

NEWS RELEASE

SOMERSET PRODUCER WINS MILKMINDER AWARD

Paul Cary from Dangerfield Farm, near Frome in Somerset is the winner of the 2010 Promar Milk minder manager of the Year Award. He was presented with the trophy at the Dairy Event and Livestock Show today (7th September).

Promar Milk minder is a comprehensive costing scheme which helps farmers improve technical and financial performance and Mr Cary beat off over 700 other dairy businesses to win the award which has been made for over 25 years.

Mr Cary runs a herd of 147 cows averaging 8,064 litres at 4.04% butterfat and 3.35% protein. His focus on producing high quality grazing and silage allows him to produce 60% of all milk from forage, far in excess of the national average of 25%.

In the last year yields increased by 300 litres with no change in milk quality, while concentrate feed rate fell by 9%. Yield from forage increased by 9% with a 15% increase in the yield from grazing. Margin over purchased feed stands at an impressive £1881 per cow.

“Mr Cary has developed a simple but effective system with a tight control of production costs,” comments Promar regional consultant David Burns. “By producing exceptional yields from forage they are able to protect the business from rising feed costs. This, combined with high yields, means he can generate the margins needed to meet the other demands of the business and show what can be achieved in today’s difficult dairy market.”

	March 2009	March 2010
Cows in Herd	146	147
Yield per Cow (litres)	7775	8064
Yield from Forage per Cow (litres)	4404	4829
Yield from grazed grass per Cow (litres)	2274	2625
Concentrate Use per Litre (kg)	0.23	0.21
Margin Over Purchased Feed per Cow (£)	1831	1881