Issue 61 | July 2024

Milk Manager NEWS

Farm Advisory Service
National Advice Hub
T: 0300 323 0161
E: advice@fas.scot
W: www.fas.scot

Contents

This month's editor:
Lorna MacPherson

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

SAC CONSULTING

Contents

Milk Market Update 1

Milk Manager NEWS

Milk Market Update

UK Wholesale Dairy Commodity Market

- Fonterra's latest on-line GDT auction (2nd July) resulted in a massive 6.9% drop in the weighted average price across all products, reaching US $3,782/t. This follows a 0.5% decrease at the previous auction, the first negative result since mid-March. Only lactose increased in price from the previous auction (+0.5%). The biggest drops were seen in anhydrous milk fat, butter and cheddar, down 10.9%, 10.2% and 6.9% respectively. Full results are available at https://www.globaldairytrade.info/en/product-results/

- All UK wholesale price of dairy commodities showed a positive increase from the May reporting period. In particular, big rises were seen for butter and cream, up 11% and 9% respectively. Given the lower peak in spring milk production and the seasonal drop in butterfat at this time of year, butter stocks are now very low. Concerns around lower milk volumes sparked more buying activity, and with retail demand increasing, the markets responded accordingly. The significant drop in milk production in Ireland is also contributing to the high fat prices and butter production is now down 4.6% year-on-year in Europe.

Commodity	Jun 2024 £/t	May 2024 £/t	% Difference Monthly	Jun 2023 £/t	% Diff 2024-2023
Bulk Cream	2,292	2,104	+9	1,622	+41
Butter	5,660	5,080	+11	3,990	+42
SMP	2,060	2,010	+2	2,060	0
Mild Cheddar	3,670	3,540	+4	3,560	+3

Source: AHDB Dairy - based on trade agreed from w/b 20th May - 10th Jun 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.

- The market for SMP showed little movement, although positive, with the price up £50/t on average for the month. EU manufacturers appear to have little stock, helping keep prices firm. In addition, global buying activity picked up around the time of the EU/USA milk flush, increasing demand during peak supply season.

- Mild cheddar also rose on the back of sellers reluctant to unload product too cheaply and would prefer to hang onto stocks to make mature cheddar, rather than undersell.

- There was a significant rise in AMPE this month, up 3.42ppl from May and 7.84ppl more than June last year, mainly due to the rise in the butter component. MCVE also rose but only by 1.79ppl, on the back of increases in mild cheddar and the whey powder and whey butter components. These rises were reflected in the Milk Market Value which was up 2.11ppl to 38.65ppl for June, the biggest monthly rise seen so far this year. As changes in MMV are often reflected in movements in farm-gate prices in three months' time, this is looking positive for further milk price increases later this summer.

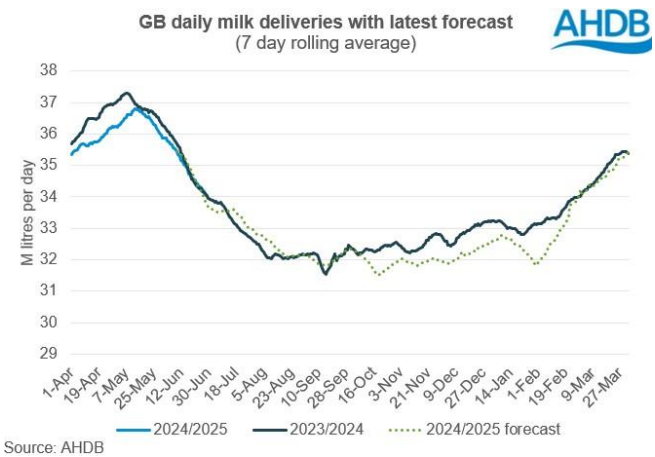
	Jun 2024 ppl	May 2024 ppl	Jun 2023 ppl	Net amount less 2.4ppl average haulage - Jun 2024 ppl
AMPE	40.50	37.08	32.66	38.10
MCVE	38.19	36.40	37.59	35.79

Source: AHDB Dairy

- Defra put the UK average farm-gate milk price at 37.92ppl for May, 0.49ppl less than the April price. The UK volume for May was 1,377 million litres, which was 5% more than the previous month but 0.9% back on May 2023 volume.

GB Milk Deliveries and Global Production

- Milk production is now on a par with last year, with daily deliveries for the w/e 29th June at 34.05 mlitres,1.1% less than the previous week and 0.1% above the same week last year (+20,000 litres/day).



Source: AHDB

- Global production is still slightly behind 2023 volumes. Daily deliveries in April from the six

main exporting regions averaged 832.5 litres, 3.8 mlitres less/day compared to April 2023. While EU volumes were higher than last year, Irish production continued to decline, down 81 mlitres (7.9%) in April. The biggest percentage decline was seen in Argentina, back 16.2% compared to April last year. This equates to 4.6 mlitres less per day, as a result of prolonged heavy rainfall and economic challenges, with triple digit inflation, recession and rising unemployment. Declines were also seen in the US and New Zealand, back 0.6% and 4.1% respectively.

Monthly Price Movements for July 2024

Commodity Produced	Company Contract	Price Change from Jun 2024	Standard Litre Price Jul 2024
Liquid & Cheese	**Arla Farmers UK**	*+0.81ppl*	41.7ppl manufacture
Cheese, Liquid & Brokered Milk	**First Milk**	*+0.8ppl*	40.3ppl manufacture
Cheese	**Fresh Milk Company (Lactalis)**	*+0.79*	40.32ppl manufacture
Liquid & Manufacture	**Grahams**	*+1ppl*	37.0ppl
Liquid & Manufacture	**Müller Direct**	*+1.0ppl*	39.0ppl (includes 1ppl direct premium. Does not include haulage charge)
Liquid & Manufacture	**Müller (Co-op)**	*No change*	39.96ppl
Liquid & Manufacture	**Müller (Tesco)**	*No change*	41.82ppl

Other News

- According to Nick Holt-Martyn of The Dairy Group, the estimated cost of production for the 2023/24 milk year was 43.4ppl. Variable costs and fixed costs were 12.2% and 21.2% respectively above the 2021/22 milk year. His prediction is that the cost of production will increase towards 45ppl and it is extremely unlikely that it will ever fall back below 40ppl.

- First Milk will increase its milk price by 0.7ppl from 1st August, bringing it up to 41ppl for a standard manufacturing litre.

- Organic Herd (formerly OMSCO) have increased their member milk price by 1ppl from 1st July bringing their standard litre up to 51ppl. There is also a further 3ppl rise for August. This comes in response to an increase in demand for organic milk and the co-op is also recruiting more farmers to help meet both the domestic and export demand. The production of organic milk has dropped significantly over the last few years, but as food inflation falls the prospects for organic milk and dairy products is on the up. Organic milk production in May was back 9.7% on the same month last year and for the 2023/24 milk year, milk volumes were down 14% on the previous year.

- Data from AHDB from the 12-month period up to April 2024 shows that the use of sexed semen has continued to increase and now represents 84% of all dairy semen sales, up from 76% last year. Sales of beef semen are now above that of dairy semen sales, representing 52% of all semen sold to dairy farmers. The Holstein breed remains the most popular, accounting for 88% of dairy sexed semen sales, up from 84% in the previous year.

- Denmark is looking to introduce the world's first carbon tax for agriculture, with their government looking to approve the tax through parliament later this year. As of 2030, farmers will have to pay 300 krone (around £35) per tonne of CO_2 equivalent emissions from livestock, increasing to 750 krone (around £85) from 2035 onwards. However, a 60% tax break will be applied, so farmers will in effect have to pay 120 krone (around £15) per tonne of CO_2e each year from 2030 and 300 krone (around £35) in 2035. For dairy farmers on the lower tax rate, the charge will be around £75/cow initially, increasing to £190/cow in 2035.

lorna.macpherson@sac.co.uk; 07760 990901

Straights Update

UK Cereals Market Update and Global Impacts

There have been modest gains in spot prices for Scottish grain and oilseeds compared to this time 12 months ago: wheat up £10/t, feed barley up £15/t and rapeseed up £38/t (an 11% gain). Malting barley harvest values remain very similar to this time last year at circa £225/t.

In the global arena, both world grain production and consumption are set to rise for the 3rd consecutive year. For the period June '24 to June '25 production is projected up +12Mt and demand +16Mt. Stocks to use ratio tightens as stocks see a net fall of -9Mt. 2024 looks to be another year for the UK as a large net importer of wheat (circa 1.7Mt). Despite high opening stocks and domestic use easing, the UK wheat harvest is only expected to total in the region of 11.23Mt this summer, down from the 13.98Mt harvested last year. Scotland's wheat harvest is predicted currently to be down -152Kt (-15%) on last year's outturn and factors in the reduced area in the ground, down -8% on 2023.

Scotland's spring barley area is up 4% on 2023 and could potentially take the national crop from 1.57Mt to 1.76Mt, although at this stage it's difficult to predict accurately. Malting premiums over feed currently look to being closer to the £50/t value rather than the £80/t seen in 2023.

£ per tonne	Basis	Harvest '24	Nov '24	Mar '25
Wheat	Ex farm Scotland	185	200	202
Feed barley	Ex farm Scotland	160	175	177
Malt. dist. barley	Ex farm Scotland	225	245	
Oilseed rape	Delivered Dundee	382	390	393
Milling oats	Ex farm Scotland	263		

Source: AHDB and United Oilseeds

Early estimates show an improving crop gross margin scenario for 2024 harvested crops compared to 2023's very difficult year, when falling grain prices met with high input costs. Wheat and malting barley margins could potentially lift 20% and 15% respectively this year using standard yield data.

At the start of July, traders have been reacting to concerns regarding the European wheat crop. In France (the blocks biggest wheat exporter), the wheat crop was 60% rated good-excellent, compared to 81% last year. The yield and quality of their winter barley crop that has already been harvested in the southern part of the country has been reported as poor. However, the EU wheat crop estimate has since been raised from 120.2Mt to 121.9Mt as central EU crops are faring better, with potential record yields expected in Romania and Bulgaria.

Currently there are no concerns over global soyabean stocks despite recently flooded areas in the US. The three main soya and maize producing areas – Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska – have seen prolonged and widespread moderate to major river flooding. Meteorologists are predicting dry hot weather in late July/August in these areas, which after the wet spell could impact soyabean pod setting. For the 2024/25 season, global soyabean production is forecasted to increase to 415Mt, with end of season stocks expected to reach 79Mt, up from 68Mt for the 2023/24 season.

mark.bowsher-gibbs@sac.co.uk; 0131 603 7533
lorna.macpherson@sac.co.uk; 07760 990901

Why Won't a Calf Suckle?

There are many reasons why some calves struggle to suckle from a teat. One of the main causes is an acidotic calf at birth and this condition is most likely due to a difficult calving or premature birth.

Lack of oxygen

Any calf that has had a difficult or prolonged calving is likely to have been starved of oxygen if the umbilical cord has ruptured early on or has been compressed. Lack of oxygen (in conjunction with a build-up of carbon dioxide in the blood) causes a drop in blood pH or acidosis, which not only weakens the suck reflex but also reduces the absorption of antibodies from colostrum. These calves can appear dopey as a result of the acidosis, with weak muscle tone and they struggle to stand.

An early-born calf may not have fully developed lungs and so may struggle to fully oxygenate its tissues and remove carbon dioxide. This can also result in acidosis, leading to weak, dopey calves and weak reflexes.

Other symptoms that may be seen in acidotic calves include:

- Erratic kicking by the calf while still in the uterus.
- Irregular breathing continuing after 30 seconds post-birth.
- The calf has not raised its head in the first five minutes after birth.
- When pinching between the calf's toes, the foot is not withdrawn.

Nutritional deficiency

Weak calves can also be due to a nutritional deficiency in the dam, with a lack of protein or energy or both affecting calf vigour and time to stand. Micronutrient deficiency such as lack of selenium, iodine and/or vitamin E can also be common reasons for weak calf syndrome. Dietary assessment in the pre-calving period should be reviewed and a mineral audit conducted to ensure requirements for major minerals, trace elements and vitamins are met. The key major mineral for pre-calving cows is magnesium to aid calcium mobilisation and smooth muscle contraction, helping prevent slow calvings.

Genetic abnormalities/physical problem with the mouth

A cleft palate can make suckling extremely difficult. While these calves may initially appear keen to suckle, what they try and drink may either be inhaled and cause aspiration pneumonia, or come out through the nose. This can be ruled out by opening the calf's mouth and checking the roof of the mouth for a linear gap.

Floppy tongue syndrome can affect a calf's ability to suckle (see photo below). The condition has mainly been seen in suckler herds but has also been found in dairy herds. The tongue may be larger than normal and sticks out the front or side of the mouth. In some cases the lower jaw is also deformed (squinty jaw syndrome) and lies at an angle to the upper jaw. The suckle reflex is very poor at birth and can slowly recover but may take days to weeks.

Calves with floppy tongue and squinty jaw syndrome

Source: SRUC Veterinary Services

The cause of both these conditions is unknown, but several theories include genetics, nutrition, infectious disease or foetal exposure to toxins and in the case of floppy tongue, presence of the double muscling gene.

Dealing with acidotic calves

A calf that is acidotic at birth will be slow to stand and may even have difficulty raising its head. It is best to try and encourage these calves to sit up, as if left lying down on their side, it is harder for oxygen to reach the lower lung. Ensure that there is no mucous covering the calf's nose and blocking the airways, and if the calf is showing no sign of sitting up after 15 minutes, consult your vet.

Treatment can be given to help correct the acidosis and this involves injecting the calf intravenously with sodium bicarbonate, along with either oral or intravenous fluids. Bicarbonate injection should be done by your vet.

Sometimes there is no obvious cause of a calf not willing to suck. Calves that have bonded with their dam and suckled from her are less likely to take to drinking from a teat or open bucket. Some farmers have found success improving mineral supply to the cow during the dry period or from administering a vitamin injection to the calf, but it is best to seek nutritional advice along with perseverance and trying teats of different sizes to encourage the calf to drink.

lorna.macpherson@sac.co.uk; 07760 990901

Top Performing Dairy Farmers

In 2017, AHDB commissioned The Andersons Centre to identify the characteristics which define the top performing dairy farms in the UK. The report has been updated in 2024 using both data from the Farm Business Survey and case studies of two contracting dairy farms. Despite being produced using figures from England, the messages are still applicable to Scottish dairy farms and provide a good starting point for assessing the state of your own business.

The analysis compared the top and bottom performing farms, based on their Return on Turnover ratio (farm income / associated costs), which is one way of comparing farms of different sizes. The top characteristics which defined the top performing farms were:

- **Focused cost control**
  Milk is a commodity and, in most cases, dairy farmers have very little control over the price received. Maximising output from minimal costs is key to generating profits. Costs should be focused on ensuring cows are healthy and productive.

- **Maximising output per ha by finding your optimum stocking density**
  Maximising milk from forage is the cheapest way to produce milk and improving land productivity is the best way to achieve this.

- **Do more of what you are good at – be a specialist dairy farmer**
  When land, infrastructure and labour are in short supply then the top performing dairies focus on what they are good at – producing milk. Other enterprises can distract from the main focus of maximising cow productivity and have a negative impact on profitability. This will not be true for all businesses, but the impact of other enterprises should be assessed to ensure they are not having a negative impact on the overall profitability of the dairy enterprise.

- **Understand your milk contract, what your buyer wants and ensure you are delivering it to maximise milk price**
  Producing clean milk with components which maximise the bonuses available on your milk price is key to maximising milk revenue. Seasonality penalties and bonuses require more consideration to the overall cost of production of the system as it may not be profitable to change calving patterns to suit.

- **Understand what you and everyone on your team, staff and family, want to achieve**
  It is important that everyone involved in the business is given the opportunity to share their aspirations and understand those of everyone else. These can be financial or personal and should be discussed openly and recorded. Budgets and plans can then be drawn up to ensure that everyone knows what they are working towards and how they are going to get there. These can also be used to track progress and provide contingency plans if there are bumps on the road.

- **Keep a close eye on the detail**
  It is impossible to know all of the numbers all of the time, what is important is knowing where to find them. Make sure you have the most suitable farm software for your system, which collates as much management information in one place as possible to avoid duplication of data entry. Make your monthly book-keeping more relevant by taking time to split out costs on invoices and allocating them to enterprises such as cows, youngstock etc so that you can quickly access and evaluate farm financials and compare year on year.

The full report can be found at Characteristics of top and bottom performing dairy farms | AHDB and be sure to look out for Appendix 1 – 50 Ways to be Outstanding.

Support is available through the Farm Advisory Service to spend time on the actions discussed in this article at Advice & Grants | Helping farmers in Scotland | Farm Advisory Service (fas.scot)

alison.clark@sac.co.uk; 01776 702649

Contagious Mastitis: Tackling High SCC's

Being above the standard litre target for somatic cell count (SCC) can have a significant impact on your milk cheque. High levels of contagious mastitis within a herd often result in high SCC's. The common contagious mastitis bugs are Staphylococcus aureus and Streptococcus dysgalactiae, and to a lesser extent, Streptococcus

agalactiae and mycoplasma. Streptococcus uberis, while usually considered an environmental bug, is also a cause of contagious mastitis, although is a lesser cause of a raised SCC.

Contagious pathogens are those that spread from cow to cow and are found on the cow's skin on the teats and udder. They tend to be transferred to other cows during milking from the milking equipment or the milker's hands. Given how well these bugs adhere to the skin's surface and can easily enter the teat canal, post-milking teat dipping/spraying is very important in controlling its spread.

If bulk tank SCC's are consistently high, first test a sample from the tank to determine whether the main culprit is environmental, contagious or other. This will help narrow down what the best strategy is to help combat the source of infection. In addition, it can be useful to test milk samples from individual cows (before treatment), especially those that regularly have a high SCC or those with a new infection to establish the main cause. It only takes a few cows in a herd to raise the bulk tank SCC and individual SCC results are useful to identify problem cows, helping make good culling decisions.

The spread of infection can be reduced by having robust milking procedures in place for staff to follow. These include:

- Ensure liners are changed regularly (every 2000 milkings), including liners that are cracked.
- Have effective pre-dipping and post-dipping procedures. Use a product known to be effective against the main mastitis causing bugs and ensure good teat coverage with product.
- Care with cleaning cloths – using a clean one per cow for wiping and drying teats. Wash reusable cloths at 90°C and ensure they are dry before reusing.
- Wear gloves when milking and clean in disinfectant or renew when dirty/necessary.
- Form a high cell count group of cows to be milked last through the parlour to avoid spreading mastitis bugs to other healthy cows.
- On-going staff training is crucial so that they understand the importance of good milking procedures in the fight against mastitis.

Antibiotic dry cow therapy is generally much more successful in curing contagious mastitis compared to during lactation. In a high cell count herd where mastitis is mainly of contagious origin, it may be worth using a lower SCC threshold from the last three monthly milk recordings for targeting infected cows with antibiotic dry cow therapy.

Antibiotics are not always effective at treating mastitis caused by S. aureus as the bacteria can "hide" in fibrous mammary tissue that is difficult for the antibiotics to reach. In chronic cases where the infection has not been effectively treated, animals can develop fibrous swellings or bumps on the udder. These animals are susceptible to recurring mastitis infections.

Maintaining good teat condition is important. Rough rings on teat ends indicates overmilking and makes it more difficult to thoroughly disinfect. Affected cows will be more susceptible to infections. Check ACR and vacuum settings and use a post-dip with emollients for skin condition.

Bear in mind that your herd's average SCC may be higher than the bulk tank SCC. This is because milk from high SCC cows might not be going into the bulk tank. Also, cows with high SCC's tend to have lower yields and would contribute more to the bulk tank SCC than a higher yielding, lower SCC cow. Therefore, individual cow data on SCC is much more valuable, as it tells you the percentage of infected cows in the herd, which cows those are, how long they are infected for and how often new infections are occurring.

Key performance indicators for mastitis to monitor include:

KPI	Target
Clinical mastitis cases/100 cows/year	<30
Dry period cure rate	>85%
Mastitis in 1st 30 days post-calving	<1 in 12 or <8.3%
% animals with SCC ≥ 200,000	<20%
Recurrence rate	<10%

lorna.macpherson@sac.co.uk; 07760 990901

Are You Species-Rich?

With the release of the roadmap to 2025 and the Whole Farm Plan, farmers across Scotland have been assessing to what extent they meet the new requirements to maintain their current levels of support and are hurriedly trying to get carbon audits, soil samples and integrated pest management and health plans completed. Among the list of potential actions you could take is to have a farm biodiversity audit completed.

Biodiversity is a new language that farmers across Scotland have learned or should learn in the near future, as being able to identify, quantify and articulate the conditions of the habitats present on your farm will only become more important. In addition to Scottish Government, milk buyers too have recently moved in this direction, seeing the opportunities to appeal to customers and provide public good, as well as future-proof against potential nature markets.

Species-rich is a term used to describe a habitat that has an abundance of native wildflower species. With few exceptions, a wildflower metric has been developed and is in use by several organisations and companies to assess species-richness. The metric includes 25 species that can be found across different land and soil types and sets out some disqualifying criteria, many of which would apply to the improved pastures farmed by the dairy sector.

Species-rich grasslands were once common across much of Scotland in some form or another. Records suggest that up to 97% of these native meadows have been lost in the last 100 years. The grasslands can often appear as undervalued or unimproved and generally of low agricultural value. However they are incredibly important for a range of insect species, farmland birds and small mammals. They also play an important role in locking carbon into soils, buffering water margins, floodplains and are highly palatable to grazing livestock. Often these grasslands are fragile, fragmented and the native wildflower species have been outcompeted by conventional species like Italian and perennial ryegrasses encouraged through improvements, which can make finding them in dairy units more difficult than say, upland units.

But are there opportunities being missed by the dairy sector? Cattle are the preferred grazing livestock for conservation. Their natural grazing patterns, trampling and light poaching can help to encourage the spread of this native pasture, and the integration of livestock is a core part of regenerative farming practices. With careful consideration and planning, can native pastures find a home in some of our most productive farms? Are they already there?

From mid-June into July, supposedly summer and peak pollinator and wildflower season, now is the best time to assess the number and diversity of wildflower species in your pastures. Twenty-five is a lot to remember but next time you are out in the field, consider how many of these you see.

Photo 1: Forget-me-not

Photo 2: Ragged-robin

Photo 3: Hawk-bit

Photo 4: Pignut

Photo 5: Birds foot-trefoil

This summer the Farm Wildlife Walks (FWW) series returns for an expanded line-up of meetings across the country. FWW is aimed at promoting grass roots discussions on nature conservation and high nature value farming principles. The first meeting in the series will be held on Wednesday 24th July in Ayrshire. While not a dairy farm, all are welcome. For more information on the series and to find your local event, please refer to the FAS events calendar on the website https://www.fas.scot/events/

FAS is currently offering grant aid, up to £1,600 towards the cost of a biodiversity specialist advice plan. Recipients of this funding have used the support to quantify and qualify habitats on the farm, identify and assess opportunities for habitat creation and improvement, including on dairy farms. For more information businesses should review the guidance on the FAS website, contact your local agricultural advisor/agent or call the FAS helpline on 0300 323 0161.

alexander.pirie@sac.co.uk; 01292 525036

Carbon, Biodiversity and Regenerative Agriculture: Your Milk Buyers' Plans and How to Stay Ahead of the Curve

Milk companies, food manufacturers and food product retailers are increasingly aligning themselves with the regenerative agriculture movement. This means that regenerative agriculture practices now have a real price tag attached to them for farmers. First Milk is undoubtably the most invested in this with its members having to undertake a 'regen plan' annually where points are awarded based on the number of regenerative or biodiversity enhancing interventions taking place on the farm. However, other milk companies also have points-based systems or advantage schemes such as Arla and Müller, where premiums are awarded based at least

in part, according to similar criteria. There is no actual universally agreed upon set of standards or practices that constitutes regenerative agriculture but there is consensus on the fundamental principles. These are:

1. Minimise soil disturbance.
2. Keep the soil covered.
3. Maintain living roots in the soil.
4. Maximise plant diversity.
5. Integrate livestock.

Furthermore, whilst not mentioned in the above list of principles, milk companies are also assessing farm practices in terms of biodiversity gain and carbon efficiency. With milk companies and the Scottish Government both offering financial incentives for hitting the same criteria, there has never been a more important time to invest in your farm's natural capital, not just to tick a box, but for the bottom line. So, what are some of the things you can do to stay ahead of the curve and make sure you are securing the regen-ag, carbon and biodiversity premiums?

Grazing and cropping strategies

You may think that livestock integration on a dairy farm is easily achieved. However, even dairy farms can have large areas that are just cut for silage or used for arable cropping that are rarely grazed by livestock. With housed herds this is especially significant. Where grazing can be maximised, this can help to increase the regen score. Beyond the amount of land grazed, the method of grazing is also important, with rotational grazing or mob grazing being preferable to set stocking. Sward plant diversity is also a criterion. This could include multispecies leys that are intentionally seeded or semi-natural, and species-rich grasses. Where land is used for arable cropping, cover and catch cropping and incorporating livestock grazed grass leys into the rotation can help to meet the standards.

Biodiversity features

Milk companies are also allocating points for the establishment of new, or management of existing biodiversity promoting features. Hedges can help to meet both biodiversity and carbon targets. This is because they provide habitat and a food source for a number of species, and also sequester carbon whilst gaining biomass. Hedgerow sequestration is quantifiable in the Agrecalc carbon calculator for hedges younger than 30 years. To manage existing hedgerows for biodiversity gain, consider trimming hedges once every two or three years to allow them to flower. Hedges can also be enhanced by laying or coppicing. Other biodiversity options include wildlife corridors, wildflower strips, ponds, riparian buffers, conservation areas, wetlands, and silvopastures. It is worth noting that many of these options also fall under the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS). As such, there is funding towards the establishment capital and the management of a number of different biodiversity features and habitats that also satisfy milk company objectives.

Conclusion

Whilst milk companies are not all paying for the same regen and biodiversity practices, or may be incentivising some more than others, between the milk buyer premiums and the Scottish Government's environmental schemes, the financial significance of environmental farming has never been higher. You may have land that you've previously considered unproductive and less valuable, but in the coming years that land may turn out to be one of your most valuable natural capital assets to help you access both government funding and milk buyer premiums. To find out more about what you've got and what you could create in terms of biodiversity and habitat, there is currently funding available towards biodiversity audits. Please get in touch with your local office or the Farm Advisory Service to find out more.
https://www.fas.scot/specialist-advice/
https://www.fas.scot/crops-soils/soils/regenerative-agriculture/

freya.lance@sac.co.uk; 0131 603 7526

Dates for Your Diary

- 9th - 12th July - **Great Yorkshire Show**. Great Yorkshire Showground, Railway Road, Harrogate, HG2 8NZ. Time: 8.00-18.00.

- 17th July - **Best Foot Forward - Mobility and Foot Health Workshop.** Norrieston Farm, Thornhill, Stirling, FK8 3QE. Time: 10.00-14.00. For more information and to register please visit: https://scottishdairyhub.org.uk/events/best-foot-forward-mobility-and-foot-health-workshop

- 20th July - **First Milk Festival of Regenerative Farming.** Myremill Farm, Maybole, Ayrshire,

KA19 7JG. Time: 10.00-16.00. For more information please visit: https://www.firstmilk.co.uk/news/first-milk-festival-of-regenerative-farming/#:~:text=The%20First%20Milk%20Festival%20of,part%20of%20the%20climate%20solution.

- 22nd - 24th July - **DIY AI Course, Ayrshire**. For more information or to book your place please contact Stella Rutter at Embryonics Ltd on 01606 854411.

- 22nd - 25th July - **Royal Welsh Show.** Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3SY.

- 24th July - **New Thinking for Tackling Health Challenges in Dairy Bred Calves**. Webinar time 19.00-20.00. For more information and to register please visit: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UUGZBVi6SGSYzKwFcdzWPg

- 27th July - **UK Brown Swiss Celebration**. Keder Barns, Mouswald, Dumfries, DG1 4LX. Start time: 10.00. To register for the event call 07710795585 or email: office@brownswiss.org

- 28th July - **Calf Show and Showmanship 2024**. Lanark Agricultural Centre, Muirglen, Hyndford Road, Lanark. ML11 9AX.

- 30th July - **Ayrshire - Data Drives Dairy Decisions**. Ayrshire Food Hub, Crossroads Roundabout, Hurlford, Kilmarnock, KA1 5JQ. Time 18.30-21.00. To book your place please visit: https://ahdb.org.uk/events/ayrshire-data-drives-dairy-decisions

- 31st July - **Dumfriesshire - Data Drives Dairy Decisions**. Hetland Hall, Carrutherstown, Dumfries, DG1 4JX. Time 18.30-21.00. To book your place please visit: https://ahdb.org.uk/events/dumfries-data-drives-dairy-decisions

- 18

-
-

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

Lorna MacPherson (Dairy Consultant)
SAC Consulting
Ferguson Building
Craibstone Estate
Aberdeen
AB21 9YA
Email: lorna.macpherson@sac.co.uk
Tel: 01467 530445
Mobile: 07760 990901

Funded by the Scottish Government as part of the SRDP Farm Advisory Service.