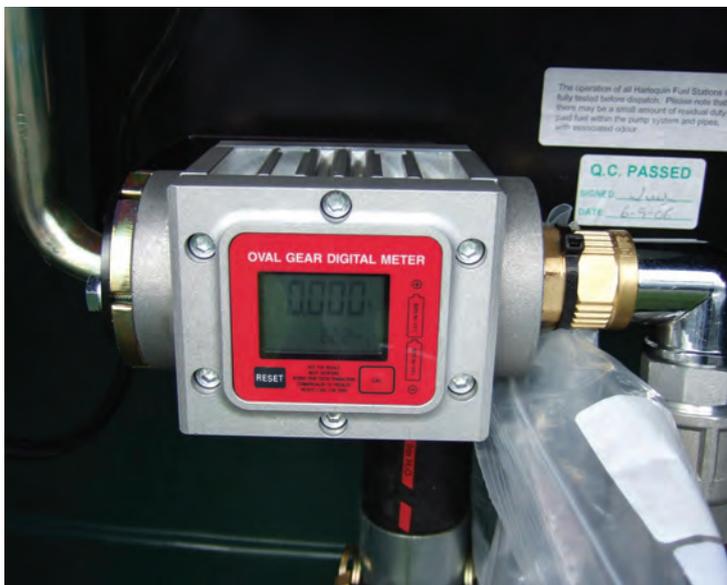




# Monitoring fuel use

## The basics

The only way to track where money spent on fuel goes is to do some simple monitoring and recording of the consumption of each tractor and operation. A fuel meter on all your diesel storage tanks is all you need to get started, alongside setting up a recording system which is easy to use of course. Once a fuel log has been built up over a period of time, you can sit down and work out where your fuel is going and how you can possibly cut fuel use by doing things a little more efficiently.



## In practice

The first step is to install a diesel meter – not dissimilar to the one you might find in a petrol station. Most of the cheaper ones have a simple mechanical dial which you can read and record.

A clipboard in the cab or at the fuelling station can be used to record a few simple pieces of information during refuelling and at the start of every day when the tractor is being used. This information can later be transferred to a computer and analysed.

## Case study

Simon Richards, who farms 200 cows on 250 acres near Haverfordwest, has recently installed a fuel meter, following advice from the Dairy Development Centre.



Mr. Richards said: “By checking and monitoring diesel use in my own and my contractor’s tractors, I hope to be able to spot where savings can be made.

“It will be interesting to compare my diesel consumption records with other farmers in the local discussion group.

“If I can match the 10% savings that others have already made by carrying out simple monitoring tasks, then the cost of the meter will be well worthwhile.”



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu Gwledig; Ewrop yn Buddsoddi mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig  
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Dairy Development Centre

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Recording the amount of fuel (litres), operation and the hours run on the tractor can give an immediate measure of performance in litres per hour.

Including some information on tractor use, as well as time and area covered, can help apportion fuel use to application – e.g. how much fuel is used for making silage, how much for scraping etc.

Most importantly, recording and analysing usage can show where and when problems might be occurring. If the volume of fuel (litre/hour) increases over time, servicing might be due. If the fuel consumption figures are markedly different from one tractor to the next when doing the same task, it might be best to allocate the most cost effective tractor to that particular task in the future.

## Potential savings

Studies have shown that monitoring usage, and hence influencing fuel efficiency behaviour, can result in savings of between 5% and 10% per year.

**For more information on ‘Monitoring fuel use’ please contact:**

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