

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 May 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 April 2026 that are 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 May 2026

- ❖ [Balmoral Show \(Major Agricultural Show\)](#) – 13–16 May 2026 @ Balmoral Park, Lisburn
- ❖ [Devon County Show](#) (Large Regional Agriculture & Livestock Show) – 21–23 May 2026 @ Westpoint Arena, Exeter
- ❖ [Shropshire County Show](#) (Agriculture & Livestock Show) – 23 May 2026 @ West Mid Showground, Shrewsbury
- ❖ [Royal Bath & West Show](#) (Major Agricultural & Rural Skills Show) – 28–30 May 2026 @ Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet
- ❖ [Suffolk Show](#) (Agriculture & Food Production Focus) – 27–28 May 2026 @ Trinity Park, Ipswich

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



Local News

Lambing 2026 Round-Up

Lambing has now drawn to a close, with 530 ewes put through the system this season. In total, 986 lambs were born, giving an average of 1.86 lambs per ewe. We have sold 47 cade lambs during the period.

Litter size distribution remained strong, with 137 singles, 654 doubles, and 195 triplets recorded. There were also a small number of quads this year, although these have been included within the triplet figures on the system. The lamb sex ratio was fairly even, with 448 females and 538 males recorded.

Average birth weights came in at 5.92 kg overall, with singles averaging 6.93 kg, doubles 5.87 kg, and triplets 5.35 kg, which is in line with what we would expect across the different litter sizes.

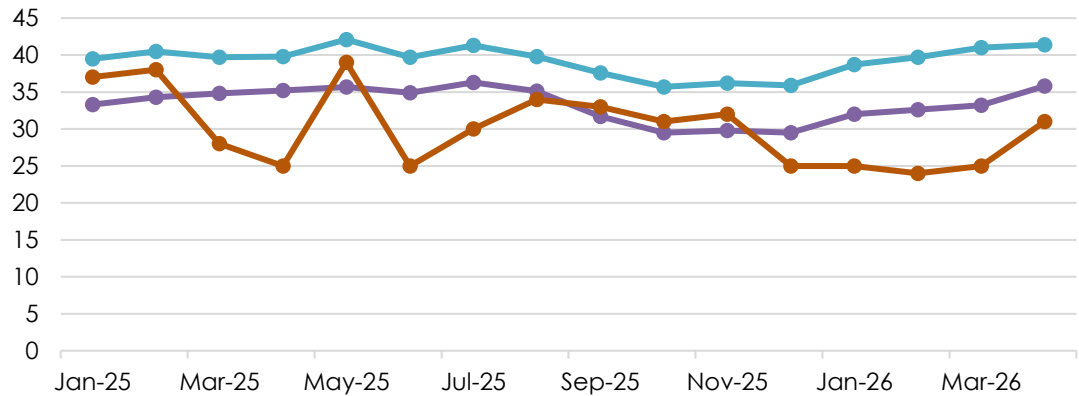
Overall, it's been a solid lambing season, with good performance across the flock. A big thank you to all the farm staff and students who supported lambing. It takes a lot of time and effort, and we really appreciate all the work that's gone in.



Future Farm Animal Performance in April 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)

Herd Production Summary - Main Dairy



	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26
Avg Yield	33.3	34.3	34.8	35.2	35.7	34.9	36.3	35.1	31.7	29.5	29.8	29.5	32	32.6	33.2	35.8
Avg Milking Yield	39.5	40.5	39.7	39.8	42.1	39.7	41.3	39.8	37.6	35.7	36.2	35.9	38.7	39.7	41	41.4
SCC > 200	37	38	28	25	39	25	30	34	33	31	32	25	25	24	25	31

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		4,094	7,146	9,289	6,256
Milk/Cow/Year		6,852	12,158	13,987	10,103
Lactation Yield		6,716	11,283	13,193	9,886
305 Day yield		6,523	10,661	11,809	8,941
Protein/Cow/Year		232	393	464	349
Fat/Cow/Year		290	474	702	434
Ave. Protein %		3.14	3.24	3.82	3.47
Ave. Fat %		3.68	3.90	5.36	4.30
Mean Parity		1.99	2.63	3.90	2.77
Calv. Interval < 385 %		29.17	37.02	74.81	58.30
Ave. Lactation length		370	289	247	313
Ave. SCC		294	103	82	158
% Cows in Parity 1		42.75	33.26	11.14	29.38
Age 1st Calving		1,020	709	703	783
Ave. Calving interval		447	414	370	392
Ave. Dry days		85	64	34	55
Culling + Death %		48	36	3	30
Ave. No. Cows		108	400	1,229	487

Create Filter

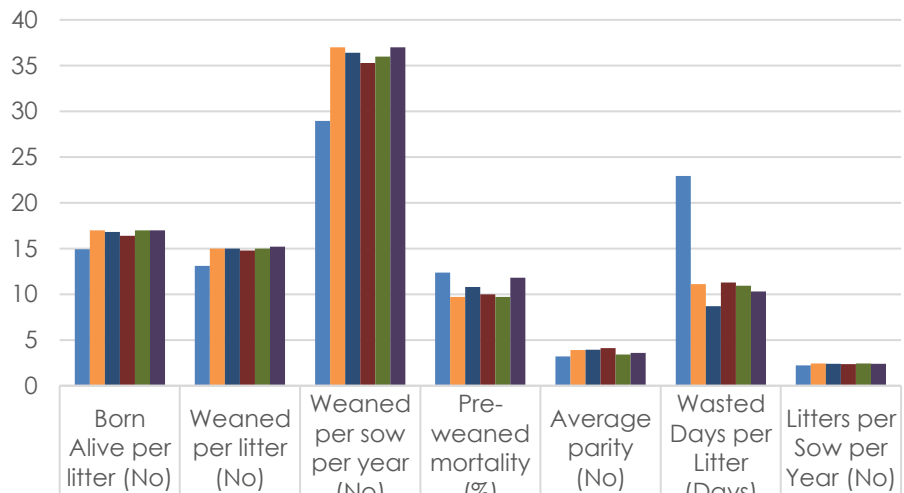
The Main dairy milk quality components compared to the Benchmark Müller average.

April 2026

	Main Dairy	Muller Average
Avg Bfat (%)	4.31	4.38
Avg Protein (%)	3.42	3.45
Avg SCC ('000/ml)	93	140
Avg BAC ('000/ml)	17	23.03
Therms (cfu/ml)	760	397.2
FPD (m*C)	521	-

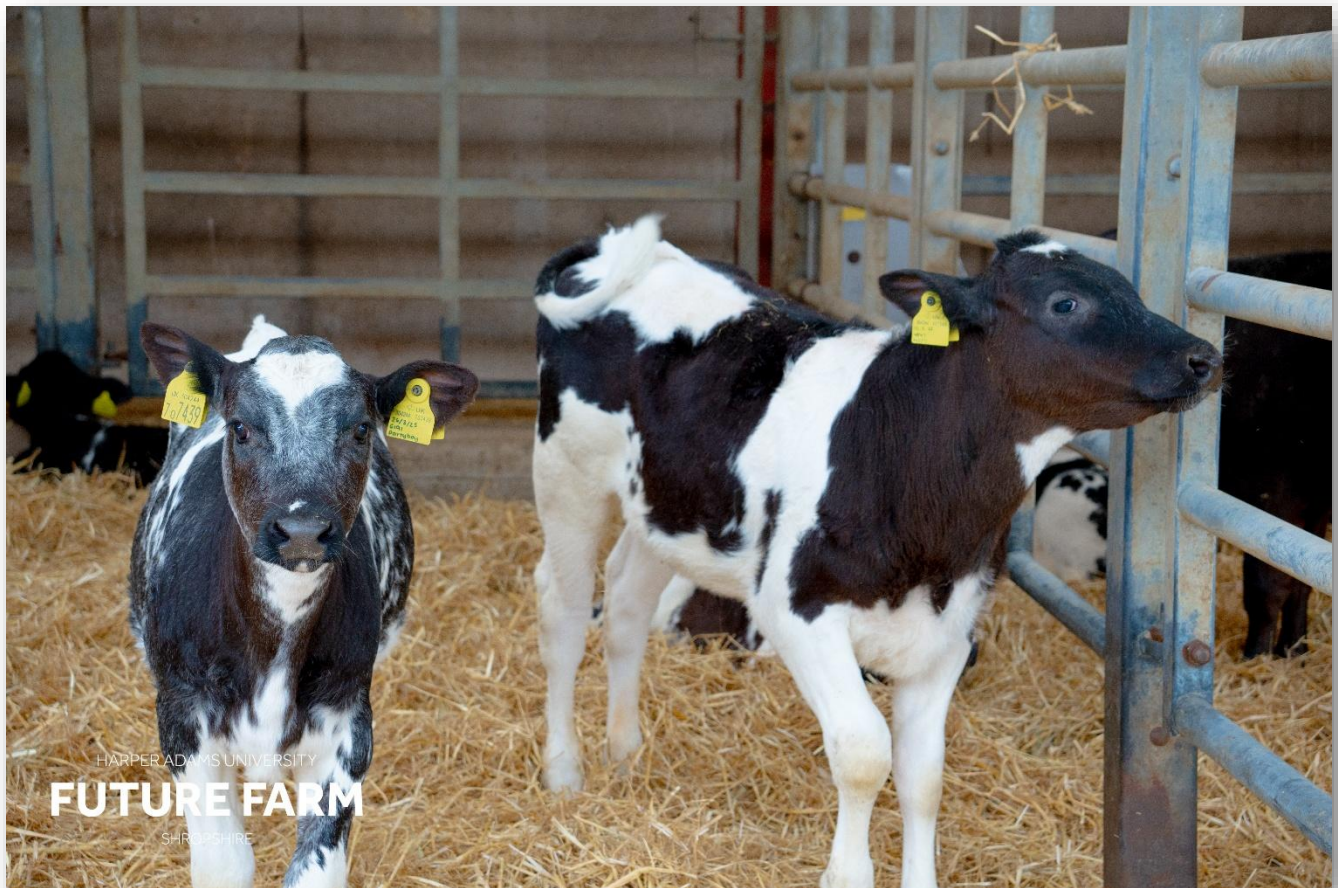
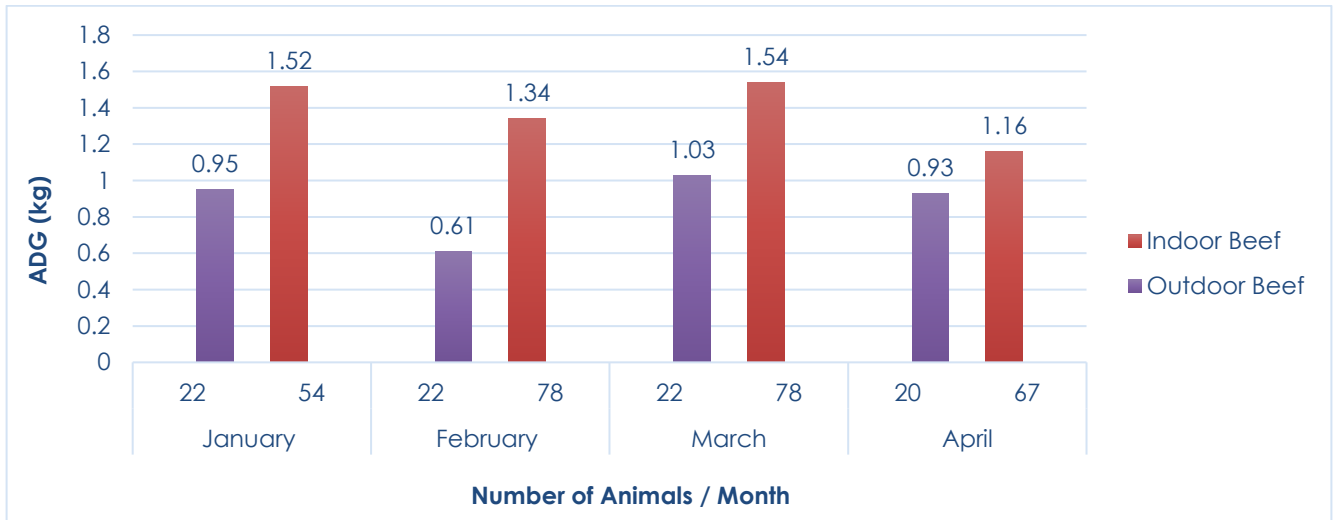
The quarterly Pig unit production performance in comparison to the AgroVision Benchmark average (Please note that the AgroVision Benchmark figures are produced quarterly; for this performance comparison, the September 2025 figures have been used).

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. (September 2025)	14.94	13.1	28.95	12.38	3.21	22.94	2.21
■ 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

- **New inheritance tax rules raise concerns for family farms – 6 April 2026**

New UK inheritance tax rules for agricultural businesses came into force this month, prompting concern across the sector. While the tax-free threshold was increased to £2.5 million, industry experts warn that many family farms may still face significant challenges when passing land to the next generation, particularly those that are asset-rich but cash-poor.

[READ MORE](#)

- **Government considers easing planning rules for intensive livestock units – 2 April 2026**

The UK government is reviewing planning rules that could make it easier to develop large-scale livestock units, particularly in the poultry sector. The proposed changes aim to support food production and animal welfare improvements, although critics have raised concerns around environmental impacts and local oversight.

[READ MORE](#)

- **Farm safety concerns highlighted after April fatalities – 29 April 2026**

Farm safety has come back into focus after four fatalities were reported in April, underlining ongoing risks within the industry. Incidents included accidents involving machinery and livestock, reinforcing calls for continued improvements in safety awareness and training across UK farms.

[READ MORE](#)

Did You Know...

Farm safety

Farming is consistently ranked as one of the most dangerous industries in the UK, with several risks often underestimated during day-to-day work:

- ❖ A large proportion of serious farm accidents involve vehicles and machinery, particularly tractors and ATV use.
- ❖ Livestock handling is a leading cause of injury, especially around cattle and rams.
- ❖ Many incidents happen during routine tasks, not unusual or high-risk jobs.
- ❖ Poor visibility, fatigue, and working alone are common contributing factors.
- ❖ Simple measures like staying out of blind spots, using safe systems of work, and taking time to assess risks significantly reduce accidents.

Even small changes in routine can make a big difference to safety across the farm.



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!

