

The Dairy Group **MCi Report**

23rd October 2012

Latest MCi results show a further deterioration in cow performance

“The latest MCi results for July 2012 show a further deterioration in cow performance due to the impact of the wet summer” says Ian Powell, Director of The Dairy Group. He goes on to say “our MCi results show that milk from forage was down 21% on the previous year to 7.4 litres per cow per day, compared with 9.4 litres per cow the year before. The fall in daily milk yield was 1.3 litres per cow, down to 24.8 litres per cow per day, a fall of 5%, which was similar to the UK drop in milk production. We continue to see a significant drop in milk protein, down by 15% in both June and July compared to the previous year. This indicates that cows were short of energy, which is likely to impact on August milk production and on cow fertility. The lower milk from forage resulted in a 14% increase in the concentrate feed rate per litre, increasing to 0.32 kg per litre. The purchased feed cost per litre increased by 0.9 pence to 7.3 pence per litre and the margin over purchased feed reduced by £12 per cow to £128 per cow. The impact of the wet summer is likely to have an increasing effect on cow performance, with cows milking below expectation in September. However, the worst is yet to come as these results do not reflect the much higher purchased feed price nor the impact of the summer on winter forage. We have early reports of maize yields down 60% on normal, with the majority of crops yet to be harvested. Some maize crops have been sprayed off as just not worth the cost of harvesting. Typically the harvesting cost would be around £5 per tonne, but with lower yields the harvesting cost has increased to £13 per tonne. Dairy farmers will be shocked at what they see in the clamp once the harvest is finished. There will be an urgent need for dairy farmers to calculate the tonnes available and to have the crop sampled to check on the dry matter and forage quality. For many dairy farmers there will barely be enough maize silage to last the winter and never mind providing forage for buffer feeding next summer. The key to forage planning will be to reserve the best forage for the milking herd and then to work out how to feed dry stock cost effectively.”

	<u>MONTHLY RESULTS</u>		<u>12 MONTHS ROLLING</u>	
	JULY 2012	JULY 2011	JULY 2012	JULY 2011
Daily milk yield per cow (litres)	24.8	26.1	25.8	25.8
Daily milk yield from forage per cow (litres)	7.4	9.4	2161	2215
Cows in herd	194	197	192	197
Annual milk yield per cow (litres)	648	684	8096	8064
Milk price per litre (litre)	26.9	27.0	28.2	25.8
Butterfat (%)	3.97	3.95	4.11	4.06
Protein (%)	3.18	3.23	3.27	3.29
Concentrates cost per tonne (£)	220	220	219	203
Concentrates use per cow (kg)	207	201	2652	2596
Concentrates use per litre (kg)	0.32	0.28	0.32	0.32
Purchased feed costs per cow (£)	47	44	608	551
Purchased feed costs per litre (pence)	7.3	6.4	7.5	6.8
Margin over purchased feed per cow (£)	128	140	1680	1538
Margin over purchased feed per litre (pence)	19.8	20.6	20.7	19.1
Margin over all feed (£/cow)	111	122	1437	1300

[Monthly average results for July 2012](#)

The average milk price was down 0.1 pence per litre on last year to 26.9 pence per litre. The average butterfat of 3.97% was 2 points higher than last year. Milk protein of 3.18% was down 0.05% on a year ago. Daily milk yield per cow was down by 1.3 litres per cow on last year to 24.8 litres per cow. Milk from forage was down by 2 litres per cow to 7.4 litres per cow. The average feed rate for the month was up 0.04 kg per litre on a year ago at 0.32 kg per litre, with the average purchased feed cost the same as last year at £220 per tonne. The monthly Margin Over Purchased Feed was £128 per cow, which was £12 per cow lower than a year ago. The margin per litre was 19.8 pence per litre, which was 0.8 pence per litre lower than a year ago.

[12 Month Rolling average results to July 2012](#)

The rolling average yield has decreased by 32 litres per cow compared with the previous year to 8096 litres per cow. The average feed rate has remained the same at 0.32 kg per litre, with the average milk price up by 2.4 pence per litre to 28.2 pence. The rolling Margin Over Purchased Feed (MOPF) was £142 per cow higher than a year ago at £1680 per cow. The rolling average MOPF per litre was 20.7 pence per litre, which was 1.6 pence per litre higher than a year ago.

- Ends -

[For further information please contact:](#)

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Notes to editors:

- This is a press release announcing the MCI results.
- MCI is the *The Dairy Group* dairy management system that incorporates setting targets for a herd combined with monthly monitoring, quota management & dairy costings.
- www.dairy-mci.com
- www.thedairygroup.co.uk