

Introduction

Check out our [dairy glossary](#) if there are any words you need help with!



Lundie farm is a grass-based spring calving dairy farm, farming on 280 hectares. It is part of a wider business called Farming Partners. On this farm, we run a herd of 600 adult Jersey/Friesian cross cows, plus 370 young cows that we will use as replacement stock. A team of five people including the manager, Woody, Sophie and three general farm workers, Amraphel, Chris and Jev, run the farm.

The cows are milked twice a day, at 5am and 2pm, on a rotary parlour. On average, a cow on our farm produces 5600 litres of milk a year.

The cows are grazed outside most of the year, from around the end of February until November. In November, the cows are all housed for the winter months. We use Alflex Sensehub collars to monitor cow health and heat activity.

Our cows produce milk from February until a few days before Christmas. In December, we start drying off cows so that they all have a rest before their next lactation.

Spring calving and grass growth

RHET

The Royal Highland Education Trust

We are a spring calving dairy herd. We start calving at the beginning of February and end of April. This is so when cows reach their peak lactation there is plenty of lush nutrient rich grass available for them to eat. We try to match our calving pattern to the grass growth curve, where it grows more in summer months when our cows are producing most of their milk.



Breeding on the farm

We breed around 100 to 150 dairy heifer calves each year. This is done by selecting our best cows and maiden heifers on the farm and we artificially inseminate them using sexed semen from top grazing bulls.

We use conventional beef semen on the rest of the herd, our main breed is Aberdeen Angus, but this year we have also used some British Blue semen to add some variety.

All calves receive 3 to 4 litres of colostrum for their first feed; this is to boost their immune system and give them the best start to life. The dairy calves then get a few days of cow transition milk before moving to milk powder. We use milk powder to help prevent any diseases from spreading. Beef calves are fed on cow milk for 3 to 4 weeks on site and then are sold to a calf rearer.



The cow diet

During the Summer, our cow diet consists mainly of grass. Some cow cake is given to the cows in the parlour when they come in to be milked, to help make sure they are getting all the minerals they need.

Example of a summer diet

When a cow is in peak lactation, she needs between 18 to 20 kg per day.

We would allocate 16 to 18 kg of grass over a 24 hour period and they would also receive 1kg of cake in the parlour twice a day - so 2kg in total.

During the autumn, eat mainly grass, but are supplemented with some silage as well to help transition them onto their winter diet and to slow down grazing to match the drop in grass growth

Example of an autumn diet

In a 24 hour period, a cow will eat 3kg silage, 10kg grass and 4 kg cake in parlour.

During the winter when cows are dried off, they eat a diet of straw and silage. The straw helps keep the milk off the cows and also helps maintain the correct body condition, we don't want them too fat.

Example of a winter diet

In a 24 hour period, a cow will eat 4kg of straw and 7kg of silage.

Chosen Cow - 991

Breed: Jersey Cross

Freeze brand: 991

Eartag: UK547443402399

Date of Birth: 26/01/2020

Lactation number: 3

Last calved: 15/03/2024

Dry off due: 18/12/2024

Due to calf: 02/03/2025, bred to
Aberdeen Angus

Milk yield 2024: 5200 kg

