

August 2025

2025 Kingshay Dairy Costing Report

The last milk year was a positive one for dairy producers, with continued improvements in cow health and growing momentum in the organic milk sector, according to the latest Kingshay Dairy Costings report.

Although the dreadful weather over the summer of 2024 saw yields from forage drop sharply, the reasonably high milk price and lower feed costs meant margins remained firm. In fact, given the most favourable milk price: feed price ratio since 2001, the average margin over purchased feed (MOPF) was the strongest for a very long time, bar the milk spikes of 2022.

All reported health indicators saw year-on-year improvements. Mastitis dropped to 24 cases per 100 cows (down by two), and lameness from 37 to 34 cases per 100 cows. However, fertility last year saw a bit of a slide, most likely due to the poor-quality forage. Calving intervals extended by a day to 394 days, and days to first service crept up by two days to 72.

The age of cows at exit is steadily declining, but the proportion of selected versus forced culls has increased again, year-on-year. And given the higher milk prices, the cost of poor fertility and health increased, both on a per-case and per-herd basis.

"This year housing-focused, all-year-round calving herds had the highest MOPF per cow at £2,937/cow, and the highest margin per litre was achieved by the low to moderate-yielding organic herds, at 41.15ppl," says Emma Puddy, farm services specialist at Kingshay. "When it comes to MOPF, we are still seeing large ranges, even within the same production systems, where groups of herds have similar goals." Drawing on data from 1,064 conventional herds and 98 organic herds, the report showed a wide variation between the top and bottom quartile within each production system.

Organic herds made a strong showing after a difficult few years, with the milk price reaching a record high of 53.17ppl in March 2025. Milk from forage remains a key strength, with 44% of milk derived from forage compared to below 30% for conventional producers.

"It seems milk from forage is still very strongly linked to MOPF, with conventional herds in the top 10% for milk from forage achieving a margin that was 20% higher per cow and 14% higher per litre," says Mrs Puddy.

"The best way for a farm business to see where they are successful and where they could improve is by putting their figures side-by-side with other producers in similar systems. We hope that by publishing this report we can help farmers to do exactly that, and to find ways to continue the positive trends we've seen."



Lungworm Alert

We are seeing increasing numbers of lungworm at grass. Do not take any chances with this disease as it can quickly turn into casualties! It may be the wetter year and recent heat has caused an explosion, whatever the reason please check the cattle carefully and contact a Parklands vet if you suspect any problems. There has been reports of wormers not working as well as they used to so bear this in mind if you had problems last year.

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Parklands Selekt Pump Meeting

We had a well attended meeting with the Selekt company which manufactures the cattle drenching pumps we use. They spoke about the reasons for oral fluid therapy and how valuable the correct powder is in different situations, see table below.

They described the safe method of placing the pump down the right way and gave a simple overview of the products and when to use them.

Why choose **SELEKT® Fresh Cow 500**?

More calcium - it provides 108 g of calcium, more than any alternative product, better reducing the risk of hypocalcaemia. Magnesium for calcium mobilization - it provides 15 g of magnesium.

Propionate reduces the mobilization of fat and the associated risk of ketone formation. The risk of metritis, ketosis and displaced abomasum is halved in cows that do not mobilize fat.

Charbon Fluide:

For cows with diarrhoea: activated charcoal is the best mycotoxin-binding agent. Moulds commonly grow on silage, and produce mycotoxins when they do so. Dairy cows consuming mycotoxins on silage are at risk of various diseases associated with poor rumen function and immunosuppression.

If you buy your select products through Parklands we can offer free training in safely placing the pump tube, and if we just take time to double check it is a safe procedure. Please ask a Parklands vet for more info.



	SELEKT Antacid	SELEKT Charbon Fluide™ Activated Charcoal Liquid	SELEKT Fresh Cow 500	SELEKT Glycerol Plus	SELEKT Off Feed	SELEKT Restore
Acute rumen acidosis or Sub-acute ruminal acidosis	✓	± ✓				
For fresh cows or Following Caesarean section			✓	± ✓	✗	✗
Diarrhoea caused by mycotoxins or bacterial infection		✓				✓
Dehydration or endotoxaemic shock caused by mastitis, metritis, traumatic reticulitis, hydrops, etc.						✓
Inappetence in early lactation					✓	
Reduction in the risk of ketosis			✓	✓		
Recuperation from ketosis				✓		✓
Following correction of left and right displacement of the abomasum				± ✓	✓	✓
Reduction in the risk of left displacement of the abomasum			✓			
Reduction in the risk of milk fever / hypocalcaemia			✓			
Poisoning caused by acorns, ragwort, water dropwort etc.		✓				± ✓

Summer Mastitis

Unfortunately Summer mastitis is rife again! If you are having problems with cows getting mastitis in the first month of lactation (more than 1 in 12 cows) and/or high cell counts at the first milk recording (more than 10%), it is likely that there are environmental infections getting into the udder during the dry period. Whilst we tend to associate such infections with indoor calving management, outdoor calving cows can have similar (if not worse) conditions. The vagaries of the UK "summer" weather do not help

Some tips for preventing summer mastitis:

- Use internal teat sealants at drying off, although they may not work in the face of overwhelming environmental contamination!
- Consider using external teat sealants in heifers
- Keep areas around feed and water troughs as clean as practical. Move feed troughs regularly to reduce poaching, and stop cows lying in warm spoiled waste food.
- Any pasture grazed by dry cows should be used for a maximum of 2 weeks, followed by at least 4 weeks rest to reduce bacteria levels.