

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

Awards

On the 3rd of September a number of staff attended the Cream Awards as Alice Sault was nominated for the 'Young Dairy Farmer of the Year Award'.

Our congratulations go to Alice as she was awarded 'Highly Commended' for the category. The judges were impressed with Alice's ability to manage an educational farm and all that has been achieved under her leadership.



Source: [The Cream Dairy Awards, 2026](#)

Ruminant update

As the new academic year has arrived, please direct all ruminant-related queries to Alice Sault or Matt Bolton.

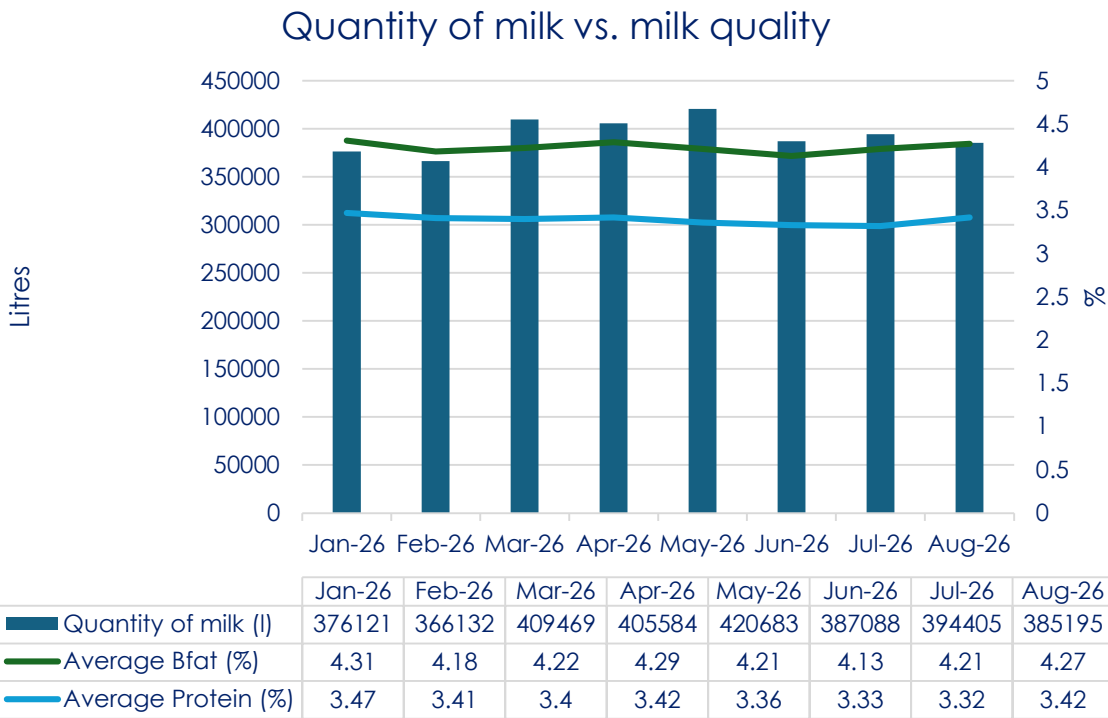
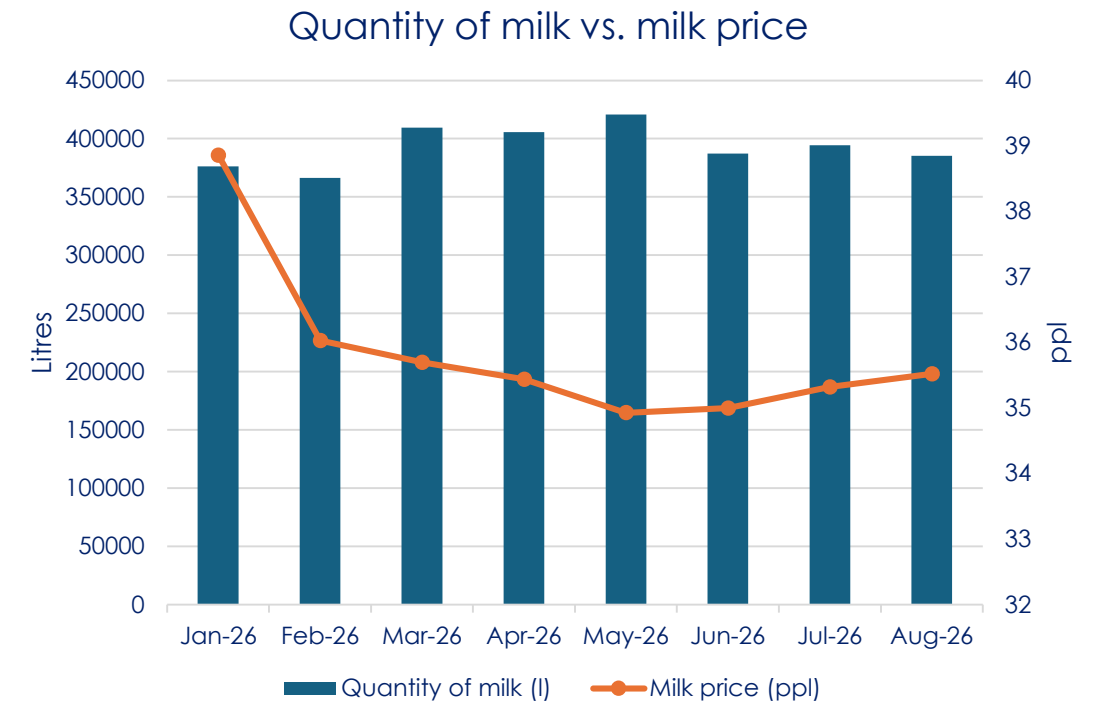
The outdoor beef herd has reached their finishing weight and has been sold off the farm; there are currently no beef cattle grazing in our fields because of the dry summer but come spring, the next batch of outdoor cattle will be out and reaping the rewards of spring grass.

Crop update

Maize harvest is complete and the silage clamps are as full as they will get this year. The silage in the clamps will stay sealed until they are ready to feed the cattle during the winter months.

Future Farm Animal Performance in September 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:

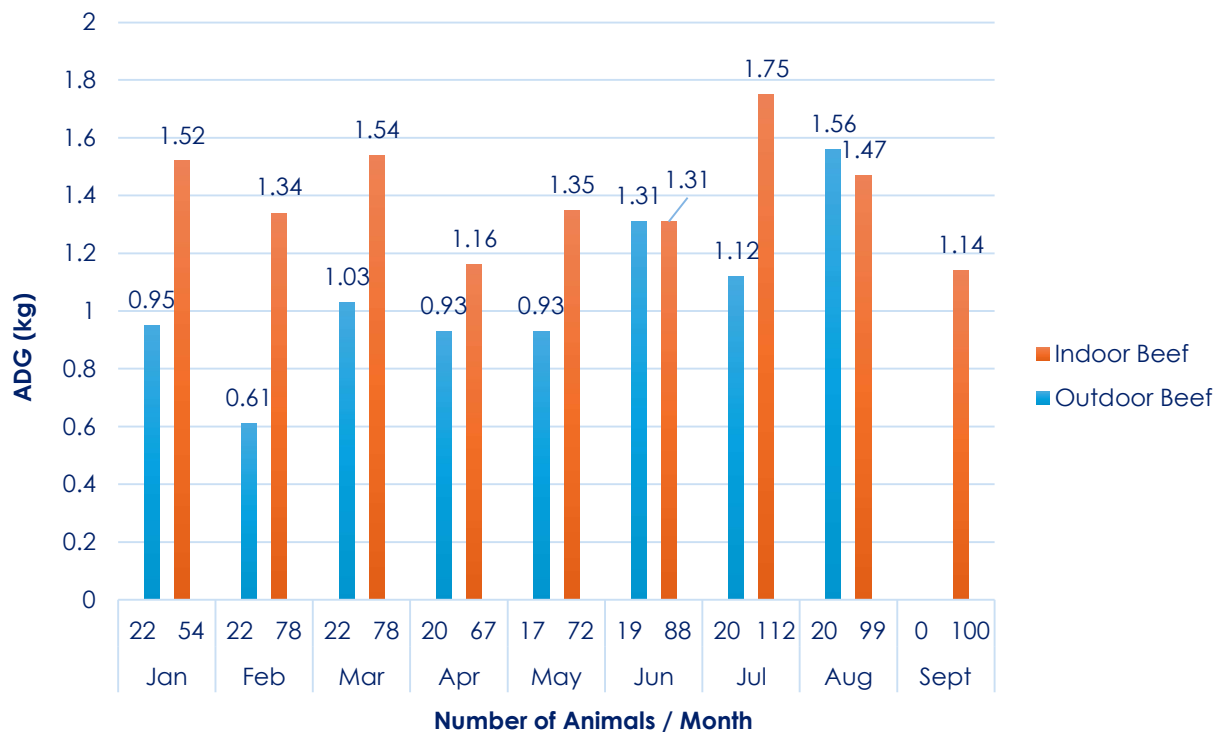


The Main dairy milk quality components in comparison to the Benchmark Muller average.

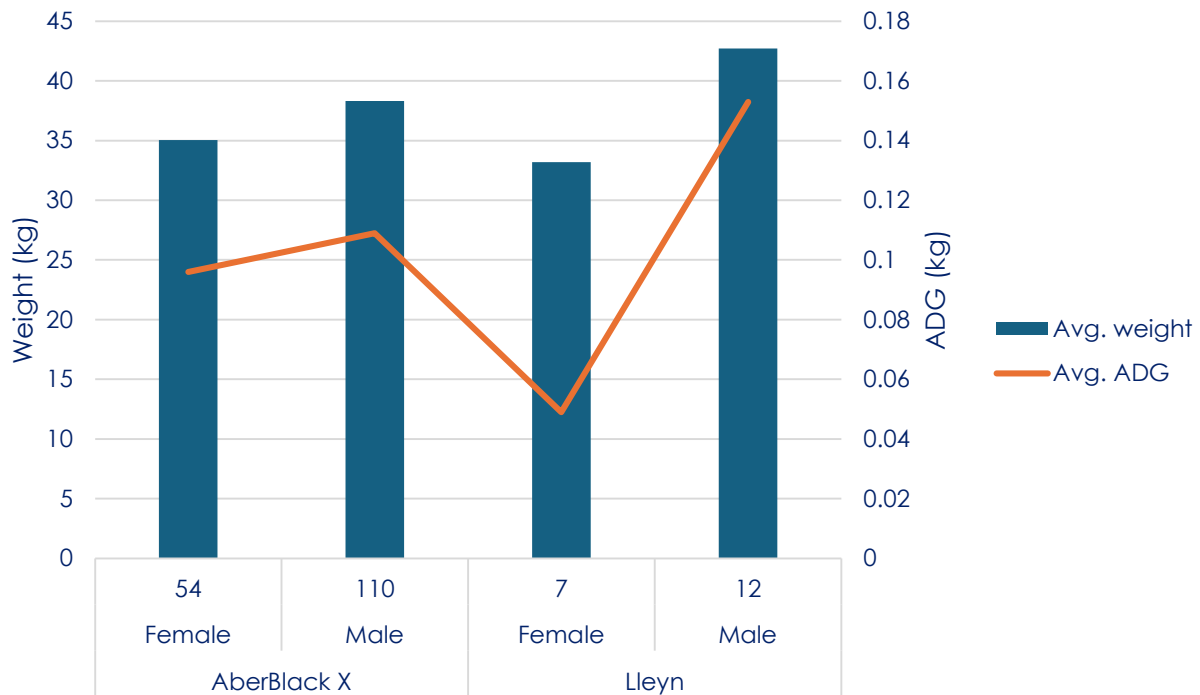
September 2026

	Main Dairy	Muller Average
Avg Bfat (%)	4.39	4.35
Avg Protein (%)	3.47	3.49
Avg SCC ('000/ml)	109	165.9
Avg BAC ('000/ml)	17	25.12
Therms (cfu/ml)	110	475.4

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

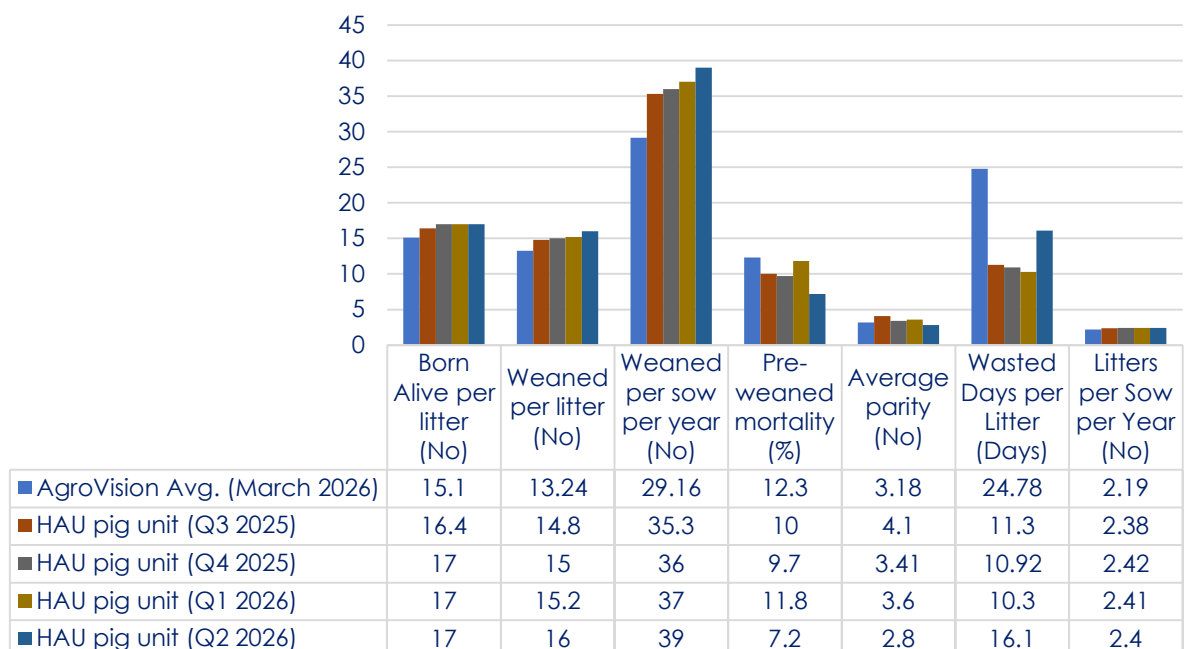


A comparison of the latest lamb weights and average daily weight gain (kg) of the second fat lamb group (most born in March). For the last 6 weeks the lambs have been on creep feed due to the lack of grass.



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

Climate-Ready Crops: New Opportunities for Farm Resilience

As UK agriculture adapts to increasingly variable growing conditions, a range of alternative crops could offer new opportunities for farmers. A recent article from Farmers Weekly highlights lentils, millet, lupins, industrial hemp and sunflowers as potential options that can help diversify rotations, reduce input costs and improve resilience to climate change. Many of these crops require fewer fertiliser's, with lentils and lupins also fixing atmospheric nitrogen, while hemp and sunflowers can provide soil and biodiversity benefits. However, wider adoption will depend on the development of reliable markets, processing infrastructure and grower confidence, with secure contracts currently considered essential for most of these emerging crop sectors.

Work is currently underway at Harper Adams University, with the Centre for Crop and Environmental Science has been working with Warwick University Crop Centre as part of a DEFRA-funded project called Vegetable Genetic Improvement Network (VeGIN), on developing crops which can withstand the stress of droughts that afflict the UK to boost food security.

As explained by Dr Ashley Garrison (VeGIN researcher, "Research has already identified lettuce varieties most resilient to heat and drought stress, brassica lines that grow deeper root systems to potentially increase water uptake, and coriander varieties that are resilient to heat-induced flowering."

Currently work is looking at improving stress resilience of carrots and onions by finding advantageous rooting traits. To view the full article on the Harper Adams University news page, click [here](#).

Bluetongue Reporting Changes Raise Disease Surveillance Concerns

Veterinary organisations have raised concerns about a new reporting system for suspected bluetongue cases in England, introduced by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). The changes allow vets to report suspected clinical cases online without automatically submitting blood samples for laboratory testing, a move designed to reduce pressure on testing services and speed up responses during the ongoing bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) outbreak. However, the British Veterinary Association (BVA) has warned that the changes could have unintended consequences for disease surveillance, including the risk that other serious livestock diseases may be overlooked if laboratory testing is reduced. At the time of reporting, more than 1,000 confirmed BTV-3 cases were recorded across Great Britain, with further cases under investigation.

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/>.

