

News from the Farm Advisory Service:



Rural Roundup Podcast: Water, water everywhere and far too much to do

In our latest episode of Rural Roundup, we discuss the recent bout of wet weather and the implications of this on our agricultural businesses, and we also look at beef enterprise efficiencies. We are also joined by Sascha Grierson, Principal Consultant at SAC Consulting and Project Lead for the Scottish Farm Business Survey, who tells us about the latest findings from the Scottish & Farm Business Survey, and provides some figures for industry performance.

Find this episode by scanning the QR code below or by visiting www.fas.scot/sounds



Agricultural Wages Update

The Agricultural Wages Board has updated their rates.

Visit the Scottish Government website at www.gov.scot/publications/ for more information

Responding to spring 2024 wet weather



The recent wet weather throughout Scotland is having adverse effects on the agricultural sector.

With a wetter than average spring come issues with lambing, calving, flooding and general farm management. The Farm Advisory Service has put together a number of resources that should help you to navigate this challenging period. To access our resources, visit: www.fas.scot/advice-grants/spring-2024-wet-weather/

For specific enquiries or for more information about your options, phone the FAS advice line on **0300 323 0161** or email advice@fas.scot

RSABI Supporting People in Scottish Agriculture

If you or someone you know is finding this to be a difficult time, RSABI provides practical, emotional and financial support to all people involved in the Scottish agricultural industry. Their team are friendly, professional and all support is offered in confidence. They support people of all ages, including those affected by illness, accident, bereavement and those struggling with their mental wellbeing.

You are not alone. If you are struggling, call their helpline for support on **0808 1234 555**.

Treating hypothermia in newborn lambs

Hypothermia is a common cause of lamb deaths. If there are any concerns at all, take the lamb's temperature. The normal temperature for a lamb is 39°C.

If the lamb is between 37°C and 39°C and able to swallow then it should be fed warm colostrum by stomach tube and then returned to its mother in a warm bedded pen with no draughts.

If the lamb is below 37°C and able to swallow then it should be warmed, using a heat box to 37°C before being fed and returned to its mother.

If the lamb is below 37°C and

- Is under five to six hours old it will have brown fat "adipose" to provide energy
- Is over five to six hours old, it is likely it is unable to swallow. Once the lamb is over five to six hours old its reserves will have gone and the lamb would burn muscle and produce ketones which can have a detrimental effect on the lamb. In this scenario an injection of warmed glucose can be given straight into the abdomen of the lamb, this is called intraperitoneal glucose. This should be injected using a sterilised needle, 1 inch below the navel and ½ inch to the side of the navel, with the needles pointed towards the lamb's tail head (10ml/kg body weight). It is a good idea to ask your vet for a refresher of this process.

Ideally colostrum should be from a ewe in the flock. Lambs should receive 50ml/kg of liveweight colostrum in the first few hours of birth and by the time the lamb is 24 hours old it should have received 200ml/kg. Beware if heating or thawing frozen supplies so you do not denature the protein based immunoglobulins with extreme heats. As a guide if the water is too hot for your hand then it is too hot for colostrum. It should be heated to 39°C. If feeding ewe's milk through a tube or teat you may need to mix with warm water to ensure it easily flows through the duct. Cow colostrum is often available from dairies but it is not as concentrated as ewe colostrum, the quantity fed should be increased by approximately 30% to ensure for adequate antibodies. Johnne's can be transmitted through milk, so ensure the colostrum is sourced from a Johnne's free herd.



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.

Horticulture Webinar - Compost and Growing Media

Online, 24th April, 7:30pm - 8:30pm

Do you have a horticultural enterprise on your smallholding or croft? Do you buy or make compost or growing media? Do you get variable results? Join us for this online talk and discussion on compost where we will cover growing media, going peat-free, how composting works and top tips.

Strathpeffer Peatlands - Map My Peatland Strathpeffer, 25th April, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Have your say about what equitable and sustainable peatland restoration looks like. Join us for an interactive event where participants will play a game centred around a mapped peatland area to discuss and design an ideal peatland landscape. We will also discuss the various funding services to support restoration on-site.



Opportunities for Scottish sheep meat

Learning from the large, lamb producing countries on marketing and trading is always beneficial, and inspirational to how they create opportunities for their product. An example of this is, Australian lamb have recently partnered with Dominos in Australia to offer lamb on pizza, with two lamb pizzas on the menus. This is a great example of diversifying this highly nutritious and versatile product. By showing the relevance of lamb in quick service restaurants, while targeting a different demographic, in the younger generation.



The fast-food sector is growing, and offers an opportunity for lamb. According to Just Eat, fast food is the 3rd most popular food choice in the UK, with the most popular item being the burger. It is estimated that fast food outlet MacDonalds serves over 3.8 million customers per day in the UK alone, but there is no lamb on the menu! Is this a lost opportunity? Italian food is shown as the most popular UK fast food, the Australians are not silly targeting the pizza!

Aviko surveys have shown that one fifth of 16–34-year-olds are attracted to fast food establishments with environmentally friendly initiatives. Which gives an opportunity to attract new lamb customers showing the highly sustainable, protein rich, high in B3, B12, iron and zinc produce that lamb is.

The UK has a low level of lamb consumption. However, there is a huge market opportunity in halal (through three methods Non-Stun, WASK-stun and All-Stun). AHDB figures show a Muslim household spends on average £30/week on sheep meat, while a general population household spends only £12/week on all meats.

As the country's economy recovers, with inflation falling and wages rising, allows a perfect time to diversify or embrace new opportunities for marketing lamb, both at home and abroad.

Kirsten Williams, SAC Consulting

This article is part of the April edition of Agribusiness News. To read the full article and more, please visit: www.fas.scot/publication/agribusiness-news-april-2024/

Scotland's Farm Advisory Service (FAS) is funded by the Scottish Government, providing information and resources aimed at increasing the profitability and sustainability of farms and crofts. Grant support, a full programme of events, a subscription service for crofts and small farms, and a range of articles and publications form the core of this service which is designed to provide integrated advice for farmers and crofters across Scotland.



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 £1,200.

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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