



Building Climate Resilience - *a practical approach*

Climate change is no longer a distant threat, it is an immediate and growing challenge for dairy farmers across the country. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and increasingly frequent extreme weather events are impacting key aspects of dairy farming, including animal welfare, pasture productivity, feed availability, and water security.

Building resilience is not just about adapting to these changes; it is about proactively managing risk to safeguard both profitability and long-term sustainability.

This year's prolonged summer heat has brought the issue of heat stress into sharp focus. While cows may not vocalise their discomfort, the impact is often visible in reduced milk yields. Across the sector, practical solutions such as improved airflow and cooling infrastructure; fans, water misters, and shade materials, are proving effective. However, outdoor mitigation remains a challenge. While artificial shading in grazing systems is still largely unproven, planting trees and hedgerows now can provide future shade and environmental benefits. These investments may take time to mature, but they represent a forward-thinking approach that future generations will certainly appreciate.

Some farmers have made adaptations this season by bringing herds indoors during the hottest parts of the day or shifting milking times to cooler hours. In the longer term, selecting more heat-tolerant breeds may become a pragmatic strategy.



Unpredictable seasons are making feed supply increasingly volatile. A lack of grazing forage can lead to dwindling silage reserves, leaving farms vulnerable. Strategic forage planning is essential. Incorporating drought-tolerant grasses and legumes into pasture mixes enhances resilience, and maintaining robust silage reserves will provide a buffer during dry spells. Exploring alternative feed sources, such as by-products from local industries, or alternative forages such as turnips or kale, can also reduce dependence on expensive concentrate feeds. The principle is simple, *'feed diversity equals feed security'*.

Water is fundamental to both livestock and crop production. Many farmers have invested in on-farm water sources like boreholes to reduce reliance on mains water. However, these sources can be compromised through contamination during droughts or heavy rainfall, posing risks to animal health. For crops, soil health, particularly organic matter content, plays a vital role in water retention and availability.

Resilience is strengthened through collaboration. Farmer groups and networks offer valuable opportunities to share resources, exchange ideas, and access timely information and training. These connections are vital in navigating the evolving climate landscape.

For dairy farmers, climate change presents both a challenge and a catalyst for innovation. By rethinking heat stress management, water use, feed and forage strategies, and financial planning, farmers are laying the groundwork for a more resilient future.

Kingshay is here to support you every step of the way, by providing practical tools, expert advice, and tailored solutions to help build climate resilience across your dairy enterprise.



Written by Sarah Bolt
Technical Knowledge Exchange Manager

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Written by Felicity Gale
Farm Services Specialist

Dairy Manager Update

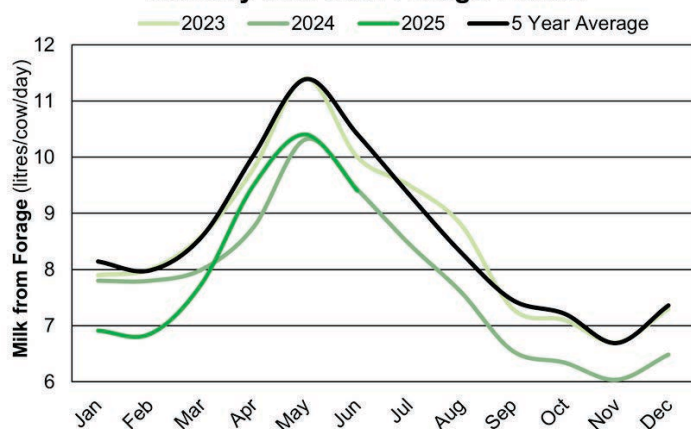
The latest figures from herds using Kingshay's dairy costings service for June 2025 are showing strong performance in margins. The margin over purchased feed per cow stayed firm at £238, which is 20% higher than the same month last year, thanks to stable milk prices and lower concentrate costs.

Milk from forage averaged 9.4 litres per cow per day, holding steady with June 2024 levels but still below the five-year average of 10.4 litres. The improved milk from forage through the Spring has again been curtailed by the weather.

Source: Kingshay Dairy Manager

Monthly Results	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
Milk Yield (l/cow/day) Change on last year	↑ 28.6 5%	↑ 28.6 5%	↑ 27.9 7%
Milk from Forage (l/cow/day) Change on last year	↑ 9.2 5%	↓ 10.2 -1%	9.4 0%
Milk Price (ppl)	43.9	43.3	43.7
Concentrate Use (kg/cow/day)	9.2	8.3	8.6
All Purch. Feed Costs (ppl)	10.8	9.6	10.3
MOPF (£/cow) Change on last year	↑ £256 27%	↑ £266 24%	↑ £238 20%

Monthly Milk from Forage Trends



Milk prices remained stable at 43.7ppl, up 11%, compared to the same month last year, whilst concentrate prices averaged £302/tonne, showing a slight 1% decrease from June 2024. Total concentrate use increased by 9% to 8.7kg/cow/day in June 2025, all purchased feed cost/litre increased slightly by 2% to 10.37ppl.

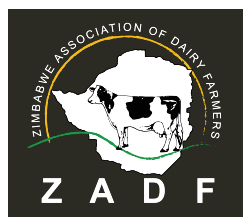
Overall, the MOPF per cow was 20% higher at £238, compared to the same month of the previous year where it was £196. Planning ahead for forage supplies and maintaining ration efficiency is key for sustaining margins through the remainder of 2025.

Monitor your herd's costs today and receive the first 2 months free. Kingshay Members get the Regular package included in their membership.



Written by Lucy Hicks
Marketing Coordinator

Global Dairy Connections



Sharing knowledge and passion for the dairy industry across nations is something Kingshay are passionate about. That's why we were honoured to welcome the Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF) to Kingshay as part of their recent visit to the UK, including Jersey.

Established in 2013, the ZADF works to promote, advance, and develop milk and dairy product production in Zimbabwe. Their 4-day visit was focused on gaining insights into the UK milk market, exploring different dairy production systems, and understanding the growing importance of sustainable practices throughout the dairy supply chain.



The ZADF team learning about milk production while on a tour of Bridge Farm, led by Farm Owner David Cotton.

During their day with us here at Kingshay, we offered a behind-the-scenes look at how we develop bespoke dairy solutions tailored to modern challenges. The group had the opportunity to tour Bridge Farm, led by Farmer David Cotton, to ask questions and engage in open discussions about shared challenges and opportunities within the global dairy industry.

This visit wasn't just about showcasing Kingshay's work, it was also about building lasting relationships, exchanging knowledge, and supporting the development of successful dairy systems worldwide. We're excited to see how the insights from this trip contribute to future dairy production projects in Zimbabwe and beyond.



Written by Michael Head
Training Consultant

Summer Farm Academy

There is an increasing challenge in getting young vets into Farm Practice. The Summer Farm Academy is a VetPartners initiative that supports vet students that are in their final years of their veterinary course, transition into Farm Practice. Michael Head (Spike) is Kingshay's Training Consultant, and co-ordinator of The Summer Farm Academy. Spike delivered insightful sessions to students from vet schools across the UK and Ireland.

The three-day residential course is based annually, in Cornwall, primarily at the Calweton Vets Training Centre alongside sessions hosted on welcoming farms nearby. Eleven candidates were selected from the Universities of Bristol, Liverpool, Harper Keele, Nottingham, London and Dublin veterinary colleges. Vets from local farm practices with real life, practical experiences delivered sessions across the 3-day course, sharing their unique experiences of being a farm vet. The subjects cover a range of key topics, from practical calving - with the use of two calving simulators, caesarean problem solving, sheep and alpaca practicals, bovine surgery, parasites and medicine selection.



Kingshay's Training Consultant, Spike, leading an intuitive and informative Fertility session.



The final 11 participants to attend The Summer Farm Academy 2025.

Another useful session was a round table discussion led by two recent graduates. The students asked questions related to 'What is it really like being a Farm Vet?' The recent graduates offered guidance through their personal experiences of being in farm practice.

As a result of attending this course, participants increase their opportunities of employment within vet practices, as seen through examples of currently employed participants who have attended this course in previous years. VetPartners hope this initiative will become an integral part of vet training and support offered to many more farm vets in the future.



Kingshay support key training across the agricultural industry, providing practical and engaging courses both online and face to face. Visit www.kingshay.com/training to explore your training options, or call our friendly team on **01458 851555** to discuss how we can tailor our training services to support you and your team.



Written by Emma Puddy
Farm Services Specialist

Navigating Difficult Forage Years

What can last year tell us about how to navigate another tricky forage year?

Kingshay's Dairy Costings Focus Report 2025 was published this July, analysing our huge dairy dataset for the 12 months ending March 2025. That year saw the lowest yields from forage for years, and this was a consistent trend over the entire 12 months (see *Felicity's Dairy Manager update on page 2*), likely due to the wet winter and spring, making grazing and silage-making difficult to say the least.

This summer we've seen many parts of the UK experience the opposite problem, with heatwaves and no rain for weeks hitting not just grass yields, but straw and maize yields too. With forage in short supply, but the milk price : concentrate price ratio looking favourable, do we even care about milk from forage?

Page 9 of the Dairy Costings Focus Report 2025 suggests we should. When herds are split into bands of milk from forage performance, despite having very similar average milk yields per cow, the higher the milk from forage yield per cow, the higher the margin over purchased feed, notably both per litre and per cow. In a

year when it made sense for many producers to feed more purchased feed for extra litres, it was also more profitable to optimise yield from forage - both things were true.

We are so used to talking about milk from forage as an efficiency to survive situations of low milk price, it is easy to take our eye off the ball, but with labour costs, energy prices and interest rates climbing, feed efficiency matters as much as ever.

Dairy Costings Focus Report 2025

OUT NOW!

Scan the QR code to download & read your **FREE** copy



Or visit www.kingshay.com to find out more.



KINGSHAY NEWS

Staff News

Farewell Hannah

Our Marketing Coordinator and Services Support, Hannah Burns, has been on maternity leave for the past year after giving birth to her son, Alfie. Hannah has made the tough decision not to return to Kingshay, and continue to be present for Alfie as he grows up. We thank Hannah for all of her hard work over the past 2 years, and we wish her all the best for the future.



Congratulations Lucy

We are delighted to announce that Lucy, who joined us in September last year to cover for Hannah, has now taken on a permanent position with the team. Lucy leads all things marketing, crafting engaging social media content, designing adverts, producing fliers and newsletters, and much more. Lucy also oversees Kingshay Training with passion and creativity. Please join us in celebrating this exciting milestone. Lucy is thrilled to continue delivering impactful marketing and communications across the business.



Recent Events

On 16th July, Lucy and Emma attended the annual National Youngstock Conference, organised and hosted by Cow Management. The event offered an inspiring day of learning, with sessions on calf housing, management and disease prevention, with plenty of opportunities to reconnect with familiar faces. It was encouraging to see so many young, upcoming and experienced farming and veterinary professionals. We enjoyed great conversations about training opportunities and shared insights from our recent Dairy Costings Focus Report.

Did you visit the Kingshay stand and speak to Lucy & Emma?



Upcoming Events



UK Dairy Day returns on 10th September 2025, and we'll be in attendance once again! Swing by the Kingshay stand (F7) where our friendly team will be on hand to help you get the most out of your data, your herd, and your farm.

We will also be attending The Dairy Show at The Royal Bath & West on 1st October 2025, so come along to meet our team and grab a free copy of our recent Dairy Costings Focus Report!

Tried & Tested Update

The results from our second Tried & Tested survey on Automatic Milk Feeders for calves is now available to read in the August issue (Vol 31, No.10) of British Dairying Magazine! Flip straight to **page 23** to discover who came top of the leader board!



Full report available soon!
Free to Kingshay Farmer Members

Our third Tried & Tested survey covering **Fly Control in Cattle** is now LIVE! Please scan the

QR code to have your say on Fly Control measures on your farm. Help us uncover the best fly control solutions for everyone in the industry.

We need you!



Build Your Farm's Climate Resilience from the Ground Up

Choose from our expert soil analysis packages and unlock your soil's full potential:



BASIC SOIL ANALYSIS

Soil P, K, Mg and pH PLUS Fertiliser and lime recommendations for each field



BASIC SOIL PLUS ORGANIC MATTER ANALYSIS

Same as Basic Soil Analysis plus Organic Matter



BROAD SPECTRUM SOIL ANALYSIS

P, K, Ca, Mg, S, B, Cu, Fe, Mn, Mo, Zn, Na, CEC, pH, Lime Req. Organic Matter, Total Organic Carbon, Total Nitrogen, C:N Ratio, Sand%, Silt%, Clay%, Soil Texture Classification, Solvita Soil Respiration, Microbial Biomass, Potentially Mineralisable Nitrogen, Soil Assessment Score.

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