



GROSVENOR
ESTATE

Case study: Grosvenor Farms Limited

Grosvenor Farms Limited is a commercial farm extending to 2,330 hectares on the Eaton Estate near Chester. It is home to 2,500 dairy cows and 1,450 dairy heifers, while the farm produces more than 70,000 litres of fresh milk daily for the retail market.

Grosvenor Farms is one of the operating companies of the Wheatsheaf Group which directly operates, invests in and helps to develop businesses in the food and agriculture sectors.

In 2016, Grosvenor Farms was named Farm Business of the Year at the Food & Farming Industry Awards at the House of Commons, recognised as the UK's Dairy Company of the Year at the Cream Awards and were named the UK's leading farm for health and welfare.

Grosvenor Farms decided to move forward by teaming up with SAC Consulting and employing Agrecalc to provide detailed carbon measurements and to enable novel mitigation solutions to be properly assessed and implemented. Following SAC's Agrecalc assessment of the business, Grosvenor Farms was shown to have reduced their carbon emissions by 16% on average across its cow dairy enterprise between 2014 and 2018.

"From the initial onset of compiling the information required, we were supported through this process and with a well-designed carbon auditing tool it was easy to populate the data required.

The reports that have been derived using Agrecalc are very informative and easily understood.

Unlike previous assessments that were compiled from other providers, Agrecalc's team support has allowed our business to create clear objectives on how we can continue to improve our carbon footprint."

David Craven, Dairy and Resource Manager at Grosvenor Farms Limited

The average annual carbon footprint for the Grosvenor Farms was reported using Agrecalc at just 1.02 kg carbon dioxide equivalent per litre of fat and protein corrected milk, which was lower than the industry average (1.51 kg). But Grosvenor Farms are not planning to stop there and have set sights to new more environmentally friendly goals. The company hopes to further improve their carbon footprint by employing Agrecalc to complete their carbon budget with the aim of pushing the boundaries and reducing emissions to just 860 g per litre of fat and protein corrected milk.

Agrecalc will help achieve this goal by measuring farm emissions and assessing mitigation solutions such as using manure more efficiently to displace purchased fertiliser, using more and better home-grown forage and maximising the use of bought-in low carbon by-product feeds. In future years, the farm hopes to further improve yields, livestock health and cow longevity, invest in renewable energy and explore the use of methane inhibitors in feed as it drives to lower emissions.

