

WHAT IS TDN?

TransformDairyNet

TransformDairyNet (TDN) aims to promote systems in which calves stay with cows longer, rather than being separated shortly after birth, as is common in dairy farming. Cow-Calf Contact (CCC) has the potential to improve animal welfare and health.

Objectives

TDN strengthens resilience and sustainability of dairy farming by advancing CCC systems through a European network.

The project aims to:

- Drive innovation through Living Labs within national hubs.
- Accelerate CCC adoption via a European network that addresses farmer needs and bridges knowledge gaps.
- Modernise dairy farming by uniting science and practice to deliver proven CCC best practices.
- Amplify impact with digital tools and harmonised farmer resources to widely promote CCC systems.

How does TDN work?

The project focuses on gathering information about CCC practices and testing innovations to make them more sustainable. To achieve this, the Living Lab (LL) innovation process is facilitated by trained National Network Facilitators (NNFs).

COORDINATED BY



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



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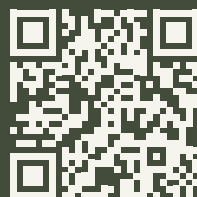
Funded by
the European Union

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Discover more

Join our National Hubs, subscribe to our newsletter or get in touch:

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Transform
Dairy
Net

Working together
to upscale
Cow-Calf Contact
dairy systems

THE POTENTIAL OF COW-CALF CONTACT

Dairy farmers currently practicing Cow-Calf Contact perceive several potential benefits, as listed below:



ANIMAL WELFARE

Enhances natural behaviours and improves maternal bonding



ANIMAL HEALTH

Supports natural suckling, which could promote the development of the calf's health



SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Encourages resilient systems that align with societal ethical farming values



REDUCED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Reduced need for inputs like milk replacer, thereby lowering resource use



ELEMENTS OF THE TDN PROJECT

NIPs & NNFs

TransformDairyNet's 11 National Innovation Practice Hubs (NIPs) are local platforms where farmers, vets, and other stakeholders collaborate to advance CCC systems. Coordinated by National Network Facilitators (NNFs) in 12 countries, these hubs foster peer learning, share best practices, and tackle local challenges.

Living Labs

Living Labs (LLs) are a cornerstone of TDN, empowering farmers and stakeholders to address challenges in transitioning to CCC systems. Up to 11 Living Labs (one per NIP) will co-create and test practical solutions, accelerating innovation and sustainability in dairy farming.

EKIN

The European Knowledge and Innovation Network (EKIN) is a dynamic platform connecting up to 150 members, including farmers, advisors, veterinarians, researchers, and industry actors, to accelerate the adoption of Cow-Calf Contact (CCC) systems across Europe and beyond.



TDN COORDINATOR'S WORDS

The TDN project is just the best project honestly!

I'm so passionate about promoting farming in a way that I think modern societies would be proud of. Cow calf separation is a significant animal welfare challenge and ethical concern for European citizens. We are delighted to be working with pioneering farmers and others to enable more dairy cows and calves to spend time together all across Europe, making sure we've got a dairy sector fit for the future.

It's amazing to see how this project is inspiring changes since its beginning. Thanks to TDN, I'd like to think that anybody who is wanting to know more about Cow-Calf Contact could find not only information to help them, but also a network of people willing and able to provide support.

Prof. Siobhan Mullan (University College Dublin)