



Meeting kindly sponsored by

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DUMFRIESSHIRE

2nd Meeting Report
18th July 2023



Healthy soils, animals and grazing

Around 80 members of the farming community attended the meeting. The afternoon was full of discussion looking at:

- **Grazing management**
- **Soil health**
- **Condition scoring sheep**
- **Infectious disease**
- **Solar water pump**

FARM FACTS

- **500** hectares
- **600** ewes
- **150** suckler cows
- **40** hectares of crops
- **20** store cattle
- **1** herd of pedigree Charolais cattle

Peter Thorpe from **Ardo Water Solutions** came along to discuss his solar powered water pumps which he designs and builds himself. Barnbackle had been struggling for water for the past few months with the main water source drying up due to the severe lack of rain in the area. The heavens opened on the day of the meeting, so we brought the pump inside to demo. It's easily moved as sits on 2 plastic pallets.



400 Watt pump in action @ Barnbackle. Use this link to see a demo www.ardowatersolutions.com/demo

This pump has the capability to pump water from the pond at **farm level to a head of 100m and over 2km while also powering a 12v electric fence**. This will allow Richard to open up multiple fields to rotational grazing which have been restricted in the past. He says it's a "game changer" for the farm.

Each pump can be made to order from **100 Watt up to 400 Watt**.

The spec of each pump including pricing can be viewed in more detail on

www.ardowatersolutions.com/brochure



200 WATT SOLAR PANEL



115 AH LEISURE BATTERY



20 AMP CONTROLLER TO REGULATE CHARGE TO BATTERY



PRESSURE VESSEL AND GAUGE



PUMP CAPABLE OF PUMPING 6 GALLONS OF WATER PER MINUTE WITH A MAX PRESSURE OF 50 PSI



MADE IN RECYCLED PLASTIC OR A GALVANISED BOX



INTEGRATED PRESSURE/ DEMAND SWITCH



MOUNTED ON A RECYCLED PLASTIC PALLET FOR EASE OF MOVEMENT

Rotational Grazing

RJ Livestock Systems Ltd- Rhidian Jones



Rotational Grazing

Decide whether rotational grazing is something you are going to be able to commit to and what classes of livestock, it all depends on your farm and the goal.

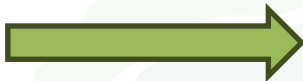
Think about learning in 3 levels:

- 🥉 Bronze: **Listening** to someone talk about rotational grazing.
- 🥈 Silver: **Visiting** someone who already does rotational grazing
- 🥇 Gold: **Doing it yourself**, its best learned on the job once you have the foundations.

Feed Budget

A good grass cover in a meadow field = **2500-3000 KgDM/ha or approx. 8-10 cm**
Allocate 3% of bodyweight and graze to a residual of **1500-1700 KgDM/ha or approx. 3-5 cm.**

You can measure grass using a simple sward stick or a plate meter like this one



UME is the ultimate measure of grassland efficiency- takes the amount of ME required by all the livestock for a year, then deducts all purchased energy

You can achieve a **20%** increase in grass growth and stocking rates by using a rotational system.



Grass grazed down to **1600 KgDM/ha or approx. 4cm**

Infectious Disease

Bruce and Ali Haggerty Stewartry Veterinary centre



Infectious disease

Infectious diseases are caused by pathogenic microorganisms, such as **bacteria**, **viruses**, **parasites** or **fungi**; the diseases can be spread, directly or indirectly, from one person to another.

High health

Pushing for health status to improve your business and farm is an excellent thing to do but we have to take into consideration the individual farm circumstance and look at what you need to do and target it to you with advice from your vet and peers.

One size doesn't fit all, you need to know your goals and aims and prioritise what you are looking for.



Below shows a list of diseases in sheep and cattle and if they are zoonotic (transferable to humans) **CheCS** schemes oversee the protocols for controlling and eliminating infectious endemic cattle diseases in the UK and Ireland

Disease	Notifiable	CHECS	Sheep	Cattle	Zoonotic
TB	✓	✓	✓ 🚫	✓	✓
BVD		✓	✓	✓	
Johnes		✓	✓	✓	?
Lepto		✓	✓	✓	✓
IBR		✓		✓	
Neospora		✓	✓	✓	
Sheep scab	✓		✓		
Salmonella	(reportable)		✓	✓	✓
CLA	✓		✓		
Coccidiosis			✓	✓	
Orf			✓		✓
OPA			✓		
MV			✓		
PI3/RSV				✓	
Mycoplasma			✓	✓	
Lice			✓	✓	
Toxo			✓		✓
Enzo			✓		✓
Campylobacter			✓	✓	✓
Foot rot/CODD			✓		
BSE	✓			✓	✓
FMD	✓		✓	✓	
Rota/coronavirus			✓	✓	
Ringworm			✓	✓	✓

Poppy Frater SAC

Soil Health

When looking at your soil sample If the structure is uniform – assess the block as a whole. If there are two or more horizontal layers of differing structure, identify the layer with the poorest structure (**the limiting layer**) and carry out the rest of the assessment on this limiting layer.



Moderate over Good



Good over Poor

Reduce the risk of soil structure issues by resting pasture to promote root growth, considering **deep rooting species** and adapting the grazing during wet weather to **reduce poaching** or localise damage.



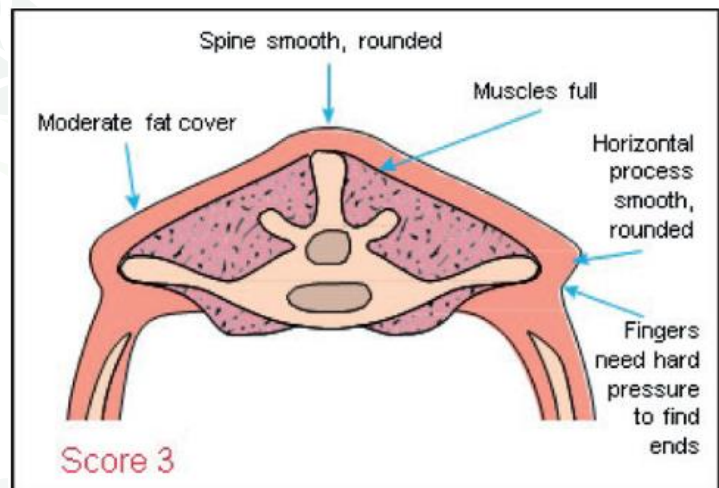
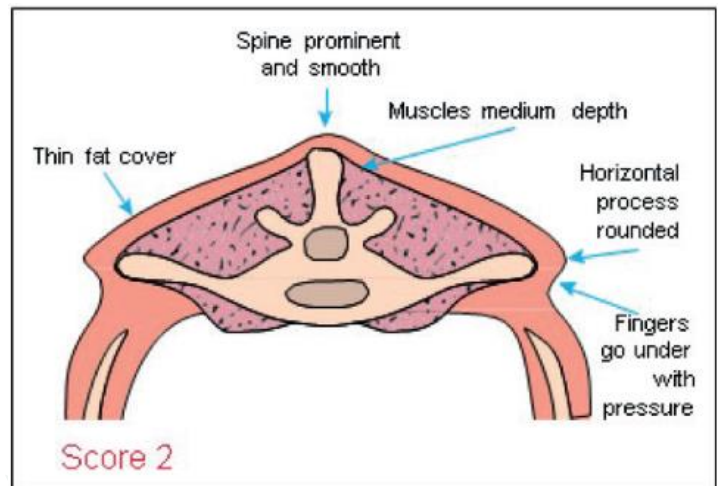
Poppy showing us a soil sample from in the gateway vs middle of the field.



Body condition scoring

Managing ewes to achieve **condition score targets** at mating (3-3.5 upland/lowland ewes, 2.5 hill ewes) will increase lambs reared in 2024. Assess now to adjust condition in plenty of time before tugging season.

To find out more search body condition scoring or soil sampling on the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) website.



Next steps?

Next steps at Barnbackle include:

- Using the solar pump from Ardo water to open up fields to rotational grazing.
- Collaborating with Stewartry Veterinary Centre to upkeep high health and investigate any problems
- Body condition scoring before lambing
- Try to reduce poaching where possible this winter to reduce soil compaction



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

Regional Adviser – Maura Wilson

07721 677556

mwilson@qmscotlandco.uk

monitorfarms.co.uk

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