Round up since last meeting,

**Bullocks**
- At our last meeting one of the topics was whether or not to sell now or finish the store cattle.
- We decided to go ahead and sell the whole lot at Stirling UA on 21st March.
- Averaged just over £910 which was £100 less than selling the previous year’s cattle in the previous September, does it cost £100/head to sell 6 months later?? With shed still half full of straw and half full of wheat?

**Lambing**
Split between Whitriggs & Denholmhill where the gimmers who tested negative were housed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dead, or in dead ewe</th>
<th>Died in Shed</th>
<th>Died Outside</th>
<th>Losses, scan to end</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whitriggs</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>12% (was 9% in ‘17)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denholmhill</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12%</td>
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Possible reasons... lambed too fast and students not still here to help after lambs born though less lambs have knowingly died outside this year.

Lambs were in an extra day sometimes due to snow so were much more motherly and less problems mothering up.

Really hope gimmers remain clear as a lot of hassle lambing at 2 different farms. But we gave it our best shot. Disinfected on entry to shed and equipment and trailers were all kept completely separate.

Post lambing lambs are doing well and joint ill almost non-existent.

Last year our lambing were slow then really fast we this year was even more extreme. Week one students arrive Monday 26th and by the next Monday we had only had 100 and by the Wednesday of the hellish weather we only had 14 outside. But come Thursday morning we were flat out. Thursday to Sunday we had 650 lamb. That Sunday the 3 vet students left. The lambing shed was still full we 200 in individual pens and still 250 to lamb. But just me and dad by the 17th day (WED) we were down to 60 which was 94% in 1st cycle. We hadn’t slept very much that week!

**Change of practice:**
- Increase bought in feeding per ewe, 2.5t of Megastart buckets, 2.5tn of protected soya, 8 Optilics buckets and 3 ton of feeding which came to £5.60 per ewe.
- All triplets set on or pets but got routinely filled with colostrum at birth.
- Pet lambs were on a heat wave milker which worked really well
- Hoggs Lambed, but really slow and were a hassle, also made lambing almost 6 weeks long even though tups were only out for a total of 4.

**Calving**
- Started with 2 abortions, one being a set of twins. Tested but no reason found. Then we had a set of living twins and have now had another 2 sets.
Cows came down from DH on the 18th and due to start on the 24th but 10% calved before due date. Calving so far has went well and really fast. By day 16 we reached the 66% mark.

AI progress

- 9 pure heifers to calf at 3yr old, 5 calved to ai, 3 calved to bull in 2nd cycle and 1 still to calf in 3rd
- Cows which calved after week 6 last year, there were synchronised. Aim being to bring them forward into the 1st weeks of calving,
- 8 out of 23 held to AI, One cow has actually come forward 7 weeks
- And we are waiting the rest from the bull. But all were scanned in calf and only had 1 turn at bull.
- One cow died with peritonitis but vet unable to reason for symptoms.

Rest of farm,

- Fertiliser Alzon urea and Triple 15 applied to all early silage and to the wheat.
- Smart grass was sprayed onto 4 fields of grass with 5ha sprayed in each
- One field of wheat that was sown but never managed to get rolled or pre emed failed with only 10% growth. This field has been sown with Italian rye and red clover mix with combination drill.
- We have also had 3 other fields of new re seeds 2 of them for the deer. In total 80 acres
- Sold 150 bales of hay
- Poly tunnel resurrected easier than thought only temporary though
- Turnips may have been sown,
- Deer shed has almost been completed and fencing has just started for the deer on Monday
- Thankfully we had no spring grain to go in as A the weather was rubbish and B we had no time to do it.

Quick time line of work since last meeting,

- Sold bullocks
- Dug out shed site for deer
- Bloused cows with CU,CO,SE,ID and vaccinated for Rotovirus,
- There has been 6 artic load of calcium lime applied to some reseeds and the new turnip ground at 2t/acre
- Lambing here there and here again.
- Spreading fert/spraying smart grass
- Calving
- Sowing grass
- Selecting and turning out this year’s breeding heifers, 31 kept and 30 for sale. Lots of tips used from the last meetings help
- Also bought a new tractor.

...during this time we have shovelled a lot of snow!! And not had much sleep.

Have also had a best man speech and a stag do to organise for my brother who is getting married this Saturday.