

### Monitor Farm Fact Sheet

<b>Business Details</b>	
Host Farmers	Iain MacKay
Farm Name	Torloisk Farm (Ulva Ferry, Isle of Mull, PA74 6NH)
Region	Isle of Mull - Argyll and the Isles region
Farm size / hectares	2,768.63ha declared on IACS
Farm types / classification	Extensive/traditional hill livestock farm (mostly MacAulay land classes 6 and 7 rough grazing with some class 5 grassland)
Enterprises	Extensive grass-based breeder/store suckler beef herd Extensive breeder/store hill flock
What is grown / farmed	<p>The suckler herd consists of 55 pedigree Highland cows. The best 20 to 25 cows are run with a Highland bull to produce homebred replacement females and breeding animals for the pedigree and commercial market. The remaining cows are run with a Simmental bull to produce cross females for the commercial breeding market. Cross steers are sold through the ring after weaning, and pure steers are sold privately to a grass-based finisher, also after weaning. The herd operates a closed replacement system and has Hi-Health status.</p> <p>The sheep enterprise consists of approx. 970 ewes. A stud flock of 200 pedigree NCC ewes is run on the in-bye to produce breeding and store animals as well as homebred tups to run with the hill ewes. The tups are sold on for breeding as 4-shears. A further 80 commercial NCC ewes are run between the in-bye and a hill park, and together with the stud flock form a fully recorded flock. The hill ewes are fully recorded except for parentage/progeny and consist of a mixture between Blackface, NCC and crosses, with the aim to eventually run a pure NCC flock. Lambs are sold for breeding or as stores. Replacement females are all homebred and tups are only purchased for the stud flock.</p> <p>Torloisk Farm also manages a large-scale agri-environment climate scheme to benefit a wide range of key species and various important habitats and tries to adopt the principles of HNV and regenerative farming.</p>

Number of employees / people working on farm	<b>1 full-time (Iain)</b> <b>1 part-time (Iain's partner Claire)</b>  <b>3 casual family labour (unpaid)</b> <b>Up to 5 casual contract shepherding labour every year</b>
Carbon footprint / Output	<b>51.77kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/ total kg beef &amp; lamb</b> <b>(average between 2018/19 and 2019/20)</b>
What years were you involved in the previous Monitor Farm Project?	<b>2011 until 2014</b>
What did you gain from being a previous Monitor Farmer ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Confidence to trial new things and change the management system where needed</b></li> <li>- <b>Focus on importance of data and performance recording</b></li> <li>- <b>Awareness of importance of in-bye grassland management</b></li> <li>- <b>Importance of time management and time allocation</b></li> </ul>
What has been the biggest change you have made to your enterprise due to the Monitor Farm Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>More extensive performance recording including regular livestock weighing</b></li> <li>- <b>Using bracken control as a management tool to benefit biodiversity, productivity, and to make sheep gathering easier</b></li> <li>- <b>Using surface seeding as sward rejuvenation strategy instead of full reseeding and avoiding any tillage practices/soil disturbance</b></li> </ul>
What are you looking forward to achieving as part of the Monitor Farm Legacy Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Showcase the important role that hill and upland farming systems can play not just for the production of sustainable domestic food, but also for wider socio-economic, environmental and climate benefits</b></li> <li>- <b>Share my experiences both good and bad to encourage others to try new things, do things differently and have the confidence to be willing to review and change their own system</b></li> <li>- <b>Highlight that performance recording and precision livestock farming can be done in a hill environment, albeit by using different approaches</b></li> </ul>
Link to farm Facebook/Instagram page	<b>Instagram: torloisk_farm</b>