



## News from the Farm Advisory Service:



### Thrill of the Hill Podcast - Cattle Grazing Benefits

Life as a cow can be complicated. On one hand, there is general acceptance that the cow contributes to healthy grass swards and soils. On the other hand, the cow is exposed to climate criticism. In this episode we talk with conservation consultant Helen Bibby and host of the Stock Talk podcast and returning guest Robert Ramsay for a broad discussion on cattle, cattle grazing and what makes them Scotland's preferred grazing animal.

To find this episode, scan the QR code below or visit [www.fas.scot/sounds](http://www.fas.scot/sounds)



### Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme 2024 is now open for applications

Apply online, it's quick, easy and reduces ear tag errors

[www.ruralpayments.org](http://www.ruralpayments.org)

## Ammonia and manure management

**Ammonia is a colourless, pungent-smelling gas, both naturally occurring and man-made. Agricultural emissions related to air quality are dominated by ammonia, and agriculture accounts for around 90% of total ammonia emissions in Scotland.**

Ammonia reacts with other pollutants in the atmosphere that can be harmful to the environment and human health. Ammonia deposition can disrupt ecosystems, leading to a loss of biodiversity, while runoff can contaminate waterways, affecting water quality. As awareness of ammonia's impact grows, regulations on emissions may tighten. Implementing proactive measures can help farmers adapt to any future policy change.

Improved livestock and manure management, as well as optimised fertiliser use, are important considerations for any farm or croft. How we manage these resources can influence the level of ammonia emitted. Low-emission spreading equipment and covering slurry stores are just a few methods to help reduce emissions.

Specialist advice provided through the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) covers topics relating to soil and nutrient management and animal welfare. For more information and to apply for funding, visit [www.fas.scot/advice-grants/](http://www.fas.scot/advice-grants/)

For advice on which options to choose or help finding an adviser contact FAS at [advice@fas.scot](mailto:advice@fas.scot) or **0300 323 0161**.

## September sheep update



**The store and breeding lamb sales have gone off with a bang, with averages showing a remarkable rise on the year across the country. This shows the confidence the finishers have in the price of the finished product for the winter and spring. Looking at trends, we know both the national and European flocks have declined in volume, combined with losses from Schmallenberg and Blue Tongue and the effects of the weather at lambing time, all resulting in less lambs being available for domestic and export from the UK.**

The Australian flock has strengthened in volume, and has been an attractive choice for importers, due to its low price. However, this price has increased e.g., week ending 24th August 2024 - €4.97/kg DW, compared to the same week in 2023 - €2.83kg DW (note price shown in Euro). When comparing to the UK, it stood at €7.82kg DW UK (24/08/24). UK lamb marketing looks very positive, with current short supplies, the price is set to remain at a premium to previous years over the coming months.

It is important to plan for the market of these lambs, along with their nutrition over the coming months. Growing lambs (200 grams/day) have a daily requirement of 100g/kg metabolisable protein and 12MJ/kg/DM ME, with a daily dry matter intake of up to 4% of their body weight, and a 35kg lamb will require 1.2kg DM/day of a 10ME grass to meet requirements. If lambs are underperforming, supplementary feeding can assist weight gains, as grass quality reduces. Ensure lambs are introduced to feed gradually to minimise risks such as acidosis.

*Kirsten Williams, SAC Consulting*

This article is part of the September edition of Agribusiness News. Read more at: [www.fas.scot/publication/agribusiness-news-september-2024/](http://www.fas.scot/publication/agribusiness-news-september-2024/)



## Free Events

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

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

**Ayrshire Women in Agriculture - Arran Trip**  
Arran, 17th September, 11:15am - 5:00pm

**Caithness Women in Agriculture - Dressed for Success**  
Murkle, 17th September, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

**Better Wellbeing, Better Business - Granttown**  
Granttown-on-Spey, 18th September, 10:00am - 2:00pm

**The Cow of the Future - Where Are We Now?**  
Online, 18th September, 7:30pm - 8:30pm

## New next generation FAS Connect groups

**Calling all farm employees, young farmers, and aspiring new entrants in southeast and southwest Scotland!**

Building on the success of previous FAS Connect groups, The Farm Advisory Service will be launching two new groups for the next generation of farmers. Based in southeast and southwest Scotland, and starting in October 2024, these groups are for anyone who is looking to advance their career in the agriculture industry.

You might be:

- A farm employee or agriculture student aiming to climb the career ladder towards farm management.
- Someone seeking to start their own agricultural business.
- A young farmer/future successor seeking to develop a vision of where you want to take your career and your business.

These groups will bring together like minded people for peer-to-peer learning as well as providing the opportunity to connect with mentors who have had long and successful careers in agriculture.

The programme will consist of 3 meetings covering goal setting, career and business planning, personal development, mentoring opportunities, technical knowledge exchange and an opportunity to visit the farms of successful new entrants to learn about their journeys from agricultural employees to business leaders.

### What will you get out of the programme?

- 3 meetings including a farm visit
- Peer-peer learning
- Facilitation and support from SAC consultants
- Mentoring from successful farmers
- Networking opportunities within the farming community

Spaces are limited, so register your interest in joining our groups by using the link below or by scanning the QR code.

[www.fas.scot/connect/new-entrants-groups-southeast-west/](http://www.fas.scot/connect/new-entrants-groups-southeast-west/)

**Deadline for Sign-ups 30th September 2024**



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](mailto:advice@fas.scot)  
W: [www.fas.scot](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.fas.scot)



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