

Future Farm update



Welcome and enjoy this brand-new newsletter giving you an update of Future Farm!

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Industry events, key dates and news

A summary of the UK industry events and top news stories for June 2024, including key farming dates

A blast from the past!

A few photos of the farm from the HAU archive

An insight into the performance of the farm animals

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

Did you know...

Our monthly section contains general farming facts.

Staff vacancies

A list of current staff vacancies on Future Farm

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, key dates & news:

Upcoming events:

New Forest & Hampshire County Show – 30th July and 1st August 2024 @ *The Showground, Brockenhurst*

South Gloucestershire Show – 2nd till 4th August 2024 @ *South Glos Showground*

English National Sheepdog Trials – 8th till 11th August 2024 @ *Moorlands Farm, Princetown*

Chepstow Show – 10th August 2024 @ *Chepstow Racecourse, Chepstow*

South Downs Show – 10th and 11th August 2024 @ *Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Gravel hill*

Minsterley Show – 17th August 2024 @ *Minsterley, Shrewsbury*

Biddenden Tractorfest and Country Fair – 17th and 18th August 2024 @ *Woolpack Corner, Biddenden*

Edenbridge & Oxted Agricultural Show – 25th and 26th August 2024 @ *Ardenrun Showground, Lingfield*

Eccleshall Show – 31st August 2024 @ *Lower Parks, Nr Eccleshall*

Key farming dates reminder to stay compliant*:

1st August

- You may be able to cut or trim hedgerows throughout August to sow oilseed rape or temporary grassland during the same August – if you have notified RPA of your intention
- It is the start of the closed period for applying organic manures (slurry or poultry manures) to tillage land on shallow or sandy soils except where crops will be sown on or before 15th September.

31st August

- Under the new [hedgerow management rules on cutting and trimming](#), any hedgerows covered by the rule must not be cut or trimmed until after 31st August 2024.

Reminder – under the hedgerow management rules, the [buffer strip rules](#) were enforced from or after the 1st of July 2024, depending on land use.

Top news stories affecting Future Farm:

General election

The polling stations were open on the 4th of July for the general election and the outcome is the UK now has a new Labour government led by Sir Keir Starmer. But what does this mean for the agricultural industry?

The president of the NFU (Tom Bradshaw) has called it a 'reset moment' for British agriculture as they work with the new government to help deliver its missions to boost the nation's food security, contribute to economic growth and drive environmental benefits. The significant points made throughout the Labour manifesto which will impact the agricultural industry includes:

- Recognition that food security is national security – the NFU will collaborate with the Labour ministers to discuss the implementation of practical policies to provide affordable, climate-friendly and high welfare food from British producers to the public.
- Increase the multi-year budget for agriculture – will allow for a fair transition from the old EU system to one that delivers public goods for public funds, give farmers the confidence to invest, and makes the government's aim around sustainable food production, food security, the environment and net zero possible.
- Pledged for half of all food purchased across the public sector to be locally produced – no legislation is currently in place.
- Commit to a trade strategy that promotes the 'highest standards of food production' and not be undercut by imported food produced to lower standards – no legislation is currently in place.
- Ambition to improve water quality and mitigate the devastating impact of flooding – no legislation is currently in place.

If the new government, with the help from the NFU, commits to these points, then we could see a brighter and more secure future for UK agriculture. For more information on these commitments and for further details on other points the NFU would like to present to the new government, please click [here](#) to be directed to the NFU website.

Carbon Calculators

Three leading carbon calculator providers have agreed to harmonise their different methodologies for monitoring greenhouse gas emissions on farms.

Farm Carbon Toolkit, Agrecalc, and Cool Farm Alliance have all signed a memorandum of understanding, which will see the companies work closer together on their carbon calculation products to align their methodologies. A report released by Defra earlier this year titled 'Harmonisation of Carbon Auditing Tools for Agriculture' detailed recommendations from ADAS to encourage harmonisation between the different calculators currently available in the industry. All three parties will retain commercial independence but will work in unison to address some of the recommendations produced by ADAS. This is an important move for carbon calculators as aligning the methodologies of these calculators helps the agricultural industry accurately measure and reduce emissions but also helps users understand why different calculators produce different results.

Data protection

A voluntary code has been drawn up by a not-for-profit organisation, Farm Data Principles, to protect farmers' data. Businesses which supply, buy from and provide other services to agriculture are beginning to sign up to this code. The aim of the code is to establish trust through common standards of data care, security and ownership for the agricultural and horticultural sectors with the promise of no automatic opt-ins. The fundamentals of the code include:

- The data originator, normally the farmer, owns and controls the data
- The data originator can access, edit, delete, and migrate data easily
- Data is not accessed or stored without explicit opt-in permission
- Data is not shared or sold without explicit opt-in permission

This is a great step in the Agri-tech world, as more farms are using software's or platforms to gather their data and use for the benefit of their farm, having this code in place will make data sharing more secure for farmers and give the confidence they need to start using software companies for the better of their farm. Future Farm will benefit from the addition of this code to agricultural businesses as it will ensure our data is secure and managed directly by us.

Animal health

Veterinary professionals have advised that diseases such as bluetongue and African swine fever (ASF) pose potential risks to UK livestock this summer and a negative impact on the export trade in certain global markets.

Bluetongue was first confirmed in England last November from infected midges believed to be from the Netherlands, no clinical cases have been found in the UK, but all confirmed cases were found through surveillance of animals. The UK chief veterinary officer is working very closely with vaccine manufacturers and is hopeful that the risk of bluetongue will be reduced as the Netherlands are now vaccinating for the disease.

The UK is still at a medium risk for ASF, and the virus continues to spread in wild boar in Europe, human-mediated transmission is classed as higher risk. Until a vaccine is available in the UK, the risk status would not change. However, there has been a huge amount of research work going on to find a vaccine to eliminate the virus, hopefully it won't be long until we hear news of a successfully developed vaccine.

Other diseases that are being monitored include:

- Schmallenberg - cases have been more prevalent this year, a vaccine is available in the UK, but manufacturing had stopped due to the lack of prior demand.
- Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) – currently classed as a 'control risk' however the industry is pushing for this to be downgraded to a 'negligible risk' status, despite the case of BSE reported in Scotland last year, the UK are still eligible to apply for the negligible status. The downgrade of the status is due to be voted on in May 2025 by the World Organisation for Animal Health.
- Avian influenza – has impacted the trade of products from US dairy farms, as most transmission of Avian influenza on US farms is mechanical, the process of pasteurization kills the virus so the risk of it arriving in the UK in dairy products is very low.
- Bovine TB – The incidence of bovine TB in higher risk areas has fallen by about 7%, this is due to a combination of increased cattle controls, skin testing and gamma testing, and the badger cull.

With continual monitoring and research of these diseases, the risk of a national outbreak will be significantly reduced. It is thanks to farmers for being consistently vigilant and informing the correct authorities when suspicions of the disease arise at their farms.

A blast from the past!

Let's look at some of the photos discovered from the HAU archive related to the farm.



The first picture is from 1920, it was taken near the Vice Chancellor's home, also known as Ancellor house. It is a picture of two mules with an escort, as they cut a field of pea and oats.

Unfortunately, no date is known for when this second picture was taken, but what we do know, is it was taken when the students were hard at work on the farm, helping bag freshly dug up potatoes in hessian sacks.





During the time of World War Two, Harper Adams College continued to welcome young men and women to study at the institution. The college also helped train the members of the Women's Land Army.

The picture to the left was taken in September 1939. The third lady from the left, Nancy Dawson, was a professional dancer from New Zealand.

The last picture in this section demonstrates how potatoes were planted at Harper Adams College, this is an early version of a potato planter, similar to a Ferguson potato planter from the 1950's. It is unknown when this picture was taken but it might have been a cold day judging by the thick coats and flat caps the people are wearing in the picture!



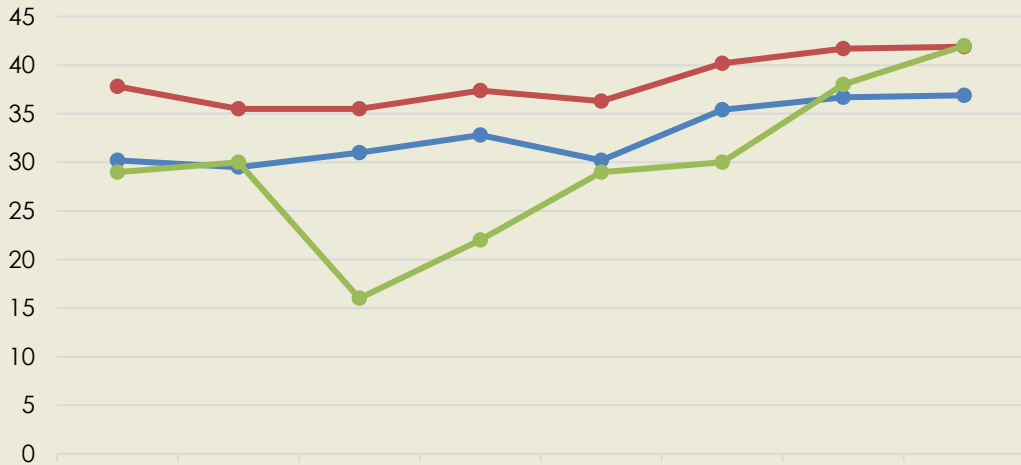
I hope you have enjoyed looking back in the past.

If you have any past photos of the farm in your possession, we would love if you could share them with us.

Future Farm Animal Performance in June 2024:

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)

Herd Production Summary - Main Dairy



	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24
Avg Yield	30.2	29.5	31	32.8	30.2	35.4	36.7	36.9
Avg Milking Yield	37.8	35.5	35.5	37.4	36.3	40.2	41.7	41.9
SCC > 200	29	30	16	22	29	30	38	42

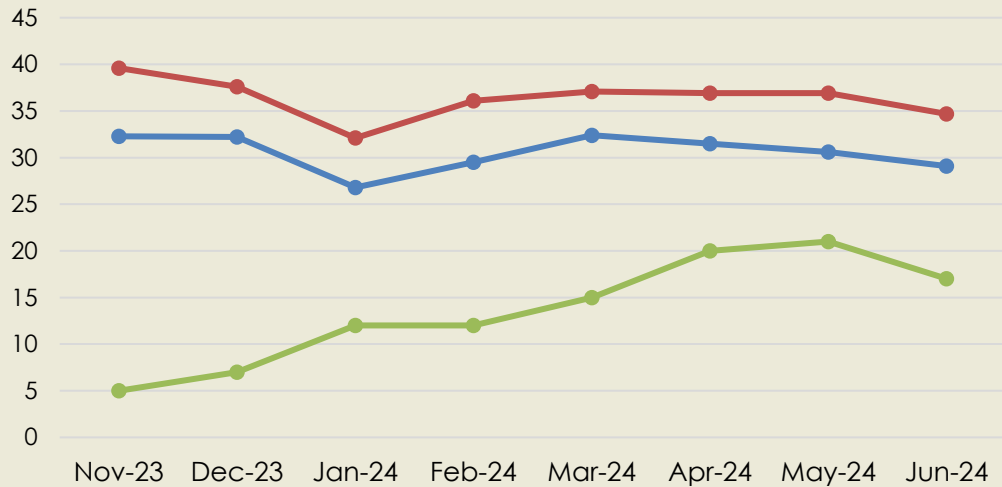
Benchmark	New	Export
NMR14: Holstein herds > 300 cows	Benchmarks	Export

Drag a column header here to group by that column

KPIs	'Worst' <-----> 'Best'	Worst	You	Best	Mean
Milk/Cow/Year of life		3,771	7,740	8,809	5,933
Milk/Cow/Year		6,335	11,805	13,180	9,804
Lactation Yield		5,997	11,432	12,995	9,615
305 Day yield		5,762	9,996	11,713	8,817
Protein/Cow/Year		215	376	429	332
Fat/Cow/Year		259	459	640	415
Ave. Protein %		3.11	3.18	3.79	3.39
Ave. Fat %		3.63	3.89	5.41	4.25
Mean Parity		1.99	2.69	3.50	2.72
Calv. Interval <385 %		29.11	48.71	78.63	57.33
Ave. Lactation length		382	335	243	309
Ave. SCC		376	106	83	169
% Cows in Parity 1		45.85	25.96	12.23	30.47
Age 1st Calving		948	734	665	781
Ave. Calving interval		459	399	364	391
Ave. Dry days		76	47	36	55
Culling + Death %		52	23	17	32
Ave. No. Cows		290	364	1,229	497

The Smart 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)

Herd Production Summary - Smart Dairy



	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24
Avg Yield	32.3	32.2	26.8	29.5	32.4	31.5	30.6	29.1
Avg Milking Yield	39.6	37.6	32.1	36.1	37.1	36.9	36.9	34.7
SCC > 200	5	7	12	12	15	20	21	17

Benchmark		New	Export		
NMR11: Holstein herds <= 100 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		1,782	9,154	7,270	4,516
Milk/Cow/Year		3,050	10,264	11,009	7,079
Lactation Yield		3,200	13,417	11,356	7,782
305 Day yield		3,190	10,379	10,187	6,824
Protein/Cow/Year		105	334	379	239
Fat/Cow/Year		131	368	471	299
Ave. Protein %		3.19	3.26	3.71	3.38
Ave. Fat %		3.25	3.59	5.33	4.21
Mean Parity		1.83	3.50	4.43	3.07
Calv. Interval <385 %		4.76	39.02	67.57	45.24
Ave. Lactation length		523	339	207	339
Ave. SCC		865	599	79	209
% Cows in Parity 1		55.17	6.82	7.41	26.22
Age 1st Calving		1,351	745	732	897
Ave. Calving interval		671	426	378	416
Ave. Dry days		110	63	31	57
Culling + Death %		90	12	5	27
Ave. No. Cows		29	47	117	75

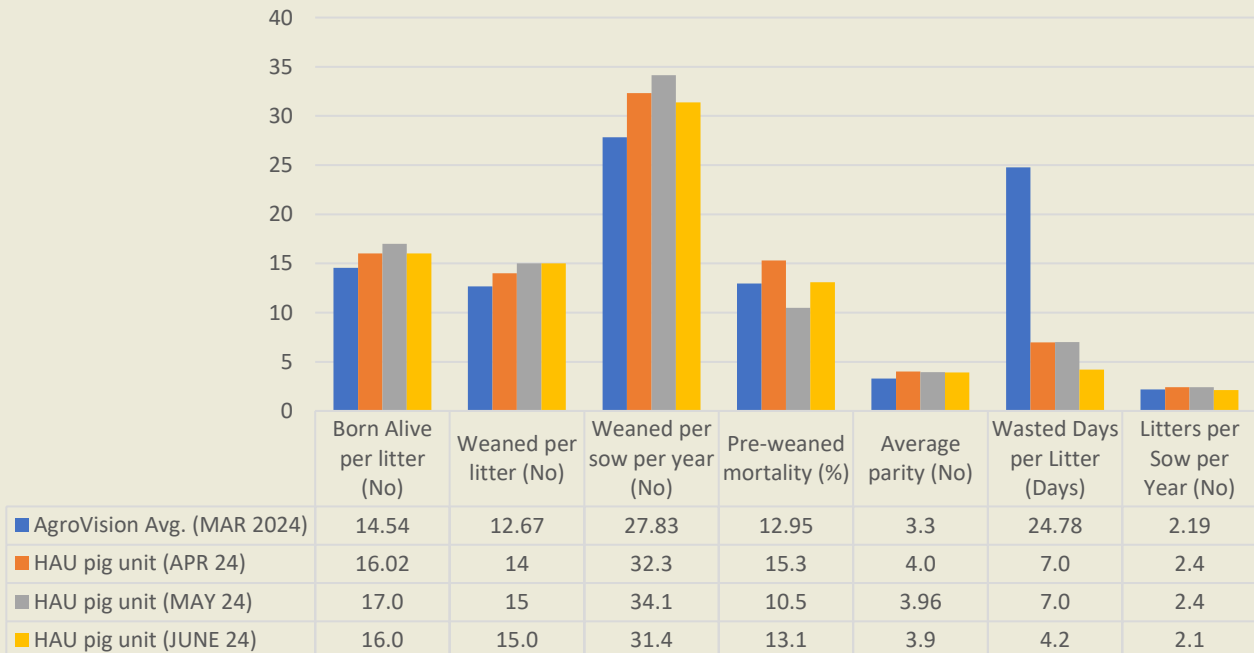
The Main dairy and Smart dairy milk quality components in comparison to the Benchmark Muller average.

June 2024

	Main Dairy	Smart Dairy	Muller Average
Avg Bfat (%)	3.84	4.24	4.10
Avg Protein (%)	3.05	3.39	3.27
Avg SCC ('000/ml)	108	261	151.3
Avg BAC ('000/ml)	18	44	19.37
Therms (cfu/ml)	50	2200	520
FPD (m*C)	525	525	

The Pig unit production performance in comparison to the AgroVision Benchmark average (Please note. The AgroVision Benchmark figures are produced on a quarterly basis, for this performance comparison the March 2024 report has been used).

Pig Unit Performance vs AgroVision Benchmark



Did you know...

- The Chorleywood Breadmaking process developed in 1961, is used to make approximately 80% of the UK's bread.
- At the [Warbutons bakery](#), it takes approximately 4 hours from the delivery of flour, to produce a loaf of bread ready to be delivered to customers.
- Wheat is one of the oldest crops in the world and started being cultivated in the Middle East almost 10,000 years ago.



Staff Vacancies

Ruminant sector:

1 x Ruminant Youngstock Technical Science Officer position – for more information [click here](#).

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 apologies for 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 for future issues. In the meantime, if you or someone else would like to know more about the farm and our practices, check out our newly updated website <https://futurefarm.zone/>.