



中國農業大學  
China Agriculture University

WORKING TOWARDS  
CARBON-NEUTRAL  
DAIRY FARMING



# Climate care dairy farming aspects in China

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28<sup>th</sup> August 2023 Lyon France



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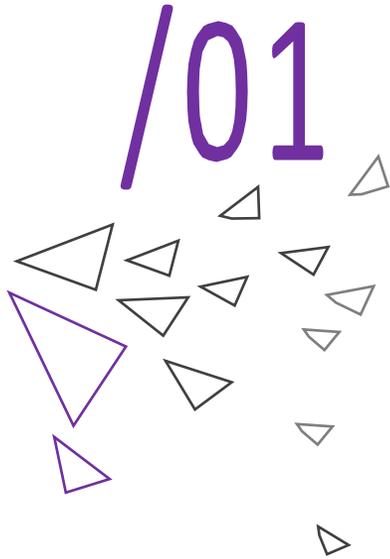
## 04 Take home message

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CGTN



Modern Dairy Farm  
Bengbu, China



# China's commitments and dairy sector



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# CURRENT EMISSION SITUATION IN CHINA

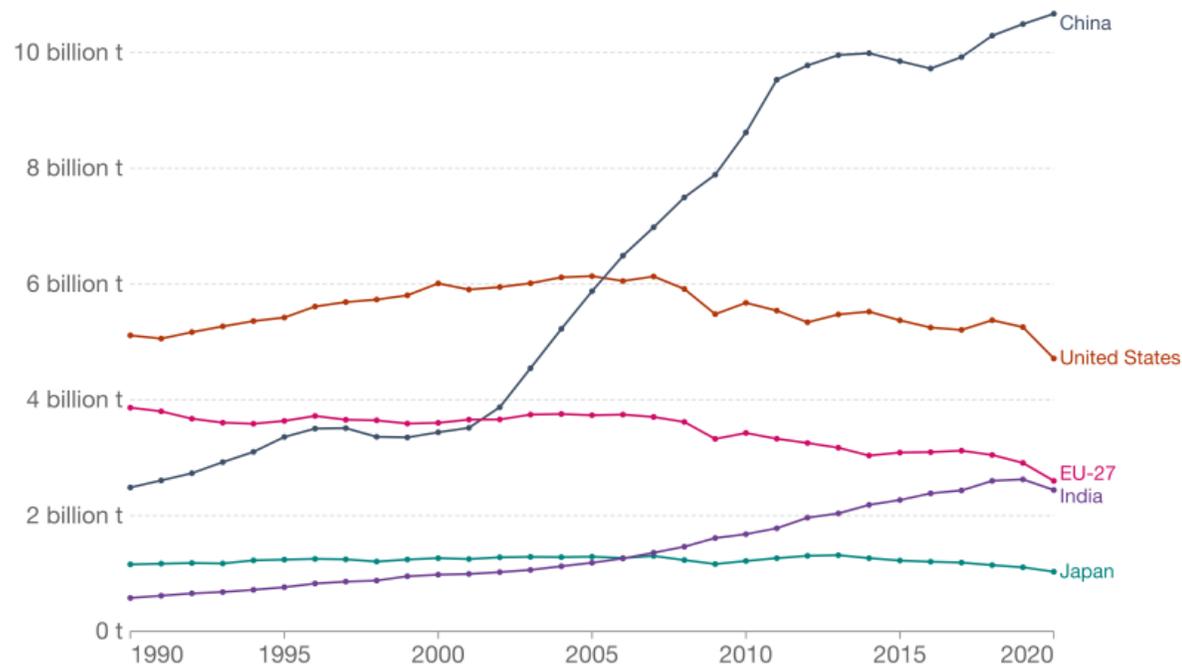


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## Annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from the burning of fossil fuels for energy and cement production. Land use change is not included.

Our World in Data

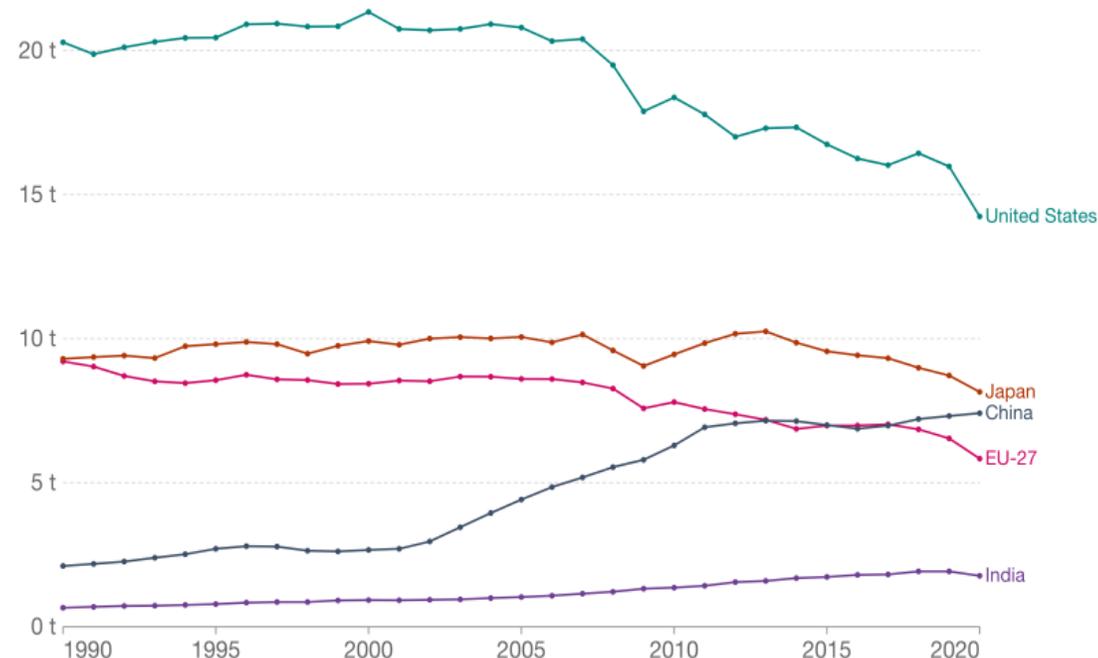


Source: Global Carbon Project  
OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions/ • CC BY  
Note: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are measured on a production basis, meaning they do not adjust for emissions embedded in traded goods.

## Per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from the burning of fossil fuels for energy and cement production. Land use change is not included.

Our World in Data



Source: Our World in Data based on the Global Carbon Project  
OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions/ • CC BY  
Note: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are measured on a production basis, meaning they do not adjust for emissions embedded in traded goods.



# "Dual Carbon" Goals – Carbon Peaking and Carbon Neutrality



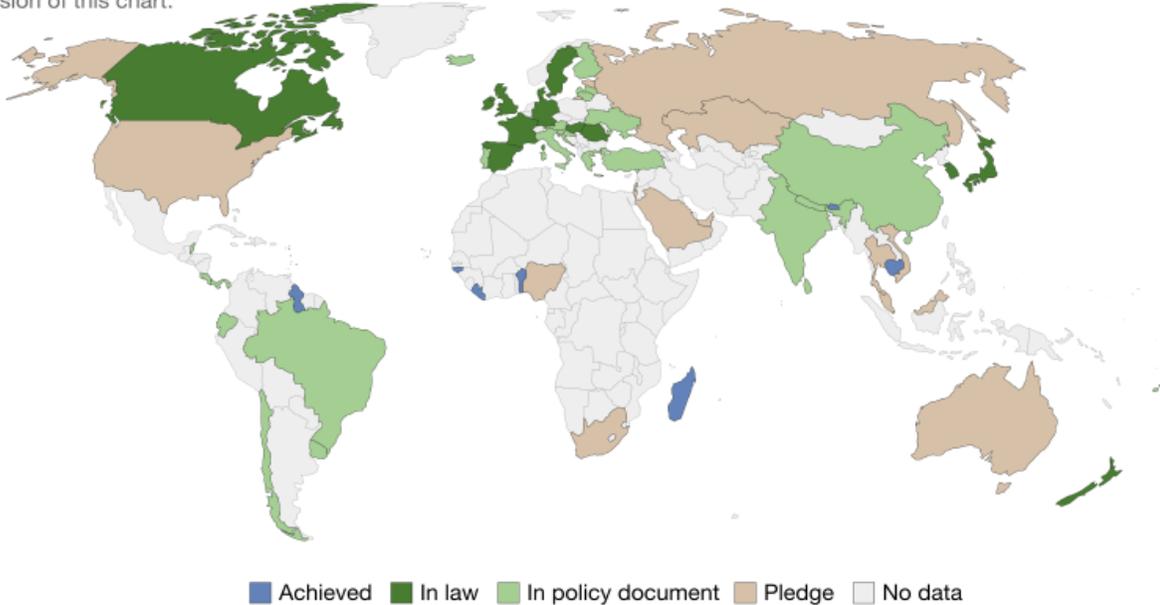
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## Status of net-zero carbon emissions targets

The inclusion criteria for net-zero commitments may vary from country to country. For example, the inclusion of international aviation emissions; or the acceptance of carbon offsets.

Our World  
in Data

To see the year for which countries have pledged to achieve net-zero, hover over the country in the interactive version of this chart.



Source: Net Zero Tracker. Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit, Data-Driven EnviroLab, NewClimate Institute, Oxford Net Zero. Last updated: 2nd November 2021. [OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions](https://OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions) • CC BY

## Peak Carbon emission —

2030

## Reach Carbon Neutrality —

Before 2060

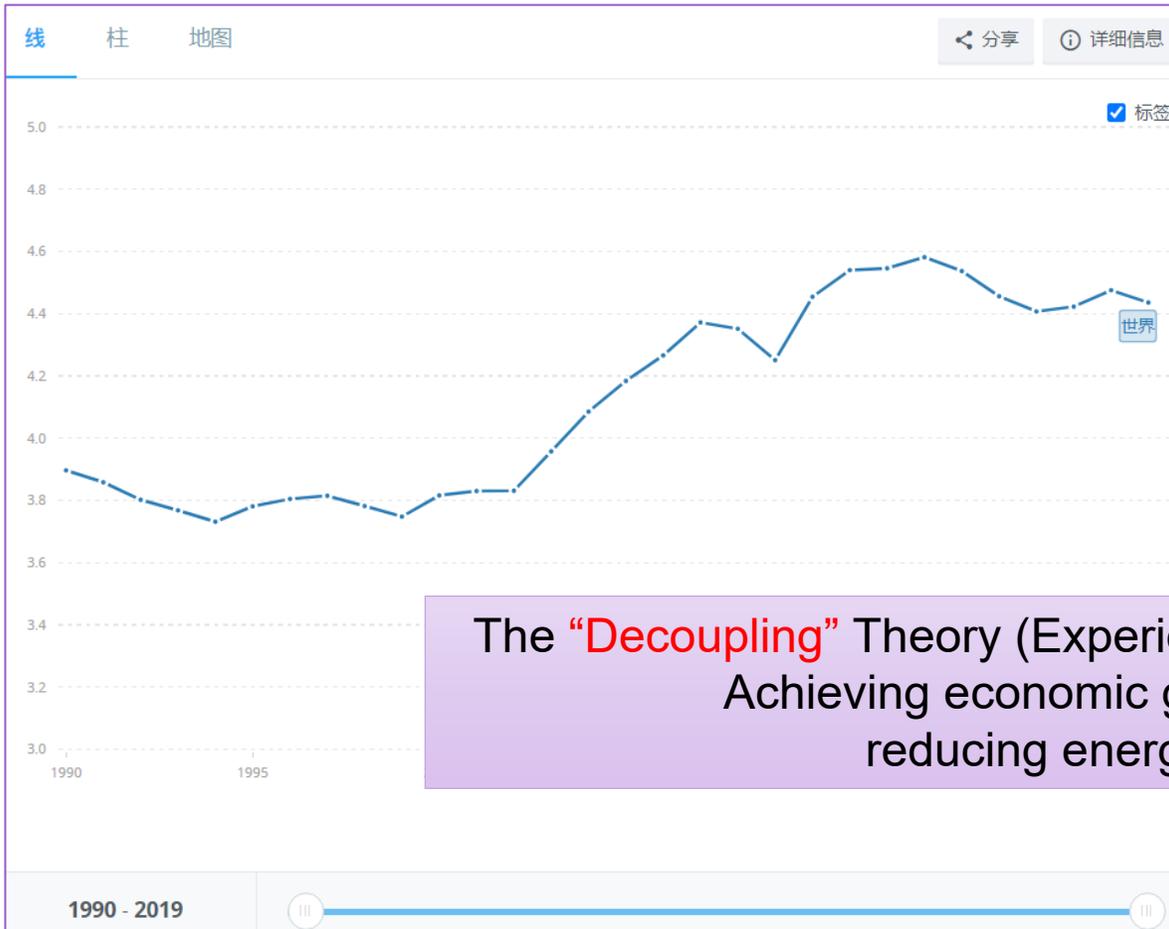
The total amount of carbon emissions in the US, the EU and other regions is stable, with the peak ending in the 2000s and 2010s, and it is expected to achieve "carbon neutrality" around 2050



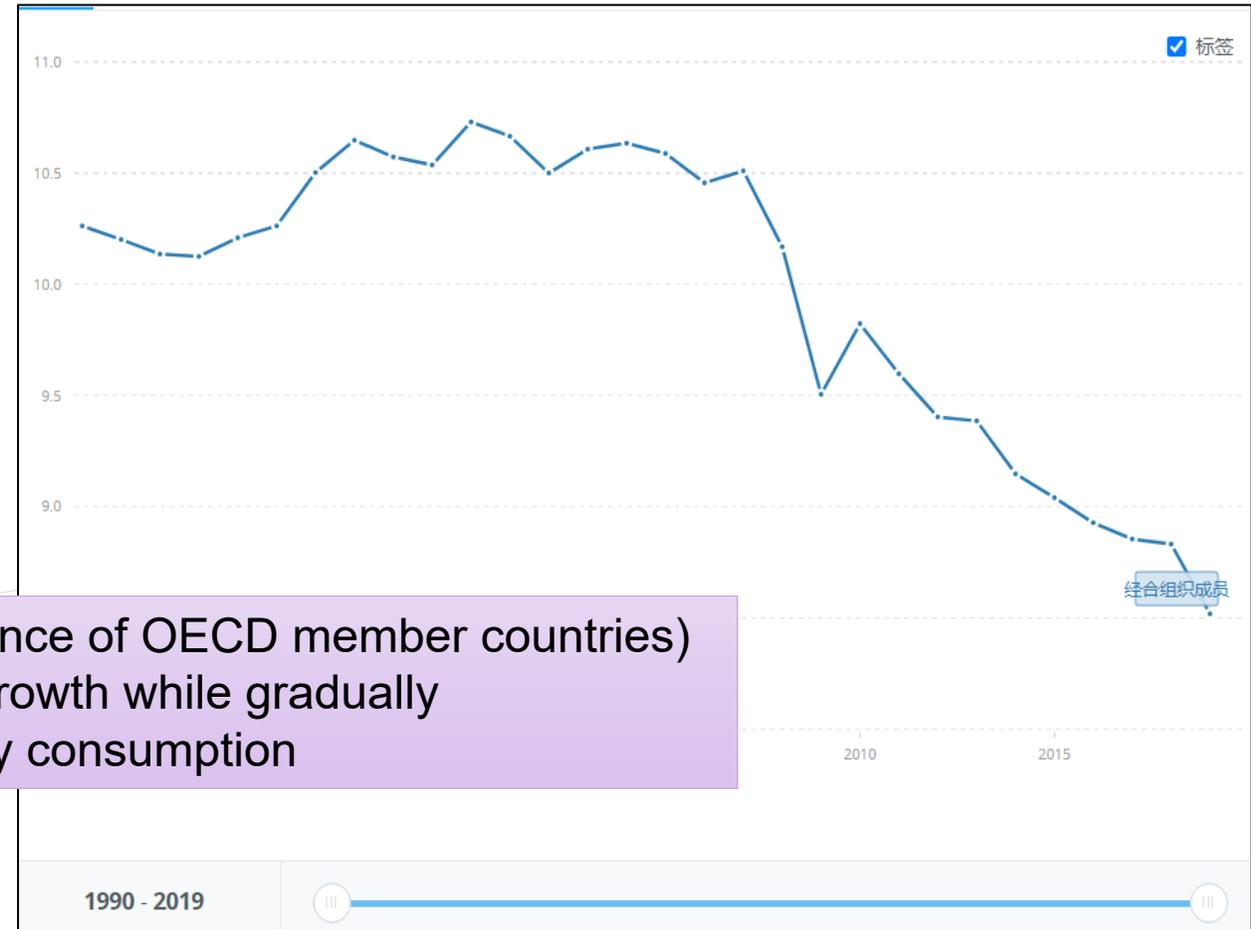
# Economic Foundation for the Implementation of the “Dual Carbon” Strategy



### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (tonnes per capita) - World



### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (tonnes per capita) -- OECD members



The “Decoupling” Theory (Experience of OECD member countries)  
Achieving economic growth while gradually reducing energy consumption





# The Key to Implement the “Dual Carbon” Strategy

The underlying reasons for the evolution of carbon emission patterns lie in the changes in energy consumption, energy consumption structure, and industrial structure

Implementing the 'Dual Carbon' strategy will trigger widespread and profound systemic changes, achieving a comprehensive balance and coordination of all elements between the two critical points of **maximizing development and minimizing emissions.**

Analysis of the 'Dual Carbon' practical path tailored to local conditions and coordinated with the industrial structure

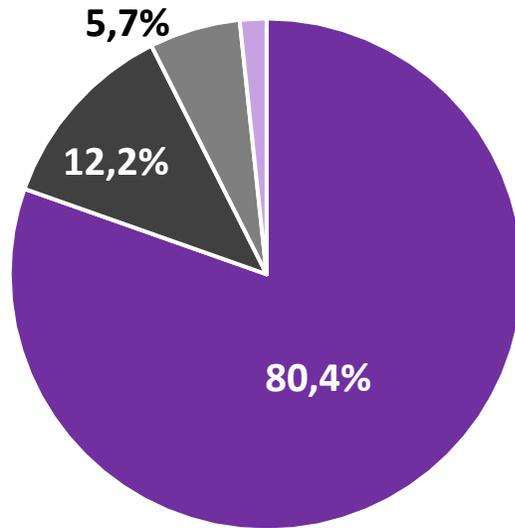


**Mode of economic growth**

- Sustainable
- Inclusive
- Resilient



# Sources of greenhouse gas emissions in China



In 2010, China's GHG emissions amounted to **9.551 billion tons** of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, of which CO<sub>2</sub> accounted for 80.4%, and methane accounted for 12.2%.

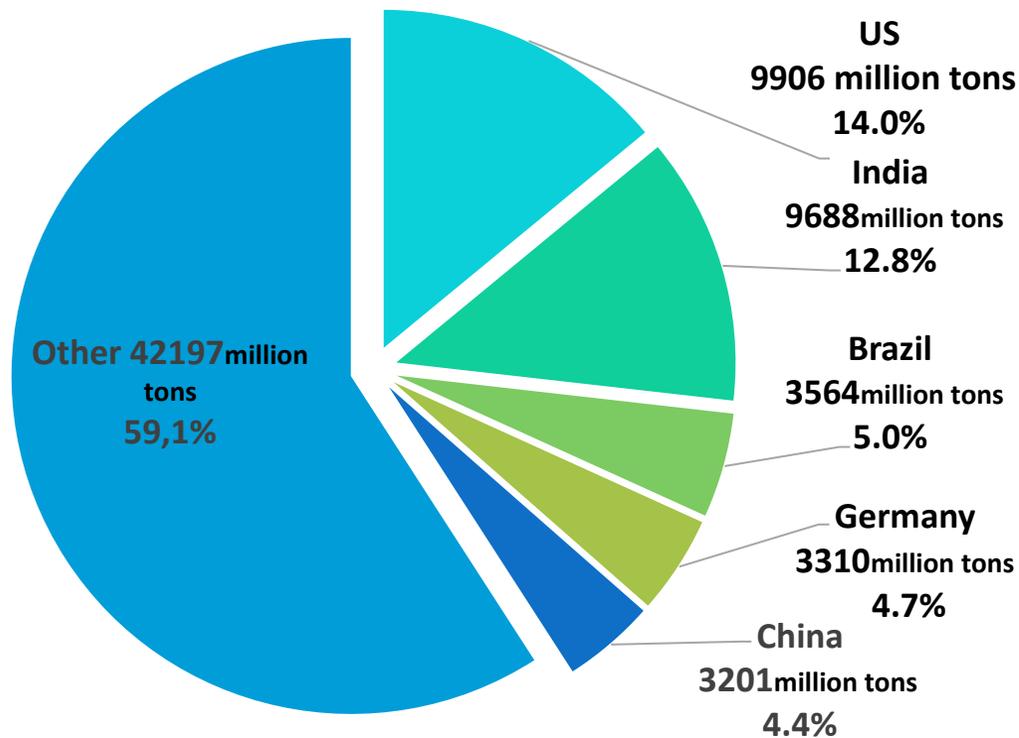
CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from China's agricultural activities amounted to 471 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, approximately 66% of which came from the cultivation of ruminant animals.

## China's GHG emissions in 2010

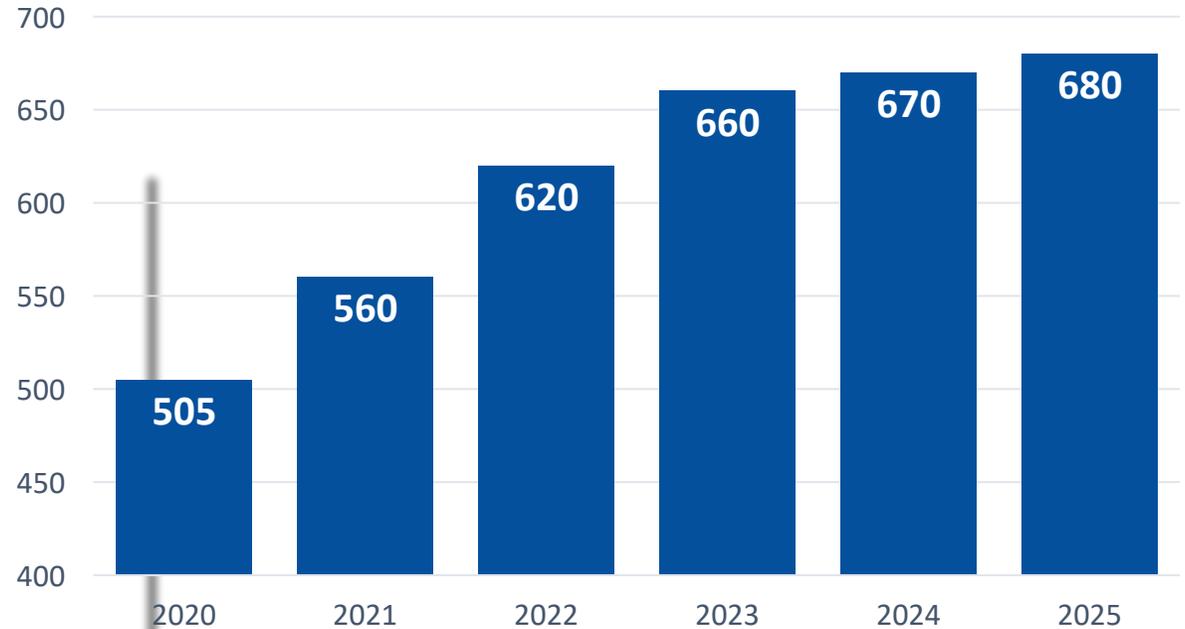
- China's ruminant animal breeding ranks among the top in the world, with 12.5 million dairy cows (ranked fourth globally), a stock of 66.18 million beef cattle, and a combined stock of 300 million sheep and goats, ranking first in the world.
- At the same time, with the continuous development of China's economy and the upgrading and adjustment of meat consumption structure, the demand for high-quality livestock products (such as beef, mutton, and milk) and the breeding quantity of ruminant animals will also continue to increase

# China's milk production and dairy cattle inventory situation

The global milk production in 2019 was 71,399.4 million tons



The global milk production in 2019



Estimated Dairy Cattle Inventory in Large-scale Farms during the 14th Five-Year Plan Period (in thousands)

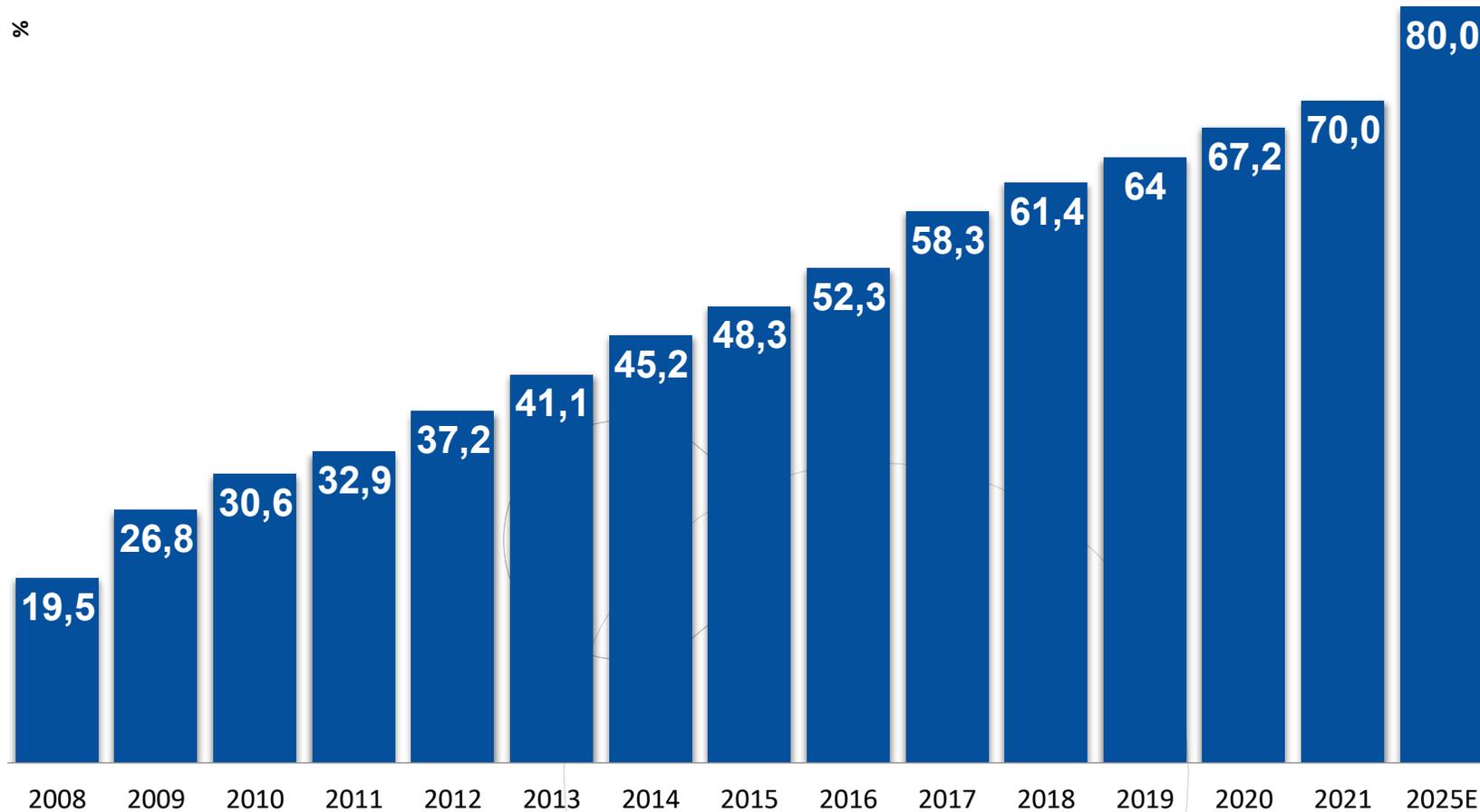
- ✓ Before 2023, the natural growth rate of dairy cows was at 5%, and it has since slowed down.
- ✓ During the 14th Five-Year Plan period(2021-2025), the import of dairy cows will range from 900,000 to 1,000,000 head.



# The Proportion of Large-scale Dairy Farming (With stock of Over 100 cows) In China has increased By Nearly 50 Percentage Points

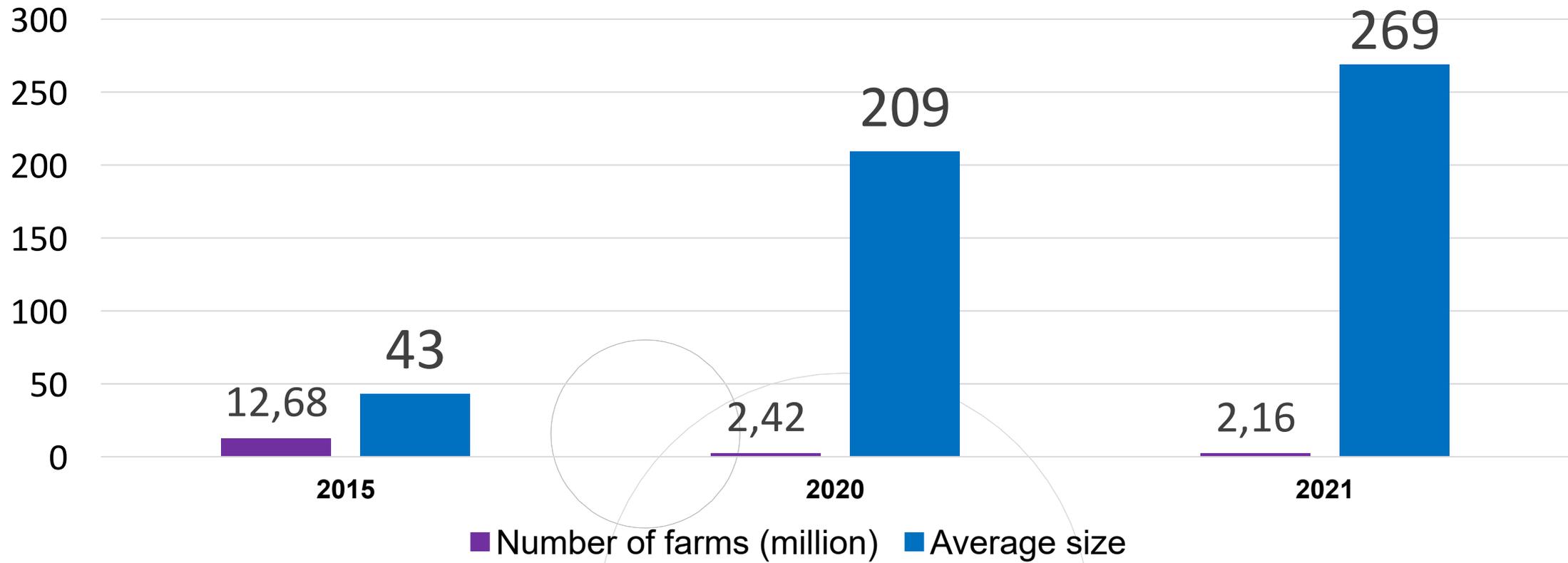


## Proportion and Forecast of Large-Scale dairy farms





# China's dairy farming is dominated by large-scale intensive farming system





# The Cost of Feed for Dairy Cattle Farming Continues to Rise

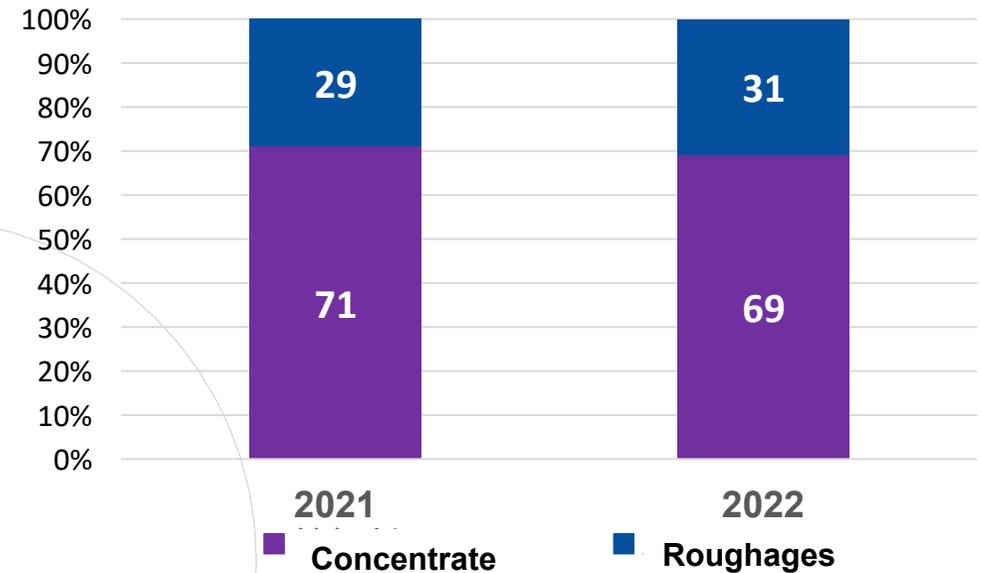
The increase in feed prices has led to a daily rise of 8 yuan per head in dairy feed costs, with the cost of feed per kilogram of milk increasing by 0.25 yuan.

Based on preliminary research findings, as of August 2023, **the cost per kilogram of milk is 3.81 yuan/kg.** Currently, the dairy farming industry is experiencing significant losses.

## Calculation of the Impact of Feed Price Changes on Milk Production Costs

|   | 2021.3 | 2022.3 | Rate of increase |
|---|--------|--------|------------------|
| Cost of Ration (yuan/kg)                    | 65.7   | 73.2   | 11%              |
| Cost of Feed per Kilogram of Milk (yuan/kg) | 2.19   | 2.44   | 11%              |
| Total Cost per Kilogram of Milk (yuan/kg)   | 3.42   | 3.81   | 12%              |

## Estimated Distribution of Feed Costs in the Year 2022 (%)



Source: NDITS; Roughages refers specifically to silage and hay.



## 40,000 heads in stock– Modern Dairy BENGBU Farm

- How can we produce more milk with fewer cattle to meet the future market demand for high-quality dairy products?
- How can we fundamentally address the industry issues of 'three highs and one low' (high input, high energy consumption, high pollution, and low competitiveness) and revitalize the dairy industry through a low-carbon development path?



WORLD  
RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE



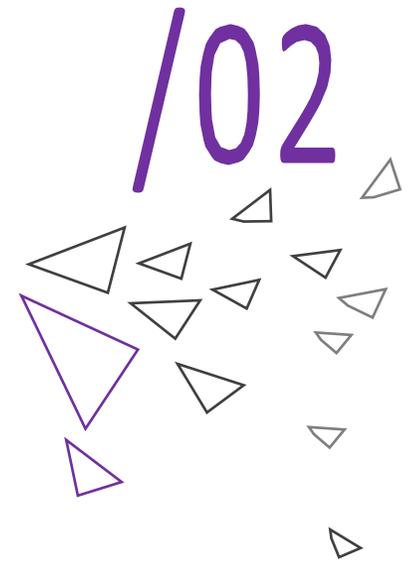
International  
Organization for  
Standardization



wbcSD



中国可持续发展工商理事会  
China Business Council for Sustainable Development

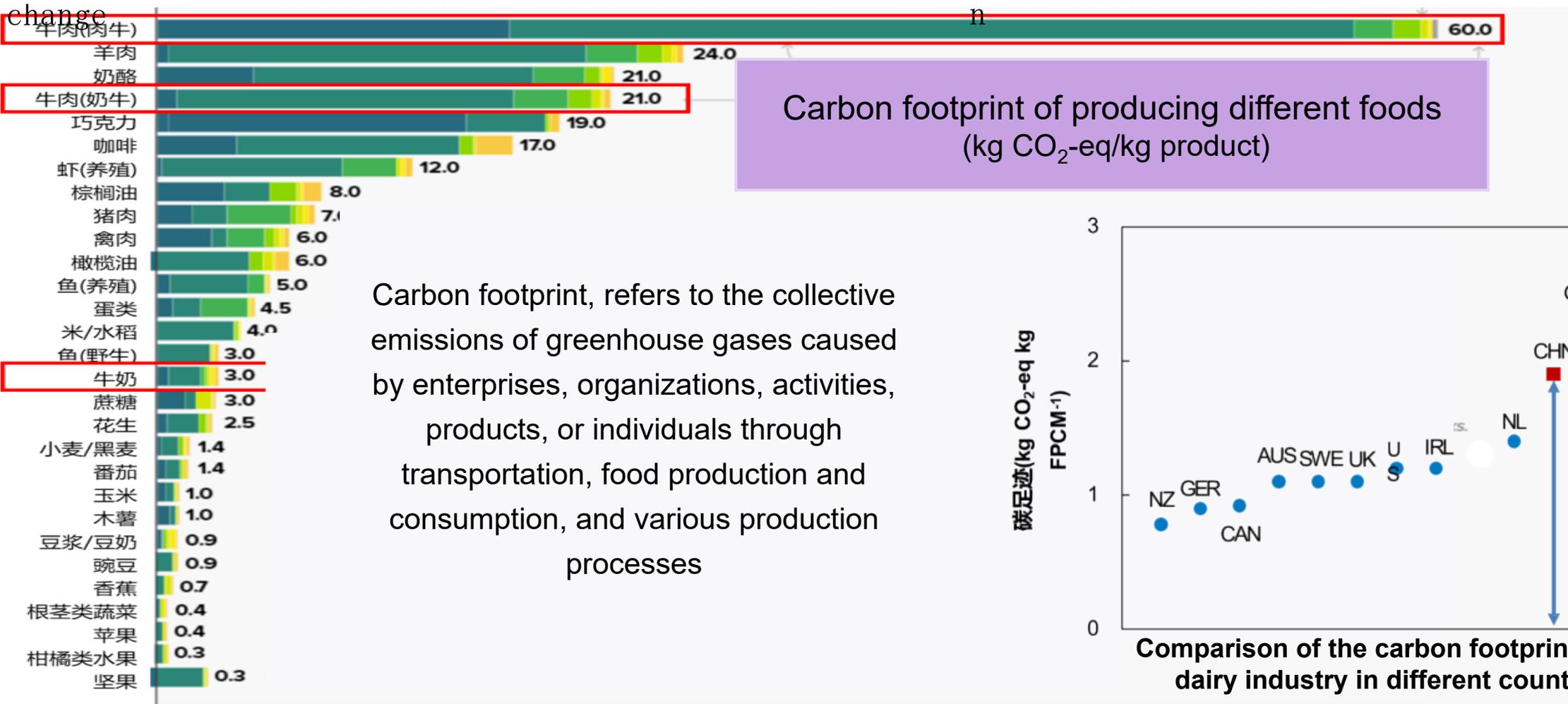


# The carbon inventory of China dairy farming system



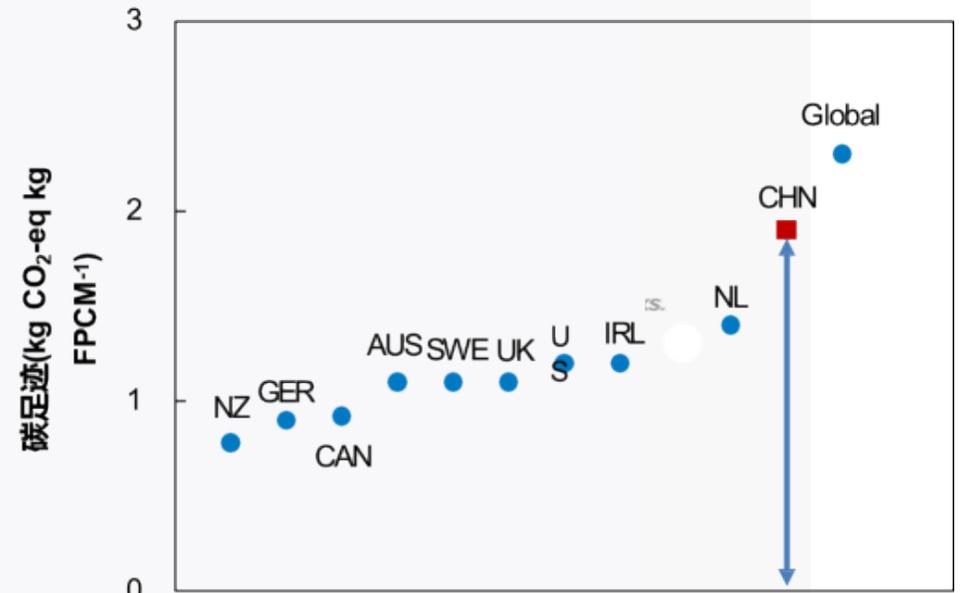
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# Carbon footprint & Food chain



Carbon footprint of producing different foods (kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/kg product)

Carbon footprint, refers to the collective emissions of greenhouse gases caused by enterprises, organizations, activities, products, or individuals through transportation, food production and consumption, and various production processes



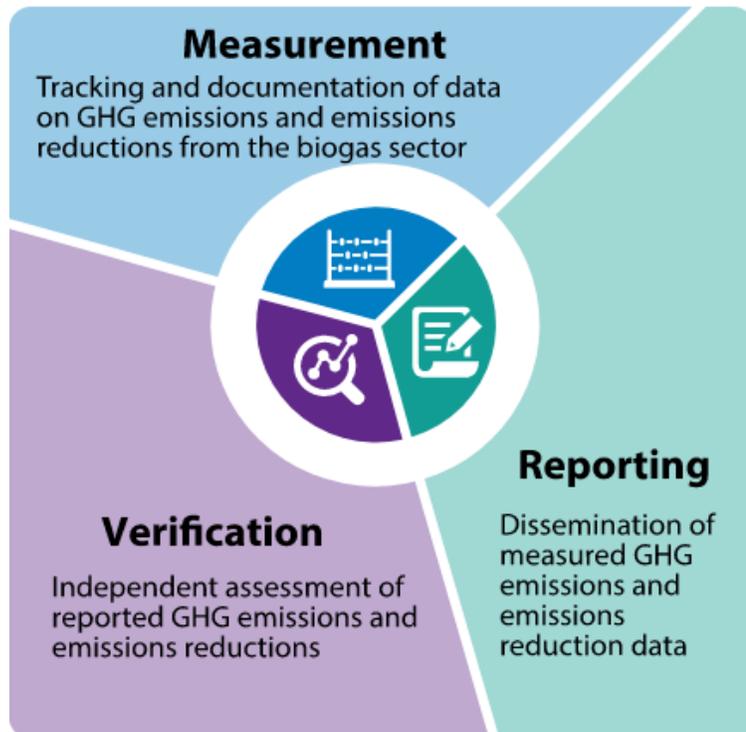
Comparison of the carbon footprint of the dairy industry in different countries



# Greenhouse Gas Inventory and M.R.V. System

Compiling a GHG inventory is a fundamental task in addressing climate change.

Through the inventory, we can identify **the primary sources of GHG emissions, understand the emission status of various sectors, predict future mitigation potential**, and thereby assist in formulating response measures



- **M - Monitoring**  
Collect activity level data, compute emission factors, and emission amounts.
- **R - Reporting**  
Process of providing greenhouse gas emission results in accordance with inventory compilation guidelines.
- **V - Verification**  
Independent assessment of reported greenhouse gas emissions and emission reductions.

## 5.国家发展改革委办公厅关于印发首批10个行业企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南（试行）的通知

来源：国家气候战略中心 时间：2020-03-19

国家发展改革委办公厅关于印发首批10个行业企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南（试行）的通知

发改办气候[2013]2526号

各省、自治区、直辖市及计划单列市、副省级省会城市、新疆生产建设兵团发展改革委：

为有效落实《国民经济和社会发展第十二个五年规划纲要》提出的建立完善温室气体统计核算制度，逐步建立碳排放交易市场的目标，推动完成国务院《“十二五”控制温室气体排放工作方案》（国发[2011]41号）提出的加快构建国家、地方、企业三级温室气体排放核算工作体系，实行重点企业直接报送温室气体排放数据制度的工作任务，我委正组织制定重点行业企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南。首批10个行业企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南（试行）已制定完成，现予印发，供开展碳排放权交易、建立企业温室气体排放报告制度、完善温室气体排放统计核算体系等相关工作参考使用。使用过程中的问题和意见，请及时反馈我委。特此通知。

- 附件（略）
- 1.中国发电企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南（试行）
  - 2.中国电网企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南（试行）
  - 3.中国钢铁生产企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南（试行）
  - 4.中国化工生产企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南（试行）
  - 5.中国电解铝生产企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南（试行）
  - 6.中国镁冶炼企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南（试行）
  - 7.中国平板玻璃生产企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南（试行）
  - 8.中国水泥生产企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南（试行）
  - 9.中国陶瓷生产企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告指南（试行）
  - 10.中国民航企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告格式指南（试行）



## 省级温室气体清单编制指南

(试行)

### 温室气体计算方法标准



#### 国际

- GHG Accounting Tool for Chinese Cities
- Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas
- Mitigation Goal Standard

#### 国内

- 《中国燃煤电厂温室气体排放计算工具》
- 《省级温室气体清单编制指南（试行）》
- 《中国民航企业温室气体排放核算方法与报告格式指南（试行）

更多

### 国际能源署技术路线图

- 技术路线图：二氧化碳与封存技术在工业中的应用
- Technology Roadmap: Carbon Capture and Storage in
- 能源技术路线图：中国风电发展路线图2050
- Technology Roadmaps: China Wind Energy Development
- Technology Roadmap: Energy and GHG Reductions in the
- 技术路线图：核能
- Technology Roadmap: Hydropower
- Technology Roadmap: Energy Efficient Building
- 电动车及插电式混合动力汽车路线图
- 技术路线图：高效低排放燃煤发电
- 技术路线图--交通用生物燃料
- 水泥技术路线图2009：直至2050年的碳减排目标

二〇一一年五月



# International Greenhouse Gas Emission Accounting System (Method)



| Name of the Accounting System      | Developing Organization | Applicable Entities   | Main Contents of the System  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| IPCC 2006 and 2019 revised edition | IPCC                    | For national governments and organizations                      | Methodologies for greenhouse gas sources from various sectors "Greenhouse Gas Accounting Systems"  |
| GHG protocol                       | WRI<br>•WBCSD           | For corporations, organizations, or emission reduction projects | Corporate accounting and reporting standards<br><b>Corporate</b> accounting and reporting standards<br><b>Product</b> lifecycle accounting and reporting standards<br><b>Corporate value chain</b> accounting and reporting standard |
| ISO 14064<br>ISO 14067             | ISO                     | For corporations, organizations, or emission reduction projects | These are non-mandatory standards, relevant to organizations or emission reduction projects<br>The requirements of this standard constitute the minimum basic requirements for organizations or emission reduction projects          |
| PAS 2050<br>Specification          | BSI                     | For corporations, organizations, or emission reduction projects | The primary focus is on the emissions of various greenhouse gases produced throughout the lifecycle of a company's products  |

# TWO OF THE WORLD BIGGEST DAIRY PROCESSORS ARE CHINESE

Table 1: Global Dairy Top 20, 2022

| 2022 | 2021 | Company   | Country of headquarters | Dairy turnover, 2021* |             |
|------|------|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
|      |      |   |                         | USD billion           | EUR billion |
| 1    | 1    | Lactalis  | France                  | 26.7†                 | 22.6†       |
| 2    | 2    | Nestlé  | Switzerland             | 21.3†                 | 18.0†       |
| 3 ▲  | 4    | Danone  | France                  | 20.9†                 | 17.7†       |
| 4 ▼  | 3    | Dairy Farmers of America                          | US                      | 19.3                  | 16.3        |
| 5    | 5    | Yili  | China                   | 18.2†                 | 15.4†       |
| 6    | 6    | Fonterra  | New Zealand             | 14.8†                 | 12.5        |
| 7 ▲  | 9    | Mengniu   | China                   | 13.7                  | 11.6        |
| 8 ▼  | 7    | FrieslandCampina                                  | Netherlands             | 13.6                  | 11.5        |
| 9 ▼  | 8    | Arla Foods  | Denmark/Sweden          | 13.3                  | 11.2        |
| 10   | 10   | Saputo  | Canada                  | 12.0                  | 9.6         |
| 11   | 11   | Unilever  | Netherlands/UK          | 8.3†                  | 7.0†        |
| 12 ▲ | 14   | Savencia  | France                  | 6.6                   | 5.6         |
| 13 ▲ | 18   | Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd | India                   | 6.3                   | 5.3         |
| 14 ▲ | 17   | Sodiaal   | France                  | 5.9†                  | 5.0†        |
| 15 ▼ | 13   | Meiji   | Japan                   | 5.9†                  | 5.0†        |
| 16   | 16   | Agropur   | Canada                  | 5.8                   | 4.9         |
| 17 ▲ | 20   | Müller  | Germany                 | 5.7†                  | 4.9         |
| 18 ▼ | 12   | DMK   | Germany                 | 5.2†                  | 4.4†        |
| 19   | 19   | Schreiber Foods                                   | US                      | 5.1†                  | 4.3         |
| 20   | #    | Froneri   | UK                      | 5.0                   | 4.2         |

\* Turnover data is predominately dairy sales, based on 2021 financials and M&A transactions completed between January 1 and June 30, 2022. Pending mergers/acquisitions not incorporated include: BMI's Fresh Division and production facility in Würzburg to Lactalis, Fonterra's sale of DPA Brazil, Soprole and changes to the Australian business, Müller's acquisitions of FrieslandCampina's German plants and (fresh) brands, FrieslandCampina's disposal of Campina LLC (Russia-based operations), Nutrifeed (animal nutrition) and the powder plant in Aalter, Belgium, and FrieslandCampina's acquisition of Nutricima.

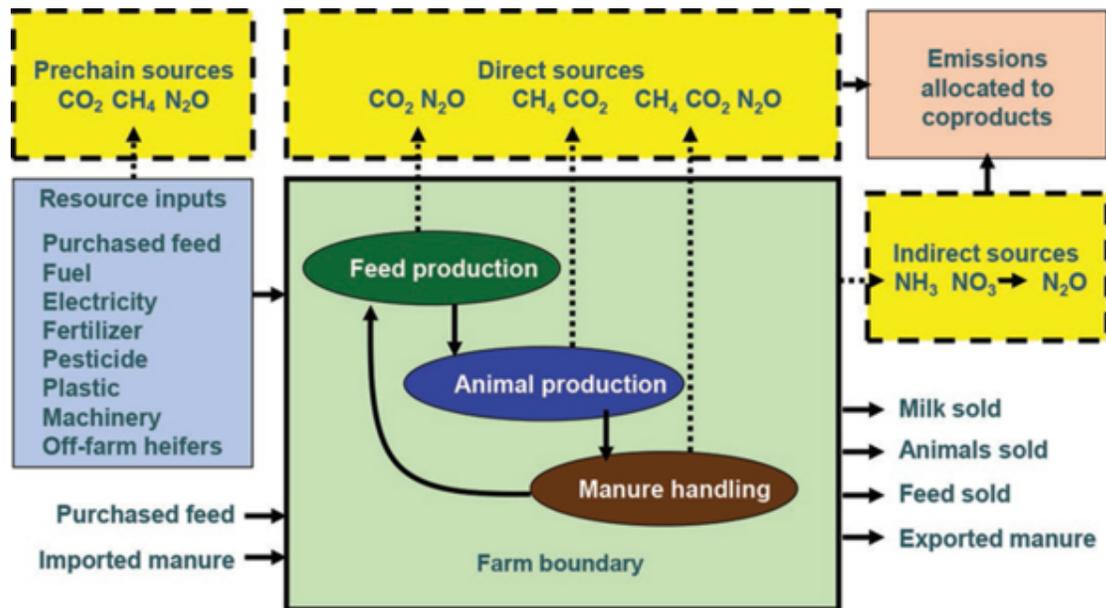
† estimate.

| Company           | Disclosure Year | Scope   | Intensity                                     | Unit  | Description  | Reference   |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| Nestlé            | 2018            | Scope 1<br>Scope 2<br>Scope 3                           | <b>3.3</b><br><b>2.5</b><br><b>107.3</b>      | Million metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e                        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce carbon emissions originating from assets owned or directly controlled by the group, such as emissions from combustion.</li> <li>Decrease carbon emissions associated with purchased external energy sources like electricity, by adopting green energy options.</li> <li>Minimize indirect emissions within the production chain, such as emissions generated during the consumption process.</li> </ol> | Nestlé's Net Zero Carbon Emissions Roadmap (2020年12月) |
| Lactalis          | 2021            |   |   |   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2025, achieve a reduction of at least -25% in greenhouse gas emissions (Scope 1 and 2).</li> <li>By 2033, achieve a reduction of at least -50% in greenhouse gas emissions (Scope 1 and 2).</li> <li>Achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.</li> </ol>   | Lactalis annual report (2021)                         |
| Danone            | 2021            |   |   |   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Absolute reduction in Scope 1 and Scope 2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (%) since 2015: -38.1% (2020) -48.3% (2021); -30% (by 2030).</li> <li>Global reduction in carbon dioxide (%) compared to the previous year: -4.6% (2020) -3% (2021); -3% (2021).</li> </ol>  | DANONE INTEGRATED ANNUAL REPORT (2021)                |
| Arla              | 2021            | Scope 3   | <b>1.20</b><br><b>1.15</b>                    | Milk and whey/kg CO <sub>2</sub> e<br>Milk/kg CO <sub>2</sub> e |  |   |
| Friesland Campina | 2021            | 1. Transportation and production<br>2. Member companies | <b>691</b><br><b>12063</b>                    | kt CO <sub>2</sub> e  | Scope 1 and Scope 2: The GRI 305 standard does not comprehensively describe Friesland and its members' current greenhouse gas emissions status. Friesland has chosen to develop its own system to gain a deeper understanding of greenhouse gas emissions in milk production (processing) and transportation processes, as well as emissions from member companies.  | 2021 Annual Report                                    |
| Fonterra          | 2022            | Scope 1<br>Scope 2<br>Scope 3                           | <b>1.366</b><br><b>0.565</b><br><b>22.549</b> | Million metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e                        |  |   |



| Company | Year | Scope   | Intensity                               | Unit  | Description  | Source                           |
|---------|------|---|---|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Yili    | 2021 | Total Emissions<br>Product emissions                  | <b>1.88</b><br><b>0.222</b>             | Million tons CO <sub>2</sub> e<br>kgCO <sub>2</sub> e/kg of product | By 2025, aiming to reduce the GHG emissions per ton of dairy products to 183.47 kgCO <sub>2</sub> e.   | Sustainability Report 2021       |
| Mengniu | 2021 | Total Emissions<br>Product emissions                  | <b>1.36</b><br><b>0.171</b>             | Million tons CO <sub>2</sub> e<br>kgCO <sub>2</sub> e/kg of product | Mengniu Group aims to achieve carbon peak by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.   | Sustainability Report 2021       |
| Shengmu | 2021 | Feed processing<br>Feed cultivation<br>Cattle farming | <b>1.3</b><br><b>7.7</b><br><b>57.0</b> | Ten thousand metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e                       | Major emission unit emissions decreased during the same period:<br>2020: Feed processing: 1.4; Feed cultivation: 8.1; Cattle farming: 60.5<br>(Unit: ten thousand tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e) | 2022 Mid-Year Performance Report |

# Carbon Emissions in the Dairy Industry Span the Entire Supply Chain.



GHG Emissions in Various Farming Stages by LCA system



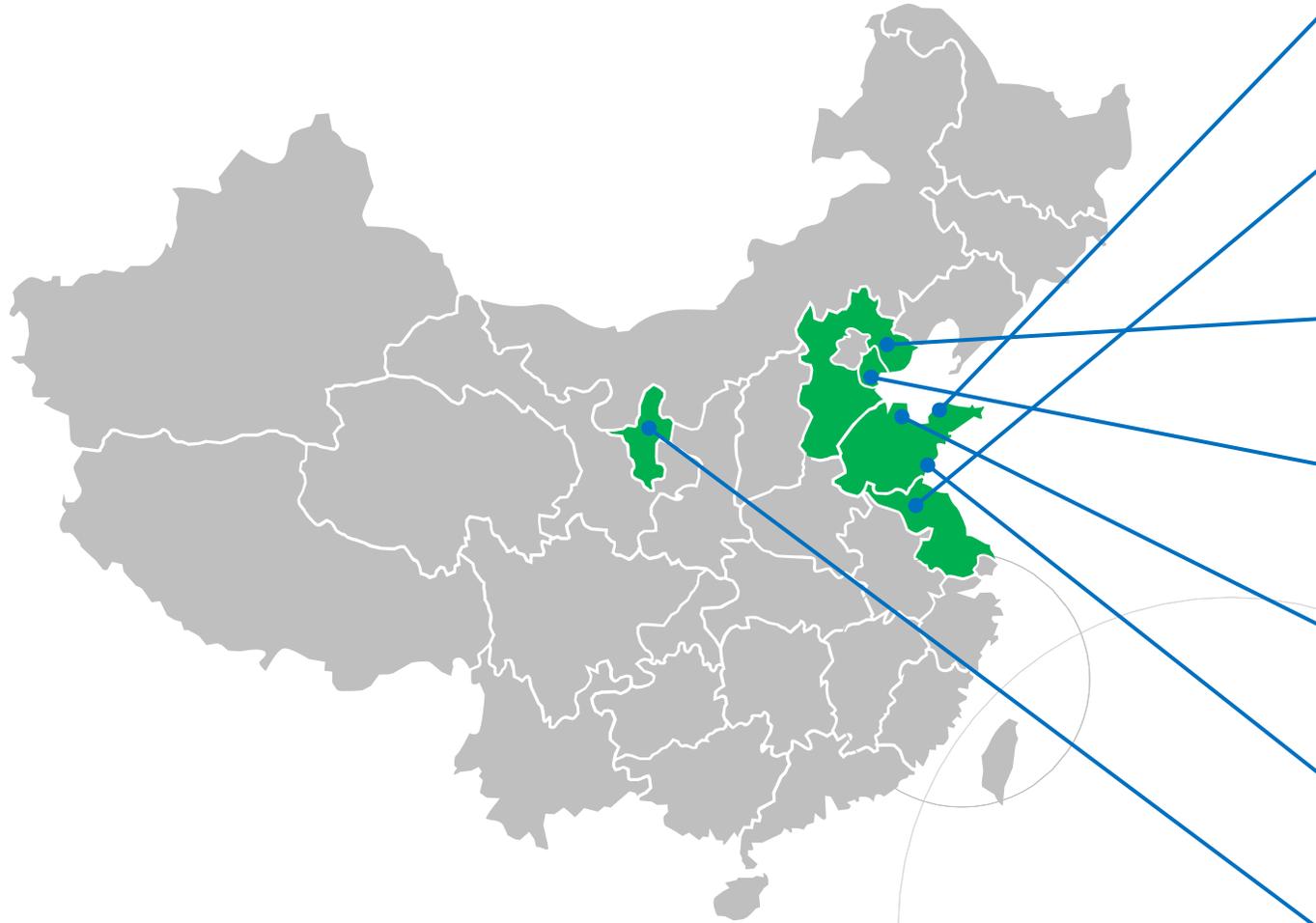
GHG Emissions in Various Farming Stages

**GHG Emission Sources:** Feed, Feeding, Housing, Manure Management, Fertilization, Soil

**Types of GHG:** Methane, Nitrous Oxide, Nitrogen Oxides

From a life cycle perspective, carbon emissions in the dairy industry traverse the entire supply chain, with greenhouse gas emissions being generated at every stage of dairy cattle farming.

# Carbon footprint assessment of dairy farms at different sizes in China



Farm 1  
Location: Shandong cows: 600 heads  
Type: Family-run Farm

Farm 2  
Location: Jiangsu cows: 3000 heads  
Type: Large-scale Farm under a Certain Group

Farm 3  
Location: Hebei cows: 9000 heads  
Type: Large-scale Farm

Farm 4  
Location: Tianjin cows: 3000 heads  
Type: Large-scale Farm under a Group

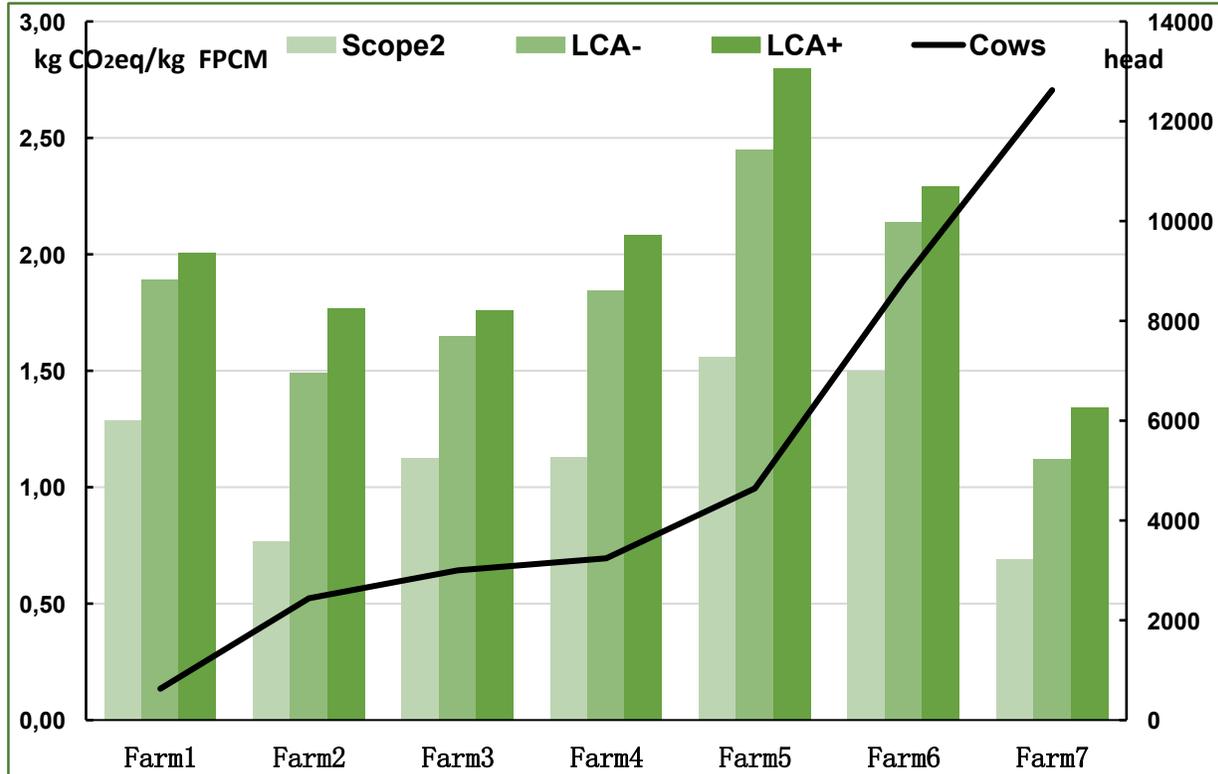
Farm 5  
Location: Shandong cows: 10,000+ heads  
Type: Large-scale Farm under a Group

Farm 6  
Location: Shandong cows: 2500 heads  
Type: Large-scale Farm under a Group

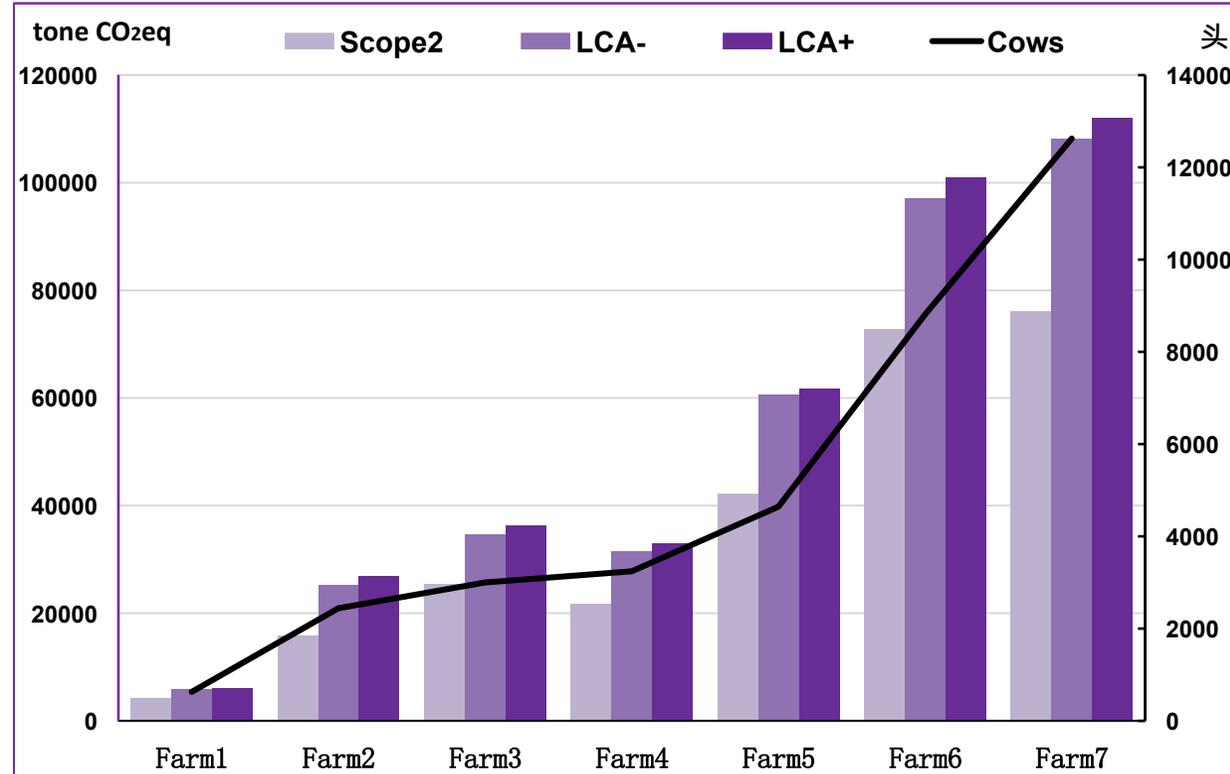
Farm 7  
Location: Ningxia cows: 4500 heads  
Type: Large-scale Farm



### Accounting for herd size and kilograms of milk GHG emissions from farms (2021)



### Accounting for Range Herd Size and Total Annual GHG Emissions (2021)



Based on the overall comparison of carbon emission data from the 7 farms, it can be observed that as the size of cattle herds in a farm increases, the total GHG emissions produced also tend to be higher. However, different regions and livestock farming methods do not exhibit a significant correlation with emissions per kilogram of milk.



# Emission from the largest dairy farming group in China



Cattle farming: 1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e



Enteric fermentation

570,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e  
(57% of the total)



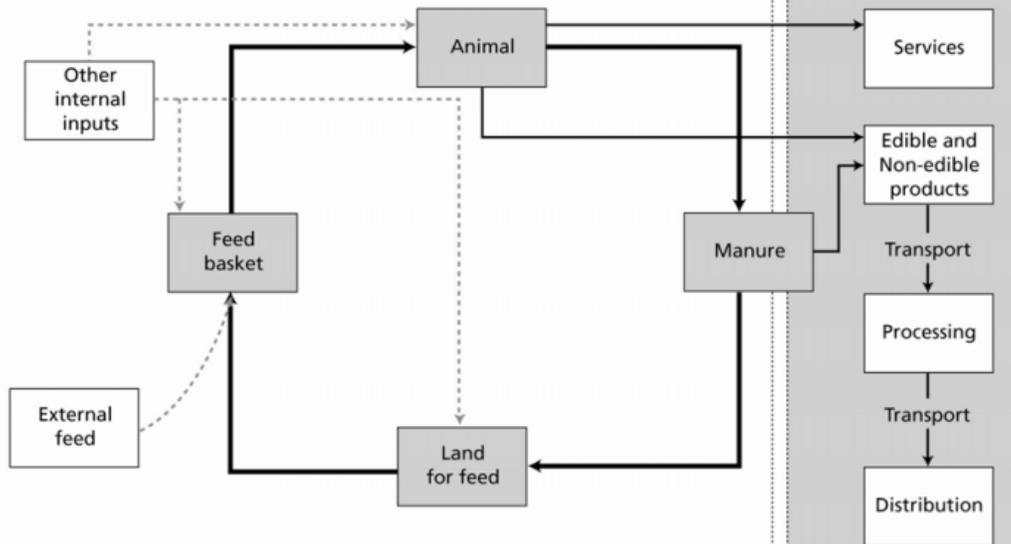
Manure management

190,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e  
(19% of the total)



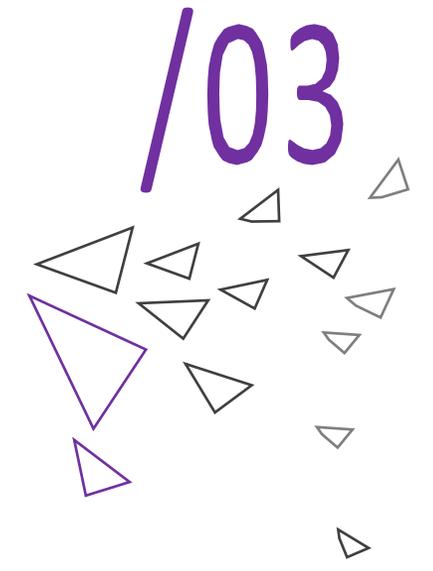
Energy utilization

240,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e  
(24% of the total)



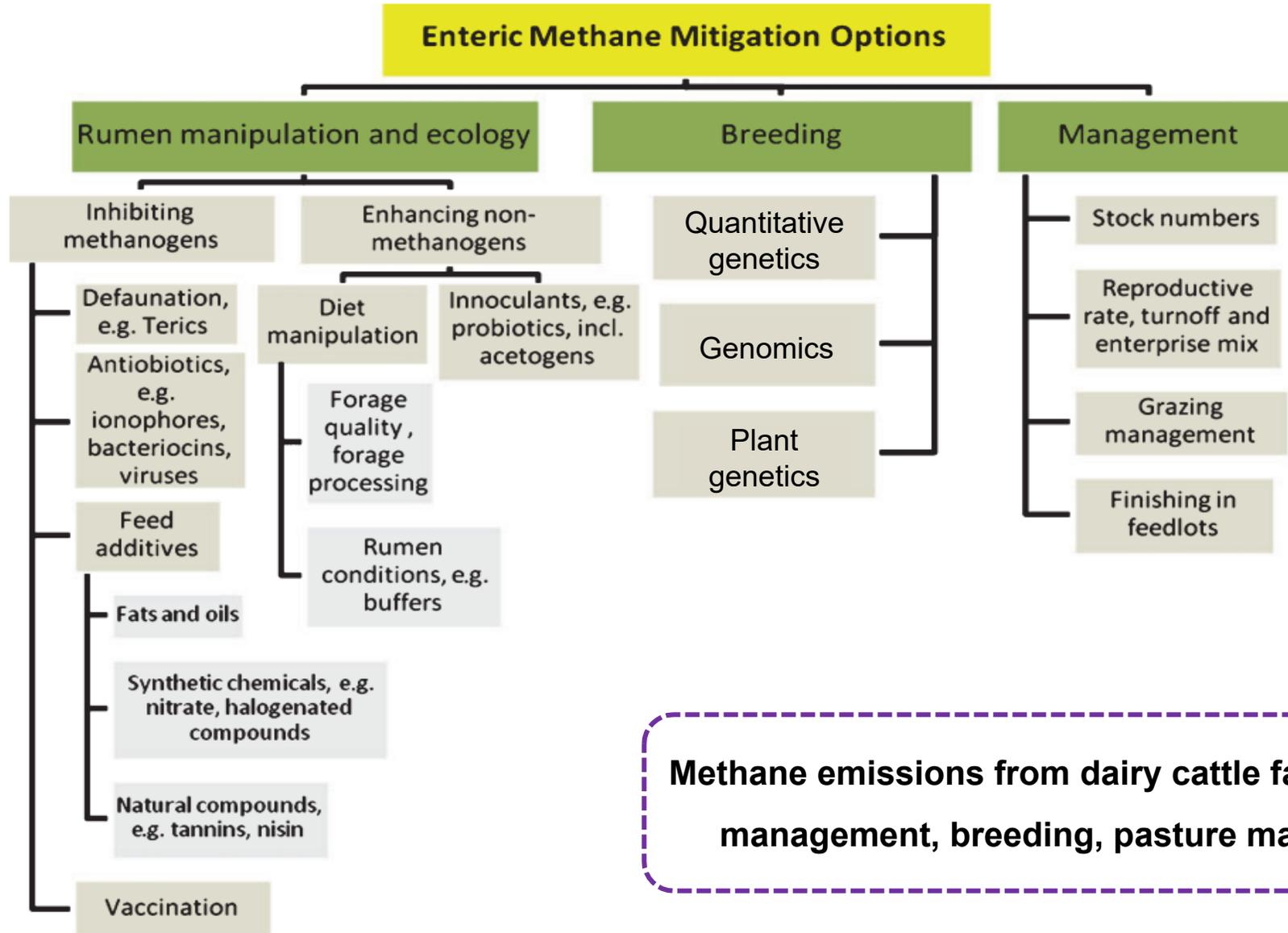
*Cradle to farm-gate*

*Farm-gate to retail*



## Our undergoing research on mitigation measures

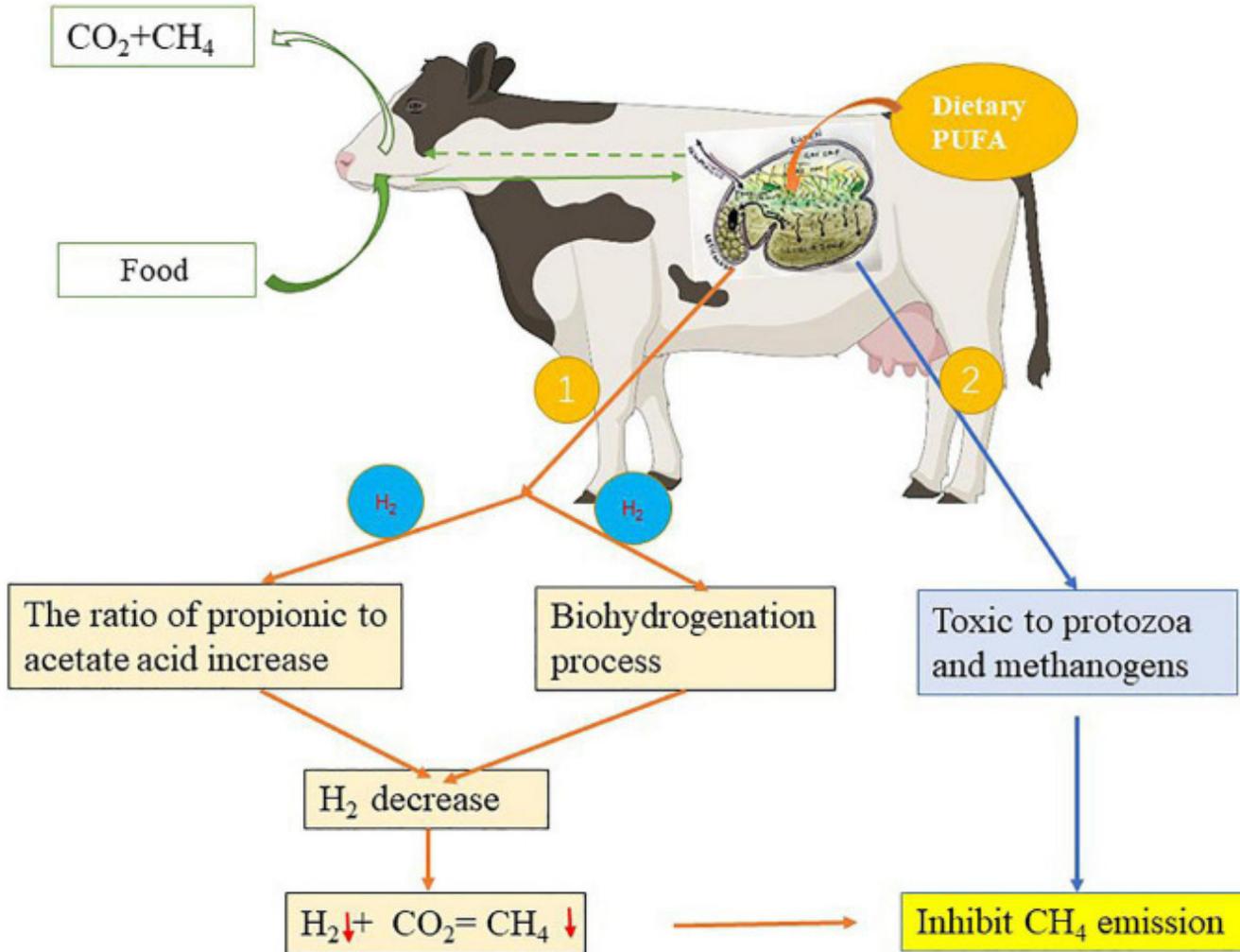
# Intestinal Fermentation Emission Reduction Measures



- ❑ Dietary control technology can contribute to emission reduction by over 70%.
- ❑ Dietary control technology can be divided into various techniques, among which feed composition and nutrient optimization are the most effective and commonly used.

**Methane emissions from dairy cattle farming can be regulated through feed management, breeding, pasture management, and manure treatment.**

# 1- Producing low-carbon milk by regulating cow's dietary fatty acid profile



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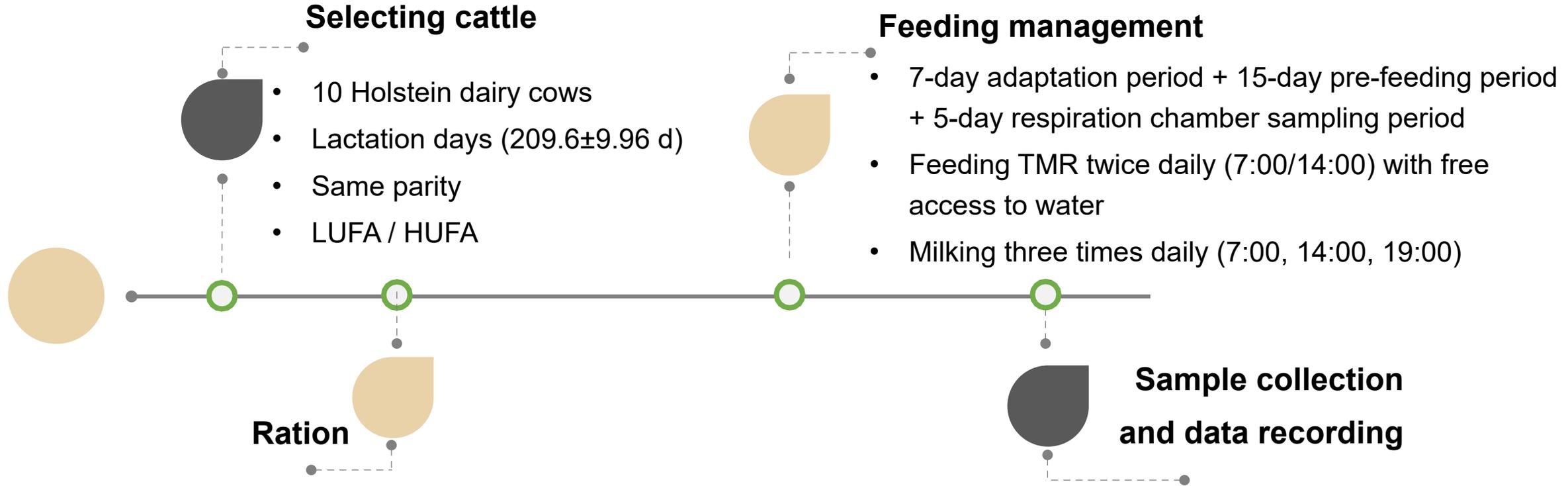
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Producing natural functional and low-carbon milk by regulating the diet of the cattle—The fatty acid associated rumen fermentation, biohydrogenation, and microorganism response

Xiaoge Sun<sup>1</sup>, Yue Wang<sup>2</sup>, Xiaoyan Ma<sup>1</sup>, Shengli Li<sup>1</sup> and Wei Wang<sup>1\*</sup>

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fnut.2022.955846>

# Experimental Design



## Selecting cattle

- 10 Holstein dairy cows
- Lactation days (209.6±9.96 d)
- Same parity
- LUFA / HUFA

## Feeding management

- 7-day adaptation period + 15-day pre-feeding period + 5-day respiration chamber sampling period
- Feeding TMR twice daily (7:00/14:00) with free access to water
- Milking three times daily (7:00, 14:00, 19:00)

## Ration

◆ Dietary fat content around **6%**

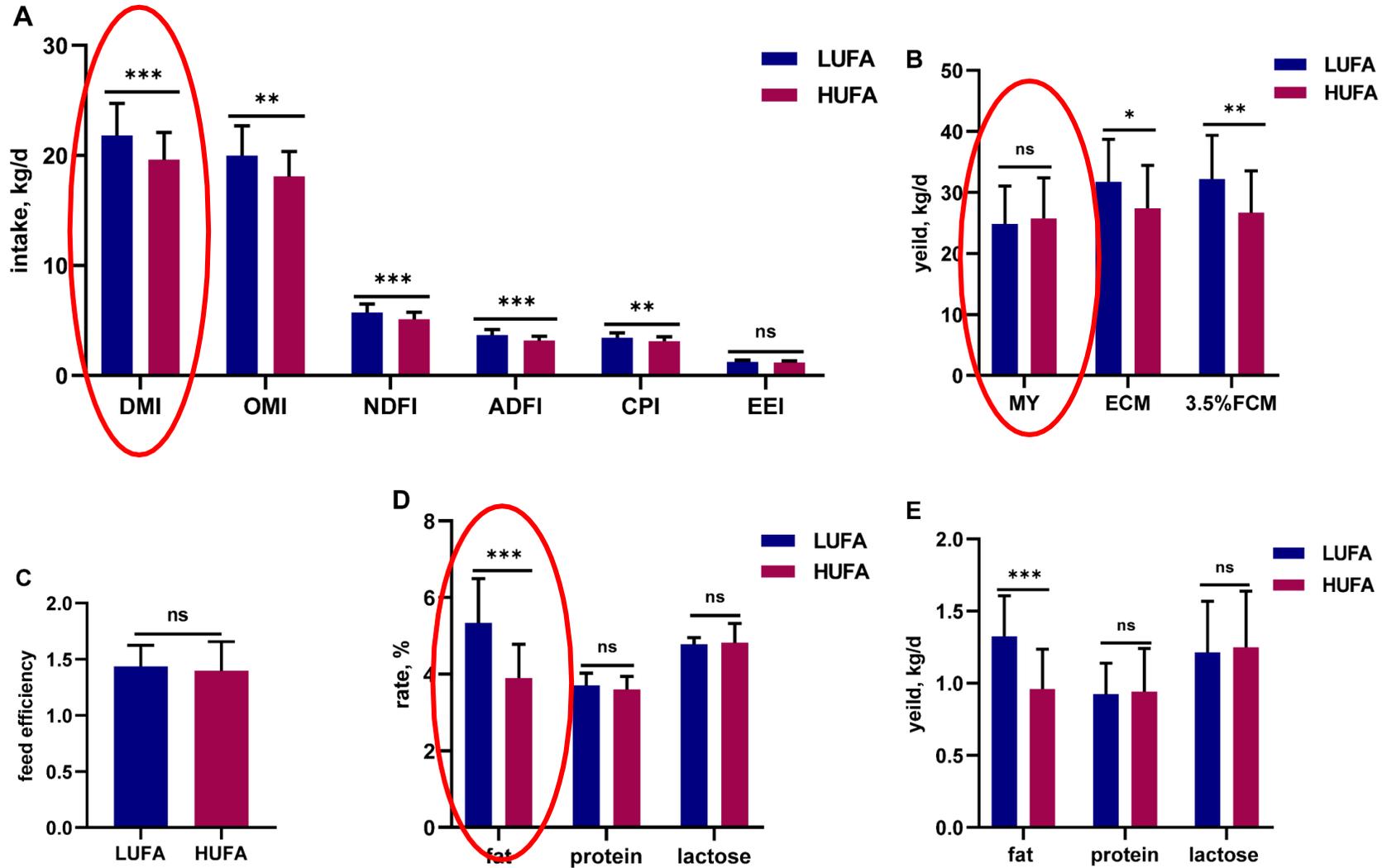
## Sample collection and data recording

- Feed samples collected twice a week, daily recording of dry matter intake (DMI) and milk yield
- Milk samples collected during the experimental period for milk composition analysis
- Methane production measured using respiration chambers

**LUFA: Low Unsaturated Fatty Acids**  
**HUFA: High Unsaturated Fatty Acids**



# EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS - PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE

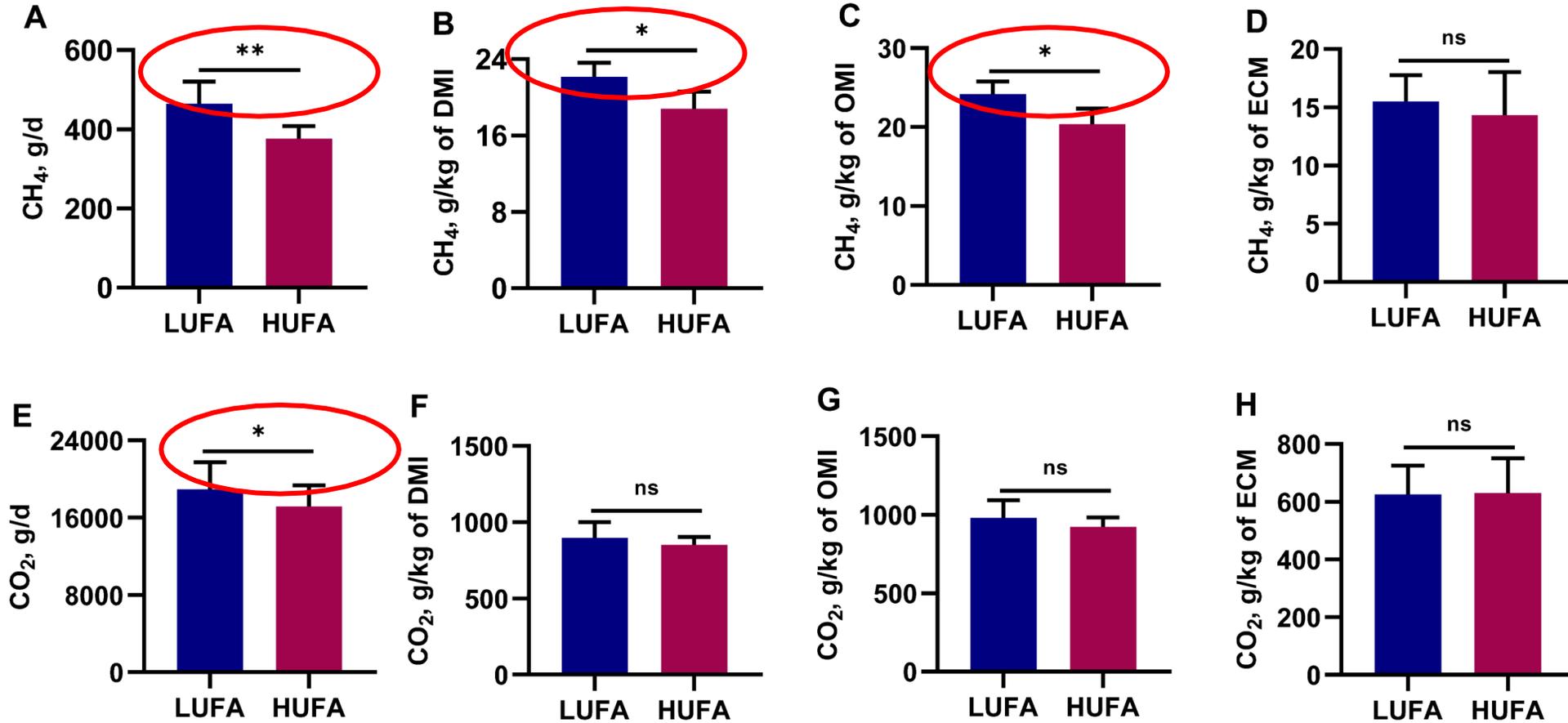




# EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS - GAS PRODUCTION



中國農業大學  
China Agriculture University



Unpublished data



# CONCLUSION OF THE UFA TRIAL

1. Increasing the content of unsaturated fatty acids (UFA) significantly reduced methane production in dairy cows without affecting milk yield, while maintaining consistent fat content. However, higher UFA content led to a decrease in milk fat percentage.
2. Under a dietary fat content of 6%, we tried to maximize the UFA ratio difference between the two treatment groups (LUFA and HUFA). Therefore, further research is needed to investigate whether a moderate reduction in UFA ratio in the HUFA group, without affecting milk fat and yield, can lead to reduced methane production.

## 2- Increasing the proportion of high-quality whole-plant corn silage

Effect of feeding different proportions of corn silage in the diet on methane production in lactating dairy cows

| Parameters                    | Proportion of corn silage replacement |      |      |      | SEM  | P value |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|---------|
|                               | 0%                                    | 33%  | 67%  | 100% |      |         |
| Methane production, g/d       | 399                                   | 414  | 411  | 387  | 12.8 | 0.028   |
| Methane production/DMI, g/kg  | 24.6                                  | 25.0 | 24.5 | 22.0 | 0.38 | 0.010   |
| Methane production/FPCM, g/kg | 16.6                                  | 17.0 | 16.2 | 15.3 | 0.50 | <0.001  |

Source : Van Gastelen et al. 2015.

- ❑ **Some studies** have explored the impact of replacing grass silage with corn silage in dairy cow diets on enteric methane production.
- ❑ The results indicate that replacing grass silage with corn silage leads to a reduction in methane production, particularly when measured per unit of FPCM.

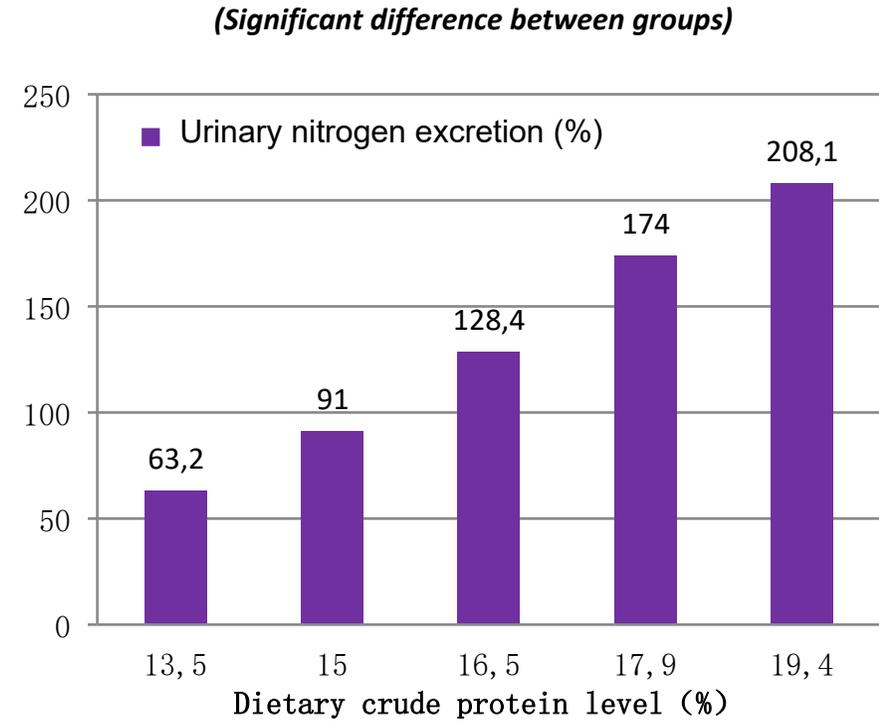
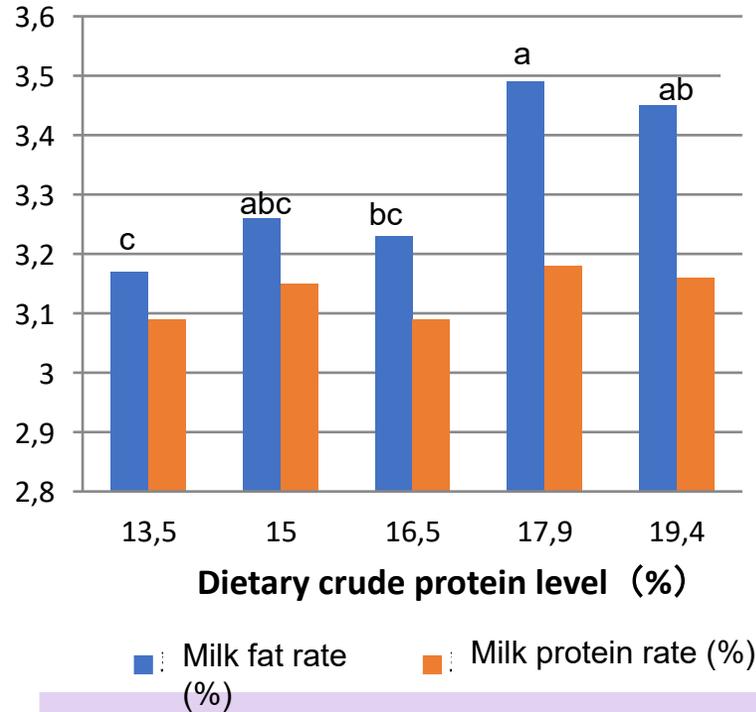
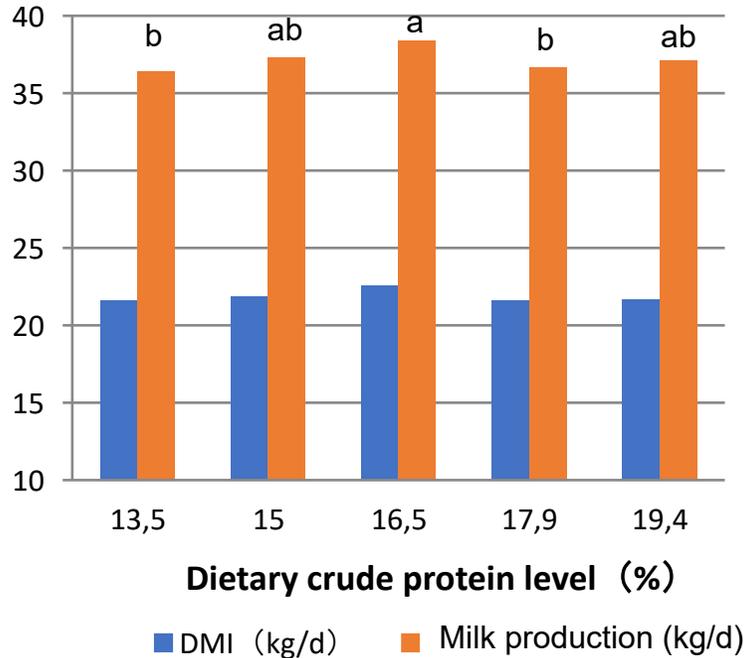
Effect of different silage levels in the diet on milk composition in dairy cows

**Team research:** When the inclusion level of whole-plant corn silage in the diet is 30 kg (wet basis), it reduces dairy cows' dry matter intake and consequently lowers milk yield. However, feed conversion efficiency, nitrogen utilization efficiency, and economic benefits are higher compared to the other two groups.

| Parameters            | The proportion of corn silage in the diet |       |       | SEM  | P value |
|-----------------------|---|-------|-------|------|---------|
|                       | 18%                                       | 24%   | 30%   |      |         |
| DMI, kg/d             | 24.90                                     | 24.40 | 20.78 | 2.86 | <0.01   |
| Milk production, kg/d | 24.09                                     | 22.65 | 22.66 | 1.84 | <0.01   |
| Feed conversion rate  | 1.09                                      | 1.04  | 1.15  | 0.15 | <0.01   |

Data source: Liu Jianying. China Agricultural University, 2020.

### 3- Application of low-protein diets



High protein diet doesn't necessarily result in higher milk yield

There is no statistically significant difference in milk protein content

Urinary nitrogen excretion increases.

[J J Olmos Colmenero, 2006](#)

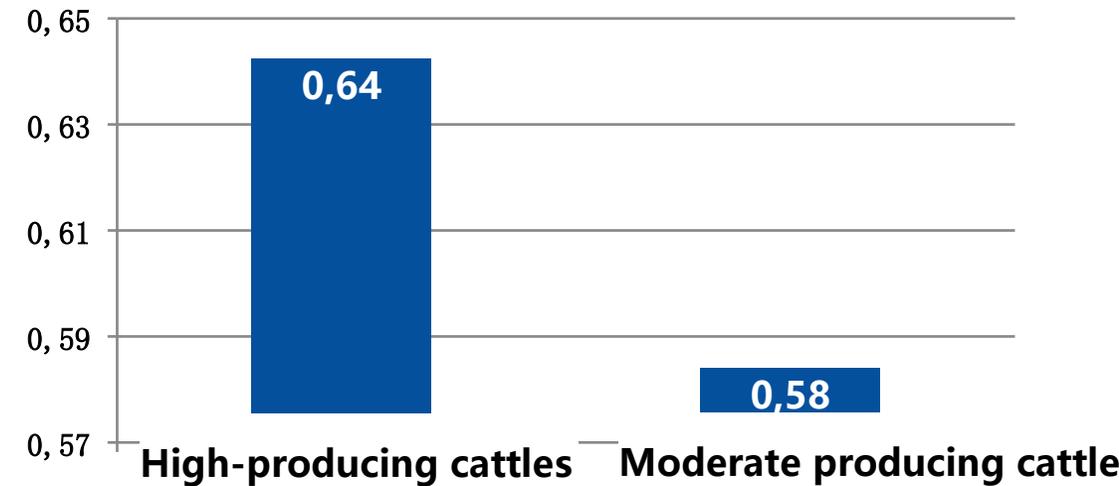
Excessively high dietary protein levels do not improve production performance and can actually increase nitrogen excretion in manure, indirectly leading to greenhouse gas emissions (such as N<sub>2</sub>O).

### 3-Application of low-protein diets

According to research in 2020, there were approximately 5.2 million Holstein dairy cows in China. The dietary protein content for high-yielding cows ranged from 17% to 18%, while for mid-yielding cows, it ranged from 16% to 17%.

| Protein level                     | Lactation stage |             | 3.5% fat-corrected milk (FCM) | Fecal nitrogen content |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                   | Weeks 1-16      | Weeks 17-44 |                               |                        |
| Dietary crude protein (% DMbasis) |                 |             | kg/entire lactation period    |                        |
| Low/Low                           | 15.4            | 16          | 10714 <sup>b</sup>            | 127 <sup>c</sup>       |
| Moderate/Low                      | 17.4            | <b>16</b>   | <b>11655<sup>a</sup></b>      | 141 <sup>b</sup>       |
| Moderate/Moderate                 | 17.4            | <b>17.9</b> | <b>11828<sup>a</sup></b>      | 163 <sup>a</sup>       |
| High/Moderate                     | 19.3            | 17.9        | 11582 <sup>a</sup>            | 162 <sup>a</sup>       |

(×10,000 tons)

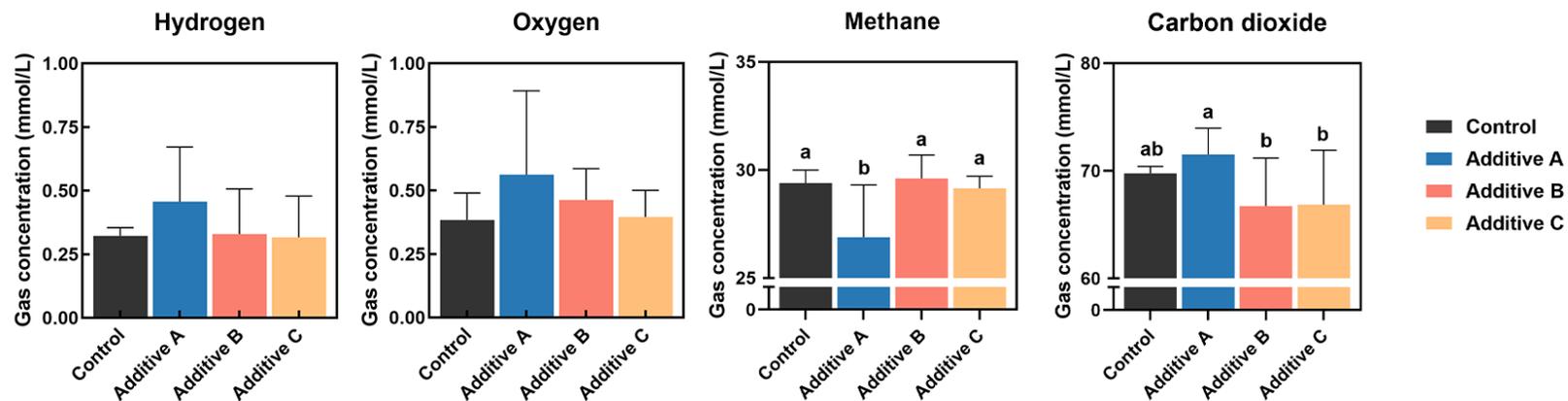


Note: High and moderate-yielding cows are calculated for every 1 million cows; dietary crude protein (CP) reduced by 0.5%.

Suggested protein content for newly calved cows is 17% to 17.5%, for high-yielding cows it is 16.8% to 17.4%, and for late lactation it is 16%.

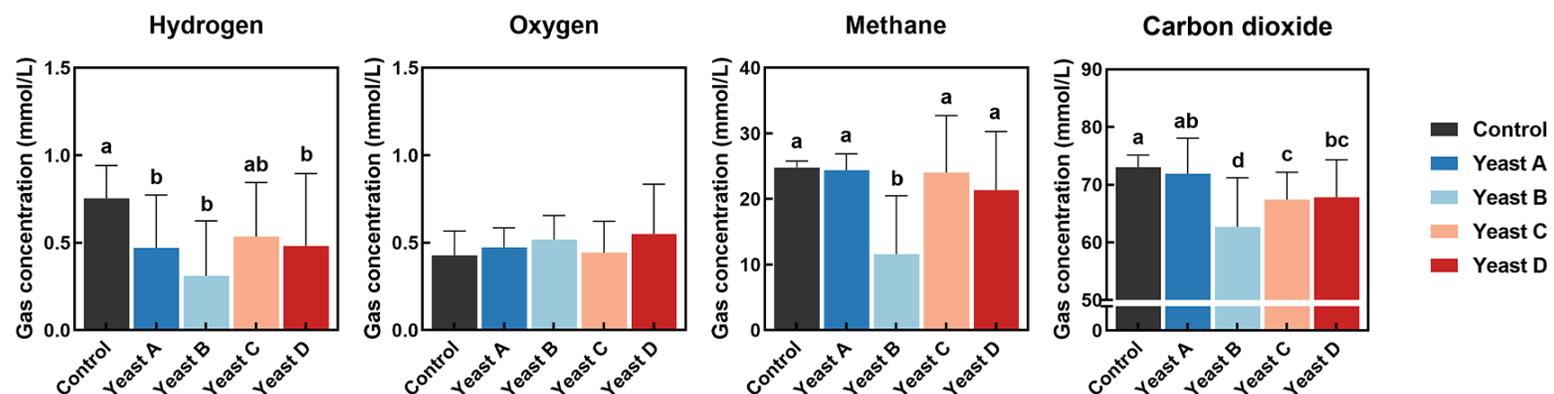
Through dietary amino acid balancing technology, it is possible to reduce nitrogen excretion from lactating dairy cows by 12,200 tons per year.

## 4-Evaluation of additives—*in vitro*



Effects of different methane inhibitors on in vitro rumen fermentation gas composition in dairy cows (mmol/L)

The effects of **methane inhibitors** and certain **yeast cultures** on rumen fermentation gas composition (especially methane) were validated through in vitro fermentation.



Effects of different yeast cultures on in vitro rumen fermentation gas composition in dairy cows (mmol/L)

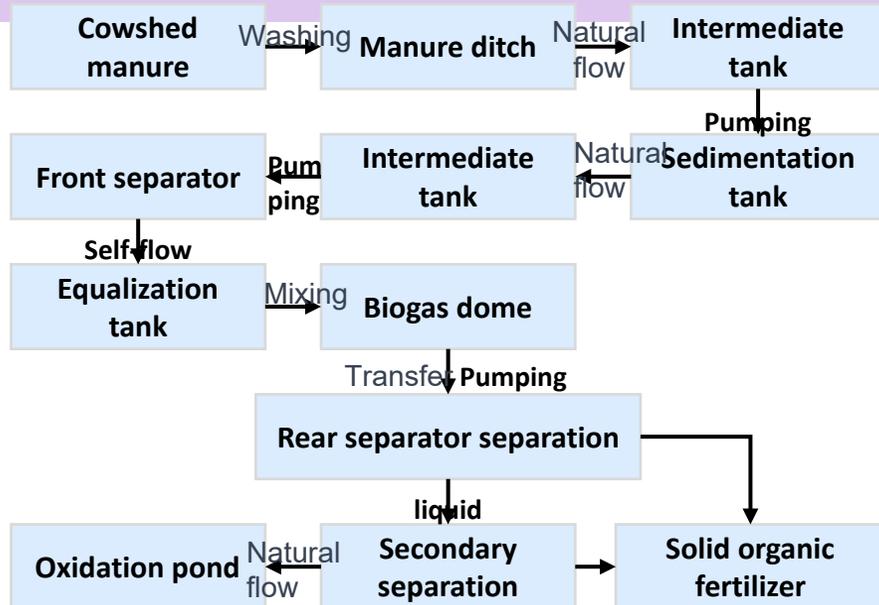


# 5- Biomass utilization in China's large-scale dairy farms



- ❑ Average daily biogas production: 2 9000 m<sup>3</sup>
- ❑ Maximum designed biogas power generation capacity: 50-60 MW·h/day
- Actual biogas power generation capacity: 30-40 MW·h/day

The average emission factor of the national grid in 2022 as 0.5703 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/MW·h;  
 The agricultural electricity price is 0.50 yuan/KW·h; the carbon trading price is estimated at 50 yuan/ t CO<sub>2</sub>e :



- ✓ Utilizing biogas for power generation on the ranch can reduce the carbon emissions generated from purchased electricity:  $35 \times 365 \times 0.5703 = 7285.58$  ( t CO<sub>2</sub>e)
- ✓ Utilizing biogas for power generation on the ranch can decrease external grid electricity expenses:
- ✓  $3\ 5000 \times 365 \times 0.50 = 6.3875$  (million Yuan)
- ✓ The biogas power generation project can participate in carbon offset trading:  $7285.58 \times 50 = 0.3643$  (million Yuan)

# Some thoughts for GHG mitigation in the dairy value chain

## -take home message



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**Comprehensive improvement in production efficiency is needed across the entire dairy value chain!**



- Some countries and dairy companies have already initiated cattle emission reduction plans;
- There are no ready-to-use technology yet;
- Priorizing cost-effective emission reduction strategies;
- The applicability of emission reduction measures depends on farm types and attitudes (technical requirements, time, and financial investment);
- Most existing monitoring tools do not encompass all emission reduction strategies;
- Balancing implementation efforts with the completeness (and accuracy of measurement) of emission reduction plans is essential;
- A comprehensive approach is needed to assess the combined emissions reduction of all categories of mitigation measures
- Integrating various emission reduction measures can enhance efficiency; however, compatibility should be considered when using a combination of methods;
- Downstream stakeholders in the industry should initiate incentive mechanisms for low-emission farms;
- In addition to greenhouse gas emissions, farms also face other sustainability challenges.



# THANKS

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