



News from the Farm Advisory Service:



AgriCulture podcast: Claire Taylor - Positive perceptions of agriculture

In this episode, Mary-Jane is joined by Claire Taylor, journalist and agricultural communicator. Having recently finished her travels as part of her Nuffield Farming Scholarship, Claire is compiling all the information from her travel experience. Listen as she shares with us some of her amazing experiences and gives us an insight into what farming is like in other countries.

To find this episode, scan the QR code below or visit www.fas.scot/sounds



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Improve livestock nutrition and optimise forage and feed rationing

Farmers and crofters constantly endeavour to keep livestock healthy while making a return from the market. Planning livestock nutrition is essential to optimising animal performance. This procedure ensures livestock receive appropriate nutrients in correct proportions at varying stages of production.

Regardless of your farm or croft's size, production system, and objectives, the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) advisers are ready to provide you with professional guidance on feeding plans and all other aspects of animal health and welfare, including livestock management, breeding plans, new animal

housing plans and more. You can combine animal welfare advice with another specialist advice option, such as farm business efficiency.

Whether you'd like to increase home-grown forage production and decrease reliance on bought-in feed or make specific improvements to reduce your carbon footprint and improve your business efficiency, FAS can help you! Up to £2,000 of funding is available through FAS for two specialist advice options. For advice on which options to choose, how to apply for funding, and help finding an advisor, contact FAS at advice@fas.scot or **0300 323 0161**. More information can be found on the FAS website at www.fas.scot/advice-grants/

July beef outlook

Finished prices lift slightly

Over the past six weeks finished beef prices have fallen and remained low. For week ending June 22 Scottish R4L steer price was sitting around 484p/kg/dwt (+2p from the start of June). The current beef price is doing little to instill confidence in finishers.

Reports suggest cattle numbers are set to tighten going forward, which should help support a price increase as young bull availability becomes less by the end of July. However, it remains to be seen how processors will react – increase price or reduce slaughter days? A price increase is also likely to hinge on increased consumer demand, with recent beef sales sluggish.

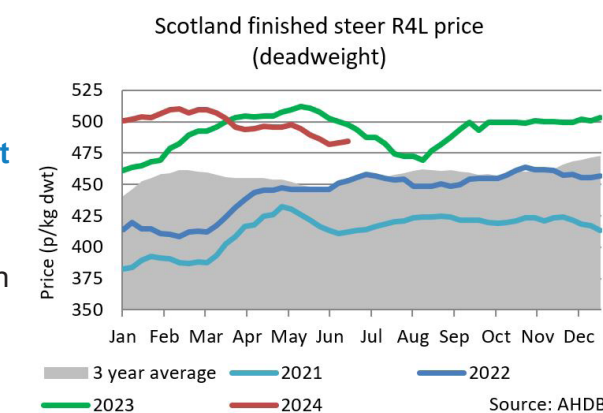
Store cattle

Trade for store cattle remains strong. In line with the time of year numbers forward are less. With some bigger store sales scheduled for this month, what is needed now is for the finished price to jump back up or finishers could look to pay less for stores and or not restock at the same level.

It cannot be ignored that despite store prices being the strongest realised for a long time, there are still numerous herd dispersals happening. Labour availability or the lack of it, is no doubt contributing to the number of suckler herds dispersing.

Cull cow trade

Trade continues to sit around 400p/kg deadweight for cull cows. The weather has not helped lift prices, going forward it is hoped that improved summer weather will increase demand for BBQ products. Prices will in the coming weeks depend on demand and numbers forward.



Sarah Balfour, SAC Consulting

To read this article in full, please visit:

www.fas.scot/article/agribusiness-news-july-2024-beef/

Free events



Free Events

At the Farm Advisory Service we run a range of events both online and in-person.

Visit www.fas.scot/events to sign up or contact the advice line and we'll help you get booked on.

East Lothian Crop Trials Webinar
Online, 10th July, 12:30pm - 2:00pm

**Organics in Scotland - Organic Crop
Production & Marketing**
Mains of Thornton, 18th July, 10:45am - 3:30pm

Preparing for Sustainable Farming (PSF) - Cattle interventions

Scotland aims to become a 'global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture'. By improving general animal health, it will result in better production efficiency and welfare. There are nine different interventions which cover cattle and sheep – four are directed towards cattle. A standard cost of £250 will be paid for each intervention (regardless of herd size). If doing these interventions, the work must be done before the 31st of December 2024 and claims must be made by the 28th of February 2025 via the Rural Payments website.



Bull fertility examination

Getting the vet to examine the bull and check his fertility this needs to be done to a British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) standard. This includes:

- Physical examination
- Semen evaluation
- Mobility scores
- Motility percentages
- Semen morphology

Calf respiratory investigation with virus screening

This can include your vet taking samples to identify causal pathogens including viruses (BVD, RSV, IBR, PI3), bacteria (*Mycoplasma bovis*, *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Histophilus somni*) or parasites (lungworm) in a respiratory disease outbreak.

Liver fluke

There are four liver fluke diagnostic tests as listed below:

- Blood Antibody test
- Coproantigen Elisa (Faecal sample)
- Fluke egg counts.
- A postmortem.

Roundworms

This can investigate efficacy testing of the wormer's effect of the worms that may be present in your herd.

In summary using this funding will increase efficiency and production of your herd, which in turn will lower your carbon footprint. Speak to your advisor or vet about the best option(s) for your farm.

Helen Cowie, SAC Consulting

For more information, please visit:

www.fas.scot/article/preparing-for-sustainable-farming-cattle-interventions/

Scotland's Farm Advisory Service is funded by the Scottish Government. It is delivered by SAC Consulting, part of Scotland's Rural College, and Ricardo Energy and Environment.



National Advice Hub
T: 0300 323 0161
E: advice@fas.scot
W: www.fas.scot

If you need more advice on any topic, the Farm Advisory Service has a range of support and help available:

Advice line

For free telephone advice on a wide variety of topics including cross compliance, water framework directive requirements, climate change and other technical issues call us on **0300 323 0161** or email advice@fas.scot. The advice line operates between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

Bespoke Advice and Grants

FAS can also help you to increase the profitability and sustainability of your farming business through Scottish Government grants including Integrated Land Management Plans (ILMPs) – worth up to £2,000.

The ILMP will identify opportunities and cost savings for your business, based on an independent and confidential assessment of your business by an experienced farm business adviser of your choosing. As part of your plan you can choose to benefit from up to two further specialist advice plans.

Online

Our website contains articles, videos and much more at www.fas.scot



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