**ALL UK CATTLE (DAIRY AND BEEF)**

This strand of the investigation differs slightly from the main body of work as, currently, intensive dairy and beef farms are not regulated by the Environment Agency (and the equivalent devolved departments) in the same way as poultry and pig farms. Consequently, there are no official datasets available which detail the locations and type (herd size, housing type etc) of intensive cattle units.

The findings consequently draw from a mix of desktop research and field investigations, with the original Ecostorm/WAP research into intensive dairies (from 2015) being updated, along with original Guardian / TBIJ research into intensive feedlots (from 2018).

As the methodology here isn’t purely data-driven, trying to highlight any “increase” in intensive dairy or beef units is not possible, instead the figures should be used to highlight the total numbers of intensive cattle farms. As not every intensive cattle farm will have been identified, it is worth prefixing figures with *“at least…”*

**DATA EVIDENCE**

**1, Intensive dairy units - all UK \*\***

Desktop research has [indicated](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hjsXHiHBHc06YrtZvZnjnMWQtRbipvYQ/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109633480744719855950&rtpof=true&sd=true) a total of ***at least* 92** intensive dairy units across the UK (note industry sources have previously said this figure is closer to 140)

**2, Intensive feedlots (beef) - all UK**

The number of intensive beef “feedlot” type units [identified](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11PCexR5OxhXmHnDThpL__sr66faE9NnC/view?usp=sharing) remains at *at least* **ten (10)**, although it is understood that two or three more do exist (this figure hasn’t advanced on the previous TBIJ / Guardian investigation from 2018)

**3, Approved finishing units (beef) - England and Wales\***

These units, part of the regulated bTB farms programme, have been [identified](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1H8I_c5HQ7g42w8fVCFy2izMpHmXx2kAf/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109633480744719855950&rtpof=true&sd=true) from public records, and indicate that (as of Sept 2023) there are **320** AFU’s where cattle are housed “without access to grazing.”

\*In addition to AFU’s, there are other cattle units regulated under bTB farms programme which operate on a non-grazing basis, although at the time of writing the updated figures have not been verified.

\*\*For intensive dairy classification, *some or all* of the herd should be known to be housed year round

**OTHER EVIDENCE (BEEF AND DAIRY) - TOP LINE FIGURES**

A govt survey (from 2019) relating to England-only [indicated](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18SXnsnZKAgr3XvoCN-ghuMx6JNCenrht/view?usp=sharing) that 4% of cattle enterprises operated a system with animals “housed year round”. The most recent livestock population figures for England-only (Dec 2022) [suggests](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18rCNLZKtMj_OLOi34p_6BKlOKjKVnxvl/view?usp=drive_link) there are 5 million cattle head in the country. Using these as base figures, it could be extrapolated that some 200,000 cattle in England are currently farmed intensively.

ENDS