Re-Livestock
RESILIENT FARMING SYSTEMS

PRACTICE ABSTRACT 12
Housing strategies to help dealing with climate change in dairy cattle

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WP4:
Re-Managing at farm level for livestock resilience

Managing Heat Stress in Dairy Cattle Production

Rising temperatures due to **climate change** significantly threaten **animal welfare** in **dairy cattle production systems**. The resulting **heat stress** not only endangers **animal health** but also may affect the **productive performance** of these farms.

To address this challenge, the **Re-Livestock Project** offers practical strategies to enhance **animal welfare** and support the farmers by improving **daily farm management**.

In the project context, the **optimisation of animal showers** and using **shading** to reduce **heat stress** will be tested.

Enhancing Animal Welfare in Dairy Farming

As for **showering** the animals, the project focuses on determining their optimal number and frequency to mitigate stress without compromising other crucial aspects of **animal welfare**, such as ensuring the animals' **adequate rest**.

Regarding the use of **shadows**, the **Re-Livestock Project** applies **precision livestock farming tools** to assess **animal behaviour patterns** linked with available shade and climatic conditions, thus determining the most effective use of shade on rearing farms.

The outcomes of these trials will substantially contribute to improving **animal welfare** and sustaining **productive performance** in **commercial** and rearing **dairy farms**.

Empowering Farmers for Sustainable Dairy Production

In all, by providing farmers with **practical tools**, the project empowers them to **optimise** their processes and **adapt** their practices, thereby ensuring the **well-being** of the animals and the **long-term viability** of the **dairy cattle production sector**.

Figure 1. The experiment that are currently carrying out in relation to the usage of shadows.