



News Bulletin

Quarterly news and updates from the Cool Farm Alliance

Edition Highlights: Danone joins CFA // Biodiversity module launch // 2016 annual meeting // Perennials module // Dairy module

With much excitement we announce the release of the Cool Farm Tool Biodiversity metric.

The biodiversity feature may be accessed through the Cool Farm Tool at app.coolfarmtool.org:

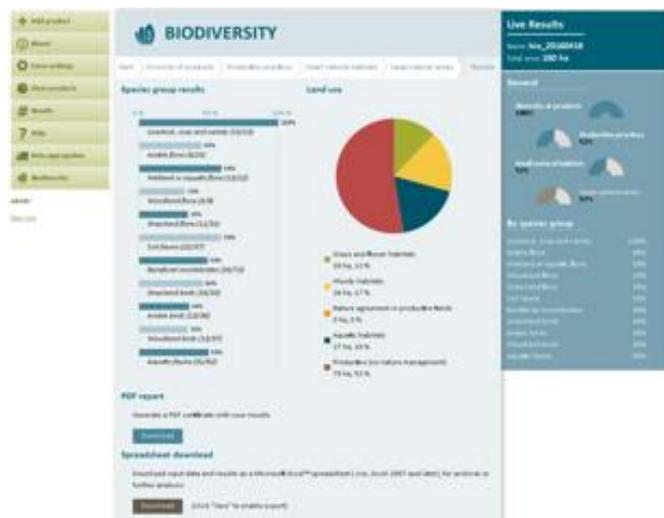
- Log on to your account - or register to create yourself an account.
- If this is your first time, click on "farm settings" to define the most basic characteristics of your farm (just location and climate).
- Click on "biodiversity" - the bottom of the left-hand menu - and away you go!

Fashioned from the CLM biodiversity yardstick, users click through a checklist of wildlife-friendly actions and can see their scores change in real time as they progress. The scoring is evidence-based. The scores assigned to each action are weighted according to scientific evidence compiled and evaluated by the University of Cambridge working with an international panel of biodiversity experts.

Huge thanks and compliments to Lynn Dicks and the University of Cambridge Conservation Evidence project, and to Anthesis for coding.

We're eager for feedback. Please email us or provide your feedback [here](#).

The biodiversity module is currently supported for northwest Europe. The tool also applies to the temperate forest biome of North America. If your farm is elsewhere, you will still be able to complete assessments, but please note that questions and answers may not be appropriate for your farm. The evidence assessment for the Mediterranean biome is underway; temperate grassland and tropical biomes will be a future development.



How it works:

The biodiversity metric point system quantifies how well your farm management practices support biodiversity, at farm scale. For instance, if you select '*field margins sown with perennial flowering seed mixes (nectar and pollen for beneficial insects)*' [question 3.2], you get 3 points added to your overall score, and 3 points for beneficial insects, but no additional points for woodland or wetland flora, as there is no clear evidence these groups would benefit from this action.

Points are awarded for wildlife-friendly actions in four areas: Farming products; Farming practices; Small habitats; and Larger habitats. Points are also awarded separately for eleven different groups of species (elements of biodiversity), to allow farms to set different objectives for their biodiversity management.

The Cool Farm Tool biodiversity metrics enable organisations in the supply chains to quantify their baseline impact on biodiversity at farm scale, and to measure and drive improvements over time. It is possible to see from the transparent scoring where improvements could be made to enhance scores.