

HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

FUTURE FARM

SHROPSHIRE

IN THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming industry events and local news

Details of some of the upcoming industry events happening in June 2026 and the latest local news.

An insight into the performance of the farm animals

A visual representation of the performance of our animals and how our farm compares.

Industry news

The top news stories in May 2026 relevant to Future Farm.

Did you know...

Our monthly section of general farming facts.

Thank you, and Feedback

A brief thank you to our readers and details on where you can give feedback.

Don't forget to check out our website for more information on the farm at

<https://futurefarm.zone/>

Industry Events

Upcoming industry events in June 2026

- ❖ [Royal Cornwall Show](#) (Major Regional Agriculture & Food Production Focus) – 4–6 June 2026 @ Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge
- ❖ [Cereals Event](#) (UK's Leading Arable Farming Event) – 10–11 June 2026 @ Diddly Squat Farm, Oxfordshire.
- ❖ [Royal Three Counties Show](#) (One of England's Largest Livestock Shows) – 12–14 June 2026 @ Three Counties Showground, Malvern.
- ❖ [Royal Highland Show](#) (Flagship UK Agricultural Show – National Scale) – 18–21 June 2026 @ Royal Highland Centre, Ingleton.
- ❖ [Royal Norfolk Show](#) (Major Eastern England Agricultural Show) – 24–25 June 2026 @ Norfolk Showground, Norwich.

💡 **Tip:** Want to know more? Just click the event names - they're linked!



Local News

Open Farm Sunday 2026 – June 7th

We have very few tickets remaining for Open Farm Sunday at Future Farm, taking place on Sunday, 7th June 2026 (11:00 am – 3:30 pm).

If you've already secured your place, we're really looking forward to welcoming you and meeting everyone who has booked for what promises to be a fantastic day on the farm.

As part of the national Open Farm Sunday initiative, Future Farm will open its gates for a free, informative and enjoyable experience for visitors of all ages. Whether you come from a farming background or are simply curious about where your food comes from, there will be plenty to see and do.

Throughout the day, you'll be able to take part in guided tours, talks and practical demonstrations showcasing what we do and why we do it. Our expert staff and academics will be on hand to discuss sustainable farming, environmental stewardship and how the University is working with industry to shape the future of agriculture.



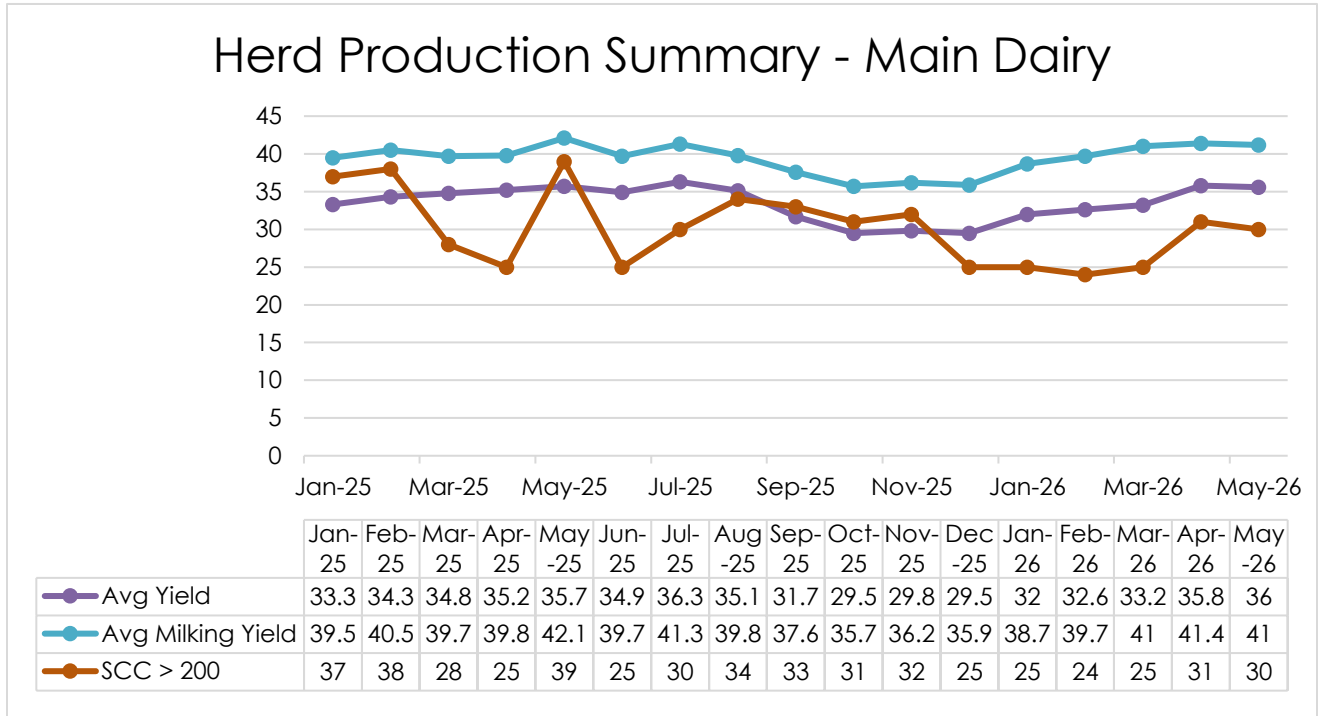
TB Clear Status

We're very pleased to report that the farm has now officially regained TB-clear status. This is a significant milestone and allows us to resume normal trading and livestock movements. We're extremely grateful to the team and wider support network who helped us navigate the process.



Future Farm Animal Performance in May 2026:

The Main Dairy milk yield and KPI's in comparison to all NMR recorded herds of a similar herd size (Please note, the data in the graph and screenshot of the KPI table are from Herd Companion)



Benchmark	New	Export
NMR14: Holstein herds > 300 cows	Benchmarks	Export

Drag a column header here to group by that column

KPIs	'Worst' <-----> 'Best'	Worst	You	Best	Mean
Milk/Cow/Year of life	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>	4,094	7,279	9,260	6,299
Milk/Cow/Year	<div style="width: 85%;"></div>	6,807	12,184	14,053	10,134
Lactation Yield	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>	6,676	11,480	13,286	9,906
305 Day yield	<div style="width: 85%;"></div>	6,533	10,698	11,814	8,968
Protein/Cow/Year	<div style="width: 75%;"></div>	232	399	468	351
Fat/Cow/Year	<div style="width: 70%;"></div>	287	479	688	435
Ave. Protein %	<div style="width: 65%;"></div>	3.14	3.27	3.82	3.48
Ave. Fat %	<div style="width: 60%;"></div>	3.68	3.93	5.29	4.30
Mean Parity	<div style="width: 55%;"></div>	1.99	2.66	3.91	2.78
Calv. Interval <385 %	<div style="width: 50%;"></div>	29.17	37.54	74.81	58.48
Ave. Lactation length	<div style="width: 45%;"></div>	370	294	247	314
Ave. SCC	<div style="width: 40%;"></div>	295	99	82	158
% Cows in Parity 1	<div style="width: 35%;"></div>	42.75	31.44	11.00	29.30
Age 1st Calving	<div style="width: 30%;"></div>	1,020	708	705	782
Ave. Calving interval	<div style="width: 25%;"></div>	449	413	370	392
Ave. Dry days	<div style="width: 20%;"></div>	85	64	34	55
Culling + Death %	<div style="width: 15%;"></div>	56	34	3	31
Ave. No. Cows	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>	93	399	1,229	487

[Create Filter](#)

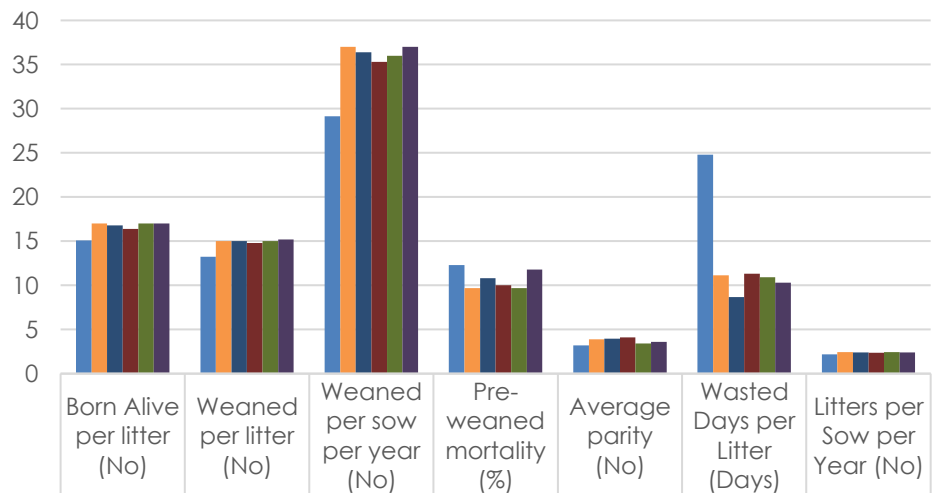
The Main dairy milk quality components compared to the Benchmark Müller average.

May 2026

	Main Dairy	Muller Average
Avg Bfat (%)	4.24	4.07
Avg Protein (%)	3.39	3.42
Avg SCC ('000/ml)	96	141.6
Avg BAC ('000/ml)	15	21.31
Therms (cfu/ml)	760	414
FPD (m*C)	520	-

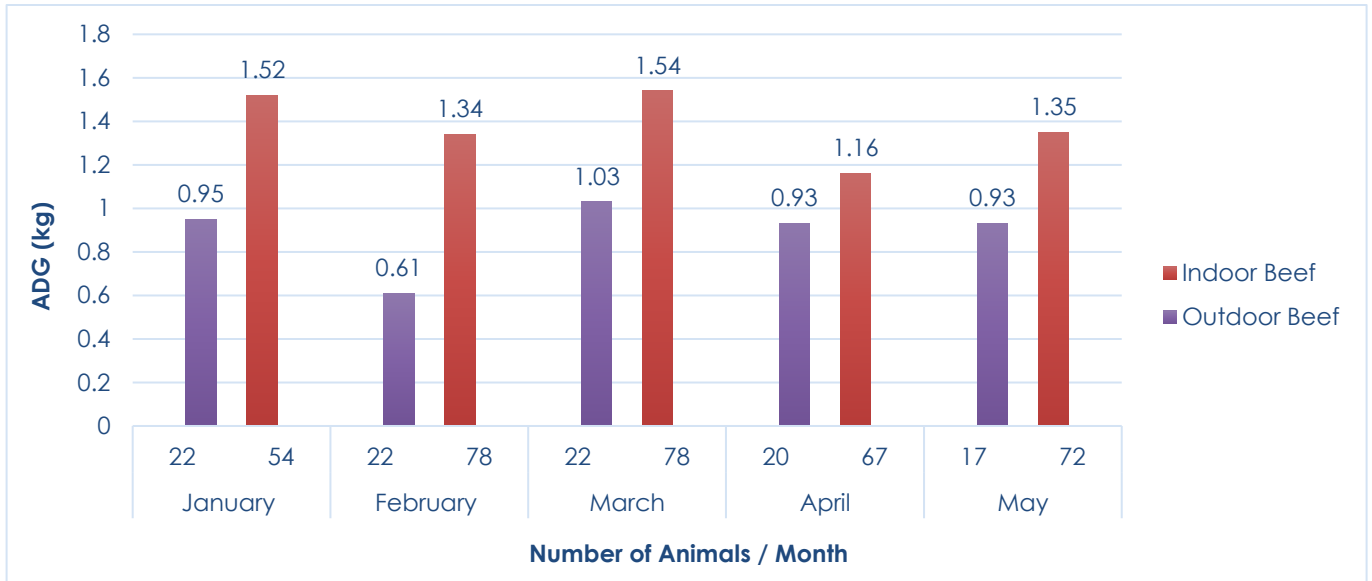
The quarterly Pig unit production performance in comparison to the AgroVision Benchmark average (Please note that the AgroVision Benchmark figures are produced quarterly; for this performance comparison, the March 2026 figures have been used).

Quarterly pig unit performance vs. Agrovision benchmark



	Born Alive per litter (No)	Weaned per litter (No)	Weaned per sow per year (No)	Pre-weaned mortality (%)	Average parity (No)	Wasted Days per Litter (Days)	Litters per Sow per Year (No)
■ AgroVision Avg. (March 2026)	15.1	13.24	29.16	12.3	3.18	24.78	2.19
■ HAU pig unit (Q1 2025)	17	15	37	9.7	3.9	11.1	2.4
■ HAU pig unit (Q2 2025)	16.8	15	36.4	10.8	3.95	8.68	2.4
■ HAU pig unit (Q3 2025)	16.4	14.8	35.3	10	4.1	11.3	2.38
■ HAU pig unit (Q4 2025)	17	15	36	9.7	3.41	10.92	2.42
■ HAU pig unit (Q1 2026)	17	15.2	37	11.8	3.6	10.3	2.41

Indoor & Outdoor Beef Systems Average Daily Weight Gain 2026 (kg).



Industry News

Farming co-operatives could boost growth and resilience – 3 May 2026

A new policy report has highlighted the potential for agricultural co-operatives to strengthen UK farming, improving resilience and food security. By enabling farmers to pool resources, share risk and retain more value locally, co-ops could help reduce exposure to volatile input costs and global market pressures. The report also noted that the UK currently produces only around 62% of the food it consumes, underlining the need for stronger domestic systems.

[READ MORE](#)

Tesco launches agri-tech challenge to support farmers – 18 May 2026

Tesco has opened applications for its 2026 Agri-tech Challenge, aimed at finding new technologies to support farmers and improve supply chain resilience. The initiative focuses on solutions for key issues such as soil health, emissions reduction, animal welfare and food waste. Successful applicants will gain access to Tesco's supplier network and support to trial innovations on farm.

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Dairy farmers face pressure as milk prices remain volatile – 26 May 2026

UK dairy farmers are continuing to face significant financial pressure as fluctuating milk prices and high input costs impact profitability. Reports indicate some farmers are producing milk at a loss, while reduced prices from processors and supermarkets have intensified concerns about long-term sustainability. Industry leaders are calling for stronger protections and fairer supply chain practices to support the sector.

[READ MORE](#)

Did You Know...

Soil health

Healthy soils are fundamental to productive and resilient farming systems, yet soil degradation remains a growing concern across UK agriculture:

- ❖ An estimated 3 million tonnes of topsoil are lost each year in the UK through erosion, reducing long-term productivity.
- ❖ Soil organic matter is key to fertility and structure, but many arable soils have seen significant declines over recent decades.
- ❖ Compaction from machinery and livestock can restrict root growth, water infiltration, and nutrient uptake.
- ❖ Poor soil health can increase reliance on inputs such as fertiliser and irrigation, adding to production costs.
- ❖ Practices such as maintaining ground cover, reducing cultivation intensity, and using organic manures can significantly improve soil structure and resilience.



Thank you for reading the Future Farm monthly update newsletter. If you have any feedback or would like to see something in upcoming updates, please send your request to futurefarmenquiries@harper-adams.ac.uk.

We apologise to anyone who made a suggestion for the newsletter, and the content you requested was not included. We are doing our best to gather this information about the farm and our practices. Check out our newly updated website:

<https://futurefarm.zone/>.

Stay tuned for more updates from the farm in next month's issue!

