

# The Dairy Group MCI Report

## September 2024 (issued 6/1/2025)

### Rolling herd margin still £83k below previous year

“The latest MCI results show a £47 per cow increase in the monthly margin over purchased feed, but the rolling results were £349 per cow lower than the previous year, equivalent to £82,700 for our average herd of 237 cows” says Ian Powell, Director of The Dairy Group. He goes on to say “whilst we are seeing the average milk price increasing to 45 pence per litre, it is the average over the past 12 months which impacts on the dairy business and with the rolling margin down £349 per cow there has been a massive decline in this key performance indicator. We can use other measures like milk to feed price ratio, but the key to a dairy farmer is cash in the bank. With the average cost of production running at 45 pence per litre further price increases are needed for dairying to be sustainable. The main issue facing dairy farmers is the prospects for milk price moving in to 2025, with the dairy markets starting to weaken there will be more pressure on milk price.”

The Dairy Group	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Rolling	Rolling	Annual
MCI results	Sep-23	Sep-24	change	Sep-23	Sep-24	change
Daily milk yield (litres/cow)	24.8	25.1	0.3	26.2	26.1	-0.1
Milk yield from forage (litres/cow)	6.2	5.5	-0.7	2843	2450	-393
Cows in herd	226	241	15	224	237	13
Milk yield (litres/cow)	627	642	15	8347	8288	-59
<b>Milk price (ppl)</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>-4.8</b>
Butterfat %	4.28	4.40	0.12	4.35	4.38	0.03
Protein %	3.36	3.45	0.09	3.38	3.40	0.02
Concentrate cost £/t	329	293	-36	348	305	-43
Concentrate use kg/litre	0.36	0.38	0.02	0.33	0.35	0.02
Purchased feed cost (£/cow)	77	74	-3	1017	932	-85
Purchased feed cost (ppl)	12.2	11.5	-0.7	12.2	11.2	-1.0
<b>Margin over purchased feed (£/cow)</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>2688</b>	<b>2339</b>	<b>-349</b>
Margin over purchased feed (ppl)	25.4	32.7	7.3	32.3	28.4	-3.9

### Monthly average results for September 2024

The average milk price was up 6.7 pence per litre on last year to 44.6 pence per litre. The average butterfat of 4.40% was up 0.12% on a year ago. Milk protein of 3.45% was up 0.09% on a year ago. Daily milk yield per cow was up by 0.3 litres per cow on last year to 25.1 litres per cow. Milk from forage was down by 0.7 litres per cow to 5.5 litres per cow. The average feed rate for the month was 0.02 kg per litre higher than last year at 0.38 kg per litre, with the average purchased feed cost down on last year by £36 per tonne to £293 per tonne. The monthly Margin Over Purchased Feed was £207 per cow, which was £47 per cow higher than a year ago. The margin per litre was 32.7 pence per litre, which was 7.3 pence per litre higher than a year ago.

## 12 Month Rolling average results to September 2024

The rolling average yield has decreased by 59 litres per cow compared with the previous year to 8,228 litres per cow. The average feed rate has increased by 0.02 kg per litre compared with the previous year to 0.35 kg per litre, with the average milk price down by 4.8 pence per litre to 39.6 pence. The rolling Margin Over Purchased Feed (MOPF) was £349 per cow lower than a year ago at £2339 per cow. The rolling average MOPF per litre was 28.4 pence per litre, which was 3.9 pence per litre lower than a year ago.

### **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)