

2.1 SUSTAINABLE MILK PRODUCTION

Sustainable milk production is one of the pillars of responsible development strategy of Hochland Polska. As a food manufacturer with an established market position, we consistently implement measures intended to reduce our environmental impact throughout the entire value chain. By collaborating with milk suppliers, Hochland strives to ensure that the raw milk delivered to our plants is produced in an environmentally friendly manner, in accordance with animal welfare principles, and in a way which is financially viable for the farms. Hochland aims to support farmers in building modern, resilient and efficient farms which can meet the challenges posed by climate change and market conditions.

Collaboration with milk suppliers

Hochland Polska cooperates with approximately 400 family dairy farms. The collection area covers three provinces: Lublin, Podlasie and Mazovia, and we collect milk within a radius of approximately 100 km from our plant in Węgrów. This approach helps to reduce transport-related emissions and strengthens the local farming communities.

The Milk Supplier Relations Department hosts a team of specialists responsible for analysis, accounting and providing technical support to farms. Four Collection Coordinators play a key role here, working closely with farmers on a daily basis to help them improve their production by improving milk quality, maintaining high hygiene standards and ensuring animal welfare.

Competence development of four milk suppliers

Regular meetings with the Milk Supplier Advisory Board and the organisation of training sessions for farmers help to jointly develop production practices.

In 2025, the latest edition of the training conference for milk suppliers took place, focusing on key aspects of sustainable production – from the quality of the raw materials and animal welfare to the energy efficiency of farms.

During the event, farmers attended talks provided by experts in animal husbandry, veterinary science and cattle nutrition.

Hochland strengthens the competences of its suppliers through such initiatives and works together with them to raise milk production standards.



Photo: Training conference for Hochland Milk Suppliers, 21 January 2025

BEST PRACTICE

SUSTAINABLE MILK PRODUCTION

A PRACTICE RECOGNISED IN THE RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS REPORT – GOOD PRACTICE 2024

2.1 SUSTAINABLE MILK PRODUCTION

Animal welfare as the foundation of quality

Hochland believes that high quality milk starts with animal welfare. The company promotes practices that ensure comfort, health and appropriate living conditions of cows, and supports farmers:

- monitoring herd health, implementing disease prevention measures,
- improving welfare conditions,
- and optimising feeding in line with current scientific knowledge.

This enables the reduction in the use of antibiotics and improves milk yield.

Annual supplier competition – Hochland recognises the commitment to environmental protection

To further encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly solutions, Hochland Polska organises an annual competition for milk suppliers.

One of the key assessment criteria are the measures taken at farms to protect the environment and promote sustainable development.

As part of the competition, the company awards farmers who:

- implement innovative technologies reducing emissions,
- invest in renewable energy sources,
- improve resource efficiency,
- develop regenerative farming practices,
- and take action to promote animal welfare and soil conservation.

The competition serves an educational and inspirational pur-

pose – it rewards the best practices whilst promoting them among other suppliers.

These measures support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, improve farm profitability and increase their resilience to fluctuations in energy prices.



Photo: Milk Suppliers Competition Gala, 28 August 2025

PURPOSE: ANIMAL WELFARE

KPI: 70% OF FARMS IN “LEVEL A” TO 2025

Target successfully reached by 2025

73% of farms meet the criteria for the A (most stringent) cow welfare standard according to the principles developed by Hochland Polska in cooperation with the Polish Milk Chamber, farmers and other milk purchasers.

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Calculation of emissions from milk production

Since 2023, Hochland Polska has been calculating its greenhouse gas emissions across all three areas.

In 2025, a detailed analysis was carried out for emissions associated with the production of milk – a key raw material used by the plants.

These emissions, which fall under area 3, account for 57% of the total carbon footprint of the organisation.

The data was collected directly from the farms and included i.e.:

- cow feeding,
- energy consumption,
- fertilisation
- and manure management.

The calculations were carried out using specialised tools that comply with international standards, and farmers provided documentation from their farm management systems and administrative processes. Information without a source reference was verified against regional benchmarks, and values deviating from the norms were analysed manually.

Support scheme for milk suppliers

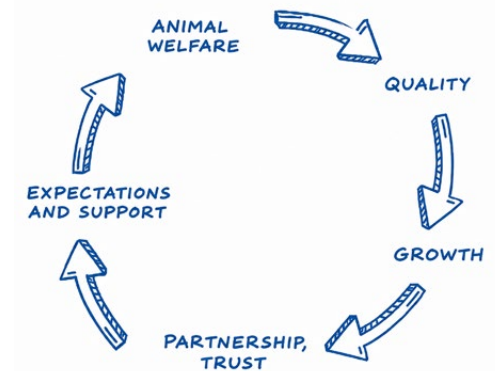
As part of the project, Hochland is helping suppliers to accurately measure their emissions and identify areas with the greatest potential for reduction. The programme includes:

collection of production data from farms, using specialist tools to calculate carbon footprints, preparing individual reports for farms, providing advice on effective feeding and animal welfare, monitoring progress and updating data in subsequent years.

Project objective	Results
promoting sustainable practices	the farms have obtained specific figures which enable them to manage emissions effectively
improving data transparency	Hochland has significantly improved the quality of the environmental data used to calculate the carbon footprint of the organisation and the products,
long-term cooperation with the suppliers	the project has helped to raise climate awareness among farmers and improved their skills in sustainable agriculture.

A shared path towards the future

Sustainable milk production is a process which requires cooperation, education and continuous improvement. Thanks to the commitment of our suppliers, experts and industry partners, we are building a value chain meeting consumer expectations, protecting the environment and supporting the development of local farms. We believe that the energy transition and responsible resource management are key to the long-term stability of the dairy sector.

**BEST PRACTICE**

TOOL CALCULATOR OF MILK CARBON FOOTPRINT