

The Dairy Group MCI Report

October 2024 (issued 31/1/2025)

Milk output increases with a favourable milk price to feed cost ratio

“The latest MCI results indicates a milk price to feed cost ratio over 1.5 which is favouring higher milk output” says Ian Powell, Director of The Dairy Group. He goes on to say “combined with the positive autumn seasonality payments from many milk companies some farmers are seeing a milk price closer to 50 pence per litre. We have seen a large increase in the use of concentrates per litre which reached 0.41 kg per litre in October, which would have also been influenced by some low energy grass silage from the delayed first cuts and the delay in maize harvest, with the milk yield from forage decreasing. The outlook for milk price in the spring is uncertain and those exposed to negative seasonal pricing will need to look critically at their marginal litres.”

The Dairy Group	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Rolling	Rolling	Annual
MCI results	Oct-23	Oct-24	change	Oct-23	Oct-24	change
Daily milk yield (litres/cow)	24.9	26.0	1.1	26.1	26.2	0.1
Milk yield from forage (litres/cow)	6.2	4.9	-1.3	2823	2396	-427
Cows in herd	243	252	9	240	249	9
Milk yield (litres/cow)	657	695	38	8313	8316	3
Milk price (ppl)	37.4	44.5	7.1	43.3	40.3	-3.0
Butterfat %	4.39	4.48	0.09	4.35	4.38	0.03
Protein %	3.43	3.45	0.02	3.38	3.40	0.02
Concentrate cost £/t	317	290	-27	342	302	-40
Concentrate use kg/litre	0.37	0.41	0.04	0.34	0.35	0.01
Purchased feed cost (£/cow)	79	86	7	1000	941	-59
Purchased feed cost (ppl)	12.0	12.4	0.4	12.0	11.3	-0.7
Margin over purchased feed (£/cow)	166	223	57	2604	2399	-205
Margin over purchased feed (ppl)	25.3	32.2	6.9	31.5	29.1	-2.4

Monthly average results for October 2024

The average milk price was up 7.1 pence per litre on last year to 44.5 pence per litre. The average butterfat of 4.48% was up 0.09% on a year ago. Milk protein of 3.45% was up 0.02% on a year ago. Daily milk yield per cow was up by 1.1 litres per cow on last year to 26.0 litres per cow. Milk from forage was down by 1.3 litres per cow to 4.9 litres per cow. The average feed rate for the month was 0.04 kg per litre higher than last year at 0.41 kg per litre, with the average purchased feed cost down on last year by £27 per tonne to £290 per tonne. The monthly Margin Over Purchased Feed was £223 per cow, which was £57 per cow higher than a year ago. The margin per litre was 32.2 pence per litre, which was 6.9 pence per litre higher than a year ago.

12 Month Rolling average results to October 2024

The rolling average yield has increased by 3 litres per cow compared with the previous year to 8,316 litres per cow. The average feed rate has increased by 0.01 kg per litre compared with the previous year to 0.35 kg per litre, with the average milk price down by 3.0 pence per litre to 40.3 pence. The rolling Margin Over Purchased Feed (MOPF) was £205 per cow lower than a year ago at £2399 per cow. The rolling average MOPF per litre was 29.1 pence per litre, which was 2.4 pence per litre lower than a year ago.

For further information please contact:

Ian Powell, Director, The Dairy Group (01823 444488)

e-mail: ian.powell@thedairygroup.co.uk

Notes to editors:

- This is a press release announcing the MCI results
- MCI is The Dairy Group web based dairy management system that incorporates setting targets for a herd combined with monthly monitoring, forage management, resource use and emissions reporting.
- www.dairy-mci.com
- www.dairygroup.co.uk