FARMER LED, FARMER DRIVEN

SOUTH AYRSHIRE
Software Report by Matt Blyth
15 February 2024

MEETING REPORT

To support John and David Andrew with choosing the right farm software package which links to weighing equipment and EID readers on farm an on-line session was arranged with consultant Matt Blyth.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss EID and weighing equipment and software used on the farm. The focus was on the data they would like to collect with the equipment they have on the farm. Finally, we discuss which technology could improve the process.

Equipment on the farm:
- Farmit weight crate (sheep)
- Tru test load cell on cattle crush

- Tru Test Eziweigh 7i
- Apple phone (IOS)

Farm information:
- 1100 lambing ewes (Hill farm)
  Retain own ewe lambs off the hill.
- 150hd suckler cattle, cattle all finished on farm.

- 200hd purchased in-store cattle took to finish.
- 130hd lambing indoor.
  30hd purebred sheep

When looking at what equipment is on the farm and what info they would like to record, David is looking at doing most of the recording on his phone in the field. One of the things that he is keen on monitoring is DLWG. To do this, he must tag the lambs at some point. We discussed different times for tagging the lambs, as tagging them on the hill at lambing is not an option; we came up with tagging them first-hand full or weaning. Then, the lamb can be recorded in the database to start the profile. This could be done as mixed-sex or male and female if required. This could be recorded on a Tru-Test XRS2i stick reader and uploaded at the end of the day, or a routine could be opened on the phone to help record in the field.

We are looking at app-based software. The four players in this area with sheep and beef are Breedr, AgriWebb, iLivestock and Herdwatch (shearwell is moving into this area, but at this time, they are not there).
After talking with David and going through the options, we concluded that AgriWebb or iLivestock would be the best fit to work with the equipment on the farm. With David and his dad having iPhones and the information they want to capture, AgriWebb seems to be the best fit.

AgriWebb can connect to the Eziweigh 7i and send the weight using Bluetooth to his phone, recording the weight and showing them the DLWG on the phone. Or we can use the Eziweigh 7i as a stand-alone device that displays the DLWG on the screen. Then, the session file can be uploaded into AgriWebb later from the CSV file that we download using the free Tru test datalink software, then upload that file into AgriWebb. David would like to investigate a target-selected treatment approach (TST). AgriWebb does not have the Moredun-developed TST algorithm on it. This algorithm is only on the Cotter crate app (smart worm) or on Agri-ignite. Using daily live weight gain targets on

the farm will allow David to monitor animal performance to identify animals that potentially have high parasite burden or are undergoing other health issues. Using the equipment or AgriWebb to display the daily live weight gain with a realistic farm-based target will help David achieve this goal. I would recommend before going down this route; you have a good understanding of what your farm's daily live weight gain target is, as well as investigate how well your anthelmintic wormer is working on the farm.

AgriWebb has the advantage of having some cost-based data-capturing parts within it. This will allow David's dad to record the cost of the cattle as he buys them and to compare costs against breeds, ages, weight at purchase and sale, et cetera against their value when they are sold.

Option of remote support packages supplied by Blyth Livestock Advisor service.

One thing that I would recommend is to think about what support and training you will need in the next 6 to 12 months and make sure that you have adequate in place to help you get animals into the apps as well as understand the most user-friendly way of using them to make your life easier. I know that all my work is part of my Nuffield scholarship. This is a big global issue which is missing from the tech companies.

I do supply support packages, and the ones that I would recommend to you are below.

EID Remote set up or support:

- Matt can supply remote support in setting up your Tru-Test, Gallagher, and Prattley drafting equipment. Uploading data into your on-farm software, Matthew can also provide reports with independent advice based on the collected data.
- Matt can provide a range of support packages for your business on an annual, 6 monthly or quarterly basis to suit your needs as well as Pre-booked Zoom, WhatsApp or phone call meeting.

Contact Details

Matt Blyth

Phone: 07768 026380

Email: Matt.Blyth@blas-uk.com

Website: blas-uk.com

Matt Blyth

MONITOR FARM
Scotland

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

Regional Adviser - Christine Cuthbertson

07769 366671
ccuthbertson@qmscotland.co.uk
monitorfarms.co.uk

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