

UK DAIRY Day 

Stand F2

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Dairy Light System from Unilight: the only specialist dairy lighting system on the market designed to suppress melatonin production in dairy cattle, and proven to increase milk yields, optimise utilisation of fodder and improve cow fertility

Gloucestershire based Unilight will be featuring its innovative Dairy Light System on Stand F2 at this year's show. The unique lighting system has been specifically designed for the dairy industry and emits a very specific wavelength and intensity of light, proven to suppress melatonin production in dairy cattle. It is the only dairy lighting system on the market with a proven track record in the UK and results independently verified by Alltech E-CO2.

Benefits of installing Unilight's Dairy Light system include:

- Increased milk yield, typically between 8 – 11%, with responses recorded in as little as two weeks
- Optimised utilisation of fodder (reduced feed intake without reducing milk yield)
- Improved cow fertility
- Improved wellbeing of livestock.

Unilight has recently redesigned their unique Dairy Light to take advantage of technological advancements and improved production processes.

Enhancements include:

- Increased light output per watt - fewer lights are required to achieve the required light intensity, making installation more cost effective and payback achieved in well under 6 months in the majority of cases
- Choice of a manually operated or fully automated system to suit all budgets
- Increase in rating from IP65 to IP69 giving excellent protection from dust and moisture ingress and improved tolerance of pressure washing
- Simple and fast cabling connections for cost effective installation.

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Unilight's Dairy Light System Increases Milk Yield by 1+ litre per cow at Cumbria Farm



Unilight has installed a customised lighting system at Heaves Farm, a 180-cow dairy farm in Cumbria. Operated via a purpose-built controller the system features light sensors, dimmers and timers all programmed to the bespoke requirements of each of the client's sheds. Dairy Light emits a specific light spectrum similar to daylight on a mid-summer day. It has a greater proportion of blue spectrum light which suppresses melatonin production. Suppressing melatonin has been scientifically proven to optimise productivity, fertility and milk yields in dairy cattle



Heaves Farm – run by the Mason family - Roger, Carole and their son Gary, has been farmed in the Levens area for over 100 years. Gary is the 5th generation to farm on the Levens Hall Estate, where they milk 180 pedigree Holsteins.

The milking parlour is part of a purpose-built dairy unit which includes housing for 220 dairy cows and young heifers. They can roam as they please and as well as being able to wander outside and eat the fresh grass (when the weather permits) each has access to their own indoor roomy stall complete with padded mattress.

After the completion of the installation, Roger Mason commented 'Yields are up - probably 1+ lt per cow. Intakes are up and the herd are generally keener to be up feeding in the morning, The system was extremely easy to install, an electrician installed the control panel and we were able to install lights ourselves.'

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A REPORT FROM Alltech E-CO₂ CONFIRMS A FARM USING UNILIGHT'S DAIRY LIGHT HAS HAD A MILK YIELD INCREASE OF 9% WITHIN 4 WEEKS!

Alltech E-CO₂, the leading supplier of agricultural sustainability measurement and mitigation services, has generated data from a 240 cow farm that confirms a 9% yield increase after installation of UNILIGHT's patented LED Dairy Light and control system. This, coupled with a reduction in concentrate usage from 0.35 to 0.31 kg/lit, improves margins by 1.9ppl for the year totalling £263 per cow.

Alltech E-CO ₂		Results for Court Farm			
	Pre Installation Average	Post Installation Average	% Change	Financial Implementation (£)	
1. Milk					
Average milk yield per cow per day (l)	31.1	33.9	9.00%	230	*per cow
Milk butterfat (%)	4.12	4.01	-2.67%		
2. Replacement and culling					
Herd culling rate (%)	52	52	0%		
Heifer first calving age (months)	27	27	0%		
3. Crop and resource use					
Nitrogen use per ha (kg N per ha)	105	105	0%		
Diesel use per cow (l per cow)	126	126	0%		
Electric use per litre (kWh per l)	0.052	0.048	-7.69%	356	*per 1M litres
5. Feed					
Total feed use per litre (kg concentrate equivalent/ litre)	0.35	0.31	-11.43%	9,870	*per 1M litres
Carbon performance (g CO ₂ e per litre BFC 4%)	941	904	-3.93%		

Financial implication of adopting 'Post Installation' Scenario	£53,195
Impact on finances per litre (p/litre)	1.9
Impact on finances per cow	£263
Impact on carbon per litre BFC 4%	-36

Notes

Figures for Fuel, Fertiliser, Culling rate and Calving age have remained the same due to the time period of this review. Pre installation core results relate to the performance for January 2016. The post installation relates to the performance of February 2016.

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Unilight has an increasing number of systems up, running and achieving consistently successful results for increased milk yields, wellbeing and fertility. Comments from customers include:

Yields up probably 1+ lt per cow. Intakes up and herd are generally keener to be up feeding in the morning, **220 herd farm Cumbria**

Initial perceptions regarding milk yields are that high yielders have already increased by around a couple of litre. Calving season is going to start off with a bang next September with 64 cows PD pregnant this morning all due to calve in the first 14 days of calving season and all but a handful to sexed semen. Credit has to be given to the new Unilight LEDs for improving further what was already reasonably good fertility.

240 acre farm Northern Ireland

Overall milk yield for July-December 2017 is up 6% on the same months for 2017. As only half of our cows are under the new lights, the expected improvement of 8% would match up with our figures. Another improvement in the herd this year so far is a noticeable difference in the strength and length of heats in the animals. Our fertility figures have been slowly improving each year, but this year the rate of improvement has been better than usual. Our heat spotting has improved (I believe from about 80 to 84%) and rolling 12 month pregnancy rate is 25%, up from 23%. **150 cow herd, Lincolnshire**

The system was extremely easy to install. An electrician installed control panel and we were able to install lights ourselves.

150 strong pedigree herd, Cumbria

The lights have gained us another 2lt per cow per day and the bulling activity has moved to a different level to that experienced before. I would install the lights again knowing the benefits they have brought us.

230 cow farm in Derbyshire

9% yield increase, reduction in concentrate usage from 0.35 to 0.31kg/lt, improves margins by 1.9ppl for the year totalling £263 per cow.

200 cow unit Worcestershire

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