



## **Housing Wizard**

### **Introduction**

Before you use the Housing Wizard you should read the guidance below. The report is best viewed by pressing F11 on your keyboard to view as full screen.

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## Housing Wizard Start

You may need to adjust your Excel security settings for the Housing Wizard to work.


Save the Housing Wizard to your hard drive and always work from the saved version and save any changes with a new file name, so that you can go back to the original version if needed.

On opening the Housing Wizard you will see the screen below. You need to enter your own data in the white boxes as this will be carried forward to other pages. Enter your farm name or reference as this will be printed on each report, together with the date and time. Changing the depreciation rates could have a large impact on your results, so use the values shown unless you have a good reason to use a different value.

### Housing Wizard

#### Data start

Farm name/reference	Test
Herd size	100 cows
Milk yield/cow	7000 litres
Depreciation buildings	5 %
Depreciation plant	10 %
Interest rate	5 %
Electricity cost	10.00 p/kW hr
Water cost	1.00 £m3
Labour cost	10 £/hr
Tractor + man cost	25 £/hr

  
[Go to Housing Wizard](#)  
[Print](#)  
[User Guide](#)

Use the buttons to move around the wizard  
User guide - click on the button to link to the guide, which can be printed once open with a right click.

**EXCEL SECURITY**  
You may need to alter your excel security settings to enable the functions of the Housing Wizard to work.

Once you have entered your own data you can click on the 'Go to Housing Wizard' button on the right to take you to the next stage of data entry.

## The Housing Wizard

The 'Housing Wizard' is an interactive model which allows you to look at the cost implications of a range of housing options based on your own farm situation using typical housing cost data. The Housing Wizard only looks at the cost of housing and does not include any other costs associated with operating the dairy unit, i.e. it excludes the cost of the parlour, collecting yards, silage clamps. The housing wizard does allow the cost of slurry storage to be included to allow a comparison between straw yard and cubicle housing. The housing wizard does not include the cost of the cow. Where you are considering major dairy farm expansion and investment you should look at the full implications using whole farm budgets. The housing wizard is intended to provide a guide to the cost of investing in new cow housing and the cost implications for your business.

## Housing Data Entry

You can change the values in the white boxes or use the default values. Select the bedding type by clicking on a button on the right side of the screen. The housing period is the number of days when the cows are housed and bedded. To print the

## Housing Data entry

**Go to  
Housing Options**
**Print**
**Go to Start**

**Planned investment** £100,000

<b>Cow number for new house</b>	100 cows
<b>Annual yield/cow</b>	8000 litres
<b>Housing period</b>	200 days
<b>Period of heat stress</b>	0 days
<b>Depreciation buildings</b>	5 %
<b>Depreciation machinery</b>	10 %
<b>Interest rate</b>	5 %
<b>Electricity cost</b>	10.00 p/kW hr
<b>Water cost</b>	1.00 £m3
<b>Labour cost</b>	10 £/hr
<b>Tractor + man cost</b>	25 £/hr
<b>Straw cost</b>	45 £/tonne
<b>Sand cost</b>	16 £/tonne
<b>Sawdust cost</b>	60 £/tonne

Bedding

☐ Long Straw

☒ Chopped Straw

☐ Sand

☐ Sawdust

This choice will set your housing options and is used in determining the operating costs of the housing system.

The housing options allow you to build your accommodation by selecting different options. Where options are not compatible you will not be allowed to select the option. You should select the system and then the bedding before making further selections. If you go back and change the system or the bedding then you will need to re select your building and cubicle options.

**Select the system** ~ you need to select either 'housing only', 'housing & feeding' or 'no housing'. Housing & feeding is where the cows are to be fed inside the building where the cows are housed. No housing allows you to look at cubicle bed options and the additional features.

**Is the slurry system limiting?** ~ if the existing slurry system is fully utilised and the new building requires slurry storage then tick this option. This will bring in the capital cost for slurry storage.

**Building options** ~ you can select one of the 4 options for your new building which are a straw yard, kennel, cubicles or slatted cubicles.

**Cubicle bed options** ~ you can select any of the compatible options. Sand & long straw are not compatible with slats.

**Additional features** ~ you can select one or more of the additional features. You can select either Ventilation HS (high speed) fan or Ventilation HVLS (high volume low speed) fan. You can select either Climate Control Manual or Climate Control Auto.

**Total capital invested** ~ the total capital cost of the options that you have selected is given and this is compared with your budget. If you have exceeded your budget you could consider cheaper options.

**Annual building operating cost** ~ the annual operating cost is calculated from the capital cost of the building options that you have selected (depreciation & interest) plus the operating costs (bedding, labour & other costs). The annual cost is also calculated per litre. You need to consider whether the benefits to the business justify the increase in the operating cost per litre for the cows housed in the new building. It could be that you are spreading these additional costs over the whole herd.

Once you have examined one building option you can save by clicking on 'file', 'save as' and give a new file name. Then go back and consider alternative options to see how this will change the capital and operating costs.

You can view the capital and operating costs by clicking the buttons on the bottom right of the page below the table. You can change the values in the white cells.

Click on the 'Print' button to print this page.