



DAIRY COSTINGS FOCUS REPORT - HEALTH TRENDS

The 12th edition of the Dairy Costings Focus Report includes analyses of health trends for herds using our Health Manager service and shows a continual fall in mastitis & lameness cases in the last 5 years.

Mirroring the trend seen in recent years, herd health has continued to improve. Most health issues monitored showed a decline, and have done for several years, highlighting the continued efforts of dairy producers across the country to invest in facilities and training to improve health & welfare.

Average mastitis levels have dropped from 39 cases per 100 cows in 2019, to 29 cases in 2023. With the focus on producers to reduce antibiotic usage and somatic cell count, the continued reduction in mastitis cases is encouraging. See table 1.

Cases per 100 cows	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Mastitis	39	36	32	30	29

Table 1 - Trends in mastitis cases over the last 5 years

The average cost of mastitis has been recalculated to be £365 per case, totalling £10,439: up on last year's average of £10,020 (£334 per case) due to the higher milk prices (an average milk price of 46 ppl was used for the period ending March 2023).

As in previous years, culling for infertility remained the top reason for cows leaving the herd, at 25% of culls. Mastitis stayed in the second spot, with mastitis culls decreasing from 9.1% to 8.7%.

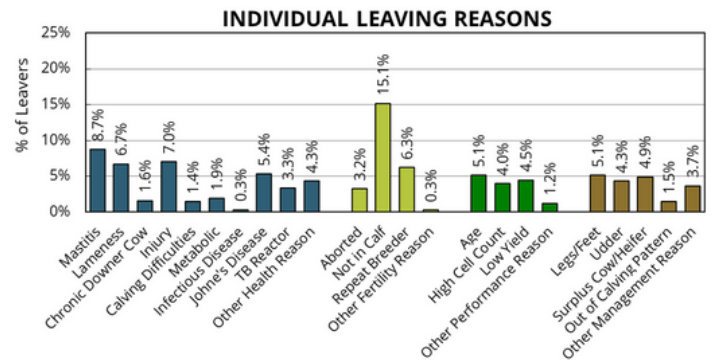


Figure 1 - Individual reasons for cows leaving the herd

Waitrose Dairy Farmers

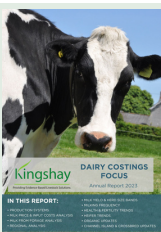
Kingshay are proud to have been analysing the Health & Welfare trends for the Waitrose Milk Pool for nearly 13 years, as well as monitoring feed sourcing.



During this time we have developed a bespoke data capture system based on their data requirements to help highlight continual improvements year-on-year in herd health. We provide independent data analyses and commentary on trends for both their conventional and organic milk pools.



Written by Kathryn Rowland,
Senior Farm Services Manager



Download your FREE copy of the report here or go to www.kingshay.com



IN THIS EDITION...

- DCFR - Health Trends
- Dairy Manager Update
- Recent Mailings
- In My Field
- Shows & Events
- Staff News



Written by Felicity Gale,
Farm Services Specialist

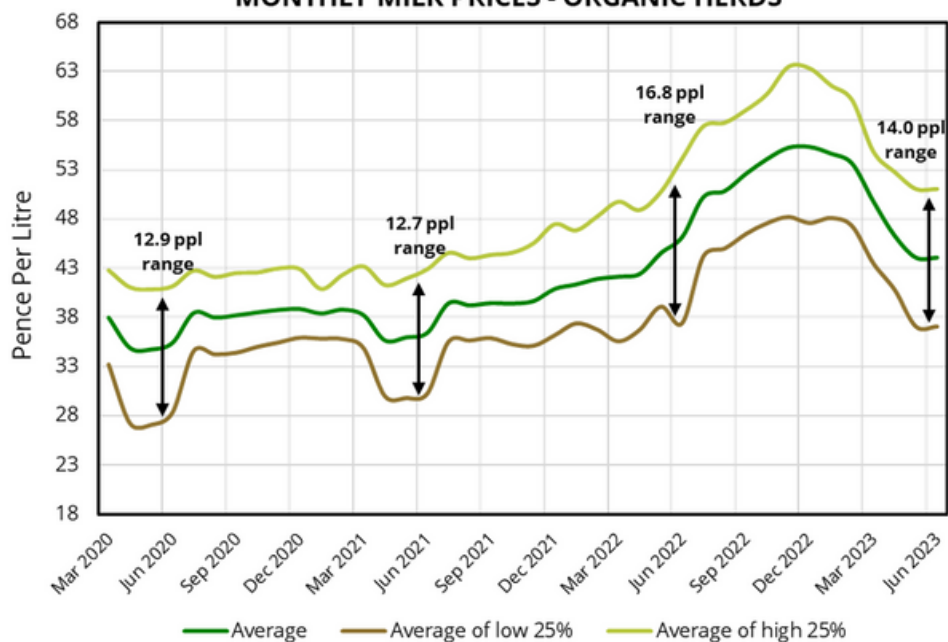
Organic Dairy Update

Latest organic monthly results of herds using Kingshay's dairy costings service are continuing to show a decrease in milk prices month-on-month.

June 2023 averaged 44 pence per litre, 5% lower than the same month of the previous year. However, the organic milk price drop is not as severe as the drop seen in conventional milk prices, where June 2023 milk prices of 37.19ppl were 14% lower than the same month of the previous year.

Organic Monthly Results	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23
Milk Yield (l/cow/day) Change on last year	21.4 -5% ↓	21.2 -5% ↓	19.9 -4% ↓
Milk from Forage (l/cow/day) Change on last year	11.6 -13% ↓	13.1 -8% ↓	11.4 -10% ↓
Milk Price (ppl)	46.4	44.2	44.0
Concentrate Use (kg/cow/day)	4.9	4.0	4.2
All Purch. Feed Costs (ppl)	13.5	10.3	11.1
MOPF (£/cow) Change on last year	£196 -2% ↓	£205 -6% ↓	£164 -15% ↓

MONTHLY MILK PRICES - ORGANIC HERDS



Looking at the range in milk prices, the difference between the highest & lowest 25% widened in June 2022 but has narrowed slightly in June 2023 to 14 ppl.

Whilst milk prices have fallen, concentrate prices per tonne have also gradually come back down, but were still 3% higher at £520/tonne in June 2023 compared to June 2022. Total concentrate use increased by 5% to 4.2 kg/cow/day with all purchased feed costs/litre rising by 9% to average 11.1ppl.

Overall, the margin over purchased feed per cow was 15% lower in June 2023 at £164/cow, compared to £196/cow in June 2022, not just down to lower milk prices, but also milk yields were down by 4% to 19.9 litres/cow/day.

Rolling milk prices for June 2023 were 21.7% higher at 50.73ppl compared to June 2022.

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

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Twice a month, Kingshay's farmer, consultant and vet members receive Insight publications, a Monthly Checklist and have access to previous editions in the members' area of the website at www.kingshay.com. Here are some highlights from those produced in the recent months.

The
importance of
Dung Beetles



The rise of
Mycoplasma
bovis



Sustainable
Farming
Incentive



Agroforestry





Written by Emily Bunn,
Project Coordinator & Consultant

"IN MY FIELD"

As we get closer to Autumn, and Round 2 of the Slurry Infrastructure Grant, it's time to start thinking about what you want to apply for, and if you were unsuccessful in Round 1, how you can learn from your previous application, with the hope of better success this time round.

Round 1 of the Slurry Infrastructure Grant closed for applications back in January 2023. 374 projects were offered the chance to submit a full application, £33.9 million worth of funding was allocated (increased from the originally planned £13.2 million), but many farmers were left disappointed and did not get through the initial stage of application.

The RPA explained in their blog how they prioritised projects - their goal being the benefit it would have to the environment through reduced water and air pollution. Those chosen to complete a full application in the Round 1, were mostly in the '2014 Countryside Stewardship water quality priority area', or in a protected site (SSSI, SAC, SPA and wetlands designed to be of international importance), as identified on the MAGIC.GOV website. Some applicants outside the priority areas were able to get through the initial application stage due to their farm being of high value for habitats, species, and biodiversity.

The RPA have advised that although Round 2 of the Slurry Infrastructure Grant is likely to have the same limitations on priority areas for applications (which is not what most farmers want to hear), they are planning to widen their target areas, working closely with industry bodies to prioritise funding fairly, and to maximise the environmental outcomes. Projects who were not successful in Round 1 will be invited to resubmit their application when the "checker" opens in the next couple of months.

The final Round 3 of the Slurry Infrastructure Grant is expected to open for applications in 2024 - there are no plans for further rounds beyond that. To find out more about Kingshay Consultancy, contact the Kingshay office.

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consultancy@kingshay.co.uk



Written by Kathryn Rowland,
Senior Farm Services Manager

Mootral Ruminant Trial

A field study of Mootral Ruminant conducted by Mootral in collaboration with Kingshay, took place between May and October 2022. It examined two groups of dairy herds comprising a total of approximately 13,100 cows. One group received the Mootral Ruminant feed supplement each day, and a reference group was used as a baseline for comparison. Two groups of indicators were the focus of the study: milk production (the yield and composition of milk) and animal health (the incidence of mastitis and milk fever).

The study of 13,100 cows found that administering just 1g of Mootral Ruminant for every 1kg of DMI showed improvements in milk production & animal health.

MoOvement UK, found that Mootral Ruminant - which has been shown to reduce methane emissions from cattle by up to 38% - also benefits animal health and increases milk production. Mootral believes that positive effects on yield and animal health are essential in order to enable farmers to embrace technologies that reduce enteric methane emissions.

For trial results and more details of the product review the "Mootral Research Insight" or go to www.mootral.com.

www.kingshay.com

MOOTRAL™

Mootral Ruminant is a 100% natural product consisting of a proprietary combination of garlic (*Allium sativum*) and citrus extract (*Citrus aurantium*).

When fed to ruminants, it favourably alters the animal's microbiome, increasing propionate-producing bacteria and reducing hydrogen-producing bacteria and major methane-producing archaea. This leads to an anti-methanogenic effect which has been shown to reduce methane emissions by up to 38% in certain breeds of cow.

STAFF NEWS



Congratulations Hannah & Tom

On Monday 10th July 2023, our Marketing Coordinator Hannah Burns got married at the beautiful Crowcombe Court to her long-term partner Tom. They have been together for 14 years and we would like to wish them all the best!

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WE ARE ATTENDING



UK Dairy Day

Wednesday 13th September
International Centre in Telford

Dairy Show

The Dairy Show 2023

Wednesday 4th October
Bath & West Showground



BCVA Congress

Thursday 19th October
Telford International Centre



Total Dairy

Wednesday 8th November
The Crowne Plaza,
Stratford-Upon-Avon



National TB Conference

Wednesday 29th November
Sixways Stadium, Worcester

National
TB Conference



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