

What does methane emissions have to do with livestock production?

All UK countries have ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) in agriculture. Methane is a major contributor to these emissions and livestock are estimated to contribute over 50% of total agricultural GHG in the form of methane (CH₄).

More robust figures are needed, however, to account for local production systems. It also raises the question, how can we reduce emissions from agriculture?

The focks and herds at the SRUC Beef and Sheep Research Centre were used to measure emissions.

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Research led by Future Farming Systems group but involved researchers in Animal and Veterinary Science and collaborators at six other UK centres.**

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**For further info
<http://www.ghgplatform.org.uk/>
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Detailed inventories will help build a more accurate reflection of the environmental impact (in carbon terms) of actual production practices. In turn, this will help inform management decisions towards reducing emissions and supporting productivity.

Carbon emissions are effectively outputs that have not been converted into desired/ saleable output. Many mitigation measures to reduce emissions can, therefore, also improve efficiency – reducing costs or improving output – supporting both environmental and business sustainability.

For more information on carbon footprinting contact SAC Consulting Rural Business Unit at rbuedinburgh@sac.co.uk or other Information