Kingshay — Dairy Systems, Robot and Automation Survey

This survey is investigating the **current farm level of automation** and any **potential future investment** in automation. It is intended for completion by any **dairy farmer** or **farm worker** (whether or not you currently have robotic milking on farm).

YOUR DETAILS (the survey can be completed anonymously, if preferred)

Name:…………………………………………………….. Farm Name: ……………………………………………………………..

Address: …………………………………………………………………………………………………… Postcode: …………………….

Email: ………………………………………………………………… Phone Number: …………………………………………………...

Kingshay Costings Herd ID: ……………………………………..

YOUR HERD & SYSTEM

1. Herd Details (annual average)

Herd size	
Yield (including milk retained, unsaleable and sold)	(litres/cow)
Butterfat	%
Protein	%
Cell count	
Bactoscan	

2. Dairy System: Please ✓ one system that is most applicable

Spring block calving 70%+ herd calving in Feb, Mar or Apr	
Autumn or split block calving - Grazing Focus 70%+ herd calving in Feb, Mar or Apr & in Aug, Sep or Oct; Cows grazing for 200+days/year	
Autumn or split block calving - Housing Focus 70%+ herd calving in Feb, Mar or Apr & in Aug, Sep or Oct; Cows grazing for <200 days/year	
All year calving - Grazing Focus Cows grazing for 160+ days in the year	
All year calving - Housing Focus Cows grazing for <160 days in the year	
ORGANIC - Low to Moderate Yield Yield below 6,250 litres per cow per year	
ORGANIC - High Yield Yield above 6,250 litres per cow per year	

3. Infrastructure - Milking cow housing

Floor type	❏ Slatted ❏ Partially slatted ❏ Not slatted
Do you have a loafing area?	❏ Yes ❏ No If so, please specify: …………………..…………..m²
Cubicle number	
Cubicle bedding	❏ Sand ❏ Straw ❏ Shavings/sawdust ❏ Other ……………..
Loose housing area (milking cows)	m²
Loose housing bedding	❏ Straw ❏ Other ………………..

4. Farm Hygiene

How often do you scrape cubicles?	/day
How often do you fully clean out loose housing?	
How often do you scrape passage ways?	/day
Do you have a specific milking facility for treated/ sick/ fresh cows?	❏ Yes ❏ No

6. Who do you purchase your concentrate dairy feed from?

5. Milk Contract - Please ✓all relevant options (optional)

Milk buyer	
Contract type	❏ Liquid ❏ Constituent ❏ Seasonality adjustment ❏ Level profile bonus ❏ Aligned contract ❏ Non-aligned ❏ Cost of production contract

HEALTH ON YOUR FARM

7. How many annual cases per 100 cows do you have of the following diseases?

Displaced abomasum	/100
Retained cleansing	/100
Metritis	/100
Mastitis	/100
Digital dermatitis	/100
Lameness (excluding DD)	/100

8. What mastitis detection do you use? If used please ✓ and circle 1 to 5 in usefulness

Incomplete milking	✓	1	2	3	4	5
Quarter conductivity		1	2	3	4	5
Cell count detection		1	2	3	4	5
Other …………………….....		1	2	3	4	5
Other ………………………..		1	2	3	4	5

10. Mastitis Hygiene

Do you singe udder hair?	❏ Yes ❏ No How often? /year
Do you trim tails?	❏ Yes ❏ No How often? /year

9. What mastitis pathogens are most prevalent on farm? - Please ✓ the relevant box

Staphylococcus aureus	
Streptococcus uberis	
E. coli	
Other………...	
Other………….	

11. Footbathing Routine

Frequency	per week	Product used		Concentration of product	%

NUTRITION AND GROUPING

12. Nutrition

Total purchased feed (compounds, straights, liquid, moist feeds and home grown cereals – but not forage)	tonnes/cow/year
Number of milking cow groups - for example highs, mids, lows (do not include dry cows)	
Milk from forage	litres per cow

13. How does grazing fit into your system?

Do your milking cows graze?	❏ Yes ❏ No
If yes, please answer the following questions	
Is grazing compulsory for your milk contract?	❏ Yes ❏ No
What type of grazing system do you have?	Eg strip, paddock, rotational, set stocking
Number of days at grass	/year
How many grazing areas per 24 hours?	
What are the main groups of cows that graze?	

LABOUR EFFICIENCY AND AUTOMATION

14. How many Hours do Dairy Staff Work in Total a Week?
- include all FAMILY labour and all hired WORKERS.(Hours worked DAIRY ONLY = Time directly involved in milking, feeding, scraping out & herd management but not silage making or field work.)

Total hours		hr/week

16. Herd Expansion

Do you plan to expand your herd?	☐ Yes ☐ No
If so, by how many cows?	

15. What automation do you have/planning to invest in? *Please ✓ the following*

	Already on farm	1 - 2 years time	3 - 5 years time	5 years +
Robotic Milking				
Push up feeders				
Automatic scrapers				
Lameness monitors				
Heat monitors				
Rumination monitors				
Calving monitor				
Health monitors				
Other………………				
Other………………				

Thank you for completing this survey. If you have robotic milking please complete the rest of the survey.

PLEASE ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN THE BLUE SECTION IF YOU HAVE ROBOTIC MILKING

17. Robot Statistics:
please enter annual averages

Litres per robot		per day
Visits per cow		per day
Milkings per cow		per day
% Incomplete milkings		per day
Attachment time		minutes
Milk flow		l/min
Visit duration		minutes
Free time per day (24hr - box time - clean down)		minutes

22. Robot Cleaning Routine

How often do you clean / scrape the cow waiting area around the robot(s)?	
How often do you clean the robot(s) with a hose / steam cleaner?	

18. Milking Routine through Robot

Pre-dip chemical (name and manufacturer of product)	
Post-dip chemical (name and manufacturer of product)	

20. Robot Breakdowns

Number of mechanical/electrical robot breakdowns		/month
Number of visits from a engineer (do not include normal servicing)		/month
Estimated hours lost from robot breakdowns		/month
How often is your robot serviced?		/year
Do you have a service contract?	☐ Yes, Monthly fee £…………… ☐ No	

23. Robot Building Infrastructure

Cow traffic	☐ Guided/Controlled ☐ Free access

19. Robot Hygiene - *you may give multiple answers*

How many system cleans do you do a day?		/day
Which of the following have you programmed the robot to do an extra clean after milking	☐ After each cow ☐ After colostrum cow ☐ After specific cows ☐ After treated cows ☐ After high SCC cow	
How often is the milk filter changed?		/day

21. Robot Details

Brand of robot	
Model of robot	
Number of robots	
Year first robot(s) installed	
Year subsequent robot(s) installed	

24. Collecting Cows for Milking

How many hours to do you spend collecting cows to be milked?	
How many cows a day are you having to find to be milked?	

26. Recommendation and Advice

Would you recommend robots to other farmers?	☐ Yes ☐ No
What advice would you give to farmers considering robots?	
What one piece of data from your robot do you find most useful?	

25. Please complete the matrix regarding cow grouping and nutrition

Cow group - please state group name e.g. fresh calvers, highs, mids	Cow Group		Lows	Highs	Fresh calvers
Group milk per cow per day	litres				
Ration in parlour/ robot(s)	kg/ litre				
Concentrate through robot(s)	kg/cow/day				
Rest feed (unallocated concentrate.)	kg/cow/day				
Maintenance + ration in trough	m+ ……. litres				

27. What influenced you to buy a robot, and have your expectations been met? - *Please ✓ the box and circle the relevant answers*

	Influence	Expectation met			
Less work hours	✓	Totally	Mostly	Partially	Not at all
Increased milk production	✓	Totally	Mostly	Partially	Not at all
More flexible working hours		Totally	Mostly	Partially	Not at all
Expand herd with no extra labour		Totally	Mostly	Partially	Not at all
Reduce paid labour		Totally	Mostly	Partially	Not at all
Cow welfare benefits		Totally	Mostly	Partially	Not at all
Other Please state ………………		Totally	Mostly	Partially	Not at all

Please return the completed form to:

Kingshay
FREEPOST (BS9062)
GLASTONBURY
Somerset
BA6 8ZZ

Or via email: contact.us@kingshay.co.uk

Thank you for completing this survey
If you have any comments or queries, please call the office on 01458 851555

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