

The Dairy Group

MCi Report

22nd November 2012

Milk from forage falls by 20%

“The latest MCi results for August 2012 show milk from forage was down by 20% on the previous year to 6.5 litres per cow per day, compared with 8.2 litres per cow the year before” says Ian Powell, Director of The Dairy Group. He goes on to say “our MCi results also show a fall in daily milk yield of 1.1 litres per cow, down to 24.1 litres per cow per day, a fall of 4.4%, which was similar to the UK drop in milk production. We continue to see a significant drop in milk protein, down by 15% in June, July and August compared to the previous year. This indicates that cows were short of energy, which is likely to impact on milk production and on cow fertility. The lower milk from forage resulted in an increase in the concentrate feed rate per litre, increasing to 0.32 kg per litre. The purchased feed cost per litre increased by 0.7 pence to 7.5 pence per litre and the margin over purchased feed reduced by £13 per cow to £122 per cow. The impact of the wet summer is likely to have an on going impact on cow performance, although with maize silage now back in to cow diets is helping to boost milk production. The main issue now is the quantity of forage for the winter period. With maize yields up to 50% below normal levels, the amount of maize available to feed will be limited. Grass silage is highly variable with some late cuts only 18% dry matter and 9.5 ME. The limited forage and variable quality will increase the cost of the winter diet and for many, forage stocks will not last the winter. The cost of reduced forage stocks will also knock on to heifer rearing, which will tend to be fed on lower quality forage and straw, which will increase the rearing cost. The combination of lower milk sales and the higher feed cost will have a significant impact on the cost of milk production. Some of this cost will be reflected in the stocks of forage on 31st March 2013, which will be significantly lower than the previous.”

	MONTHLY RESULTS		12 MONTHS ROLLING	
	AUG 2012	AUG 2011	AUG 2012	AUG 2011
Daily milk yield per cow (litres)	24.1	25.2	25.6	25.7
Daily milk yield from forage per cow (litres)	6.5	8.2	2039	2300
Cows in herd	196	195	193	194
Annual milk yield per cow (litres)	625	660	8013	8048
Milk price per litre (litre)	27.0	27.2	28.2	26.1
Butterfat (%)	4.01	4.03	4.09	4.08
Protein (%)	3.18	3.23	3.26	3.29
Concentrates cost per tonne (£)	224	218	220	206
Concentrates use per cow (kg)	204	198	2640	2554
Concentrates use per litre (kg)	0.32	0.30	0.33	0.31
Purchased feed costs per cow (£)	47	45	612	549
Purchased feed costs per litre (pence)	7.5	6.8	7.6	6.8
Margin over purchased feed per cow (£)	122	135	1652	1556
Margin over purchased feed per litre (pence)	19.5	20.5	20.6	19.3
Margin over all feed (£/cow)	104	116	1408	1317

Monthly average results for August 2012

The average milk price was down 0.2 pence per litre on last year to 27.0 pence per litre. The average butterfat of 4.01% was 2 points lower than last year. Milk protein of 3.18% was down 0.05% on a year ago. Daily milk yield per cow was down by 1.1 litres per cow on last year to 24.1 litres per cow. Milk from forage was down by 1.7 litres per cow to 6.5 litres per cow. The average feed rate for the month was up 0.02 kg per litre on a year ago at 0.32 kg per litre, with the average purchased feed cost £6 per tonne higher than last year at £224 per tonne. The monthly Margin Over Purchased Feed was £122 per cow, which was £13 per cow lower than a year ago. The margin per litre was 19.5 pence, which was 1 pence per litre lower than a year ago.

12 Month Rolling average results to August 2012

The rolling average yield has decreased by 35 litres per cow compared with the previous year to 8013 litres per cow. The average feed rate has increased by 0.02 kg per litre to 0.33 kg per litre, with the average milk price up by 2.1 pence per litre to 28.2 pence. The rolling Margin Over Purchased Feed (MOPF) was £96 per cow higher than a year ago at £1652 per cow. The rolling average MOPF per litre was 20.6 pence per litre, which was 1.3 pence per litre higher than a year ago.

- Ends -

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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