Methodology of the Equine Carbon Calculator

And emissions factors used in reports ending after 1 April 2025

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Methodology v.EQUINE.3.2
Data collection spreadsheet v.1.6.4
Calculation Engine API v.1.1.1
References v.1.6.4

As a leading carbon assessment tool, The Equine Carbon Calculator is upgraded on a regular basis. This ensures our users benefit from the most recent science, new additional features and a continually improving experience. Read on to find out more.

There will be a series of updates in Spring 2025 where this methodology will be updated further. We expect changes to how the animals section functions and as to how we calculate emissions relating to land use change. Our next scheduled interim update will be in Autumn 2025.

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Glossary

AD	Anaerobic Digestion
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
CH_4	Methane
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
CO_2e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
FYM	Farm Yard Manure
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
N_2O	Nitrous oxide

NH_3	Ammonia
PAS	Publicly Available Standard
SOM	Soil Organic Matter
SOC	Soil Organic Carbon

Document Version

Version	Date	Description
Version 1.0	August 2021	Core FCT Methodology finalised
Version 2.0	May 2023	Core FCT Methodology revised
Version 3.0	April 2024	Core FCT Methodology revised
Version EQUINE.3.0	April 2024	Equine Methodology finalised
Version 3.1	October 2024	Core FCT Methodology revised
Version 3.2	April 2025	Latest Core FCT Methodology revisions
Version EQUINE.3.2	April 2025	Latest EQUINE Methodology revisions

1. About this methodology document

The purpose of this document is to share details about the methodology that sits behind our Equine Carbon Calculator, a valuable tool used to inform the equestrian industry for better decision making. In a world grappling with the urgent task of rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we believe **transparency** in this sector is crucial. By sharing more about how equine-related greenhouse gas emissions are measured, we hope our calculator users and the wider public will have a greater understanding about the priorities and opportunities to make positive change. We also believe transparency will help us build a greater trust and engagement with our community, and bolster feedback that will further improve our calculator.

2. What's changed?

To quickly see what has changed between this methodology and the previous version, see our separate document designed for this purpose - found on our resources page.

In this process there are several items not updated and no longer available in the calculator past April 2025. Usually when this is the case, it is due to a lack of available peer reviewed data. Where gaps in knowledge exist, part of Farm Carbon Toolkit's work has been to identify, generate and fill these gaps.

3. About the Equine Carbon Calculator

The equine carbon calculator was developed by the [Farm Carbon toolkit] in collaboration with White Griffin Limited, Derby College, Hartpury University, Sparsholt College and represents the first nationwide carbon footprinting tool for the equine industry. Pioneered by agricultural carbon calculator specialists, Farm Carbon Toolkit, the free-to-use calculator is here to empower equine businesses and horse owners to understand and reduce our environmental impact, identify cost-saving opportunities, and contribute to countryside regeneration. Without insights into the scale of the challenges and opportunities, the equine industry is hindered in setting meaningful targets. The equine carbon calculator seeks to bridge this gap, empowering stakeholders to make informed decisions for a sustainable future.

All users of the Farm Carbon Calculator accept a set of Terms and Conditions which are detailed on our website here: https://calculator.farmcarbontoolkit.org.uk/terms-conditions/

4. Standards this methodology aligns with

There is no single national or international standard which satisfactorily covers the exact requirements of a farm carbon report. Instead a range of standards are used to ensure quality and compliance.

As such we are actively moving to align with the GHG Protocol agricultural guidance, as well as land-sector based guidance from FLAG. As you will see below, the calculator makes use of the IPCC 2019 and UK GHG Inventory methodologies too.

Our tool can also be used carefully to produce carbon footprints of farm products which exceed PAS 2050:2011 requirements and which are broadly aligned with Life Cycle Analysis guidelines defined by ISO 14044 and PAS 2050 standards. PAS 2050 does not require scope 3 emissions to be included for example, and the Calculator will exceed this requirement in all use cases. In Scotland this means the tool is backed for use by the Scottish Government to fulfill the Carbon Audit requirements outlined in the Whole Farm Plan Scheme and Guidance.

If you have any questions about standards or compliance please get in touch via the details at the end of this document.

5. Independent External Review

We believe it's important for any Carbon Calculator to be independently scrutinised and always ask or check that this is the case. We stand behind this methodology and aim to secure independent external reviews of our work on an annual basis. Our last review of the Farm Carbon Calculator (which the Equine Carbon Calculator is based upon) was completed in February 2025 by the Carbon Trust. This reviewed the user interface, methodology, emissions factors, quality control procedures, and approach to land use change and removals against the GHG protocol, SBTi FLAG and draft LSRG, helping us to identify areas of the tool for improvement. The review highlighted key points of excellence, including:

- The tool encourages knowledge improvement around emissions reductions, with the ability to compare reports over time, there are explanations throughout the calculator and links provided in the full results breakdown to information about emissions sources.
- Users can download their reports in a range of formats (PDF, CSV, JSON).
- The quality of emissions factors - highlighting that BEIS/ DESNZ emissions factors and IPCC 2006 and 2019 emissions factors used where appropriate.
- The calculation methodologies - the IPCC 2006 and 2019 refinement have been used as the main methodological calculation within the calculator, where relevant and employing Tier 2 equations and methodologies, for example for livestock, provides UK specific emissions.
- Users can input primary data to calculate soil carbon sequestration through direct measurements and this method has been validated by a soil science academic.
- The overall layout of sections are consistent and easy to follow throughout the tool.

The review also highlighted areas requiring changes to ensure alignment with FLAG and the draft LSRG and at the time of release are:

- Improving our method to account for historical land use change and amortization of these emissions over a 20 year period
- Adding a land use tracking metric
- Separate reporting of biogenic and non-biogenic emissions
- Inclusion of leased assets
- Data quality scoring for all emissions factors
- Data entry checks to ensure the area entered does not exceed the total farm area
- Data validation checks of report start and end dates

Throughout Spring 2025, our series of updates will address these requirements, as well as bringing improved data entry options and more granularity to the tool.

6. Development cycle

The Calculator's development cycle is summarised in the figure below. The calculator is updated annually in spring though continual updates made usually in autumn - where there is a significant benefit to the end-user.

As we develop the calculator, we believe it's critical to listen to the views, requests and questions of our users to ensure we remain relevant, up to date and as user friendly as possible. We engage in a structured way which involves feedback surveys, and working groups on particular topics which are taken forward during research, development, design, and testing phases.

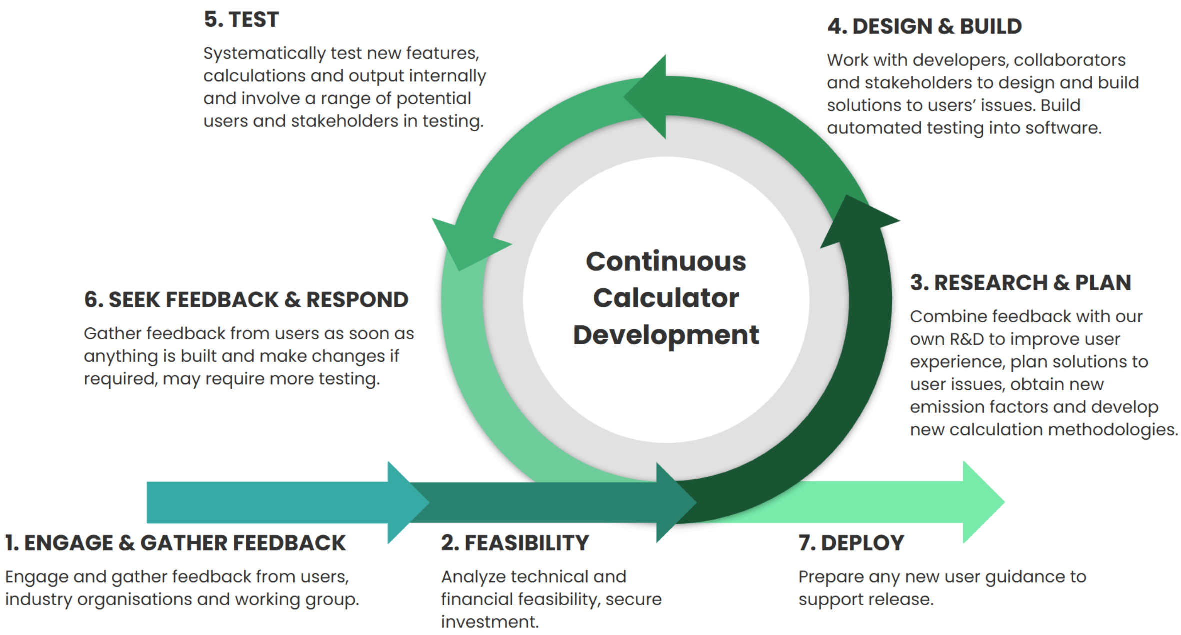

Figure: Equine Carbon Calculator's continual calculator development cycle

7. Structure of the Calculator

The Calculator is split into nine sections, each subdivided into various input fields and produces a report, which can be viewed or exported in a number of ways. Users enter data based on the following guidance:

- What is relevant to their equine business only
- Looking over the previous 12 months from a single point in time
- Including capital items like machinery and buildings that were purchased during the reporting period within the infrastructure section if under 10 years old.

8. Scope of the Calculator

The Calculator has always been designed to be used as a whole yard carbon footprinting tool. However, it can also now be used to produce a footprint on a per product basis (e.g. wheat, milk, potatoes).

The Calculator covers Scopes 1, 2 and 3 in its calculations:

Scope 1	Also known as **direct emissions**, these are emissions that are owned or controlled by the company such as fuel used in tractors, gas for heating and from change of land use. Additional emissions arise from N_2O released as a consequence of manure storage and application.

Scope 2	These are associated with emissions resulting from the generation of **purchased electricity** used on the yard.
Scope 3	Also known as **indirect emissions**, associated with the production, processing and distribution of inputs into the system. For example, fertilisers and the emissions that occurred in the manufacture of machinery, building materials and other yard infrastructure.
Out of scopes	These are emissions associated with the combustion of biofuels, wood or crop biomass.

Users are encouraged to be as comprehensive as possible with the data they submit for their calculation, as this gives more assurance in terms of the reliability of the results.

All GHG fluxes are reported in the standard tonnes of CO_2e. In the final report, a breakdown of fluxes from carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4) and nitrous oxide (N_2O) in tonnes of CO_2e is given, as well as a breakdown of fluxes by scope.

9. Accuracy of results

The accuracy of a carbon footprint report is dependent on a number of factors, including:

- Accuracy of emissions factors;
- Whether a factor is based on actual or proxy values;
- Accuracy of both data collection and data input by the user;
- Level of completeness by the user.

Verification services

At present we do not offer verification of carbon reports for standard users of the Calculator as doing so would require a detailed audit process. We can validate your report - which usually involves a desk-based assessment of its completeness and accuracy, before checking and communicating the results to you. To enquire about this service and how it can help you - get in touch.

As part of our consultancy service our advisors support yards and companies with enhanced footprint calculations where we also verify the inputs - which provides a level of independent auditing our clients need. We do not currently provide this service to a Third Party verification standard e.g. an ISO standard. To find out more about how we can help you see: Our Services - Farm Carbon Toolkit

Proxy and actual data

Some emissions factors are calculated based on actual data (e.g. litres of red diesel used), and some are based on proxy data (e.g. carbon sequestration of hedgerows). This depends on the availability of reference data for a particular item, and how practical it is for the user to provide data. Some items offer a choice between approaches depending on what information the user has access to – e.g. when tracking the emissions of a car, users have the option to fill actual data or proxy data. A user can either input fuel usage for their car directly if the fuel volume has been logged, or alternatively if the volume has not been recorded users can input the mileage driven by the user. The direct fuel usage provides a more accurate assessment of emissions, whereas the mileage provides a proxy value.

Users will not always have access to the equipment to directly measure GHG fluxes on their yards and so even where a user chooses the "actual" option to input data, the report for a yard or product is still an indirect assessment of its carbon footprint.

Users can, however, input direct measurements of soil organic matter (SOM) or soil organic carbon (SOC) which can be used as direct measures of GHG fluxes from soils. Indirect estimations of sequestration and land use related emissions can also be selected in the Calculator where SOM and SOC sampling is not available. If you are seeking to enter the voluntary carbon market, you should check the requirements of any scheme (more guidance here 'Getting paid for carbon').

Confidence levels

In the full results of carbon reports we provide a confidence level column. This ranges from 1 to 3, where results with 3 are those in which we have the most confidence in results. This scale is created by us through an understanding of the accuracy of the emissions/sequestration factors, as well as the likely limitations of user accuracy. For example for emissions from diesel we score this as a 3, because the emissions factors are accurate and we would expect users to also have detailed information on their usage. Conversely, emissions from animals are scored 1 because whilst users will likely have detailed input data, the inherently variable emissions from biological systems like animals limits the level of certainty we can have in these results.

10. References and assumptions

The majority of the emission and sequestration factors that underpin the Equine Carbon Calculator are found within peer-reviewed scientific papers and official government sources, we are transparent about these sources. These references and factors are reviewed and updated annually as part of our update cycle. A full list of current references and assumptions is provided on our website here: References (https://calculator.farmcarbontoolkit.org.uk/references-0) and at the end of this document.

For ease of use, our calculator is divided into the following data input categories and in subsequent sections of this document, we cover the methodology and emission factors used in each:

- Fuels
- Materials
- Infrastructure

- Fertility & Cropping (crops)
- Inputs (agro-chemicals)
- Animals
- Waste disposal
- Transport
- Sequestration (and land use)

11. How do we calculate CO_2e emissions?

11.1. Fuels

Emissions from the use of fuels, electricity, travelling and contractors. These include scope 1 (direct), scope 2 (indirect emissions from purchased energy) and scope 3 (indirect – such as processing and transport) emissions, including ‘well-to-tank’ emissions factors.

Fuels and electricity

All of the items in liquid fuels, electricity, gas fuels, heat & steam, solid fuels and field operations are derived from DEZNZ UK GHG inventory conversion factors (107). The exceptions are:

Section	Item	Reference	Notes
Liquid fuels	AdBlue	69	
Electricity & Gas Fuels	Electricity/Gas exported to the grid	61	GHG protocol agricultural guidance on how electricity export is recorded
Electricity	Tariff with known carbon footprint	N/A	To enable users to input a known carbon footprint of an electricity supplier. Simply direct input of a CO_2e figure.
Gas Fuels	Biogas for Off grid	38	Accounting for gas burnt on site but generated from AD plants.
Deliveries	Known carbon footprint	N/A	To enable users to input a known carbon footprint of deliveries. Simply direct input of a CO_2e figure.
Operations	My Operations	37	Emissions factors are based on average fuel usage for the operation and the UK GHG inventory conversion factors.
	Contractors Operations (C.O.)		

Operations

Users can enter various farm activities under this header based on whether they have carried out the operations themselves or have a contractor undertaking them. This enables the operations to be taken into account if fuel usage is unknown. **If fuel usage is known, this can be entered under Liquid fuels> Diesel> Red Diesel and users should not double count it here**. Field operation data draws from the AHDB's HGCA Calculator (37), multiplied by the diesel emissions factor (scopes 1 & 3) from the UK GHG inventory conversion factors (107). For contracted emissions these will all fall under scope 3 emissions, whereas your own field operations entered this way will be split between scope 1 and scope 3. Additional calculations made for the following options under field operations:

Section	Item	Notes
Hay baling	Small rectangular	Assumes 250 bales/ha
	Large round	Assumes 15 bales/ha
	Heston	Assumes 7.5 bales/ha

11.2. Materials

The embodied energy in a range of materials that may be used on yards, including aggregates, metals, wood and plastics. These are all Scope 3 emissions.

Emissions factors are drawn from the Inventory of Carbon and Energy (ICE) database, either version 2.0 (2), version 3.0 (2a) or version 4.0 (108). Priority is given where possible to the latest version 4.0, then 3.0, and lastly 2.0. A range of metrics are used, including tonnes, kg, m^2 and m^3. The exceptions from this source are listed below, with some being derived from factors in the ICE database, and not drawn directly from ICE:

Section	Item	Reference	Notes
Aggregates	Recycled asphalt	60	Allows the asphalt factor to be adjusted for recycled content
Various	Plastics	107	The plastic emissions factors are taken from the UK GHG inventory conversion factors database.
Fencing	Complete fencing options & components	108 & Calc	Calculating the posts and wire used in common fencing options, multiplied by emissions factors from the Inventory of Carbon and Energy.
	Equine fencing	107 & 108	Calculations based on the material quantity needed per meter of fenceline.
Vineyard trellising	Vineyard trellises	107 & 108	Calculations for trellises based on the materials used
Consumables Packaging	Various	107 & Calc	The emissions factors are calculated based on average weight of the item and material used
Consumables agriculture	Bale wrap	107 & Cal	Factors by the bale provided based on average weight of material used
Horticultural materials	Netting	107 & Calc	Factors for netting based upon material usage

Horticultural constructions	Poly tunnels	108 & Calc	Factor calculations based on material usage for standard polytunnel constructions
Surfacing	Surfaces, subbase, decking, etc.	107 & Calc	Factor for materials from ICE, and area emissions factor based on calculation for surface requirements.
Computers	Laptops & Desktops	109	Proxy emissions factors for embodied energy in computers from IDEMAT
Water	Mains water & sewage	107	Scope 3 emissions for water supply and disposal
Water	Non-mains	N/A	Figure simply recorded as water use. No emissions specifically – any fuel or electricity used in pumping or treatment will be picked up under Fuels.
Cleaning products, detergents, etc.	Various	103	Product specific emissions. "Product not listed" options in each section are the average of specific product emissions included in that section.
Equine surfacing	Arena surfacing materials	107 & 108	Combinations of materials used.

11.3. Infrastructure

This section covers the embodied energy in larger items like machinery and buildings (capital items). The GHG protocol guidance advises that all capital items are accounted for 'up-front' in the year of emissions. This can mean spikes in carbon footprints associated with inventory, and therefore by entering capital items through this tab you have the ability to easily separate out these emissions from the rest of your footprint.

Most of the emissions factors for inventory items are again derived from the Inventory of Carbon and Energy, version 2.0 (2), 3.0 (2a) or 4.0 (108). It is also possible to create "custom" projects and group together any items from the "Materials" section to be treated as capital items. The other data sources are:

Section	Item	Reference	Notes
Vehicles	Cars	91	Values from the Average of all GM vehicles produced and used in the 10 year life-cycle.
	Lorries & Trailers	108	The vehicle is assumed to be built from 95% steel and so the vehicle weight is multiplied by 0.95 and then by the current emissions factor for plate steel
Farm machinery	Tractor, harvesters, etc	3	Based on horsepower of machine – a proxy for emissions

Agricultural buildings	Sheds	108 & calc	This calculation is based on a standard agricultural portal building constructed of concrete floor, steel frame, roof sheets and timber slat walls. Based on a per m2 calculation.
	Stables	108 & calc	Material use adjusted by type and size. Users can enter the number of bays.
Arenas	Outdoor arenas	108 & calc	Assumes 3 bar fencing with kickboard, fleece & polypropylene membrane, drainage pipes, limestone footing, sand & surface material.
	Indoor arenas	108 & calc	As above without fencing and with an agricultural building structure

11.4. Fertility & Cropping (Crops)

This section covers the carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions from fertility and biomass inputs to cropping systems (from varying organic fertility sources).

Crop emissions

Emissions from crops are specifically worked out from the amount of crop (fresh yield) that results in crop residues. Crop residues contribute nitrogenous material to the soil, some of which goes through denitrification to N_2O. To give a more accurate representation of how much crop residue has been left in the field, multiple levels of crop residue management practices are available for input into the calculator. For perennial crops such as soft fruits, top fruits, biomass crops and green manures, temporary grasses and cut forages, the renewal rate (i.e. the frequency at which plants are removed and replaced with new seeds, seedlings or rootstocks) of the plant is included in the calculation so it does not overestimate the amount of crop residues.

The methodology used is that of the IPCC 2019 (94), using emissions factors specific to the UK from the UK GHG Inventory and its annexes (111a & 111b) with reference to the GHG protocol agricultural guidance (61).

Some crops (for example Christmas Tree crops) have been included for data capture only and do not currently have an emissions factor associated with them.

Organic fertility emissions

The application of organic fertility sources will result in N_2O emissions as the nitrogen content of the product undergoes de/nitrification by soil bacteria, which is then volatilised into NH_3 and NO_x, and is leached or runs off from where it is applied. To calculate these emissions we use the IPCC methodology for N_2O emissions from managed soils (94), with nitrogen content data pulled from the RB209 (96b), direct N_2O emissions factors drawn from analyses of UK agricultural soils (51), and indirect emissions factors from the UK GHG inventory (111) and the IPCC (94). These sources allow us to calculate the emissions coming from organic fertility applied to grassland or arable soils during different periods of the year, with separation of different products (from separated slurry components to chemically treated paper crumbs). Conventional application will often have the highest emissions associated with it, and therefore we have included options for alternative application approaches and for post-spreading incorporation based upon in-field research (114).

Section	Item	Reference	Notes
Crops	Agricultural	111b & 94	IPCC methodology, and factors from UK GHG Inventory
	Horticultural	111b & 94	IPCC methodology, and factors from UK GHG Inventory
Market Garden		111b & 94	IPCC methodology, and factors from UK GHG Inventory, item entry in kg or per unit scale
Biomass Crops	Willow coppice	111b & 94	IPCC methodology, and factors from UK GHG Inventory
	Poplar coppice		
	Miscanthus		
	Hemp		
	Switchgrass		
Green manures, temporary grasses and cut forages	All leguminous and non-leguminous green manures and managed perennial grasses	111b & 94	N_2O emissions as part of the N fixation process. IPCC methodology, and UK specific N fixation rates. Note that this does not take account of any carbon sequestration – this is covered under soils in the sequestration tab. Users can enter different crop management regimes. Unmanaged grassland should not be entered here.
Organic fertility sources		51, 94, 96, 111, & 114	Emissions are calculated as per the IPCC methodology or N_2O from managed soils, using UK data sources for N content application approach.
Anaerobic digestion	Running an AD plant	7 & 38	Average emissions of various processes in running an AD plant, including CO_2 and CH_4 emissions. Based on tonnes of biowaste input.
Lime & Mineral fertilisers	Lime, rock phosphate, rock potash, K fertiliser, Gypsum	3 & 111c	Emissions from processing of lime and mineral fertilisers
	Phosphoric acid	109	Emissions associated with production of the amendment
	Potassium sulphate	90	
	Sulfuric acid	109	

Plant raising media	16	Average of emissions for all common plant raising media used in horticulture using the LCA approach

11.5. Inputs

The GHG emissions associated with energy input in the production of agro chemicals and, in the case of fertilisers, the N_2O emissions resulting from their application to UK soils.

Fertilisers

This is split into two sections: one is for generic fertilisers, such as Ammonium Nitrate (Product with 33.5% N) or Urea. These are derived in two parts; the manufacturing emissions from Brentrup *et al.* 2018 (48), and the application emissions from IPCC chapter 11, N_2O emissions from managed soils (94). These fertilisers require the user to specify the country of origin which should be provided on the invoice or labelling (and has a big effect on the carbon footprint of the product).

The second section is for specific solid or liquid fertilisers, including those manufactured by Yara, CF, Origin and Mole Valley Farmers. These are derived from either communication of the recipe and production methods directly from the manufacturer and then calculation using the generic fertiliser values (CF and Mole Avon) or based on verified and certified carbon footprints of those products (47, 48, 49).

The user input figures are based on tonnes or litres of product used.

Two further functions enable users to enter:

1. A specific blend of fertiliser, based on known % of N:P:K, multiplied by tonnes of product used
2. A specific known footprint of a fertiliser, using kg of CO_2e per kg of product, multiplied by tonnes of product used

Overall GHG emissions for fertilisers are based on four processes, and measured in tonnes CO_2e:

- Production emissions to factory/plant gate
- Direct N_2O emissions to soil
- Indirect NH_3 and NO_x losses (to leaching and volatilization)
- Emissions from urea hydrolysis (applies to Urea products only)

All calculations are based on IPCC methodology. The emissions factors for in field emissions are based on MIN-NO project findings (47), which are UK specific, and considered an improvement on IPCC methodology because they are more accurate.

Application is assumed to be by broadcast or application of solution. Nitrogen inhibitors are not accounted for.

Sprays

Sprays can be entered as either "generic" or "actual" depending on whether the product in question is listed in our database. Both rely on the same underlying emissions factors for fungicides, growth regulators, herbicides, insecticides, molluscicides or adjuvants (18, 40) multiplied by the concentration of active ingredient used. For "actual" sprays, we have a database of over 6000+ specific branded sprays and their active ingredient content taken from the UK pesticides register.

11.6. Animals

This section covers nitrous oxide and methane emissions from animals' enteric fermentation and manures, and emissions from imported feeds and bedding.

Animals

Animal emissions are complex and are based on IPCC calculation methodologies for animals. There are several variables which require user input:

- Category of animals, by species, age, use and live weight
- Numbers of animals, on average, per year – both for the current year and the previous year
- Manure handling – the percentage (on an annual basis) of manures handled as slurry, FYM, daily spread, or in-field.
- Adjustments for dairy cattle (based on annual milk yield) and beef cattle (based on average liveweight).

We have split the Animals section into Equine and other agricultural animals, below is a full list of the agricultural animals categories used in the Calculator and their default liveweight:

Category		Category description	Live weight (kg)
Dairy cattle	Dairy cows	Lactating, "dry" or in-calf dairy cows	685
	Dairy heifers	First pregnancy or first lactation dairy cattle under 3 years of age	466
	Dairy replacements (1+ years)	1-3 year old female cattle to join the dairy herd who are not in-calf or lactating	466
	Calves (under 1 year)	Cattle under 1 year old	185
	Dairy beef (1+ years)	Dairy breeds not lactating but fattened for beef (over 1 year old)	550
	Bulls for breeding	Dairy or beef breeding bulls	900
Beef cattle	Calves (under 1 year)	Cattle under 1 year old (male or female)	185

Category		Category description	Live weight (kg)
Beef cattle (continued)	Beef cattle	12-18 months cattle for finishing (male or female)	385
	Beef finishing heifers	18-30 months heifers for slaughter	600
	Beef suckler cows	Lactating, "dry" or in-calf beef suckler cows	550
	Bulls for breeding	Dairy or beef breeding bulls	900
	Finishing bulls (beef)	Bull for beef 12+ months (e.g. cereal-fed)	900
	Beef replacement heifers	First pregnancy or first lactation beef suckler cows under 3 years of age	400
	Beef finishing steers	12-24 months steers for slaughter	600
Pigs	Adult sows	Sows (including sows in pig, sows being suckled and dry sows being kept for further breeding)	185
	Breeding gilts (female)	Gilts (including gilts in pig and gilts not yet in pig)	110
	Adult boars	Boars for service	200
	Piglets	Fattening swine under 20 kg	5
	Weaner pigs (under 20kg)	Fattening swine under 20 kg	15
	Weaner pigs (over 20kg)	Fattening swine 20-80 kg	30
	Finishing pig (porker)	Fattening swine 20-80 kg	77
	Finishing pig (cutter)	Fattening swine 80+ kg	88
	Bacon pigs	Fattening swine 80+ kg	94
	Barren sows for finishing	Barren sows for fattening >80kg	185
Sheep	Ewes	Adult ewes	70
	Replacement ewes	Shearling or replacement ewes (1+ years)	60
	Rams or tups	Adult rams or tups	110
	Lambs	Young sheep under 1 year	25
Poultry		Chickens – layers	2.25

Category	Category description	Live weight (kg)
	Chickens – broilers	2.25
	Chickens - pullets	2
	Breeding stock (all poultry)	0.045
	Ducks	3.25
	Turkeys	13.2
	Geese	7.5
	Pheasants	1.2
Other animals	Goats	50
	Deer (all)	60
	Llamas	60
	Alpacas	110

Horses

Calculations for horses followed the same system as the animals above, with tailoring for different breeds. Data for the average horse heights and weights of common UK breeds was collected from Horse & Country [Horse&Country.tv] (accessed 01/02/2024).

Breed selection:
We have provided a selection of common UK horse and pony breeds from which your animal can be selected. For mixed breeds or for groups of animals a general option has been provided. For mixed breeds users can also select a most similar specific breed as long as it is roughly the same size as your animal.

Inputting the height and weight of the animal:
The size of the animal will greatly affect its emissions, and therefore accurate calculations of your animal's emissions require information on the animal's weight. Weight can be estimated using either weight tape (available at equine stores) or using a bodyweight estimation formula. These are available online, but essentially: (body length in cm x heart girth in cm x heart girth in cm) / 11880 = Approximate weight in kg.

For the most common UK breeds and types of horse, we have provided default weights but you can overwrite these if you have a more accurate estimate. For example, the default liveweight for a "Thoroughbred, Swedish warmblood or Westphalian" is 475kg; if I know that at the last estimate my thoroughbred's weight was 451 kg, I can enter this under "Average live weight per head".

Similarly, if I have a group of 5 thoroughbreds and I know that between them, their average weight was 451 kg, I could enter 5 under "Quantity" and 451 under "Average live weight per head"

Broodmares and Foals:
Weight measurements for broodmares should not be estimated using the weighing tape or formula approaches. Instead the approximate weight of a pregnant mare will be 15% more than its mature weight. Therefore by multiplying the animal's weight from before/after being in foal by 1.15 a good estimate for the mare can be calculated.

Similarly foal weight estimates should be calculated from the likely mature weight of the animal. At six months a foal will be 43% of its mature weight, and at 12 months it will be 61% of its mature weight. So, by multiplying the expected mature weight by 0.43 (for 6 month olds) or 0.61 (for 12 month olds) an estimate for the foal can be generated.

Category	Sub category	Horse breed	Height range	Weight range (kg)
Horse (by breed)	Draught Horse	Hackney horse	14.2–16.2 hands	400-550 kg
		Irish draught horse	15.1–16.3 hands	600-700 kg
		Ardennes or Shire horse or Percheron	15.3–17 hands	700-1200 kg
		Clydesdale or Suffolk Punch horse	16–18 hands	700-900 kg
	Sports Horse	Halfinger horse	13.2–15 hands	350-600 kg
		Arabian horse	14.1–15.1 hands	360-450 kg
		Thoroughbred, Swedish Warmblood or Westphalian	15.2–17.2 hands	450-500 kg
		American or Dutch Warmblood, Holsteiner or Hanoverian horse	15–17.2 hands	450-700 kg
		Cleveland bay horse	16–16.2 hands	550-700 kg
Pony (by breed)	All rounder Ponies	Dartmoor or Exmoor pony	11.1–12.2 hands	200-400 kg
		Dales or Fell pony	13–14 hands	350-500 kg
		Highland pony	13–14.2 hands	500-600 kg
	Miniature Ponies	Shetland pony	7–10.2 hands	180-200 kg
		Spotted pony	8–14 hands	200-300 kg
	Sport Ponies	New Forest or Hackney pony	12–14.2 hands	230-330 kg
		Connemara pony or Welara	11.2–15 hands	290-400 kg
		Argentine or quarter horse polo pony	14.2-16 hands	400-540 kg

Category	Sub category	Horse breed	Height range	Weight range (kg)
General / Mixed breed	General / Mixed breed	Small pony	5-9 hands	180-250 kg
		Medium pony	9.2-12 hands	200-400 kg
		Large pony / Small horse	12-14.2 hands	400-600 kg
		Medium Horse	13.2-15 hands	400-500 kg
		Large Horse	15.1-18 hands	500-1200 kg
Donkeys & Mules	Donkeys & Mules	Donkeys	9-12 hands	180-230 kg
		Mules	14-17 hands	350-450 kg

Entering animal data

Please see notes in our Livestock Wizard or data collection spreadsheet for guidance on completing the animal section of the Calculator (including how to estimate average head of animals in each category over the 12 month reporting period even if they are only there ~6 months).

Emissions factors that the calculations are based on are determined by UK GHG inventory and its annexes (111), and the IPCC 2019 methodology (94). Since the sex and age of the animal affects their metabolism, and therefore their enteric methane (CH_4) emissions and excretion rate, animals are separated by these characteristics in order to improve the estimates of GHG emissions, which are inherently variable. Lactation and pregnancy also alter an animal's GHG emissions so animals are also separated based on this trait.

Within the Calculator, it is possible to simply enter only the average head of animals in each applicable category for the most basic estimation of GHG emissions. In this case, where no liveweight is entered, a default liveweight is used (for categories of growing animals, e.g. calves, this is a midpoint weight within the age-range, to take account of growth across the 12 month reporting period). These default values can be found in the table above.

For a more comprehensive estimation of GHG emissions, we recommend creating multiple entries for each category of animal and entering your own liveweights as this will give a more accurate and representative estimate of GHG emissions. This can be further increased by inputting information on dry matter intake (DMI) per head per year if this is known. Our new Livestock Wizard is designed to make calculating these averages easier for the user for a group of animals of your choice.

A Tier 2 (UK-specific) methodology is employed to calculate animals GHG emissions for cattle, sheep, and pigs. Poultry calculations undergo a Tier 2 calculation but with a zero value for enteric emissions while goats, horses and deer are treated with a Tier 1 (international) methodology.

In this way, the Calculator's animals section is customisable for a range of animals production systems, whilst relying on the generic animals categories underpinned by the IPCC and UK GHG Inventory guidance.

Unfortunately, the IPCC guidelines do not currently incorporate a comprehensive GWP* methodology and there is no consensus on how this methodology would be used. Our teams are working in this area and monitoring guidance as it develops but this does not yet form part of this current methodology.

Animal feeds

These indirect emissions are very important to assess the holistic carbon impacts of keeping animals. If feed has been grown on-farm, users can enter it under 'Feed by-products of on-farm cropping'. Users should still enter the relevant crop / yield information under the crops section with the appropriate residue management option.

The Calculator primarily uses data from the 'GFLI database' (105). Some further data for non-organic feed is obtained from 'GHG emissions from food' (17), along with all the data for organic feeds.

Some emissions factors for feed blends and supplements have been calculated, based on the known constituents of certain blends. This research has been undertaken by Farm Carbon Calculator, based on discussions with feed companies. Using the constituent parts, and data from the GFLI database, the footprint of certain blends has been calculated.

Section	Item	Reference	Notes
Equine feeds	Hay & haylage	17 & 108	Based on silage emissions factor scaled to the dry matter percentage (32% DM for silage, 70% haylage, 85% hay). Wrapped options also include packaging.
Generic Feed blends	16% CP Dairy blend	105 & Calc	Barley/Wheat/Maize [30%], Sugar Beet Pulp [15], Soybean Meal [12], Rapeseed Meal [15], Distillers' Grains [10], Soya Hulls [10], Molasses [6], Minerals & Vitamins [2]
	18% CP Dairy blend	105 & Calc	Barley/Wheat/Maize [28%], Sugar Beet Pulp [14], Soybean Meal [18], Rapeseed Meal [12], Distillers' Grains [10], Soya Hulls [10], Molasses [6], Minerals & Vitamins [2]
	21% CP Dairy blend	105 & Calc	Barley/Wheat/Maize [25%], Sugar Beet Pulp [13], Soybean Meal [25], Rapeseed Meal [14], Distillers' Grains [5], Soya Hulls [10], Molasses [6], Minerals & Vitamins [2]

	24% CP Dairy compound	105 & Calc	Maize/Wheat/Barley [27%], Sugar Beet Pulp [15], Soybean Meal [30], Rapeseed Meal [15], Distillers' Grains [10], Soya Hulls [10], Protected Proteins [10], Molasses [5], Minerals & Vitamins [3]
	18% Fibre blend	105 & Calc	Sugar Beet Pulp [30%], Soya Hulls [30], Wheat Bran [15], Rapeseed Meal [12], Distillers' Grains [5], Molasses [6], Minerals & Vitamins [2]
	18% starch compound	105 & Calc	Maize/Wheat/Barley [45%], Sugar Beet Pulp [15], Soybean Meal [14], Rapeseed Meal [13], Distillers' Grains [5], Molasses [6], Minerals & Vitamins [2]
Calf rearing	Whole milk powder	68	Analysis of production within the research paper.
	Milk replacement powders (all)	105, 67 & 68	Formulations of milk replacement powders taken from 67 and relevant emissions factors applied to constituent parts based on information in 105 and 68
	Calf rearing pellets	105 & 67	Formulations of milk replacement powders taken from 67 and relevant emissions factors applied to constituent parts based on information in 105.
Supplements	Novapro	72	Estimate of emissions associated with constituents of Novapro (factor to be reviewed upon acceptance of product into GFLI database)

Animal bedding

Animal bedding materials emissions factors are taken from the Inventory of Carbon and Energy (ICE) database v4.0 (108) and from the GHG emissions of various straw (17) with users entering tonnes of product for an annual reporting period. If bedding has derived from on-farm production, users can enter it under ‘Bedding by-products of on-farm cropping’. Users should still enter the relevant crop/yield information under the crops section with the appropriate residue management option.

11.7. Waste

This section covers emissions from landfill, and the savings from recycling and composting materials. Users enter data on their annual outputs of waste and recycling from a range of specific categories of materials.

Emissions factors for all waste disposal emissions, including landfill, recycling, combustion and composting come from the UK GHG inventory conversion factors (107).

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11.8. Transport

Travel

All data is from the UK GHG inventory conversion factors (107) and includes all scope 3 emissions, including 'well-to-tank' emissions factors. The 'miles per gallon' function for cars is calculated as a function of miles travelled divided by miles per gallon, to calculate gallons of fuel used. The emissions factor for petrol or diesel in litres is then multiplied by the conversion factor for litres to gallons.

Distribution

Some yards and farms will have the delivery and distribution of produce (such as hay or veg) beyond the yard gate within the scope of the report. These yards will want to consider all emissions associated with their products, and this section will allow you to capture this distribution.

Users can enter the exact fuel usage involved, if the data is available, or use proxy data based upon the delivery distance , the weight of produce being delivered, and the number of times the deliveries occur per year.

All the emissions factors are derived from the UK GHG inventory conversion factors (107). Average values are used, and for road haulage this is based on 50% laden lorries (on a round trip).

Refrigeration

Refrigeration emissions are calculated from refrigerant losses from food storage on the farm (or in packhouses/warehouses/food processing). This is calculated by using the GHG protocol worksheet (12), an online tool to calculate the accurate emissions from refrigerant gases, per year. The figure from the spreadsheet can then be entered directly into the Calculator by the user.

Users are reminded not to double count any data entered in the Fuels section in Transport (and vice versa).

11.9. Sequestration

This section calculates carbon sequestered by perennial plants and soils on the farm or owned by the yard.

Data sources: All of the sequestration factors are proxy figures, except for actual Soil Organic Matter (SOM) or Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) measurements. A range of sources are used in this section:

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Section	Item	Reference	Notes
Soils	Soil Organic Matter	79	Based on actual SOM and/ or SOC from soil samples, users enter data on field size, depth of measurement, bulk density and SOM/SOC results over a given time period. This is converted into changes in volume of soil organic carbon and therefore the amount of carbon sequestered (or emitted) as per IPCC methodology.
	Soil Organic Carbon		
	Carbon stocks		A log of baseline soil carbon stocks in fields. These results do not impact on the overall carbon balance, they are therefore just for reference.
Woodland	Detailed analysis	104	Users input the species, age range and area of woodland. Assumptions of average yield class, average spacing, and no thinning is applied. This is the recommended approach.
	Mixed, coniferous and broadleaf	104	Average values per hectare of types of woodland, over a 200 year average.
	In field trees	104	A per m2 value based on average sequestration rates for deciduous woodland.
Hedgerows	Managed (generic)	22, 25, 99, & 101	Based on the length and width of managed hedges – i.e. those cut on a regular basis. Sequestration factors based on averages from peer reviewed studies.
	Managed hedgerow under 15 years old	87, 88, 89	Based on the length and width of managed hedges - gives age-specific sequestration factors based on UK soil data from peer-reviewed studies.
	Managed hedgerow planted more than 15 years ago	87, 88, 89	Based on the length and width of managed hedges - gives age-specific sequestration factors based on UK soil data from peer-reviewed studies.
	Large growth with trees	25, 99, & 100	Based on the length and width of large growth hedges with trees – i.e. those trimmed or laid on an irregular basis, forming large structures with in line trees. Sequestration factors based on averages from peer reviewed studies.
Perennial crops	Top fruit, stone fruit and nuts	26	Average sequestration values per hectare. Includes biomass only – soil and grass sequestration excluded.
	Grape vines	28	Covers sequestration in biomass only, not soils.
	Miscanthus	29	Sequestration rates in biomass and soils
	Willow & poplar	30	Covering sequestration in both soils and biomass

Field margins	Uncultivated	25	Area of field margins that are permanently uncultivated. Sequestration rates include soil carbon.
Wetlands	Permanent	13	Area of permanent peaty wetland that is ungrazed
Land use change	(various)	23	Changes which result in losses of carbon, such as woodland to arable. This is from carbon losses in soils and biomass. These are considered to be uncommon in a UK setting, but must be accounted for if they occur. These are one off losses. Users should not enter values in here if they have also calculated SOM measurements for exactly these areas of land use change - though this is thought to be an unlikely occurrence.
	Marshy grassland to degraded wetland	44	Sequestration in biomass and soils on a continuous basis. Users should not enter data here if they have included SOM measurements of the same area.
Habitats/ Higher tier stewardship	(various)	44	Sequestration in biomass and soils on a continuous basis for various habitats, as defined in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme for higher level scheme (HLS) options. The underlying data is based on mid-tier options, and only HLS schemes with an equivalent mid-tier option in the study are included. Users should not enter data here if they have included SOM measurements of the same area.
Cultivated peat soils	Peat soils	21	N_2O emissions from cultivated peat soils. Also CO_2 losses from soils – unless users are able to supply SOM results, in which case only the N_2O changes are accounted for. Average values are used from the source.
Uncultivated peatland soils	(various)	82	Emissions from varying states of uncultivated peatland in line with the Peatland Carbon Code.
Countryside Stewardship	(various)	63	Sequestration in biomass and soils on a continuous basis for various habitats, as defined in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Users should not enter data here if they have included SOM measurements of the same area.

12. Other Calculations we use

Fat and protein corrected milk (FPCM)

To calculate the milk KPI (kg CO_2e per kg FPCM) we use the following equation from the FAO 2010 that corrects to the energy equivalent in milk of 4% fat and 3.3% protein (referenced in 81). If the user does not enter a fat or protein content of their milk, the Calculator assumes 4% fat and 3.2% protein. The calculator also assumes 1 litre = 1.035 kg.

kg FPCM$_{[4\%F,\ 3.2\%CP]}$ *= (0.337 + 0.116 * fat % + 0.06 * protein %)*

Conversions from individual GHG emissions to CO_2e

The emissions factors for some items in the calculator come from sources such as individual GHG emissions. For example, when accounting for crop residue emissions it is necessary to calculate the direct and indirect N_2O emissions. The calculations provide a value for the quantity of N_2O released, which we then convert into CO_2e per N_2O in accordance with the IPCC guidelines. The three main GHGs are calculated using the following ratios under GWP100 (53):

- CO_2 to CO_2e per CO_2 = 1 : 1
- CH_4 to CO_2e per CH_4 = 28 : 1
- N_2O to CO_2e per N_2O = 265 : 1

13. What equine business information do users enter?

At the start of all reports users are asked to input information about their farm business. Our team is working to ensure we remain best in class for the privacy and data security of your farm business information. Details of how we process your data is outlined in our Terms and Conditions of Software Access and Use, but to summarise this, we do not use or sell this information for purposes other than helping us calculate your carbon footprint and presenting this back to you.

The following farm business information is asked for in reports:

1. **Yard category (multiple can be ticked)** - Livery yard (or other equine boarding provider), Stud farm, Riding school (riding, driving, reining), Trekking or leisure business, Training yard (horse racing), Competition yard, Sales yard, Equine event venue, Hunt yard, Charity or horse welfare organisation, College or higher education institution, Private estate or individual horse owner, Arable farm, Livestock or mixed farm, & Other

2. **Are horses involved in any of the following sports?** - Dressage, Eventing, Show jumping, Para-dressage, Para-show jumping, Reining, Driving, Polo, Polo Cross, Horse Ball, Mounted Games, Endurance, Vaulting, & Horse Racing

3. **Inventory method** - Determines whether the capital items are being accounted for upfront or whether the emission factor should be depreciated over a 10 year period.

4. **Certification** - BHS or ABRS+ livery yards and riding centre

5. **Yard area** - each of the following categories of land use, in hectares:
   - Cultivated land - all arable and horticulture land that involves soil cultivations (or non/min-till systems)
   - Grassland - temporary and/or permanent grassland, generally used for livestock grazing, and/or forage

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- Non-cropping land - any land not falling under cultivated land or grassland. For example woodland, scrub or other uses which are not generally used for agricultural or horticultural use.

6. **Postcode** - which helps us locate the area where you are based for the purposes of UK benchmarking of results

7. **Overheads report** - users can create Overheads inventories for their business, which is used specifically when creating reports on a per product basis (e.g. wheat, milk., cauliflower) or where multiple enterprises share equipment or resources. User guidance is given on how to create Overheads and Produce basis reports.

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15. Contacting us

We welcome Calculator users to contact the Calculator team with questions, suggestions and comments at any time.

For general enquiries, please email: calculator@farmcarbontoolkit.org.uk or reach out to a member of our team.






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