

## ABOUT SHETLAND MONITOR FARM

Farm name	<b>Bigton Farm, the Shetland Monitor Farm</b>
Meeting Number	<b>12 – Succession planning and Footrot</b>
Meeting Date	<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018</b>
Next Meeting	<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019</b>

Kirsty and Aimee Budge are our Shetland Monitor Farmers, at Bigton farm on the south west of the Shetland mainland.

**Land:** Two units are run together, covering 305 ha of in bye and rough grazing.

**Crops:** Around 25 ha of spring barley is grown, 4ha of forage rape and about 40ha of silage cut.

**Cattle:** 82 Shorthorn x Saler cows producing Saler or Charolais x calves which are sold store or finished.

**Sheep:** 350 Shetland x Cheviot breeding ewes which are put to a Suffolk tup. Replacements are bought in.

### Management group members are:

Jamie Leslie (Chairman): Scholland Farm, Graham Fraser: SAC Consulting, Kirsty Budge: Bigton Farm, Aimee Budge: Bigton Farm, Lauraine Manson: Hestigarth, Walls and Shetland Livestock Marketing Group, Hilary Burgess: Quendale Farm and Shetland Animal Health Scheme, Eric Graham: Gremista Farm, Jim Tait: Shetland Vets, John Abernethy: Verdahill, Twatt, Johnina Henderson: Breckon, Yell, John Sandison: Parkview, Bigton, Aaron Sinclair: Sandlodge Farm, Jacob Eunson: Uradale, Matthew Westmoreland: Hoversta, Bressay



Thirty-four farmers and crofters came along to hear Derek Hanton of SAC Inverness, Margi Campbell, Saffrey Champness Chartered Accountants, Karis Stevenson BVM&S & MRCVS and get an update from Kirsty and Aimee.

## KEY MESSAGES

- Have a succession plan
- Discuss succession issues with your accountant
- Discuss your foot rot reduction programme with your vet

## FARMERS UPDATE

**Bigton Farm Update:**

Kirsty gave a report to the meeting.

A farm audit is currently being carried out by Derek Hanton of SAC Consulting and should be available soon.

**Cattle**

- Plans are to monitor the growth of store cattle from Dec-Feb by weighing regularly.
- 6 calves possibly had pneumonia
- Calves to bought in cows are not performing as well
- Swap grazing – sucklers to Toab on poorer grazing and finishers to Bigton
- Keep July finishers inside
- Increase weaned calf ration by increasing the barley fed.
- Increase the level of protein fed to smaller calves

**Arable**

- Aim to increase barley yield and sales
- Storage of barley – need to have buyers ready to take the crop at harvest.
- **Machinery**
- From the audit 50% of Farm Output is being spent on machinery
- What tractors/machinery is being spent on?
- Can the number of tractors be reduced?
- **Lambs**
- Store lambs
- Acidosis
- Ventilation issues
  - Toab
  - Resolved at Bigton but changes may be required to sheep housing.
- Sales
  - November lambs overall up £5.32 on compared to Thainstone last year
    - /11 £71.32 @19kg
    - /11 £73.80 @ 20kg
    - 28/11/2018                      69 smaller lambs @ £64.56 @ 17.5kg
      - 100 smaller lambs @ £48
- Need to get lambs away faster and get some finished off grass

## AREAS OF DISCUSSION



Derek Hanton of SAC consulting gave an 'Introduction to Planning for the Future'

### Where to start

TALK!!

- Business Plan
- Current position
- Ownership of land, buildings, stock, etc.
- Borrowing
- What do you Want?
- Retirement and Successor
- Role?
- Business growth?
- Keep family relationships?

**Have a Plan!**

### Margi Campbell, Saffrey Champness Chartered Accountants

Margi gave a presentation on:

#### Planning for the future – accounts and tax

Areas covered:

- What is succession?
- Taxation of succession
- How does IHT work for farms?
- What creates issues?
- Balfour Case
- Grazing lets
- Furnished Holiday Lets

When should you start discussing these issues with your accountant?

**Do it TODAY!**



## Footrot in Sheep in Shetland - Karis Stevenson, BVM&S MRCVS

Karis carried out a study into the treatment of footrot in sheep in Shetland in her final year as vet student in 2017. At the meeting she reported her findings gave some practical advice about the control of footrot in sheep and down on the farm the feet of several sheep were inspected, and this help generate an excellent discussion.

Her study concluded that Shetland is relatively close to the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) lameness target of less than 2% by 20212 and she recommended that education should be focused on farms stocking in bye ewes and non-organic producers. Vets (ranked as the most influential source of information) must be at the forefront of farmer education.

### Approximate Cost of Footrot in Sheep

Cost of footrot per ewe per year = £10 (AHDB)

Number of sheep in study = 43,622

Average prevalence of footrot in study = 4.76%

Average number of sheep in study with footrot = 2076

Cost of footrot in sheep studied in Shetland at time of study = £20,760



Figure 1: Ovine Lameness 5-Point Plan<sup>10</sup>



There was an excellent discussion on the use of routine foot trimming, foot bathing and the use of vaccination as part of a footrot reduction programme.

Further details can be found in the presentation prepared by Karis for the meeting and in her study report.

## ACTIONS FROM Meeting

- Regularly weigh store cattle
- Complete farm audit with Derek Hanton

**FACILITATOR CONTACT DETAILS**  
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