



Livestock Innovation at the UK Agri-Tech Centre

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The UK Agri-Tech Centre has made strategic investments to improve the UK's capacity for livestock science research and innovation. We provide an ecosystem that delivers whole chain, science-based solutions at scale, connecting an outstanding breadth of expertise and facilities for science to support innovation for industry, and provide evidence for policy needed in the UK and beyond.

Capabilities and facilities:

Innovation Farm Network

Our innovation farm network is a network made-up of commercial farms, serving as real-world testbeds for agri-tech trials, research and development. This collaborative environment breaks down barriers to adoption and accelerates the development and commercialisation of new agri-tech products. It establishes new benchmarks in agricultural excellence, providing the right environment for agri-tech developers to innovate and collaborate with farmers.

Dairy

Our dairy capabilities include state-of-the-art facilities for research, development and demonstration, focusing on optimising productivity with comprehensive data collection across both housed and pasture-based systems. We integrate advanced technologies like robotic milking, precision grazing and wearable monitoring devices to ensure detailed measurement of production parameters and behaviour. Our centres emphasise environmental efficiency with in-field methane measuring, animal health and welfare through continuous monitoring, and precision-control feeding systems. Collectively, we drive advancements in dairy farming by contributing data to industry and maintaining the highest standards of animal care. We have funded development of a genomic focused genetic evaluation system that provides regular and frequent updates of estimates of genetic merit for UK dairy cattle, which continues to evolve to meet industry need.



Facilities:

- South West Dairy Development Centre (SWDDC)
- Midlands Dairy Research Centre
- Centre for Dairy Science Innovation (CDSI) University of Nottingham
- Precision Grassland Dairy Platform (AFBI)
- Duchy Future Farm
- AFBI Dairy Grazing Platform

Beef and Sheep

Our beef and sheep capabilities encompass advanced research and development in genetics, nutrition, animal health and welfare, and management practices to enhance productivity. Our facilities enable precise measurement of feed and water intake, greenhouse gas emissions, body weight and feeding behaviour to optimise feed efficiency in growing and finishing animals. Research focuses on improving feed conversion efficiency and reducing the carbon footprint of ruminant livestock farming. Additionally, we support the development of products and systems that enhance nutrient use efficiency in sheep and goats, with capabilities focused on monitoring gaseous emissions and other environmental effects.

Facilities:

- North Wyke Farm Platform
- Beef Grower Finisher System (Harper Adams)
- Small Ruminant Research Platform (Aberystwyth University)
- SRUC Beef and Sheep Research Centre
- AFBI Sustainable Cattle and Sheep Research Platform

Pigs and Poultry

Our research facilities support scientifically-sound trials from pilot studies to near-commercial conditions, driving advancements in innovation for pigs and poultry. We conduct advanced research into pig and poultry nutrition, behaviour, welfare, and production systems, collaborating with academic and industry partners to tackle current agricultural challenges. Our facilities offer high health and welfare standards, with flexibility in feeding, housing, group sizes, environmental controls and monitoring. Some of our facilities meet requirements for EFSA and FSA registration work.

Facilities:

- National Pig Centre (Leeds University)
- SRUC Pig Research Centre
- AFBI Hillsborough Pig Unit
- Bristol University Poultry Research Farm
- Allermuir Avian Innovation and Skills Centre (SRUC)



All species

Our comprehensive network of capabilities across all livestock species integrates expertise and innovative technology to advance animal production, health, and welfare. We excel in areas such as infectious diseases, zoonoses, vaccines, genetics, genome editing, imaging and critical care. Our capabilities include advanced diagnostics for early detection of conditions such as lameness and dedicated research spaces for detailed studies in animal nutrition and health. Genetic improvement infrastructure supports research to underpin innovation and evolves to meet the needs for genetic improvement services for industry. Our facilities also include food and feed safety and quality and enhancing shelf life. Our collaborative network drives innovation and accelerates ambition across the livestock sector.

Facilities:

- Large Animal Research and Imaging Facility (LARIF - Roslin)
- The Centre for Digital Innovation Applied to Livestock (C-DIAL - Newcastle University)
- SRUC Mobile CT Scanner, Mobile Sensory laboratory, EGENES
- QUB Centre for Plasma in Agrifood, Advanced ASSET Technology Centre



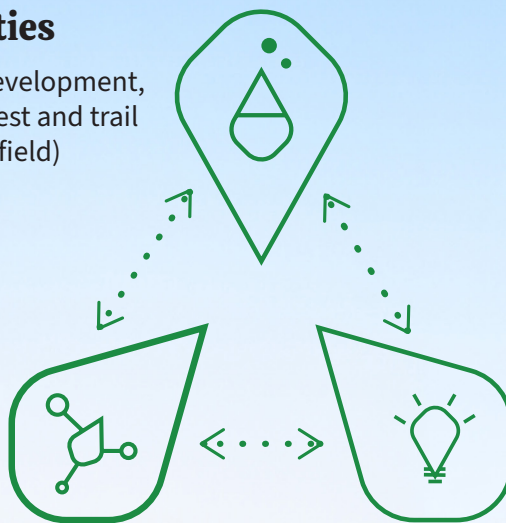
Ecosystem and expertise

Capabilities

Support product development, proof of concept, test and trail (from lab to field)

Network

An ever-increasing range of contacts and collaborators, to drive effective partnerships and connections across the agri-tech innovation system



Knowledge

Combining expertise, professional advice, sector specialisms, market intelligence

Contact us at
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for more information

