

CIEL Feed and Nutrition Open Innovation Group Ruminant

Friday 29th April 2022 - Meeting Notes

Attendees- Andy Alder (chair) David Wilde, Mark Scott, Phil Garnsworthy, Richard Wynn, James McCulloch, Mark Young, Harry Kamilaris, Annie Williams, Fiona Short

Apologies- Francis Lively, Katerina Theodoridou, Sarah Banks, Julie Wright

Comments on notes from last meeting; please see bottom of next page

- Great discussion on different tools, equations, and models. We need to look at the whole farm and balance inputs and outputs, as this is about animal performance as well.
- Concern that gains got from competition between carbon calculators should not be lost due to failure to regulate for common inputs. Adoption of European Code of Good Practice would help.
- Must keep updating projects and obtain funding to keep tools up to date. Don't deliver without ongoing maintenance.
- Look at available tools and assess which are best and where gaps are. Combine the best of the tools and test adding data as we progress.

Actions

- Align with current AIC work. Look at AIC Alliance Group work in this area (**AIC**)
 - Define scope of project in this area (CIEL) for group to develop further
 - Start with Nitrogen then carbon, focus on dairy then move to other cattle and species
 - **DRAFT IDEA – please bring comments on this to next meeting (Everyone)**
 - Desktop exercise to review tools – output is definition of tool specification (Tool v01)
 - Perform lit review of issues to address in tool design
 - Develop tool as add-on or parallel module for existing ration formulation tool for dairy only
 - Aim is to optimise “best value” in terms of cost, profit, env impact (& others?)
1. There are gaps in the GFLI data base ingredients must be assessed to be incorporated. AIC and AHDB have an ongoing data input project.

Action

- Where there are gaps, look to enhance data for ingredients in the GFLI database.
- Need better, simpler process for uploading data to database (outside our scope?)
- Feed into Milk will need revision (outside our scope?)
- Not such a high priority

2. Funding

Action

- CIEL to provide feedback on funding, how it works and commitment.

Tuesday 22nd March 2022 - Meeting Notes & feedback on the notes

1. Farmers need guidance on what to do i.e., a model to use that provides some insight as to what would happen if they made changes. This would be useful to see the effect of former foods or alternative proteins on production and emissions
2. How much protein is required? Previously formulations have been based on energy, but this is changing. Need better tools related to protein requirements and dietary supply
3. Knowledge transfer ~~is minimal in the industry~~ and should be increased to the benefit of all producers.
4. Link between health, nutrition, and age of first lactation.
5. Issues with the GFLI data base in that there are gaps which need filling, and some of the data is from Europe so may not be relevant to UK farming systems.

Actions

- a. James will update us further on work AIC are doing in terms of Carbon monitoring and modelling.
- b. Mark Scott (lead), James, Julie and David will consult and respond by 8th April on the following:
 - Define the model, and parameters needed
 - Key interactions
 - Academics will then review and comment.

[Feedback on notes from meeting on 22-Mar-2022](#)

- Point 2 - should refer to crude protein
- Point 3 – KE is not “minimal”. It is good in some instances but generally could be improved and more done to influence influencers.
- Point 5 - James will ask Jane Salter to join the next meeting to update the group as to where AIC stand, modelling, GFLI, labelling etc. Is there a role for AIC and CIEL?