

## Focus on efficiencies helps maintain high milk yields and reduce carbon footprint

**A focus on efficiency and productivity has seen one AHDB Strategic Dairy unit continue to achieve impressive milk yields, while significantly reducing farm carbon footprints.**

Father-and-son team Howard and Tom Pattison manage a 280-cow, fully housed Holstein herd at Willow Tree Farm, joining the AHDB network in summer 2022, as an environment focused strategic dairy farm.

Feed supply and efficiencies is one of the areas that has already been addressed to boost environmental credentials, with one of the key contributors to reducing the herd's carbon footprint being the decision, in 2021, to remove soya from the ration.

However, maintaining high yields and performance was key to any change, given the herd's impressive performance figures. Milked twice daily in a herringbone parlour, the herd average yield is 12,000 litres at 4.02% butterfat and 3.32% protein.

### High-quality protein

*"The milking herd is fed a TMR comprising home-grown forage, all sourced within a five- to six-mile radius of the farm, and we supplement with co-products from the food industry, including brewers' grains, wheat syrup and pressed sugar beet pulp, all of which have a low carbon footprint,"* explains Howard.

*"Alongside this, we introduced a high-quality protein source in the form of NovaPro, a UK produced xylig-treated rape protein,"* adds Tom.

*"NovaPro is an ideal complement as a protein source, and as an alternative to soya, it has also had a significant positive impact on the carbon footprint of the ration,"* he continues.

The carbon footprint of the ration was shown to have been reduced by almost half by removing soya and feeding UK sourced co-products.

*"The carbon footprint of the soya-based ration was 599g of carbon per litre of milk produced, but by taking out soya it was reduced to 308g,"* says Tom.

### Farm efficiencies

Supplying milk to Arla, on a Starbucks contract, the family also recently signed up to the Arla 360 programme. Alongside the use of NovaPro and removal of soya, other farm efficiencies such as using genomic testing have also played a key part in lowering the farm's overall carbon footprint.

*"While feed supply only represents part of that overall reduction, the introduction of NovaPro has played a key part in bringing down that figure, while maintaining our performance,"* says Tom.

# novapro

## Lower your carbon footprint & increase your milk yield

Reduce the carbon footprint of your feed using NovaPro. It has a **85.4% lower CO<sub>2</sub>e** compared to soya and has been shown to increase milk yield by 1.7L per cow per day!\*\*\*

Order yours today and boost your cows performance

\*GFLI figure for soya coming into the UK including land use change (LUC)

\*\*NovaPro figure submitted for review into GFLI branded data

\*\*\* Results seen in a trial comparing a NovaPro and wheat distillers based ration against a conventional soya and rape extract based ration

### Carbon footprint

85.4%  
LOWER  
CO<sub>2</sub>e

novapro

520 CO<sub>2</sub>e

Soya

3560 CO<sub>2</sub>e



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