Resource and system checklist

If you were going to buy a farm, you would inspect it thoroughly before you decided on what price to offer. Taking a critical view of your own farm is no different. No need for lots of writing, simply go through the below checklist to gather key figures and decide whether a resource (eg, machinery) limits current performance (eg, over mechanised reducing profitability) or offers up an opportunity (eg, can take up contract farming agreement nearby with current machinery force).

The checklist extends to judging the strengths and weaknesses of yourself and fellow partners (often from different generations). For understandable reasons this can be difficult, so an independent consultant may help provide an objective standpoint.

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| **Category** | **Figures, Facts & Comments** |
| **Land**LocationAccessTotal areaAdjusted areaWoodland areaQuality / LFA status |  |
| **System**Farm type (eg, dairy)Livestock enterprises Crop enterprisesPasture and foragesKey KPI’s (eg, stocking rate)Farm diversificationOff-farm work |  |
| **Buildings**Livestock buildingsCrop storage including silage pitsSlurry towers, etcYards |  |
| **Infrastructure**Fences (and dykes)Internal tracksStock handlingWaterDrainage |  |
| **Plant & Machinery**Milking parloursSlurry pumps, scrapers, etcGrain driersUse of contractorsOperations covered by self |  |
| **Labour**FamilyPaidCasual |  |
| **Ownership & Management**Trading structure (eg, partnership)Succession plan in place? |  |
| **Environment & Conservation**Environmental and landscape featuresEnvironmental schemesWaste and pollution managementNutrient and energy conservationBiodiversity management strategies |  |
| **Other cross-compliance areas**Animal health & welfarePlant healthNew entrants and womenHealth & Safety |  |

Other comments………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

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