

ABOUT THIS MONITOR FARM

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| Farm name | Clynelish Farm, Brora, Sutherland, KW9 6LR |
| Next Meeting | Tuesday 30th January 2018, 11am Brora Golf Course, Brora, KW9 6QS |

Clynelish Farm is a 125-hectare farm run by Jason Ballantyne and his wife Vic, in partnership with Jason's dad Murdo.

Cattle: The family runs 80 suckler cows with calves sold store at 10 months of age. Cows are all out-wintered.

Sheep: There is a flock of 900 breeding ewes, of which about half are Lairg type Cheviots and the other half Lleyn cross, currently lamb outdoors at the end of April.

Meeting Topics

The management group, made up of 6 local farmers and a local feed company rep, as well as the Jason and Victoria Ballantyne and facilitators. The group were chosen from the wider community group to ensure they are representative of the group and act as a link between the facilitators and hosts and the community group as well as using their experience to help drive the project. The management group may change throughout the life of the project.

Topics for the meetings come from the management group with the aim of being applicable to the host farm as well as the wider community group member's farms.

Year 1 Meeting Summary

| Date | Attendance | Aims | Outcomes |
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| 9 February 2017 | 51 | Getting to know the farm Establishing a community group | Understanding of the business, SWOT. Ideas for meeting topics based on the introduction, potential improvements to Clynesh |
| <i>Management Group Established</i> | | | |
| 14 March 2017 | 33 | Ewe Management for Lambing Cattle Scanning results discussion | Pre-empting cobalt deficiency Herbage test on early spring grass Blood test ewes for energy (beta hydroxy buturate) and protein (blood urea). Liver biopsy of cows to check status. Bulls tested for campylobacter. |
| 8 June 2017 | 52 | Herd Fertility Issues | Pre-breeding examination of bulls Testing Cows for Leptospirosis To continue to look at a combination of management practices, vaccinations and testing to improve herd fertility. |
| 28 July 2017 | 39 | Cattle systems Market Outlook for sheep | To assess the points raised from the breakout session on the cattle enterprise. Testing Cows for IBR and Leptospirosis To decide on a marketing strategy for the lambs, based on weight, breed, grass availability and supplementary feeding. Completion of electric fencing |
| <i>Benchmarking Group Established</i> | | | |
| 13 September 2017 | 38 | Better Grass Management | Rotational grazing plan to be completed To assess the points raised from the farm tour with regard to the replacement heifer policy To decide whether to keep the 6 year-old ewes or cash in and purchase young stock. Completion of electric fencing Trevor Cook suggested Jason and Victoria get a plate meter for measuring their grass so they could monitor the sward height. |

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| 5 December 2017 | 24 | Innovation Enterprise Costings Future plans | Various potential new technologies which may be beneficial With disappointing scanning results last year Clynesh costings were still above average To finish some of the Aberdeen Angus offspring To look further into AECS potential |
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Attendance

Attendances have been excellent during the first year, although more important than numbers attending has been the interaction within the group and the discussions at each meeting, which have proved invaluable to the monitor farmers but also to the community group attendees.

Feedback forms gathered at each meeting have shown that attendees have found the topics useful and relevant

Total attendance so far 237, average of 40 at each meeting

- Some prefer to attend all meetings; other will pick and choose by the topic.

FACILITATOR CONTACT DETAILS

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