



SAC Dairy Research Centre

Introduction

SAC has focussed its dairy research activity around the Dairy Research Centre at Crichton Royal Farm to provide a world-class research centre for Scotland's dairy industry, and to provide a platform for collaboration with other major players. Our aim is to answer research questions that have a direct bearing on dairy farming.

SAC's primary function is to ensure the practical development of basic and strategic information through research, and then to help implement these strategies by working with the industry, developing R&D programmes to meet industry needs and disseminating results through specialist consultants.

SAC research focuses on improving profitability and thus sustainability, improving cow health and welfare, developing integrated farm management and improving production of milk for different market niches.

Education and dissemination of research findings are integral to the work carried out and our links with associated institutes and universities, in Scotland and beyond, are vital in this respect. Visits to the farm by a variety of organisations are an important aspect of our knowledge transfer work and industry needs.

Since 2002 Crichton Royal Farm has been an innovation site for LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming).

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	Dumfries. DG1 4SZ	

In addition to the Dairy Research Centre SAC has the following other offices in the south of Scotland:

Dairy Select Consultancy	Midpark House, Dumfries. DG1 4SZ	01387 263961
Farm and Rural Business Consultancy	Midpark House, Dumfries. DG1 4SZ	01387 261172
Farm and Rural Business Consultancy	99 George Street, Stranraer. Wigtownshire. DG9 7JP	01776 702649
Farm and Rural Business Consultancy and Veterinary Investigation Laboratory	Greycrook, St Boswells, Roxburghshire. TD6 OEU	01835 823322
Veterinary Investigation Laboratory	St Mary's Industrial Estate, Dumfries. DG1 1DX	01387 267260

This is a summary of current projects being undertaken at SAC Dairy Research Centre

Title	Objective	Funder	Contacts
Dairy systems	To compare animal production, welfare and economic performance of two contrasting dairy farming systems	SEERAD	Dave.Roberts@sac.ac.uk
Genetics	The Langhill herd has two genetic groups: one has been selected for production for 30 years; the other is kept as a control at average UK genetic merit	SEERAD	Mike.Coffey@sac.ac.uk
Animal health	To evaluate the effects of different systems on cattle health with particular reference to lameness and fertility	SEERAD	Colin.Mason@sac.ac.uk
BioCLA	Development of systems which will increase the level of CLA (fats beneficial to human health) in milk	EU	Nick.Offer@sac.ac.uk
Labour and machinery use	To provide detailed information on the labour requirements for different tasks on a dairy farm	SEDG	Désirée Römer@sac.ac.uk
Green Dairy	A reduction in the nitrogen surpluses from dairy farms	EU Interreg	Désirée Römer@sac.ac.uk and Paul.Mardell@sac.co.uk
Feed barrier	A comparison of the behaviour and production of cows behind different types of feed barriers.		Fiona.Lang@sac.ac.uk
Robust Cow	To investigate physical and temperament traits that benefit cows in modern dairy systems.	Defra	Marie.Haskell@sac.ac.uk
Silage evaluation	Facilities to compare silage additives at laboratory or farm scale.	Commercial	Jennifer.Bell@sac.ac.uk
Footbaths	To examine footbath treatments and their effect on dairy cowfoot health.	MDC	Jill.Offer@sac.co.uk
Calf rearing	To demonstrate automatic calf rearing systems and evaluate the effects of early calf nutrition on growth and milk production	Commercial	Jennifer.Bell@sac.ac.uk
LEAF Innovation Centre	Linking Environment and Farming, through Integrated Farm Management	SAC	Dave.Roberts@sac.ac.uk
Crimped maize	A demonstration of growing grain head maize, harvesting it and feeding to high yielding cows as part of their ration.	SAC	Hugh.McClymont@sac.co.uk