



# FARMER LED, FARMER DRIVEN

## STIRLINGSHIRE

Winter Meeting Report  
11 October 2023



# MEETING REPORT

## Scanning and Managing OPA (Jaagsiekte) in Your Flock and the Benefits of Blood Testing Pre-Tupping for Minerals and Other Iceberg Diseases

Around 50 members of the farming community attended the meeting. Dr Chris Cousens from Moredun presented on Managing OPA in your flock. You can view the full presentation [HERE](#).

Attendees were **impressed** with the family teamwork, farm infrastructure, conception rate and **ease** of calving the cows.

Good data is collected manually but not utilised fully, and it was suggested that this could be useful to further improve cow selection.

The farm takes two cuts of silage and feeding could be targeted. **Coccidiosis** in calves and **sheep foot heath** were identified as the main health issues.

Given the good lowland ground there was **potential** to look at **finishing** some of the lamb crop.

### FARM FACTS

Farmers: The Duncan Family – Bruce, Shona, Sally, Rebecca, & Gregor

- **540** Hectares farmed
- **1,100** ewes
- **165** suckler cows
- Most progeny sold store
- Meat boxes and holiday Accommodation



*One of these ewes scanned positive for OPA – but what one?*

### **PRIORITY: Cow Fertility**

- Use data to:
  - Identify poor performing cows
  - Cow selection
- Calve heifers at 2

### **PRIORITY: Target nutrition**

- Weigh heifers and calves
- 1<sup>st</sup> v's 2<sup>nd</sup> cut silage - feed by groups based on analysis

### **PRIORITY: Sheep**

- Health planning
- Use low ground - finish more lambs

### **KEY PRIORITIES**

After visiting the farm, attendees took part in a workshop to look at the priorities for the cattle enterprise. In addition to the above, the project should consider:

- Look at calving facilities
- Potential use of stubble or forage crops
- Making best use of shed space
- Set clear business aims and goals
- Make use of data already being collected



## NEXT STEPS

Over the next few months, the Monitor Farm project at Lands of Drumhead will be:

- Collecting and collating data and information on the Monitor Farm
- Establishing the Management Group and wider Community Group who will provide support, gain knowledge, and meet like-minded people
- Working with the two other Monitor Farms in the West cluster – Argyll and South Ayrshire
- There will be a West Cluster meeting open to all before mid-March



The Management Group will meet in mid February where attendees will get a fuller picture of all the farm enterprises including the hill farm system, sucklers and sheep enterprises. The group will also set meeting topics for the year.

Farm businesses can sign up to be part of the Management Group. Participants should be willing to supply their own farm data, information, and ideas. This should lead to change and better resilience for the Monitor Farmer and themselves. Individuals can also join the wider Community Group to keep in touch with the project and receive event invites.



To find out more or to sign up -  
contact Regional Adviser  
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