



FARMER LED, FARMER DRIVEN

Monitor Farm Lead Partners
17th January 2024



Workshops



Maximum Sustainable Output

Chris is a Partner in Nethergill Associates, a business management consultancy currently assisting with the conjecturing and management of future farming uncertainties in all four countries within the UK as well as overseas.

With 230 farms analysed to date and many more contracted in 2024, Chris and his Team have calculated their individual MSO (Maximum Sustainable Output) and advised them how to move towards MSO and hence achieve maximum profitability without compromising nature. A farm is at MSO when:

Profits are maximised

Net energy footprint is minimised

The resulting pattern of bio-diversity is optimised

- In the sense that the landscape is in a state of equilibrium with Nature and that the environment is not being compromised.

Insights Discovery

Each Monitor Farm has completed a short Insights Discovery profile. By undertaking Insights personality profiling the aim is to discuss setting up for success and the impact of our mindset on our life and work.

The session was led by Jan Roberts who said:

“Starting my career as a Brewer, working for Guinness and then United Distillers as it was then. Since I have worked in Learning and Development roles in a range of organizations as well as being self employed for several years.

My passion is providing team facilitation and coaching within organizations particularly using Insights Discovery..

I worked with the Insights Discovery organization for a few years where I became a passionate advocate.”



Visit to Moredun Research Institute

The group was hosted by researchers at Moredun Research Institute. Ted talks consisted of:

- Introduction/welcome to Moredun – Dr Tom McNeilly (Director & CEO)
- Sheep scab – Dr Stewart Burgess (Head of Vaccines & Diagnostics)
- Ticks – Dr Mara Rocci (Veterinary Surveillance)
- Gastrointestinal Parasites – worms/fluke/cocci – Dr Dave Bartley (Parasitology)
- Targeted Selective Treatment/Technological approaches – Dr Fiona Kenyon (Parasitology)

The group then departed on a tour of the Moredun Bus, labs and demonstration of FEC sampling and new FEC Check app from Lynsey Melville and Eilidh Geddes. Check out the new FEC Check app here: <https://app.moredun.org.uk/fec/check>



Visit to SRUC Easter Howgate and GreenCow

Finishing off the day, the group received a farm tour of Easter Howgate from George Baikie and Laura Nicoll.

First discussion was on the trials using feed bins which are used to measure intake.



Moving onto the GreenCow facility where there are chambers to measure individual animal emissions of methane.

These chambers have been used to determine variance in methane emissions between animals to identify genomics for lower emitters.

Final stop was the handling facility which includes a curved race and autodrafting crush – some envious cattle farmers in the group!



The group had a lot of discussion on balancing genetics for feed efficiency, growth rate, methane emissions and eating quality.

The visit provided a lot of thought for potential trials on the Monitor Farms for this coming year.

**To find out more or to sign up –
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MONITOR FARM Scotland

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