

Farmgate Nutrient Balance

01/08/2025 to 31/07/2026



Lower Dunge Farm
Bratton Road
West Ashton
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 6AX

CPH Number:

Single business
identifier

Farm type: Beef & sheep

Cropping

	Area ha
Other crops (incl. uncropped/fallow)	5.00
Grass	10.00
Grass/clover	100.00
Total farmed area	115.00

Milk production

Total volume ('000 litres)	0

Imports

	No. of units	Quantity t or m³ fresh wt, ha	Nitrogen (N) kg	Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅) kg	Potash (K ₂ O) kg
Livestock					
1 beef cow/steer, 3-13 months	150		608	440	62
Livestock sub-total			608	440	62
Animal feeds					
Beef, grower (16% CP)		20	512	231	243
Animal feeds sub-total			512	231	243
Bedding					

Imports

	No. of units	Quantity t or m ³ fresh wt, ha	Nitrogen (N) kg	Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅) kg	Potash (K ₂ O) kg
Straw, barley		37	222	56	429
Straw, wheat		16	80	21	149
Bedding sub-total			302	77	578
Organic manures					
Organic manures sub-total			0	0	0
Inorganic fertilisers					
Other		40	8,360	2,920	4,720
Inorganic fertilisers sub-total			8,360	2,920	4,720
Fixed N from legumes					
Grass		10	0	0	0
Grass/clover		100	15,000	0	0
Other crops (incl. uncropped/fallow)		5	0	0	0
Fixed nitrogen sub-total			15,000	0	0
IMPORTS GRAND TOTAL			24,782	3,668	5,603

Exports

	No. of units	Quantity t or m ³ fresh wt, ha	Nitrogen (N) kg	Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅) kg	Potash (K ₂ O) kg
Livestock					
1 beef cow/steer, 13-25 months	150		1,519	1,100	155

Exports

	No. of units	Quantity t or m ³ fresh wt, ha	Nitrogen (N) kg	Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅) kg	Potash (K ₂ O) kg
Livestock sub-total			1,519	1,100	155
Livestock products					
Livestock products sub-total			0	0	0
Harvested crops					
Harvested crops sub-total			0	0	0
Organic manures					
Organic manures sub-total			0	0	0
Inorganic fertilisers					
Inorganic fertilisers sub-total			0	0	0
EXPORTS GRAND TOTAL			1,519	1,100	155

	Nitrogen (N) kg	Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅) kg	Potash (K ₂ O) kg
Total Imports	24,782	3,668	5,603
Total Exports	1,519	1,100	155
Nutrient balance for the whole farm	23,263	2,568	5,448
Benchmark	No benchmark	No benchmark	No benchmark
Nutrient balance per each ha or acre of farmed land (excluding rough grazing)	202	22	47
Benchmark	30 to 120	0 to 30	0 to 60
Nutrient balance per 1000 litres or 1000 gallons of milk	0	0	0
Benchmark	No benchmark	No benchmark	No benchmark

The Farmgate Nutrient Balances will only have been calculated correctly if all relevant information for the farm has been entered as instructed. Provided this has been done, the calculated nutrient balances for the farm can be compared with the benchmark range for the farm type. If more nutrient is imported onto the farm than is exported off the farm, then the farm has a surplus of nutrient (a positive value); if more nutrient is exported than imported, then there is a deficit (a negative value). About 50% of farms of this farm type would be expected to have nutrient balances that are within the benchmark range.

The benchmark values are current best estimates and are provided for general guidance only. If the nutrient balance for your farm is higher than the benchmark range, it indicates that there is a surplus of this nutrient that is above average for the farm type. It indicates that there may be scope to reduce the import of nutrients onto the farm (e.g. as purchased fertilisers, livestock feeds etc). Other deliberate farm management actions during the assessment year may also have influenced how the calculated nutrient balances (kg/ha) relate to the benchmark values. Examples are given on the next page.

Actions that will increase the calculated nutrient balance:

- The rate of PK application was higher than the crop nutrient requirement in order to raise soil PK Indices.
- Organic manures were applied to a large proportion of the arable land.
- The application of PK from fertiliser or organic manures was intended to supply the nutrient requirement for more than the assessment year.
- More animal feed was used in a dry summer because of poor grass growth.
- Much of the harvested crop was put into store rather than sold during the assessment year.

Actions that will reduce the calculated nutrient balance:

- The rate of PK application was lower than the crop nutrient requirement in order to reduce soil PK Indices.
- Organic manures were not used or applied to only a small proportion of the arable land.
- The soil type is a potassium releasing clay so that lower potash inputs were applied than on other soil types.
- Fertiliser application rates were deliberately reduced or omitted (e.g. a 'PK holiday').

A FACTS Qualified adviser can provide further advice.