



EDF Congress 2026

23rd to 25th June in Chester, UK

New Challenges. New Opportunities.



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WELCOME FROM DAVID JONES

EDF - UK COUNCIL MEMBER



Dear friends, colleagues, and partners from across Europe,

It is our pleasure to invite you to Chester for the 2026 European Dairy Farmers Congress - a gathering that brings together the most forward-thinking minds in European dairy.

This congress is more than an event; it is a meeting of people who share a common purpose. Though we come from diverse countries, climates, and production systems, we are united by a commitment to building a dairy sector that is resilient, progressive, and ready for the future. That future is not something we wait for, it is something we shape - through curiosity, collaboration, and the courage to challenge what we've always done.

Today, European dairy stands at a pivotal moment. The world is asking more of us than ever:

- to produce nutritious food sustainably,
- to protect our animals and our land,
- to embrace innovation,
- and to remain competitive in a fast-moving global market.

These new challenges are significant, but dairy farmers have always risen to meet moments like this. We are problem-solvers, innovators, custodians of landscapes, and leaders in our rural communities. And when we come together openly, honestly, and ambitiously, we accelerate progress in ways no single farm or nation can achieve alone and seize the new opportunities.

Over the course of the congress, you will:

- hear ideas that challenge assumptions,
- meet farmers whose systems differ from your own yet spark new thinking,
- explore technologies and strategies pushing the boundaries of what's possible,
- and re-discover the opportunities that lie ahead for those ready to adapt and lead.

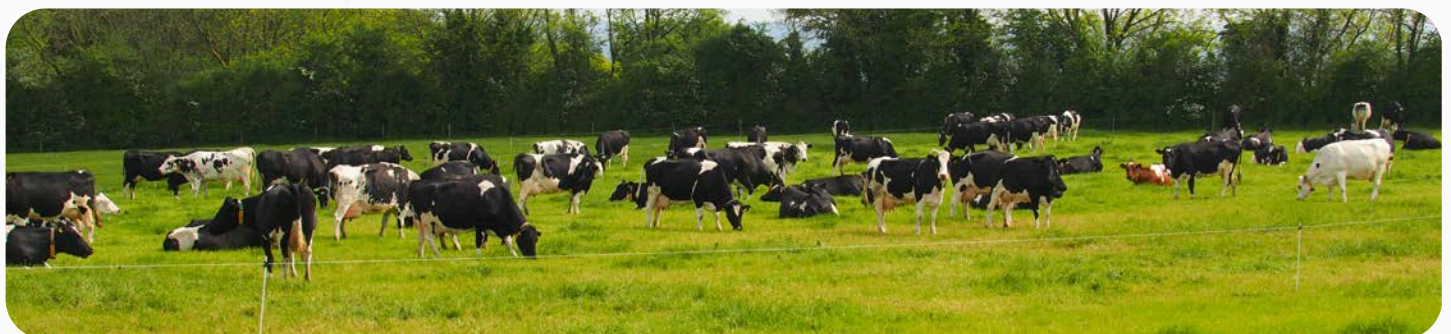
Chester, with its rich history and deep agricultural roots, is a fitting host. It reminds us that progress is built on both heritage and reinvention. We honour where we've come from, but we are defined by where we choose to go next.

We invite you to join us to share, to question, to learn, and to lead.

Welcome to Chester.

Welcome to EDF 2026.

Let's shape the future of European dairy together.





Chester, UK

Located in the north-west of England, the historic city of Chester is a destination that blends character, accessibility and charm. With its Roman walls, medieval streets, black-and-white timber buildings and the iconic Rows, Chester offers a distinctive sense of place while blending modern infrastructure and innovation.

The city's compact layout makes it ideal for networking and interaction, while its vibrant food scene, riverside walks along the River Dee and warm hospitality provide the perfect backdrop for our Congress.



For centuries, Cheshire's fertile land has supported a thriving rural economy, establishing the county as a key region for dairy farming and cheese production. Cheshire Cheese, one of the oldest recorded named British cheeses, has a history stretching back more than 800 years.

Dairy Farming in Cheshire

Cheshire has the highest concentration of dairy cows anywhere in the UK. Fertile soils, reliable rainfall and an excellent grass-growing climate have underpinned generations of milk production, creating a region where dairy farming remains central to rural communities and agri-food businesses alike. From progressive family farms to large-scale enterprises, dairying here is not simply an industry, but a long-established way of life.

Delegates will encounter a wide range of dairy systems, including high-output housed herds supplying liquid and manufacturing markets, efficient pasture-based and block-calving systems focused on cost control, and increasingly sophisticated hybrid models integrating grazing, precision nutrition, automation and data-led management. This diversity reflects many of the shared challenges and opportunities facing dairy farmers across Europe.





The Venue - Chester Racecourse

Established in 1539, Chester Racecourse is the oldest racecourse in England, and the oldest still in operation anywhere in the world. From May to October, it hosts a vibrant calendar of racing events that are firm favourites on the social scene, offering visitors the chance to enjoy top-class racing accompanied by a glass of fizz.

Why not take the opportunity to extend your stay in Chester to enjoy the racing experience on Saturday 27th June. Book your tickets at www.chester-races.com.



Evening BBQ at Chester Zoo

Chester is also home to the UK's largest zoological gardens and the nation's most-visited wildlife attraction. Since opening to the public in 1931, it has grown into a leading conservation organisation, dedicated to raising public awareness and preventing the extinction of endangered species across the globe.

Join us for an evening BBQ at Chester Zoo including exclusive ranger-led tours after the zoo has closed to the public.

Gala Dinner in Chester Cathedral

Chester attracts architecture enthusiasts from around the world, many of whom come to admire the magnificent Chester Cathedral. A must-see landmark for every visitor, the cathedral was originally founded in 1092 as a Benedictine Abbey. It was extensively rebuilt from around 1250, with work continuing for 275 years to create the breath-taking gothic structure that stands today.

The finale of the Congress will be our Gala Dinner in the fabulous cathedral.



NEW CHALLENGES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



Sustainable Dairy Matters!

Following an introduction to UK dairying, the programme is built around two core themes:

- The Technological Revolution** – exploring how advances in automation, sensors, machine vision and artificial intelligence are transforming labour efficiency, decision-making and on-farm performance.
- Ensuring a Sustainable Future** – focusing on practical approaches to building healthy soils, optimising nutrient use, and improving cow health, welfare and longevity, while delivering measurable reductions in on-farm emissions.

Together, these themes address the challenge of maintaining economic resilience while sustainably producing highly nutritious milk that meets increasingly demanding consumer and market expectations.

TUESDAY 23RD JUNE

10:00 Optional events ahead of the Congress:

- International meeting
- Next Generation Initiative meeting

11:00 **Registration starts in the networking area**, including a buffet lunch.

13:45 Opening of 2026 EDF Congress

Welcome Address

Tom Dunne, EDF President
David Jones, EDF-UK

UK Dairy - Structure, Policy & Markets Farming Through Political Change: What it Means for UK Dairy Farmers

Paul Tomkins - National Farmers Union (NFU) Deputy
President

From Grass to Glass: How the UK Dairy Supply Chain is Organised

Susie Stannard - AHDB Lead Analyst (Dairy)

Milk Markets in Focus: the UK Market in a European and Global Context

Chris Walkland - Agricultural Journalist & Market Analyst

Diverse Production Systems: What Drives Competitive Milk Production in the UK?

Steffi Wille-Sonk, EDF

Ensuring a Sustainable Future Sustainability - Is it all just Hot Air?

Professor Jude Capper - Chair of Sustainable Beef
& Sheep Production at Harper Adams University

Reducing Veterinary Inputs by Putting the Environment First

Claire Whittle - 'The Regenerative Vet' & New
Entrant Farmer

Farming From the Ground Up

Andrew Brewer, Dairy Farmer and Arla Global
Sustainability Board Member

19:00 Welcome Dinner at Chester Racecourse

WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE

08:00 **Technological Revolution**
**From Challenge to Opportunity: A Farmer's
Story of Solving Today's Dairy Challenges with
Smart Monitoring**

Johnny Mackey - Stakeholder Engagement Lead, MSD
Animal Health & Will Sanders - Farm Manager, Major
Farming.

The Tsunami of AI + Robotics: Win Big or Be Swept Away

Manuel Soares - CEO Milc Group, California

Driving Prosperity in Dairy through a Data-led, Circular Farming System: The Grosvenor Story

David Craven - Grosvenor Farms Dairy Manager

10:00 **Workshops**
CoP and Technical Workshops
*Choose from the range of workshops listed
on pages 9 to 11.*

13:00 **Farm Visits**
Each delegate will visit two farms.
Details on pages 12 & 13.

19:00 **BBQ at Chester Zoo**

**Details and timings are subject to change.*

NEW CHALLENGES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



THURSDAY 25TH JUNE

08:00 EDF General Assembly

09:00 Embracing Opportunities

Resilience in Volatile Times: Profit Highs
in 2025 and the 2026 Price Trough

Steffi Wille-Sonk, EDF

A Whole Supply Chain Approach to
Dairy Sustainability

Judith Bryans, Dairy UK Chief Executive

Food & Markets - The Future

The Nutritional Power of Dairy: Evolving
Science and Emerging Opportunity

Dr Lucy Williamson

Market Driven Change

Speaker to be confirmed

Making It Happen

The Fifth Industrial Revolution, AI and the
Future of Work

Dan Sodergren, Keynote Speaker & Author

12:30 Farm Visits

Each delegate will visit two farms

19:00 Gala Dinner at Chester Cathedral

FRIDAY 26TH JUNE

Optional Post Event Tours

Two optional tours are available. See details on page 16.

**Details and timings are subject to change.*

The Next Generation Initiative

Option to Join a Discussion of the Next Generation of Dairy Leaders

The **Next Generation Initiative** is designed to strengthen the EDF-UK branch by engaging younger farmers and introducing them to the EDF network. This group are invited to an exclusive discussion meeting ahead of the Congress on the morning of Tuesday 23rd June.

Are you under 35 years and attending the Congress? This session is open to ALL Young Farmers from across the EDF Network - Join this discussion with fellow future dairy leaders.



EDF International Meeting

Option to join an EDF International Meeting at 10am 23rd June

As the EDF Annual Congress brings together farmers from most European countries as well as Canada, US and Australia, we will organise an informal meeting to give farmer feedback on their own realities and their perspectives on the hot topics right now.

This meeting is open to farmers only.





Providing Evidence-Based Livestock Solutions

PUT OUR INDEPENDENT INFORMATION, SERVICES AND ADVICE TO WORK ON YOUR FARM TO BUILD A HEALTHIER, MORE PROFITABLE FUTURE.

Technical Knowledgebase



Our Dairy Insight users have a wealth of dairy industry knowledge at their fingertips, via the Kingshay App, our website and regular mailings. We also offer membership options for veterinary practices, farm advisers, colleges, universities and corporate bodies.

Dairy Manager



The UK's leading dairy costings service includes options for targeted reports, allowing you to create and monitor regular production forecasts, highlight key health issues, compare your herd to similar herds and calculate your bottom-line profit and antimicrobial use.

Consultancy



Our team of Agricultural Consultants and Associates bring their skills and expertise to your door wherever you farm in the UK. We offer traditional ongoing consultancy or one-off solutions, tailored specifically to you and your business.



Tools and Analysis

We provide the everyday analyses and tools every dairy farmer needs to maximise their resources, from soil analyses to plate meters.



Data Services

A growing part of Kingshay is developing bespoke tools and services to organisations across the agricultural industry. Our unique combination of farming expertise & technical IT skills enable us to provide an Online Portal, Phone Apps, Data Integration and Big Data Management.



Training

Online, Face to Face, Technical Speakers & Workshop Facilitation

We offer a wide range of training to suit all farm types and species, addressing all areas of the business, from animal health and welfare to recruitment and environmental management. The Kingshay team have extensive experience of delivering training to audiences across the UK.

For any further information on the above services, call our team on **01458 851555**.

WWW.KINGSHAY.COM

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Search 'Kingshay Farming'

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WORKSHOPS



On the Wednesday morning, participate in your choice of interactive discussion workshops.

On the booking form:

- Select **ONE** of the Intensive Workshops (CoP 1, 2 or 3) or **TWO** of the other topics.
- Select your 1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences.

10am	11:10am	11:20am	12:30pm
CoP Intensive* (2 hours 20 min)		→	CoP Intensive continued
Workshop 1 (70 min) CoP Crash Course, Lecture or Technical	Coffee Break		Workshop 2 (70 min) CoP Crash Course, Lecture or Technical

Places in each workshop are limited - book early to ensure you are allocated your preferred choices.

* The CoP Intensive and Crash Course Workshops are open to EDF Members who have submitted their CoP.

COP INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS

1 **CoP Intensive: Increasing Milk Yield per Cow – What's the Return? ***

Led by your EDF STAR Team including Jelmer Sietzema & Philippe Mathieu

How can a higher milk yield per cow improve - or reduce - your farm profitability? We discuss which management changes drive yield, how to assess the return on your own farm, and why more milk per cow only pays off when efficiency, health, fertility and labour are under control. The core question is: maximum yield or optimal whole-farm return?

2 **CoP Intensive: Surviving to Thrive: Farm-Level Strategies for Lower Milk Prices ***

Led by your EDF STAR Team including Jan Halewyck, Pablo Carro & Kathryn George

We explore how dairy farms can survive - and ultimately thrive - during periods of lower milk prices. We discuss which strategies farmers have used to respond to price changes, what has proven effective on the ground, and how resilience can be strengthened for future volatility.

3 **CoP Intensive: Sustainable Dairy Performance: Identifying and Improving Key Indicators ***

Led by your EDF STAR Team including Aline Lehnen, Henna Mero & Filipa Figueiredo

We explore how to assess and improve sustainability in your dairy business - based on our CoP figures. We identify the most relevant sustainability indicators, discuss where improvement potential lies, and exchange practical strategies for strengthening sustainability performance on farm.

COP CRASH COURSE WORKSHOPS

4 **CoP Crash Course: The Figures that Truly Matter ***

Led by your EDF STAR Team including Marco Horn & Cristian Rota

70 minutes to learn which key figures truly matter, how your farms positions in the European CoP comparison and how you deduct strategic goals from your CoP.

5 **CoP Crash Course: Reducing Impact of Milk Price Volatility ***

Led by your EDF STAR Team including Emil Bagger-Jørgensen & Ueli Häfliger

70 minutes to learn why high milk yield is not the key profit driver in every strategy. We compare your strategies and explore when yield pays off - and when other factors matter more for strong profits.

COP LECTURES

6 **Let's Talk About... The Cost of Milking**

Steffi Wille-Sonk, EDF

An interactive session offering a brief, introductory look at the EDF CoP data, followed by an open Q&A and discussion.

7 **Let's Talk About... Sustainability Indicators in the CoP**

Steffi Wille-Sonk, EDF

An interactive session offering a brief, introductory look at the EDF CoP data, followed by an open Q&A and discussion.

TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS



8 **From Calf to Cow, Lifetime Monitoring for Health, Profit, and Sustainability**

Led by MSD Animal Health: Daniel Price, Milking Technology Lead for GB, Monica Miravalle, Customer Success Specialist and Dagan Sadrinas, Global Customer Enablement Specialist.

Today's farms face tighter margins, labour constraints, and less room for error. Our goal is to highlight why lifetime monitoring and data-driven management are becoming critical tools, from raising youngstock to managing cow health, reproduction, nutrition, and milking performance. Demonstrating how lifetime data turns daily routines into smarter strategies, improving welfare, efficiency, and long-term profitability across the herd.

Join us for an interactive life-stage based workshop where we will take you through each stage of a cow's life with SenseHub.

9 **Digitalisation in Dairy Farming**

Martin Schnare, GEA's Digital Solutions Product Manager

Running a successful dairy farm means making the right decisions every day. In this workshop session, we show how DairyNet helps you stay on top of your herd, save valuable time and keep your operation moving smoothly. See how digital herd management can support the way you already work — clearer, faster and more connected.

Join us to explore how DairyNet can make daily farming simpler and more efficient.

10 **Optimal Milking**

Jeroen Luiten, GEA's Global Milking Expert

Join us for an interactive, hands on workshop designed to help you get the most out of every CMS or AMS milking session on your farm.

What you'll learn:

- Evaluating the milking routine / udder prep
- Improved ergonomics / working conditions
- When to order a professional parlor audit
- And much more.....

Why attend? Turn insights into practical, easy to apply strategies you can use immediately on your farm. Ask questions, share experiences, and learn directly from an industry expert.

11 **Feeding for Resilience: Shaping the Early-Life Calf Rearing Prioritisation Framework**

Led by Nacia Bonnick, Trouw Nutrition

Early-life nutrition is one of the most powerful drivers of resilient, healthy, and productive herds. This interactive session will bring the latest evidence-based insights from LifeStart Science to life, exploring how early nutrition influences gut development, robustness and long-term performance.

Participants will work collaboratively to co-design a practical prioritisation framework for calf rearing, identifying the focus areas that matter most.

The session will encourage lively discussion, shared expertise and collective action to strengthen calf resilience from day one.

12 **From Compliance to Value Creation: Productivity, Profitability and Emissions Reduction**

Led by Dr Liz Homer, Trouw Nutrition

This hands on workshop shows how sustainability can genuinely boost productivity and profitability on your farm, not just tick compliance boxes. The workshop covers practical, proven scenarios from calf through to 5th lactation, helping you optimise your farm system through smarter nutrition whilst reducing emissions. Participants will work with real data, and leave with actions that can be applied in practice tomorrow to cut emissions and strengthen your bottom line.



13 Money from Milk and Manure

Led by Teemore Engineering including Jean-Vincent Bioret, Bioret Agri

Manure, the most untapped resource in dairy farming. Jean-Vincent Bioret will discuss turning environmental pressure on dairy into a green and profitable business through Eco Energy production. New technology for separation of faeces and urine on the floor of the barn reduces ammonia and significantly improves the output value of this resource.

14 HSBC Agriculture 'Financing Dairies Future'

HSBC Agriculture will discuss the future of dairy farming from an investment perspective, how dairy clients are building resilience within the business to economic shocks, and what growth opportunities they are seeing in the sector. They'll discuss climate impacts at farm level, what this could mean for future financing and the products available to support farmers transition through husbandry changes and agri-tech adoption.

15 Valuing People

Led by Paul Harris, Real Success

Sustainability of our industry cannot just be based around soils, land, climate, carbon, cows or costings. Without a robust 'people strategy' farms will simply struggle to find and retain staff. Join this workshop to 'challenge yourself' on how you can value your staff even more and make managing people easier.

16 From the Ground Up: Soil Driven Success

Becky Wilson, Farm Carbon Toolkit & Andrew Brewer, Dairy Farmer

Stop treating soil like dirt and start treating it like your most valuable asset. This workshop explores how prioritising soil health and carbon can improve farm profitability, slash costs, and build climate resilience. Using practical examples, learn how tracking organic matter and carbon creates a data-backed roadmap for long-term profitability and verifiable farm performance.

17 Lean Works! Farm Lean Workshop

Becky Miles and Phil Cooper - Lean Farming UK Ltd

This interactive workshop shows how Lean Management:

- Saves time and money
- Improve day-to-day efficiency
- Motivates the whole farm team
- Improve communication and working relationships

Through real farm examples you will learn how to use simple Lean tools to identify 'Opportunities for Improvement' to use with your whole farm team.

18 Beyond the Bulk Tank: Adding Value through Direct Sales

Georgina Hildreth, Curlew Fields Farm & Lucy Noad, Woody's Legend Dairy

Two EDF members share how they've gone beyond the bulk tank to build a successful farm-gate business. Discover and discuss how milk vending and ice cream helped them add value, create a recognisable brand, engage directly with consumers, and improve margins while strengthening their connection with the public.

19 Data Driven Decisions in Lameness Management

Sara Pederson, Farm Dynamics

This interactive workshop will explore how foot health data such as mobility scores and hoof trimming records, can be used to support informed decision-making in lameness management. Through practical discussion, participants will examine the critical role of hoof trimming and learn how to apply an evidence-based approach to maximise return on investment while improving cow welfare and performance.

FARM VISITS



Your attendance will include the opportunity to visit top class dairy farms covering a range of farm types and milk production systems. From large mixed farming estates to new starter share farming arrangements; from low cost grazing focussed herds, to higher output housed herds of all scales.

All delegates will visit Grosvenor Farms.

Grosvenor Farms, Lea Manor Dairy

Lea Manor Dairy is one of the UK's most progressive large-scale dairy enterprises. Based on the Grosvenor Farms Eaton Estate, it forms part of the Grosvenor family's long-established rural business with a diverse, integrated farming portfolio.

Under the leadership of Dairy Manager David Craven, Lea Manor Dairy has evolved into a modern, high-output system housing 2,600 cows, producing over 13,000kg per cow. Over 34 million litres of fresh milk are sold annually to Müller under a Tesco contract.

The unit makes extensive use of data-driven management, advanced housing design and health-monitoring technologies to enhance herd welfare, optimise resource use and reduce environmental impact. A new anaerobic digestion unit is also under construction.

Dairy production sits within a wider strategy focused on regenerative farming, nutrient efficiency and biodiversity enhancement across the 2,300-hectare estate. Through a 'circular farming' approach, Grosvenor Farms is working towards becoming carbon net zero by 2030, delivering this ambition in a holistic way that supports the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of local communities.



Sunnyside Farm

John & Fran Hocknell are 1st generation farmers at Sunnyside Farm, having established the business 21 years ago. The farm has developed considerably from an initial 200 cows on tenanted land, to 580 cows plus 420 youngstock, across 390 hectares, a third of which is now owned.

The herd are block calved from July to October, producing 9,800 kg per cow, which is sold to Müller on a supermarket liquid milk contract.

Cows are calved outside and all replacements are home-reared, with beef calves sold through an integrated beef scheme. The herd is rotationally grazed with fresh grass after each milking, while the winter ration is based on grass and maize silage.

Following a period of significant growth, the business strategy is now evolving to consolidate performance, maintain efficient milk production from forage, and position the farm to pursue future opportunities.

Huntington Hall Farm

The Allwood family started dairy farming in 1952 milking 22 cows. Since taking over from his father in 1997, John has grown the business and is now milking 1,000 Holsteins through a 72pt GEA T8900 rotary parlour which was commissioned in January 2025.

John operates an all year-round calving system breeding their own replacements on the 1,300 acre farm. The herd, on an indoor system, are fed a TMR utilising homegrown maize and grass silage. Cows are milked three times a day through the rotary which in total takes 3.5 hours, with an average of 350 cows milked per hour. Average yield is 12,500 kg and the milk is supplied to Müller under a Tesco contract and to the vending machine business, Mootrition, run by John's son Jack.

Mootrition operates on the family farm retailing fresh milkshakes and ice cream in a range of flavours. Jack is actively promoting the nutritional benefits of milk and engaging with local communities using social media.



FARM VISITS



Bankhead Farm

Alistair and Gill Cliff began farming in 1998 on a 21-hectare council holding with milk quota for 27 cows. After seven years, they secured the 56-hectare tenancy at Burwardsley Hall Farm on the Bolesworth Estate, milking 140 cows plus youngstock. A strong working relationship with the landlord enabled further expansion, and in 2005 the family took on Bankhead Farm. This brought the total area farmed to 300 hectare, with 400 autumn calving cows milked across the two units. Effective grassland management underpins the system, which is based

on predominantly sandy soils prone to summer drought. The herd produces over 8,500 kg of milk per cow, with a high proportion from rotationally grazed grass and home-grown silages. Milk is supplied to local cheesemaker Joseph Heler. With daughter Ellie and son Matt now actively involved, in 2024 the family purchased a 102-hectare dairy unit 27 km away, where a 200-cow block-calving herd has been established.

Castlegate Farm

Paul and Kim Billington took on the tenancy of the 200-hectare Castlegate Farm on the Peckforton Estate in 2022. Set in the foothills of the medieval Beeston Castle, the farm spans a range of soil types across the Cheshire Plain.

Early investment focused on a new milking parlour and grazing infrastructure, underpinning an efficient, grass-based, low-cost system with clear objectives of both profitability and quality of life.

The 330 Irish Friesians calve in two blocks, in autumn and spring, producing 7,000 kg of milk per cow, which is sold to the co-op First Milk. The business has fully embraced the cooperative's regenerative farming strategy, placing strong emphasis on cow health and wellbeing, grazing species rich pastures that enhance soil health and actively store carbon in the soil.



Cotton Abbotts Farm

Fourth-generation producer Andrew Walley is utilising 10 robots to milk his 570-cow pedigree Holstein herd and the system, which was installed in spring 2024, has already resulted in significant improvement to milk yield and overall productivity.

The all-year-round calving herd, which also comprises 500 followers, is managed by Warren Thomasson who uses six of the GEA R9500 DairyRobots to milk the main herd, which typically comprises 480 cows milking at any one time. Another robot is allocated to milking a fresh-cow group, and three robots are used to milk heifers.

The robots operate within a free access system milking on average 3.4 times. The herd average yield is 12,900 kg, at 4.0% butterfat and 3.4% protein, with a somatic cell count of 120,000 cells/ml. Daily yield averages 44 litres and milk is sold to Müller on a retailer contact.



Warren Thomasson and Andrew Walley

Rhual Dairy

Rhual Dairy is a 220-hectare, all-year-round calving dairy farm near Mold in North Wales, run by John and Anna Booth under a share-farming agreement between 2 farms Rhual and Bryn Estyn. Established in 2002, the herd of 340 Holstein Friesians yields 8,500kg per cow annually, supported by a low replacement rate and a system designed to balance production with longevity. Milk is sold to Müller under a supermarket contract. Investment in infrastructure, including a new transition cow shed alongside cubicle upgrades, improved ventilation and lighting, underpins cow welfare and productivity. Renewable energy systems include solar PV, solar thermal and heat-exchange technology.

Rhual operates a diversified forage platform, with 186 hectare of grassland alongside maize and cereal crops, supporting grazing-based milk production and high forage utilisation.



EDF UK IN COP FIGURES



301

cows per farm

The UK EDF group is very diverse in both farming systems and size. Within the group, **some farms keep just over 100 cows**, while **half of the members milk herds between 300 and 750**. For replacement, an average of 6.3 head of youngstock are kept per 10 dairy cows.

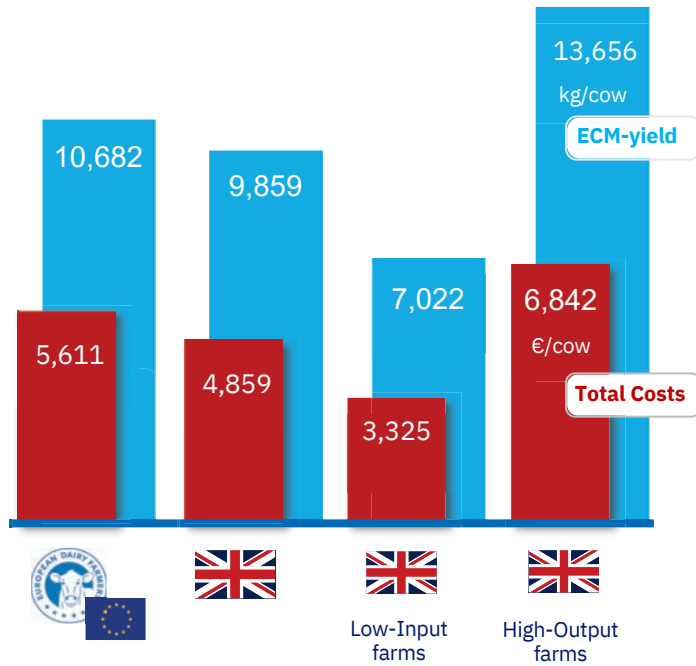
76%

grassland

Grassland — both **permanent pasture and temporary leys** within the crop rotation — forms the forage base. It accounts for more than 70% of the land used in the dairy enterprise. Maize and home-grown cereals also contribute and are included in the cows' ration.

Milk Yields: A Wide Spectrum

With 9,859kg ECM per cow, the UK group's average milk yield is moderate compared to the EDF average. Yet this figure hides a wide range of systems: from low-input farms with 5,000 to just over 8,000 kg per cow, to absolute high-output farms exceeding 13,000kg ECM per cow.



413

€ per ha

Land is likewise the key resource for dairy farming in the UK. Land rents average €413 per ha — high, but still below the EDF-wide average of €501 per ha. EDF UK farms keep about 2.23 dairy livestock units per ha, a moderate stocking density compared with other national EDF groups.

2.23

Dairy-LU per ha

EDF UK IN COP FIGURES



49.4

€ cents per kg ECM
Total Costs

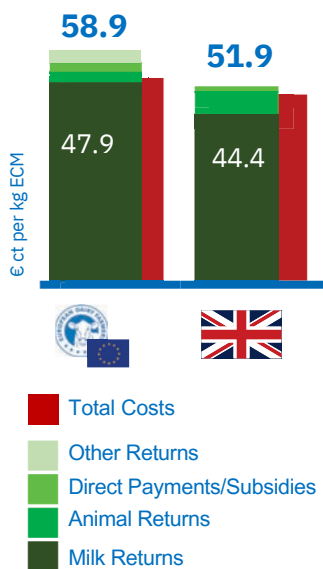
Total Costs amount to 49.4 € cents per kg ECM in EDF UK farms (economic year 04/23–03/24), placing them **below the average of conventional EDF EU farms**. Within the group, low-input farms tend to operate at lower costs (48 vs. 51 € cents) than high-output farms.

51.9

ct per kg ECM
Total Returns

Compared with conventional EDF EU farms, EDF UK farms face disadvantages on the revenue side: a lower milk price (–3.5 € cents) and reduced direct payments/subsidies (–3.2 € cents) result in **Total Returns that are nearly 7 cents per kg ECM below the EU average**.

Total Returns and Total Costs



2.5

ct per kg ECM
Entrepreneur's Profit

These **revenue disadvantages weigh on the profitability**. Even with their lower Total Costs, the EDF UK group achieved an average *Entrepreneur's Profit* of only 2.5€ cents per kg ECM. That's a **little over 3 cents** less than what the average EDF EU farm was able to retain (5.6 € cents).

18.1

€ per hour worked
Labour Price

Lower Total Costs in EDF UK farms also reflect cost advantages due to **leaner machinery and lower labour prices**: UK farms face labour costs of 18.1 € per hour, compared with already 21.4 € in the average conventional EDF EU farm.

Source: EDF Cost of Production Comparison 2025. Not representative.



The UK Dairy Sector

668

kg milk per ha

... supplied in 2025. 3rd rank of all EU member states. Supply has increased by 5% compared to 2024.

174

cows per farm

... on average, with smaller herds in Northern Ireland (129) and larger ones in Scotland (232).

1.849

mill. dairy cows

... in 2025: Cow numbers rose compared with 2024, with half of the national herd located in England.

668

kg milk per ha

... of national land area. Milk supply density is above the EU average.

10,173

dairy farms

... in 2024: with 3,133 in Northern Ireland and 7,040 in Great Britain, both declining.

235

kg milk per capita

...from domestic supply, which covers 101% of domestic demand.

Source: AHDB

POST EVENT TOUR



Following the Congress, why not extend your stay and join one of two optional tours on Friday 26th June?

Both of these tours are offered free-of-charge. Select your tour option on the booking form.

STOCKTON GRANGE FARM

The largest GEA T8900 rotary parlour installed in northern Europe is operating in Shropshire. Simon Heath is milking 1,350 Holsteins through his new 100pt fully digitalised parlour three times a day. The all year round calving commercial housed herd average is 14,400 kg per cow and milk is supplied to Müller.

On the 800-hectare farm, Simon grows acres of potatoes and operates an AD unit, permanent grass, temporary grass leys, cereals, maize and fodder beet. In addition to the new rotary, Simon has invested in a new dairy housing unit to support future expansion.

This tour is sponsored and led by:



The coach will leave Chester at 10:00am and return to Chester at 3:00pm.



Simon Heath with his wife Alex.



GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF CHESTER

Experience Chester with an adventure through time. From Roman walls and the Medieval rows, to Victorian charm & Edwardian elegance, along with modern-day marvels, the 'Welcome to Chester' walking tour brings our city's rich history to life. Whether you're a history enthusiast or simply curious about this captivating city, you'll uncover hidden gems, fascinating tales, and iconic landmarks that make Chester a truly unforgettable place.

This 90-minute tour with a local guide will help you discover how the largest fortress in Roman Britain became a thriving medieval port and then the city we see today. It's a journey through 2000 years of history, where you can walk in the footsteps of Roman soldiers & Saxon rulers and uncover how the city survived under siege when England descended into civil war.

The formidable city walls – the oldest, longest and most complete in the country and Medieval rows – covered walkways that line the streets in the heart of the city, give Chester a cityscape that is unique. Your guide will help you explore the history and heritage of this truly amazing city and of course give you a warm welcome to Chester!

Tours start at 10:30am on Friday 26th, lasting 90 minutes.



A Day at the Races

Finally, why not take the opportunity to further extend your stay in Chester to enjoy the racing experience on Saturday 27th June.

Book your tickets at www.chester-races.com



TERMS & CONDITIONS



Congress Venue: Cheshire Racecourse, Chester, CH1 2LY | What 3 Words: ///trap.reward.courier
Phone: 01244 304600 | Email: enquiries@chester-races.com | Website: www.chester-races.com

Congress Office: Birgit Kühne, European Dairy Farmers e.V., Grüner Kamp 19–21, 24768 Rendsburg
Phone: +49 433 143 601 90 | Email congress2026@dairyfarmer.net | Website: www.dairyfarmer.net.

Congress Coordination: Kingshay Team: Richard Simpson and Kate Butler | Phone: +44 (0) 1458 851555 | Email: contact.us@kingshay.co.uk
Judit Kühn, Phone: (+49) 170 730 1852 | Email: judit.kuehl@dairyfarmer.net

Registration: Registration is only possible online. For registration go to: www.dairyfarmer.net/registration

2026 EDF Congress Fees 20% UK VAT is applicable to all fees	EDF Member with CoP-Data	EDF Member with no CoP-Data	Non Member Farmer	Non Member Non Farmer
Full Programme – Early Bird (applied for payment before 15 th May 2026)	€670 incl. VAT £490 + VAT	€740 incl. VAT £540 + VAT	€800 incl. VAT £580 + VAT	
Full Programme - General Admission	€740 incl. VAT £540 + VAT	€800 incl. VAT £580 + VAT	€880 incl. VAT £640 + VAT	Register for details. Places limited.
One Day Participation (23 rd June 2026 only)	-	€300 incl. VAT £220 + VAT	€300 incl. VAT £220 + VAT	

Please Note: Early-bird fee only applies for registration and payment of the fee before 15th May 2026, after which the general admission fee we will be applied. Where no payment is made before 19th June 2026, a 10% additional late payment / door admission fee will be automatically applied.

Cancellation: Notifications of cancellations should be made in writing by email to: congress2026@dairyfarmer.net. If you do not send a cancellation note you will still be liable to pay the full fee. No refund for cancellation after 31st May 2026.

Methods of Payment: After we receive your registration, you will be sent an invoice. Payment is possible via international bank transaction. Please use IBAN and BIC/SWIFT code and state the invoice number. Your attendance at the 2026 EDF Congress can only be ensured if the registration fee has been paid in full.

Name Tag: During registration at the Congress Centre, your individual name tag will be issued. Access to the event and the event venues is only possible with your visibly displayed name tag. This includes farm visits and evening program.

Accommodation: Delegates should book their own accommodation - see the Travel Booklet on the EDF website.

Dietary Requirements: Inform us of any dietary requirements upon booking or email congress2026@dairyfarmer.net.

VISA: The United Kingdom is no longer a member of the EU. You will need a valid passport for entry, with at least 12 months remaining validity. You will also need to apply for an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA). You can apply for this via the UK Government website - '[Apply for an electronic travel authorisation \(ETA\) – GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation)' (www.gov.uk) or via the app - '[Apply for an ETA to come to the UK – GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-an-eta-to-come-to-the-uk)'. Please be aware of fraudulent or unofficial websites. You are responsible for ensuring that you meet the UK's entry requirements and for checking whether any additional visa or documentation requirements apply to your individual circumstances.

Language: The language of the EDF Congress 2026 will be English.

Insurance: Please note that the organisers do not provide any insurance for EDF Congress delegates.

Policy Agreement: By registering for the 2026 EDF Congress you agree that photos of you may be taken and may be published in any kind of EDF context.

Biosecurity Policy: As a participant in farm visits during the 2026 EDF Congress, we ask you to comply to the following requests. Ensure you wear clean clothes, especially clean shoes. During the farm visits please avoid any unnecessary contact with animals and feed, and comply to the biosecurity policy during your stay (including wearing protective clothing).

Gala Dinner Dress Code - 'Smart': The dress code prohibits jeans, shorts and t-shirts.

Privacy Policy: We process your personal data. In this regard the EDF privacy policy applies www.dairyfarmer.net/privacy-policy

Emergency Contacts: In case of an emergency, please contact any of the emergency services by calling 999.

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