

DAIRY FARMERS WANTED FOR MAJOR NEW PROJECT

AgriSearch are recruiting twenty dairy farmers from across Northern Ireland to take part in a major new project which will work with farmers to demonstrate and evaluate practical approaches to manage greenhouse gas emissions.

'The UK Dairy Carbon Network' (UK-DCN) is a Defra funded three-year project which will bring together dairy farms from across the UK to explore and implement practical solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Through collaboration, research and real-world testing, the work will deliver valuable insights that strengthen farm resilience and benefit the wider industry.

Each participating farm will have a tailored action plan and ongoing support from a farm liaison officer. Financial support will be provided for active participation (comprising of farmer payments and access to products and services) as well as access to networking / knowledge exchange events as well as access to leading scientific experts.

The following mitigation strategies will not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also reduce input costs and increase output, improving overall profitability on farm. These initial mitigation initiatives will fall under the following themes:

- Breeding for reduced methane
 - AHDB Envirocow Index
 - AHDB Feed Advantage Index
- Improved forage quality
 - Multi-Cut Systems
 - High Sugar Grasses
 - Multi-Species Swards
 - Changes to grazing management
 - Best practice silage making
- Changes to feed formulation
 - Additions of fats/oils
 - Increased starch in the diet
 - Reducing waste nitrogen, balancing amino acid requirement
 - Greater use of home-grown feed
- Improved feed efficiency/utilisation
 - Improved precision
 - Best use of individual supplementation
 - Reduction of feed waste
- Improved Animal Health and early intervention
 - Prevention
 - Monitoring & Diagnosis

- Improved fertiliser efficiency
 - Use of legumes (e.g. clovers)
 - Urea Inhibitors
 - Low emission slurry spreading
- Manure Management
 - Slurry Separation

Alongside the twenty farmers in the Northern Ireland farm network. AHDB will be recruiting 36 farmers across three other networks in GB. Other partners within the Northern Ireland Farm Network include the Dairy Council for Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association and Animal Health and Welfare Northern Ireland.

The UK wide consortium of organisations, led by AFBI include the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), AgriSearch, UK Agritech Centre, ADAS, Aberystwyth University, Queen's University Belfast, Harper Adams University, University of Reading, Newcastle University and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC).

The farm commitment will include:

- Three years of active participation
- Providing access for staff to collect data
- Implementation of a minimum of two mitigation initiatives on-farm
- Attendance at project meetings
- Willingness to share your experience

If you are interested in taking part, please fill in the short survey available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/86KHZS8>

More details on the project will be available at an information webinar for interested farmers which is being held on Tuesday 18th March at 8pm. To register for this webinar visit:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nGDQnHmFRNeyLLg6fJ93pA

The deadline for receipt of expressions of interest is 31st March. Early applications are encouraged as we reserve the right to close earlier if necessary.