

Honours Research Project Information Sheet

Research Details:

- Study area: Agriculture
- Project title: An investigation into the effect of stocking rate on performance parameters on robotic dairy farms.
- Primary researcher: Patrick Armitage (contact details included)
- Supervisor: Terry Pickthall (contact details included)
- Degree course: Bsc(Hons) Agriculture with Animal Science

Invitation:

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and do not hesitate to contact me through the information provided on this sheet if you have any questions or seek clarification.

Thank you,

Patrick Armitage

Study Background.

This study aims to assess how the number of cows per robot milking unit impacts on performance aspects of the herd. The main focus of the study is the effect of stocking rate on milk yield but some health aspects such as lameness will also be analysed. The subject area was chosen as robotic milking is an exciting and innovative technology. The study and its results are used to complete an Honours Research Project which forms part of the final mark for the Bsc(Hons) course I am studying.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen to take part in this study as you represent a group of forward thinking farmers who have chosen to adopt robotic milking technology to address issues surrounding traditional milking systems. You will be part of a study which aims to gather data from a number of farmers which operate robotic milking systems.

Do I have to take part?

It is your decision whether or not to take part in this study. If you decide to participate you are free to withdraw at any point without giving reason and any data you have supplied will be removed from the results.

What do I have to do as part of the study?

Your farm data will be gathered through a questionnaire format this is the only input required from you, however in order to present a true picture of your herd we ask that you complete the questionnaire as truthfully and completely as you are able.

Due to the detail and figures asked for by the questionnaire it is expected to take around (length) to complete.

Will my part in the study be kept confidential?

All the information we collect will be kept strictly confidential. Your data will be given an ID number and all mention of names, address or herd names will be removed so you cannot be recognised.

What will happen to the results of the study?

Your results will form part of the data analysed from the Honours Research Project element of my Bsc(Hons) degree. The project will be subject to marking by the University and will form part of my final grade. Once marked, the project will be available to students through the Harper Adams library. You can request a copy by contacting me; this will be provided after the project has been marked.

Who is organising the research?

Myself as part of the Bsc(Honours) degree supervised by Terry Pickthall.

Contact details

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