

# Research & Development claim for a company in the farming industry

## Background

Many businesses in agriculture and farming invest in new technologies or processes to increase their production but are unaware that their activity is eligible for R&D tax relief. ETC recently assisted a dairy farming business with their R&D tax claim for research carried out and improvements made to the nutrition of their cattle.

## The challenge

The business noticed a significant decline in the herd's milk yield. The directors decided that research and development should be undertaken to find out what caused the reduction in milk quality produced by their herd, and what could be done to improve this.

## The solution

After conducting independent research, the directors sought assistance from a reputable university who identified factors such as underlying microorganisms and the overall quality of herd nutrition leading to the decline in milk yield. They tested soil samples and herd nutrition to explore possible reasons for the poor milk yield. In light of the research, the dairy farm implemented a treatment programme which involved a fundamental change in processes on the farm. These included alterations to the feed delivery system, nutritional supplements added to the feed, and applying different fertilisers and specific sprays to improve soil quality.

A number of different formulas of feeds and fertilisers were tested alongside continuous testing of the soil quality to monitor improvements. The company continued to seek innovation by using scientific advancements and sub-contracted a third party to conduct scientific analysis. They also instructed veterinarians to conduct ongoing testing on key measures of the herd's health, testing specifically-designed cattle feed and measuring the feed's integration into the herd.

ETC managed the R&D claim process for the company from start to finish. From carrying out discussions with company directors, to collating relevant data, ETC were on-hand to prepare the R&D claim on behalf of the company.