

# The Dairy Group MCI Report

## August 2024 (issued 2/12/24)

### How do you compare with the MCI Top 20?

“Benchmarking provides a great way of seeing how herd performance compares to other farms” says Ian Powell, Director of The Dairy Group. He goes on to say “with the high cost of production and the rapidly changing milk price it can be hard to check how well a herd is performing and to identify the opportunities for improvement. Our web based MCI provides simple, independent and effective dairy costings and the ability to benchmark herd performance. The key parameter that ‘pays the bills’ is margin over purchased feed per cow and per herd. Our latest average (August 2024) was £2,440 per cow with 240 cows in herd. If you could achieve the Top 20 performance this increases to £2,912 per cow, worth £113,000 per year extra for a herd of 240 cows. The key differences for Top 20 performance are:

- Milk yield +22%, which will be mainly due to higher genetic merit, with our Top 20 mainly with £PLI in the UK top 10%.
- Milk price +4%, partly due to milk buyer, but also due to high milk quality.
- Milk from forage +19%, which will be mainly due to forage quality and effective feed management.
- Feed cost similar at 11.7ppl, which will be a combination of feeds used and effective buying and management

MCI Top 20 v MCI average			
12 month rolling to	Aug-24		
	MCI average	MCI Top 20	Difference
Cows	240	266	26
Yield	8311	10150	1839
Milk price ppl	39.0	40.5	1.5
Fat %	4.35	4.38	0.03
Protein %	3.38	3.36	-0.02
Milk from forage litres	2440	2912	472
Concs kg/litre	0.35	0.37	0.02
Conc £/tonne	308	304	-4
Purchased feed cost ppl	11.4	11.7	0.3
MOPF £/cow	2290	2912	622

The overall herd performance will be a combination of all these factors, which will be further influenced by the quality of the dairy infrastructure (cow housing, feeding & milk harvesting), cow health and herd management. There is no quick fix, but the starting point is to benchmark performance and to understand the factors that are preventing the herd from being in the Top 20.”

**For further information please contact:**

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**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](http://www.dairy-mci.com)
- [www.dairygroup.co.uk](http://www.dairygroup.co.uk)