



FARMER LED, FARMER DRIVEN

**Talking Tech and Software
Solutions for Livestock Producers:**

**Report from West Cluster Meeting on 23
January 2024**

In association with:



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MEETING REPORT



Over 75 members of the farming community attended the event organised to help livestock producers select technologies and farm management software suitable for their businesses.

Matt Blyth, [BLAS Livestock Services](#), provided the following advice for farmers looking to invest in new technology and farm management software:

EID Technology - Check List:

The **first** thing to do when considering investing in EID technology is to ask yourself what information do you want to collect and why?

Then ask yourself;

- 🐄 Is any of the technology I currently have on-farm capable of capturing this?
- 🐄 Do I need another EID compatible device to record this information?

Once you have worked out what data you would like to capture and that further technology may be required, ask yourself the following questions:

- 🐄 Will the EID technology communicate with my chosen farm management software?
- 🐄 If you record the information on the device, how will this be uploaded into the software that I have chosen?
- 🐄 Will your on-farm technology connect to the device working on your chosen app? Some devices will not connect to Apple products (IOS)
- 🐄 When the information is in the software or on the EID technology, will I need to see this information again in real-time? For example, that this animal has been selected to be culled or its DLWG?
- 🐄 Can this be uploaded from the software back into the device? Or will I see this on the app?
- 🐄 Do I need to use the setup in the rain or heavy sunshine? Will I still be able to capture the data I need in these conditions?
- 🐄 Does this technology come with free software?
- 🐄 Does this technology download into Excel or CSV files?
- 🐄 If the technology is programmable, how difficult is it to program?
- 🐄 What set-up, training and support will I need and is it provided?

Farm Management Software - Check List:

When you have decided on what information you are going to record and how you are going to record it, the **next stage** is deciding how and when you are going to use this information with or without a software package.

When looking at investing in a farm management software, ask yourself the following questions:

- Does the farm management software connect to the government gateways? Do I need to attach it to the government gateways?
- Does the software record all the information that keeps me compliant with UK regulations or farm assurance schemes?
- Do I need a map to know where all the animals are on the farm?
- Do I need to and if so, can I record extra information for any environmental schemes?
- Can I upload information, e.g. lifetime animal data, back into the EID technology?
- What reports do I need the software package to generate to achieve my goals, and is the package capable of this?
- How many people need access to the software, and how is the access shared - cloud, backup email to people or downloaded onto a USB memory stick?
- What set-up, training and support will I need and is it provided? And is it free of charge?

Matt: "The first step is to sit down with pen and paper and draw three areas that you would like to focus on in your herd or flock. Next, determine what data points you need to capture, and finally, consider what resources are available to assist you. One of the biggest challenges farmers encounter is dealing with software and pieces of equipment that are not compatible. I urge farmers to take this into account before making an investment."



Ross Robertson, Agri-Epi Centre, gave an overview of some of the technology being used on their demo and research farms network, solutions that can improve data collection, decision making and livestock handling.

Ritchie Mobile Combi Clamp



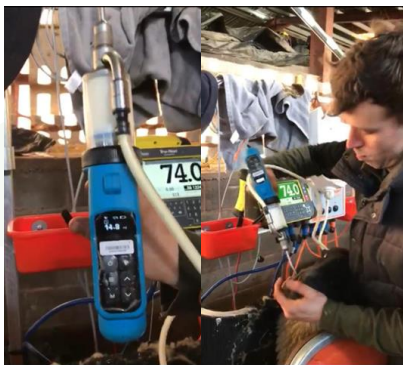
- A large foot treadle allows the operator freedom of movement whilst restraining the animal for treatment
- The width is fully adjustable to suit different sizes of sheep
- The linkage is adjustable to suit different weights of operator
- Easy use for dagging, drenching, vaccinating and tagging
- Simple non-return hock bar
- Autodrafting option, working 3 ways on weight/sex/breed etc.
- Can be set up for left or right-hand operation

- Ideal for performance recording of all livestock.
- Easily connect to compatible load bars and EID tag readers for quick data capture and to aid decision making in real time.
- Set criteria for up to 10-way drafting.
- Large colour screen for easy data-access.
- Track and manage treatments including dosage and withdrawals.
- Monitor performance and set target rates.
- Store up to 1,000,000 records.

Tru-Test XR5000 Weight Indicator



Te Pari Revolution Dosing Gun



- Durable construction with removable batteries for easy charging
- Adjustable piston forward and return speed to suit delivery or product viscosity
- Lock screen to prevent accidental dose rate adjustments
- Statistics functions shows amount of product used and number of doses.
- Multiple barrel options allows same motor unit to be used for Pour On, Injecting or Oral Dosing
- Firmware updates through smart phone app (ios and Android)
- Battery Life: 2000+ doses of 50ml Pour On or 1000+ doses of 3ml Injection
- Dose Accuracy: +/- 0.2ml
- Connects directly to Te Pari T30 Scales or Gallagher TW Scales
- Connects to Tru-Test indicators with Bluetooth via Android App

- By taking several readings a day for each beast and providing you with an average weight at any point during the day or night puts you in greater control.
- This enables you to ensure optimal weight for your cattle, while at the same time reducing labour and waste bedding and feed from keeping cattle too long.
- The RITCHIE Beef Monitor also provides you with added insight of your herd by identifying issues you may not spot straight away such as frozen pipes or feed inefficiency.
- Easily set-up and operated.
- Data is stored in the cloud for viewing on any computer, tablet or smart phone enabling monitoring at your fingertips.

Ritchie Beef Monitor



Software & Tech Speed Dating!

The event brought a variety of farm software and innovative farm equipment providers under one roof, alongside experts who guided the audience through the decision-making process. Farmers were able to see and try different software and technologies before deciding which ones would suit their system.



“One of the challenges we are facing is incorporating the data from weight recording and medicine use into our current management programme. The event has highlighted the importance of compatibility of software programmes, and we can see some options that are now available.” **Attendee Crawford McLaren, beef farmer from Crieff.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you want to find out more about using data, your farm businesses can sign up to be part of the Monitor Farm Programme in Scotland (2022-2026). To find out more visit [monitorfarms](https://monitorfarms.com)

The Sm@RT project provides more information on tools & technologies that can be used for data collection: (smartplatform.network).

Attending Software Providers

[Agriiweb](https://agriiweb.com)

[iLivestock](https://ilivestock.com)

[Shearwelll Data \(Farmworks\)](https://shearwelll.com)

[Herdwatch/Flockwatch](https://herdwatch.com)

[Agri Ignite \(agri-ignite.co.uk\)](https://agri-ignite.co.uk)

The Farm Advisory Service (FAS) in Scotland has useful resources about farm technology and runs topic specific events on farm & online. To find our more visit fas.scot

Edinburgh University have launched a [website](https://www.ed.ac.uk/learning/online) for training people in agriculture to use the databases connected with tech equipment out there on the market.

Attending Technology Providers)

[Ritchie](https://ritchie.com)

[Datamars](https://datamars.com)

[Te Pari](https://tepari.com)



MONITOR FARM Scotland

To find out more or to sign up, please contact:

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