

HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY

FUTURE FARM

IN THIS ISSUE

Team & Farm Update

A brief update on farm activity since the last issue

Livestock Biosecurity Policy

The updated Livestock Biosecurity Policy for 2026 is ready to view

Performance data

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

Industry news

The top news stories which are relevant to Future Farm

Thank you

A brief thank you to our readers

*Don't forget to check out our website for more information on the farm at
<https://futurefarm.zone/>*

Team & Farm Update

New starters & farewells

A new member of staff has joined the team this month: Katie Ellam. Katie has joined the dairy unit as a herdsperson, after completing her studies and will be graduating from Harper this September. We wish Katie luck in her new role!

Ruminant queries

As the new academic year approaches, please direct all ruminant-related queries to Alice Sault or Matt Bolton in the first instance.

Crop update

Maize harvest is underway! The maize will be harvested using our John Deere 7480i self-propelled forage harvester then ensiled into one of our large capacity silage clamps on the farm.

We have also had some well overdue rain which will help dampen the ground prior to cultivations beginning again.

Monogastric update

The first batch of weaners were housed in the new nursery cabin earlier this month. The cabin, designed and built by a dedicated team at Quality Equipment, was delivered in four sections and was transformed into a fully operational nursery facility in just five days.

We are delighted with the results and the quick turnaround time from Quality Equipment and look forward to seeing the positive impact it has on the unit for years to come.



Livestock Biosecurity Policy

Livestock Biosecurity Policy updated for 2026

Harper Adams University has introduced an updated Livestock Biosecurity Policy to strengthen disease prevention measures across the Future Farm and protect livestock, research, teaching activities, and farm operations. The policy applies to:

- University staff
- Students
- Researchers
- Collaborators and industry partners
- Contractors
- Visitors, including school groups and members of the public

The policy sets out clear requirements for farm access, including mandatory visitor sign-in procedures via QR codes located at the biosecurity entrances or in advance of arrival at <https://www.futurefarm.zone/visit/>, use of biosecurity and disinfection stations, appropriate PPE, and strict hygiene measures. Additional entry restrictions apply to the pig and poultry units to reduce the risk of disease transmission:

- All visitors to the pig unit must not have contact with pigs for 48hr before arrival and anyone who currently or in the last 7 days has suffered from a cold or influenza will not be permitted to access the unit
- All visitors to the poultry unit must be 48hr free from contact with other birds

When disease risks increase, advice will be presented at the main entrances for Future Farm. This will detail conditions or procedures that must be followed to enter the farm. Failure to follow these procedures will prevent access to the farm.

With regards to parking; parking at the farm is for farm staff only. Students and visitors should use the other available car parks across campus and walk to the farm.

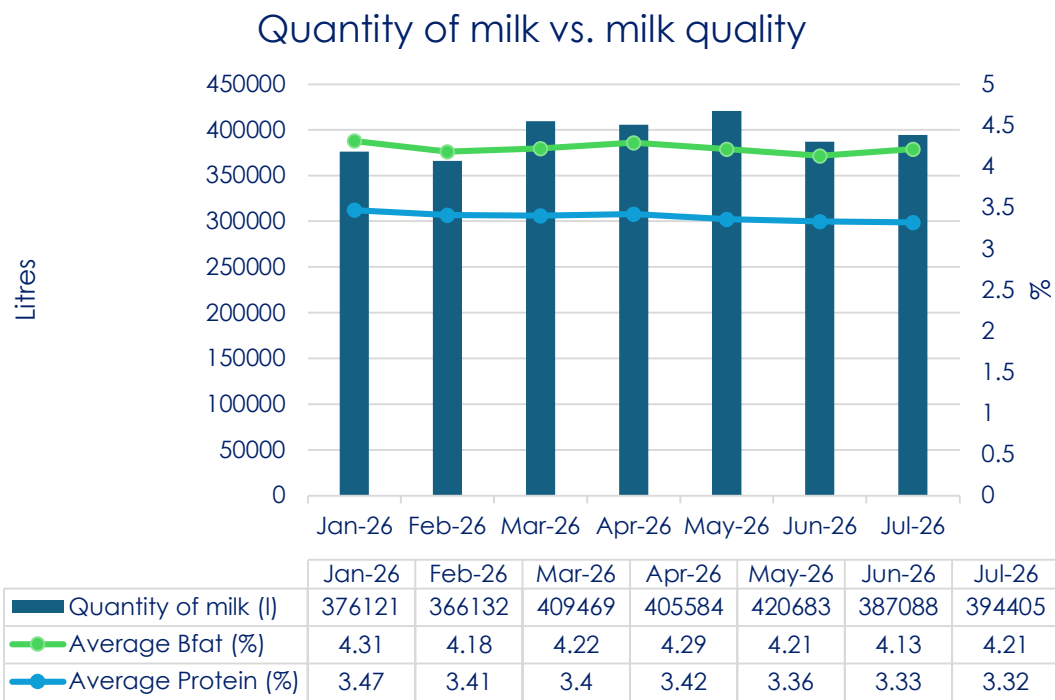
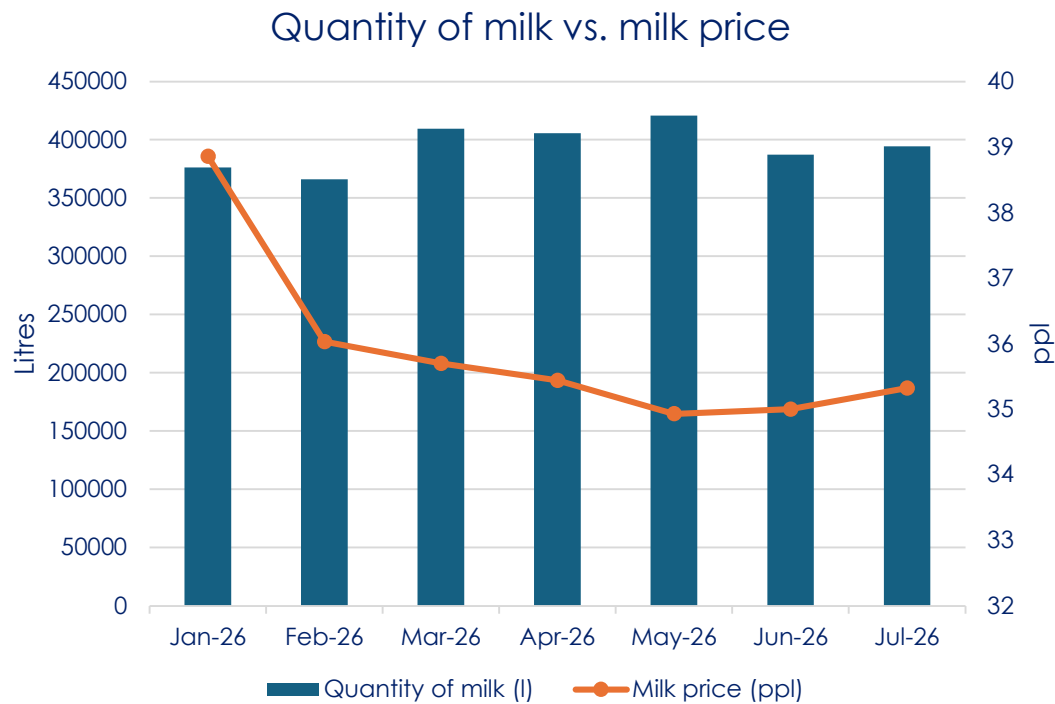
With Future Farm welcoming large numbers of students, researchers, and visitors each year, maintaining high biosecurity standards is a shared responsibility. All users of the farm must adhere to the health and safety guidelines listed in the policy, failure to do so will impeach the safety of all and access will be prohibited.

These measures will help safeguard animal health and welfare while ensuring that Harper Adams continues to demonstrate best practice in farming, teaching, and research.

Want to read the full version of the Livestock Biosecurity Policy? Head back to the Future Farm Newsletter page and click the link below the latest newsletter.

Future Farm Animal Performance in August 2026:

Using the milk statements from Muller, it is possible to collect data on milk quality, quantity and price. Visuals can be created from this data to help demonstrate the performance of our dairy herd. The most current data is shown below:

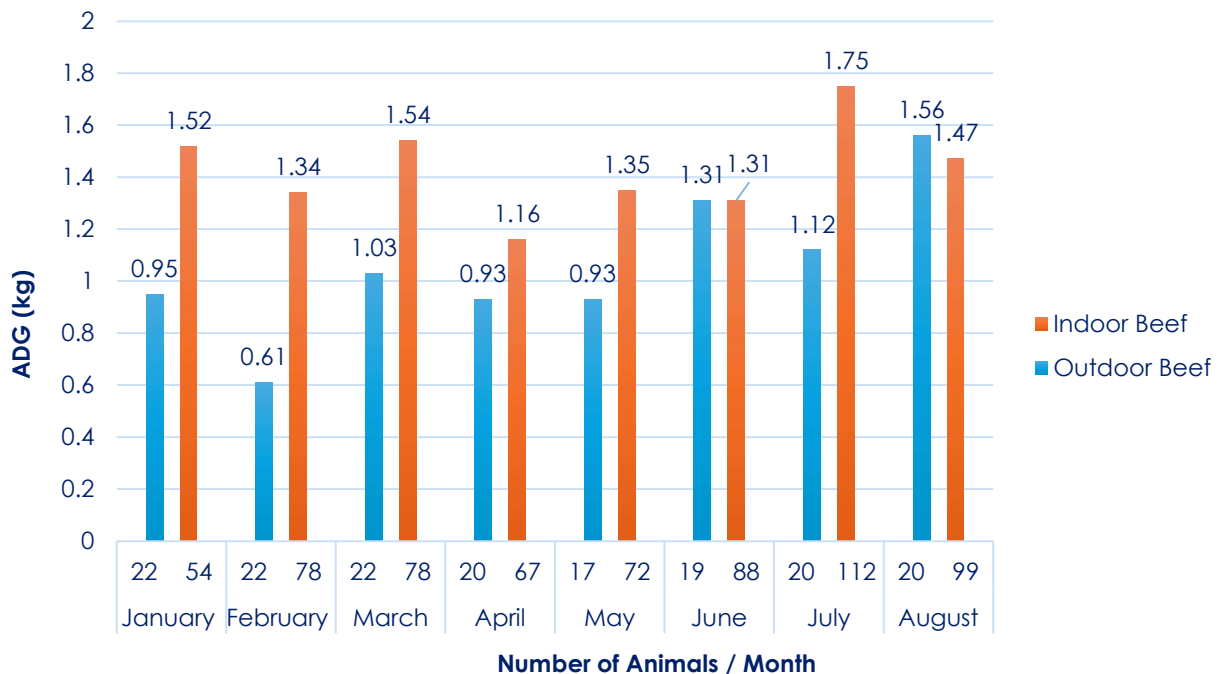


The Main dairy milk quality components in comparison to the Benchmark Muller average.

August 2026

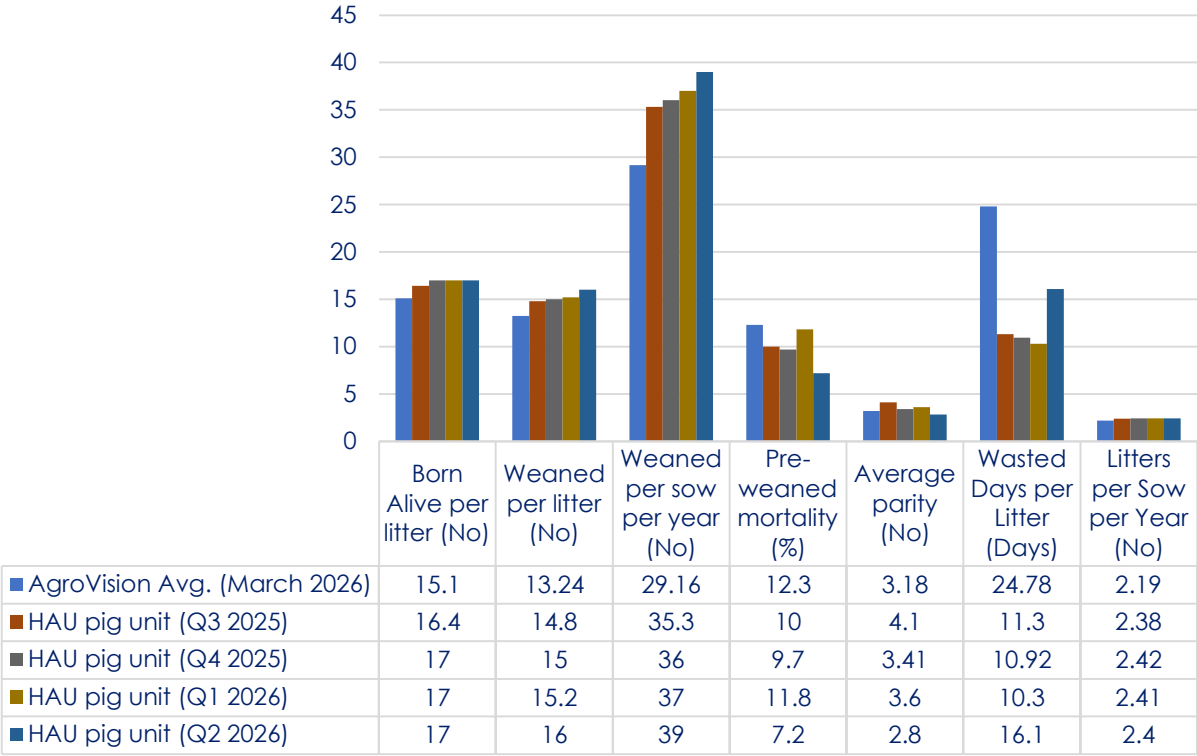
	Main Dairy	Muller Average
Avg Bfat (%)	4.29	4.19
Avg Protein (%)	3.42	3.38
Avg SCC ('000/ml)	92	163.3
Avg BAC ('000/ml)	13	26.99
Therms (cfu/ml)	70	581.2

A monthly comparison of the average daily weight gain (kg) between the indoor and outdoor beef systems.



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



Industry News

Bluetongue Update

The Bluetongue virus has continued its rampage across the UK, as farmers have been advised by veterinary professionals to vaccinate their animals against the virus. Stocks of the vaccine have been running low, but supplies are returning.

As mortality rates in flocks within affected areas has increased, there is a general demand for vaccinated breeding ewes. If cases continue to increase, the demand for them will increase.

The impact of bluetongue has also affected the cattle industry, with the Livestock Auctioneers Association (LAA) reporting soaring calf prices driven by a shortage of stock and increased demand.

Want to keep updated on Bluetongue cases? Use the [APHA interactive BTV map](#) to check current and historical cases.

Weather related bee decline

As over 70% of England has been declared as in drought, a significant impact has been seen by arable and livestock farmers, however, beekeepers are warning of a longer-term impact as their colonies are taking a beating in the heat.

During periods of hot, dry weather, honeybee colonies can require more than a litre of water per day for brood rearing and evaporative cooling. Where water sources become scarce, worker bees must travel further to collect it, increasing energy expenditure and forager mortality

It is unlikely that colonies will regain their numbers by the end of the year, therefore, the consequence for farmers could be considerable.

Honeybees are capable of mass pollination of flowering plants in early spring; this is crucial for fruit crops. A lack of honeybees next spring could impact what is on the supermarket shelf.

Ensuring water is available to bees or insects alike, could help minimise the impact of the current drought and restore bee populations for next year.

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 for anyone who has 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/>.