

Topic

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Tool to calculate greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration (carbon footprint) and to facilitate decision making about reduction on dairy farms

Environment

Socio-economic Resilience



Background

The EU has targets in place to reduce agricultural emissions by 25% by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by 2050, compared to 2018 levels. Using a carbon footprinting tool allows farmers to know their number, and use this to help put actions in place to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration on their farm.

How does the strategy work?

- 1. Select carbon footprinting tool to use. A few examples include:



- 2. Collect farm data and input into the tool (in some country specific tools this process is automated from existing databases)
- 3. Use the tool to calculate the carbon footprint



- 4. Make a plan on what actions could be put in place on farm to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration (e.g. low emission slurry spread, incorporating clover, slurry storage)



Positive features

- Provide farmers with their number (carbon footprint)
- Quantify on-farm emissions
- Benchmark their carbon footprint against other farmers
- Help to encourage farmers to put actions in place to reduce their carbon footprint and meet EU targets



Be careful, especially on these points

- Some tools are country specific, and can not be used in other countries
- Data being used within the tool should be verified if possible (more accurate data gives a more accurate number)

Specific advises

Just knowing your number won't lead to a reduction in emissions, actions must then be taken to implement solutions on-farm

Equipment involved?

- Selected carbon footprint tool
- An advisor may be beneficial to help complete the tool and help put a plan in place to reduce emissions and increase carbon sequestration

Investment?

- Some carbon footprinting tools are free to use, others charge to use the tool (some may be paid for by the milk processors)
- To reduce the farm's carbon footprint, investment in solutions may be required

Assessment of method



Quote of the farmer:

*"Using a tool to calculate my carbon footprint enabled me to know my number and put actions in place to reduce it"*

