

ABOUT THIS MONITOR FARM

Farm name	Clonhie Farm, Penpont, Thornhill DG3 4NB
Next Meeting	1st February 2018
Report date	11th December 2017

Clonhie is run by Andrew and Aileen Marchant, as tenants of Buccleuch Estate

The Marchants, new entrants to farming in 2012, now farm Clonhie and Glengar totaling 303 ha, which is mostly Permanent/Temporary grass with about 40 ha of hill ground

975 NCCX, LleyX & BeltexX ewes & gimmers & 70 AberfieldX ewe lambs went to Beltex, Aberfield & Highlander tups in 2017 to lamb in April 2018

A herd of Luing cows is being established, with 18 cows & heifers going to a Luing bull in 2017

25 ha of silage is grown and fed to B&B cattle wintered in the cattle sheds. Summer grazing cattle are also taken on to the farm.

Meeting Topics

1st meeting 26th Jan 2017 - 93 attendees. - topics & discussions :-

- Introduction to Andrew & Aileen Marchant and their business at Clonhie Farm
- J Vipond – feeding the pregnant ewe
- A Marchant & A Padkin (farm vet) management of Clonhie flock

2nd meeting 2nd March 2017. - 44 attendees - topics & discussions :-

- Flock diets, vaccination & worming program. Early lambing flock
- Cattle liveweights, condition scores & calculating appropriate diets
- Soils analyses results, discussions and plans

3rd meeting 25th May 2017. - 56 attendees - topics & discussions :-

- Farm update, automatic sheep handling demonstration
- Farm tour, management of soils, reseeds, grassland utilisation
- Opportunities and ideas for trials and enterprise choices at Clonhie

Meeting Dates 2018

1st Feb 2018

4th meeting 27th July 2017. - 54 attendees. - topics & discussions :-

- Updates on reseeding, forage crop, silage, and lambs progress & sales to date
- Lamb comparison trials so far – Smartshot, creep feed & castrated/entire tup lambs
- Dewi Jones, Innovis – genetics & EBVs for the sheep industry

- Iain Macdonald, QMS Economist, sheep market update and outlook

5th meeting 5th October 2017. - 48 attendees. - topics & discussions :-

- Report on Lamb comparison trials to date
- Partial budget – should early lambing continue at Clonhie?
- Ewe body condition scoring, Tup MOTs & winter grazing plans for deferred grass & forage crop

6th meeting 7th December 2017. - 57 attendees. - topics & discussions :-

- Visit to Robert Osborne's 250 beef herd at Castlehill, Durisdeer to see housing & bedding choices, management system, winter diets for spring & autumn calvers and for weaned calves
- Advantages of a Cattle health scheme and general health challenges seen this year
- Andrew's Clonhie update – lamb sales, tugging, kale crop estimated, bulling & cows scanned and new enterprise started - calf rearing using shed which was used for early lambing
- Gavin Hill, SAC, opportunities and challenges for our Scotch beef industry
- Will Case, South Cumbria – the development and enterprise choices we have taken to strengthen our traditional livestock farm business

Management Group

Management group established in February and have held 4 meetings to date. Chair is Colin Forsyth, Benan, Tynron, the group includes 5 other farmers, the farm vet, seedsman and 3 facilitators. Discussed meeting dates, arrangements, topics and speakers to invite. Have also looked at draft ILMP, farm technical and financial analysis, carbon audit, environmental report as well as suggested topics and priorities from community group.

Business Group

Business group established with an initial 15 /16 interested farm businesses. Of these 8 have now completed their first attempt on FarmBench using data for the year 01/11/16 to 31/10/17. A few have said they have real difficulties with this – e.g. splitting off complicated estate expenses from actual farm expenses, multi diversified enterprises [one business runs 2 dairy herds, beef, sheep, crops and 2 further farm diversifications through the same farm business and bank account!] or don't have up to date enough information. Have held the FIRST EVER Livestock FarmBench feedback session and members have promised to go back and make alterations to their data in the light of the group discussions at the meeting. Have identified a few significant KPIs to use for the first group farm visits in the new year....

FACILITATOR CONTACT DETAILS

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