

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 fgures 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.

digestive processes (passage rate etc) and physiological state (lactating or dry). This shows there is scope for reductions.



The state of the art 'GreenCow' facility at SRUC.

The 'GreenCow' measurement chambers are used to measure methane emissions in housed livestock. This highly accurate facility has also been used to test and validate conceptual handheld recording devices.

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Project fnish date: March 2016.

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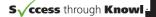
The UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory Project was funded by Defra and the UK's Devolved administrations. The Scottish Government provided further funding.

For further info http://www.ghgplatform.org.uk/ Summary printed 10/2015.

Detailed inventories will help build a more accurate refection 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 effciency – 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 orther Information



Knowledge Transfer and Exchange Programme (supported by the Scottish Funding Council, SFC).