

LOTHIANS MONITOR FARM ANNUAL REPORT YEAR TWO

Farm name: Prestonhall & Saughland, Pathhead, Midlothian

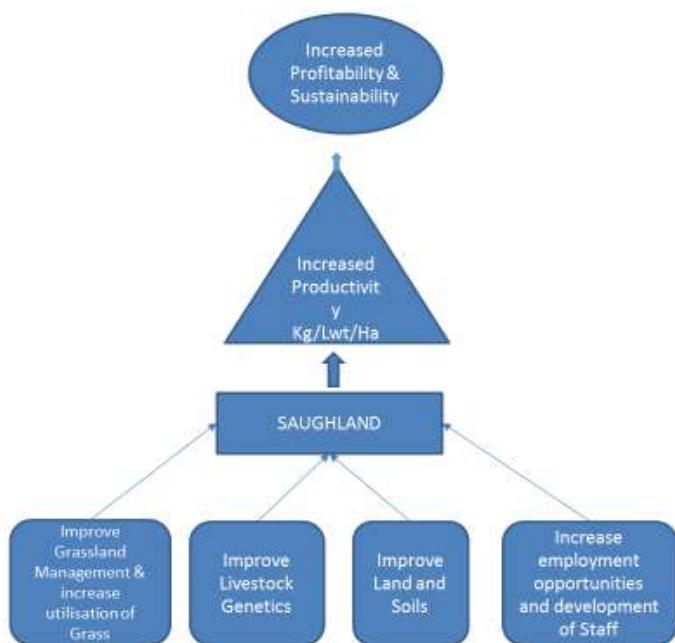
Prestonhall Farms and Saughland Farm run independent arable and livestock enterprises at Pathhead Midlothian. Pete Eccles is farm manager at Saughland and Bill Gray at Prestonhall. The businesses work collaboratively on arable and livestock operations.

Livestock at Saughland; 50 AAX suckler cows running with Lim & Hereford bull plus 2,100 Chev, Llyne, Aberfield, Mule ewes with Tex, NZsuff, Abermax lambs at foot on rotational grazing system.

Arable at Prestonhall; Combinable Crops, WW 175ha, WB 80ha, SB 160ha, WOSR 65ha, WO 20ha, Grass 75ha

The Vision of the community group for the 3 years the project continues to follow the visions set in year 1

Livestock



Arable

“Establishing systems which make the business adaptable and robust to future challenges, ensuring the facilities are fit for purpose in the medium to long term and that we manage our soils and the environment in a sustainable way.”



Meeting Dates 2019

- 27th February
- 23rd May
- 19th July
- Provisional
- October
- November
- December

The management group is chaired by Willie Thomson and includes Jill Bathgate, Russell Calder, Andrew Clark, Rob Forrest, James Hamilton, Ross King, Graham Lofthouse, James Logan and David Paul

MEETING TOPICS

The management group continue to push their vision for the livestock and the arable enterprises and are working hard on the collaborative models which will deliver mutual benefit. The meetings are all business focussed with technical and financial data available to support discussion.

YEAR TWO MEETINGS SUMMARY

Date	Attendance	Aims	Outcomes
January 25 th		Drain or not to drain, Liver Fluke and more from Grass	Drainage is the biggest limiting factor; estimated payback is 5-7 years. Fluke continues to be a risk and many farmers have forgotten 2012
March 8 th		Innovation & Technology, Economies of scale, Machinery Sharing	Invaluable insight into the technologies being implemented in the Handsfree hectare project and the links which are now made with Moredun.
May 23 rd		Onwards an upwards – facing the challenges	Crop location is critical in a challenging year, Winter Barley looks to be struggling. Again, the A flock performed much better
July 25 th		Open Day	General overview of the project to date. Benefits of benchmarking. Moredun offer an invaluable resource on our doorstep
Oct 17 th		Harvest Roundup, TST results, Forage Crops	Fodder beet grows well in dry conditions, Soil condition at sowing and location are critical to crop performance. Collaboration has huge value when making decision in challenging conditions
Dec 12 th		Transformational Change in Agriculture, Future of Farming	Agri- Epi offer essential facilities to promote and develop innovation in agriculture. Huge amount of work happening at JHI which we must engage with.

ATTENDANCE

Attendances have continued to be strong for all of the meetings, however monitor farm meetings cannot simply be judged on these figures, sharing knowledge and encouraging uptake of best practice and engaging with research institutes on arable and livestock issues is critical. This project has been driven by the management group with meetings structured to allow breakout sessions to maximise participation.

- Total attendance 517 (240 year 2), average of 43 at each meeting
- Average of 36% at each meeting are under 40 years old
- Average of 20% of attendees at each meeting are female.

FACILITATOR CONTACT DETAILS

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