FARMBENCH

AHDB

Beef suckler herds ranked by total economic margin, per cow to the bull

Suckler Herd - cost of production		Calving 2022			Calving 2023			Calving 2024		
		Top 25%	Middle 50%	Bottom 25%	Top 25%	Middle 50%	Bottom 25%	Top 25%	Middle 50%	Bottom 25%
Key performance indicators	Cost of production per calf (£/kg)	2.34	3.87	8.10	2.22	3.81	5.33	2.55	4.00	6.92
	200 day weaned calf weight per kg of cow bulled (%	34.78	34.21	33.83	38.74	33.63	34.50	36.30	33.49	31.04
	Age at first calving (months)	24	27	29	25	28	30	25	26	30
Enterprise details	Number of cows/heifers put to bull	136	73	39	131	78	43	122	63	31
	Total forage area allocated to enterprise (ha)	136.96	74.94	55.31	111.50	75.86	51.02	122.57	71.73	68.24
	Number of weeks housed (weeks)	16	20	18	17	20	20	16	19	21
Technical performance	Cow to bull ratio	33	29	22	30	28	24	28	31	20
	Cows/heifers scanned in-calf (%)	93.44	90.38	94.97	93.56	89.93	92.48	91.60	92.41	90.55
	Calves died from birth to weaning per 100 cows/heifers put to bull (%)	1.86	2.31	4.24	2.50	2.12	1.10	2.12	2.06	3.90
	Calves reared per 100 cows/heifers put to bull (%)	88.41	86.56	89.15	89.33	84.30	89.03	87.58	89.71	85.40
	Daily liveweight gain for weaned calves (kg/day)	1.06	1.05	0.88	1.10	1.03	1.10	1.13	0.99	1.02
	Weight produced per forage hectare (kg/ha)	186	176	109	229	180	165	198	156	78
	Non-forage feed fed DM (kg/hd)	129.97	147.35	43.41	55.80	175.41	148.46	199.31	146.81	75.07
	Harvested forage fed DM (kg/hd)	1,133.18	1,599.28	2,419.21	926.14	1,104.02	1,173.58	980.49	1,166.98	1,803.08
	Creep feed fed (kg/hd)	11.41	77.42	111.08	40.27	73.56	0.35	19.62	11.47	0.00
Income (£/cow put to the bull)	**Total income**	670.33	664.80	514.96	761.86	654.41	626.74	830.03	756.24	623.88
Variable costs (£/cow put to the bull)	Vet and medicine	45.15	48.38	49.47	35.74	39.22	48.54	36.47	42.84	47.00
	Bedding	38.54	49.84	61.53	24.85	57.07	51.71	45.56	50.98	51.56
	Total variable costs exc feed	107.06	171.47	127.60	112.29	139.11	167.66	112.73	164.99	179.51
	Purchased feed including minerals	36.99	47.37	48.87	26.46	56.26	36.13	33.69	45.43	35.86
	Purchased forage	13.02	21.92	106.74	3.71	31.86	13.85	9.48	10.72	32.14
	Homegrown forage variable costs	28.19	62.96	95.28	36.63	89.29	70.27	47.92	59.28	61.78
	Total feed and forage costs	79.36	145.05	253.25	71.08	186.15	133.49	95.43	118.75	129.78
Overheads (£/cow put to the bull)	**Total labour**	134.15	224.13	446.96	133.49	191.61	476.07	142.77	210.62	419.75
	Total machinery and equipment	89.30	184.97	421.99	101.48	184.55	283.06	107.98	198.04	310.20
	Total property and energy costs	39.57	66.36	136.77	31.54	63.16	103.58	33.79	61.27	83.43
	Total administration costs	33.11	53.19	106.36	38.14	44.86	69.75	37.64	58.78	99.27
	Total overheads	412.26	698.09	1,426.93	425.75	629.48	1,208.03	465.62	720.62	1,230.80
Cost of production and margins (£/cow put to the bull)	**Full economic cost of production**	598.68	1,014.61	1,807.78	609.12	954.73	1,509.18	673.78	1,004.36	1,540.09
	Full economic net margin	71.65	-349.81	-1,292.82	152.74	-300.32	-882.45	156.24	-248.12	-916.21