Factors that can increase the risk of clinical disease include dietary changes (often post-housing), colder temperatures and high stocking rates, especially when ventilation is poor. The presence of other disease-causing organisms may also be a contributing factor. The virus can survive longer in colder conditions and when UV light levels are low.

Once the herd has recovered, herd immunity should help reduce the likelihood of another outbreak for around five years. The following podcast featuring SRUC's Colin Mason (Veterinary Centre Manager at Dumfries), discusses milk drop syndrome which can be related to winter dysentery and may be of further interest:

<https://player.captivate.fm/episode/12519eab-627c-48dc-b556-526370e52514>

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Dates for Your Diary

- 20th - 21st November - **Hannah Dairy Research Foundation: Next Generation Dairying Conference**. Moredun Research Institute, Pentlands Science Park, Penicuik, EH26 0PZ. On-line access is also available. For more information see: <https://www.journalofdairresearch.org/next-generation-dairying-2023.html>
- 22nd November - **AgriScot**. Time: 09.00-17.30. Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Newbridge, EH28 8NB.
- 28th November - **Heifer Rearing: Maximising Potential and Minimising Costs - Easy Wins and Tough Challenges**. Time 10.30-14.15. SRUC Crichton Royal Farm, Glencaple Road, Dumfries, DG1 4TT. Book your place via Eventbrite please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heifer-rearing-maximising-potential-and-minimising-costs-tickets-749873571037>
- 29th November - **Heifer Rearing: Maximising Potential and Minimising Costs - Easy Wins and Tough Challenges**. Time: 11.00-14.00. Radstone Hotel, 3 Ayr Road, Larkhall, Lanarkshire, ML9 2TZ. To book your place please contact the SAC Consulting Lanark office on 01555 662562 or email lanark@sac.co.uk
- 29th November - **Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines**. On-line course. For more information contact event organiser Embryonics on 01606 854411 or email: courses@embryonicsltd.co.uk
- 2nd December - **The Black and White Sale**. Time: 11.00-17.00. Borderway Mart, Rosehill, Carlisle, CA1 2RS.
- 4th - 6th December - **DIY AI Course**. Dumfries. For more information contact event organiser Embryonics on 01606 854411 or email: courses@embryonicsltd.co.uk
- 21st December - **Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines**. On-line course. For more information contact event organiser Embryonics on 01606 854411 or email: courses@embryonicsltd.co.uk

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



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