

## Step by Step Guide to getting started with CAFRE Benchmarking

### Introduction

CAFRE Benchmarking is an online application designed to help farm business owners assess the performance of their business and compare the farm performance with other similar businesses. The CAFRE Benchmarking application enables assessment of both the whole farm business and individual enterprises within the business.

### Logging in to CAFRE Benchmarking

CAFRE benchmarking application can be accessed here:

[www2.daera-ni.gov.uk/AuthWeb/auth/login/CAFREBmkPRD/2/](http://www2.daera-ni.gov.uk/AuthWeb/auth/login/CAFREBmkPRD/2/)

Farm business owner/member enter their Government Gateway credentials\*

*\*Government Gateway accounts must be enrolled with DAERA and linked to a registered Farm Business member. This account will give the business member full access to the Farm Businesses benchmarking account. Government Gateway credentials used to access NIFIAS, SFP or any other DAERA Online service will work with CAFRE Benchmarking. Remember always keep your Government Gateway details safe.*

*For more information about registering a Gateway Account with DAERA, please contact your local DEARA Direct Office.*

### Your CAFRE Benchmarking Home Page

Once logged in, the user is presented with the Farm Business Account home page:

The screenshot shows the DAERA CAFRE Benchmarking interface. At the top, the DAERA logo is on the left, and the user's name 'Ronan Coll' with a 'Sign out' link is on the right, marked with a red box and the number 1. Below this is a navigation bar with 'CAFRE Benchmarking' on the left and a business details box on the right, marked with a red box and the number 2. The business details box contains the text: 'Business MY FARM BUSINESS, My Address, My Town, My Postcode, (Business Id: 600000)'. Below the navigation bar is a '< Back' link. The main heading is 'Account details'. Underneath, it says 'Business 600000'. A red box with the number 3 highlights a table of cases. The table has three rows: 'Case (2023)' with 'Edit case' and 'Notes' links and 'Status: Rejected'; 'Case (2022)' with 'Edit case' and 'Notes' links and 'Status: Rejected'; and 'Case (2019)' with 'Edit case' and 'Notes' links and 'Status: Submitted'. At the bottom, a red box with the number 4 highlights an 'Add a new case' link.

1. Name of Farm Business member logged in
2. Farm Business Details
3. List of saved Benchmark cases, including current cases status and links to view data/reports.
4. Create new case link

## **Adding a new Benchmarking Case**

Each benchmarking cases should contain 12 months of data. When creating a new case you should enter a year (eg 2024) which represents the majority of your 12 month recording window. We recommend that you record data covering a calendar year (1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December). Other 12 month recording windows can be used if more suitable for your business.

Only 1 case per year is allowed. You can use the current year and/or any historic year if required. There is no limit to the number of cases you can create for you farm business.

Click: Add a new case and enter a case year

The screenshot shows the DAERA CAFRE Benchmarking interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the DAERA logo and the text 'CAFRE Benchmarking'. Below this, a light grey bar displays the user's name 'Ronan Coll' and a 'Sign out' link. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail '< Back to account' and a business identifier 'Business: MY FARM BUSINESS, My Address, My Town, My Postcode, (Business Id: 600000)'. The form contains several key elements: 1. A text input field for 'Case (2024)'. 2. A dropdown menu for 'Status: Created'. 3. A section titled 'Case items' containing two rows: 'Core data' with links for 'Add core data' and 'Whole farm report', and 'Enterprise' with a link for 'Add enterprise'. 4. A separate 'Add enterprise' link below the case items section. 5. A green 'Submit' button at the bottom.

Every case has:

1. Case year – This represents the 12 months of data added to the case and was entered by the user who created the case
2. Case Status – This indicates the current case progress
3. Case Items – All cases will contain a “Core” enterprise used to add general farm information and data which will be distributed across any additional farm enterprises. Additional enterprises can be added using the “Add Enterprise” link.
4. Add enterprise link- This enables the user to add additional enterprises to the case. Pick an enterprise from the available list and enter (optional) enterprise name. Each enterprise type can be used only once per case.

## Adding Data to an Enterprise (including Core)

After creating a new case and adding any additional enterprises, data can be added to any of these enterprises by choosing the Edit Enterprise link.

Each enterprise has a unique set of data points. Data entry is arranged in “Pages” of data collection points. It is important to ensure that all necessary data is entered accurately. Users can navigate to different pages using the links on the application

This is an example of a data collection page (Dairy Cows enterprise – Enterprise Info)

**DAERA**  
CAFRE Benchmarking Ronan Coll | [Sign out](#)

1 Business: MY FARM BUSINESS, My Address, My Town, My Postcode, (Business Id: 600000)

< [Back to account](#) < [Back to case items](#)

3 [Enterprise Info](#)  
[Livestock Valuation](#)  
[Milk Details](#)  
[Animals Out](#)  
[Animals In](#)  
[Purchases \(feed\)](#)  
[Purchases \(other\)](#)  
[Calving Info](#)  
[Mortality Check](#)

Dairy cows ( test) 2 Status: Rejected

## Enterprise Info

Milk purchaser	<input type="text" value="Other"/>
Predominant breed	<input type="text" value="Friesian"/>
Pedigree	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Calving pattern	<input type="text" value="Block winter - Sep to Jan"/>
4 Summer management	<input type="text" value="Fully at grass"/>
Feeding system	<input type="text" value="Total mixed ration (TMR)"/>
Zero graze (% of summer diet)	<input type="text" value="0.00"/> %
Robotic boxes	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Farm buildings & groundworks	£ <input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Notes/comments	<input type="text" value="Training Data"/>

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The Data entry page includes

1. Farm Business information
2. Case Status
3. Data entry Page menu – Allows you to jump to data collection page
4. Data entry fields – Where all data is recorded
5. Save button – Click to save all data to the CAFRE Benchmarking Database

## Submitting Case data to the CAFRE Benchmarking team

Once all the case data has been recorded and saved, the case can be submitted to the CAFRE Benchmarking team for review.

DAERA

CAFRE Benchmarking Ronan Coll | [Sign out](#)

Business: MY FARM BUSINESS, My Address, My Town, My Postcode, (Business Id: 600000)

[Back to account](#)

Case (2024) Status: Created

### Case items

Core data	<a href="#">Add core data</a> <a href="#">Whole farm report</a>
Dairy cows	<a href="#">Edit enterprise</a> <a href="#">Remove enterprise</a> Financial report <a href="#">All</a> <a href="#">Top 25%</a> <a href="#">Bottom 25%</a> Physical performance report <a href="#">All</a> <a href="#">Top 25%</a> <a href="#">Bottom 25%</a>
Dairy heifers	<a href="#">Edit enterprise</a> <a href="#">Remove enterprise</a> Financial report <a href="#">All</a> <a href="#">Top 25%</a> <a href="#">Bottom 25%</a> Physical performance report <a href="#">All</a> <a href="#">Top 25%</a> <a href="#">Bottom 25%</a>
Forage	<a href="#">Edit enterprise</a> <a href="#">Remove enterprise</a>

[Add enterprise](#)

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The case is submitted by clicking the “Submit” button.

Submitting the case will do the following:

- Change the case status from “Created” to “Submitted”
- Prevent the user from editing or changing any case data, please ensure all data is recorded before Submitting a case.
- Alert CAFRE that the case data is ready for review

When the case has been reviewed by CAFRE, the case status will change to reflect the quality of data. Case statuses can be changed to:

**Approved** – The case data is of sufficient quality to provide the farm business owner a with an accurate assessment of their farm business. The case reports will display benchmarking averages.

**Published** – The case data is of sufficient quality to provide the farm business owner with an accurate assessment of their farm business, plus the data is representative of farm businesses in Northern Ireland and will be included in any benchmarking average calculations. The case reports will display benchmarking averages.

**Rejected** – The case data is of insufficient quality to provide the farm business owner with an accurate assessment of the farm business. If rejected, the business owner can edit the case data and resubmit the case for review. If rejected the case reports will not display benchmarking averages.

## Viewing Case data and reports

Case data and case reports can be view at any time after the case has been created and some data saved. All reports will remain draft/unapproved until the case has been submitted by the farmer business owner and approved by CAFRE. Current case status is displayed on all case screens. Unapproved (or rejected) cases do not display any benchmark averages in reports.

The screenshot shows the DAERA CAFRE Benchmarking interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the DAERA logo and the text 'CAFRE Benchmarking'. Below this, the user's name 'Ronan Coll' and a 'Sign out' link are visible. The main content area shows a case for '2024' with a status of 'Created'. Under the 'Case items' section, there are several categories: 'Core data', 'Dairy cows', 'Dairy heifers', and 'Forage'. Each category has a list of actions: 'Add core data', 'Edit enterprise', 'Remove enterprise', 'Financial report', and 'Physical performance report'. The 'Whole farm report' link under 'Core data' is highlighted with a red box and a '1'. The 'Financial report' and 'Physical performance report' links under 'Dairy cows' are also highlighted with a red box and a '2'. At the bottom, there is an 'Add enterprise' link and a green 'Submit' button.

Reports can be viewed/downloaded by clicking the appropriate link:

1. Whole farm report – this report summarises the contribution each recorded enterprise has made to the whole farm
2. Financial/Physical reports – these reports detail each enterprises information, including values for outputs, variable costs, Gross Margins, Fixed costs and Net margins. Data is reported for the whole enterprise and summarized on a per animal, per Hectare or per litre basis where appropriate. Approved reports also contain benchmarked values for All, Top 25%, Bottom 25% businesses. Users can view the report by choosing the appropriate link

Example of a Benchmarking Report\*

	1		2				3
	2 Years Ago	1 Year Ago	This Year (2023)				Average all
	£/Cow	£/Cow	£/Cow	£/Ha	PPL	Total	£/Cow
<b>Output</b>							
Milk output			2509.17	9342.18	35.29	381393.32	2886.62
Calves			348.46	1297.40	4.90	52966.00	229.30
Less replacements			-308.21	-1147.54	-4.33	-46848.00	-301.25
<b>Total Output</b>			<b>2549.42</b>	<b>9492.04</b>	<b>35.85</b>	<b>387511.32</b>	<b>2814.66</b>
<b>Variable costs</b>							
Forage Costs			211.52	787.55	2.97	32151.64	211.64
Concentrates			1195.37	4450.62	16.81	181696.00	1044.39
Vet/Medicine			100.32	373.52	1.41	15249.00	71.67
Breeding Costs			52.98	197.26	0.75	8053.00	44.09
Sundry Costs			220.37	820.48	3.10	33496.00	165.09
<b>Total variable costs</b>			<b>1780.56</b>	<b>6629.43</b>	<b>25.04</b>	<b>270645.64</b>	<b>1536.89</b>
<b>Gross margin</b>			<b>768.85</b>	<b>2862.61</b>	<b>10.81</b>	<b>116865.68</b>	<b>1277.78</b>
<b>Overhead costs</b>							
Machinery depreciation			133.79	498.12	1.88	20335.57	100.88
Machinery running costs			17.56	65.39	0.25	2669.66	48.46
Fuel costs			41.92	156.09	0.59	6372.26	49.37
Contractor costs			206.93	770.44	2.91	31453.07	130.24
Building depreciation			48.20	179.45	0.68	7325.85	165.80
Property repairs			82.11	305.72	1.15	12481.07	55.42
Energy costs			64.97	241.88	0.91	9874.84	52.27
Water & rates			3.27	12.18	0.05	497.06	16.35

\*Data shown is for illustration only and is not based on actual data

CAFRE benchmarking Reports have the following layout:

1. Historic Data – A summary of previous 2 years if available
2. Current Data – The calculated data for the case year, including the enterprise total and summarised by animal, area or appropriate metric
3. Benchmarking Averages – This will display the average for All, top 25% or bottom 25% of cases, depending on the report selected. The column is blank for all unapproved cases, ie Created/Submitted or Rejected.

More information about understanding the CAFRE benchmarking reports can be found here – [Link to a more descriptive note about reading the report.](#)