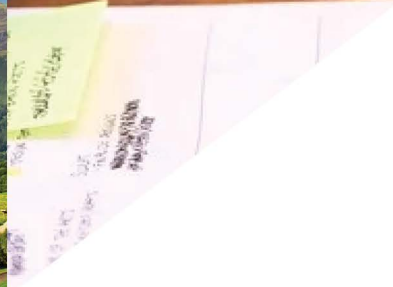


The Farm Management Handbook



Farm
Advisory
Service

Reference Data and Contacts



The UK reference
for farm business
management



Part of Scotland's
Rural College (SRUC)

Updated October 2024

Summary of Farm Management Practices (including useful dates and timings)

Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) - Scotland

Buffer strips (GAEC 1)

- no cultivations and application of pesticides within 1 Jan - 31 Dec
2m of the top of the bank of watercourses

Water abstraction (GAEC 2)

- submit annual data return by 31 Dec

Muirburn (GAEC 6)

- permitted between and inclusive 1 Oct - 15 Apr
(or 30 Apr with the landowner's permission)

Hedges and trees (GAEC 7)

- no trimming between and inclusive 1 Mar - 31 Aug
(or 31 Jul if hedge/tree in field to be sown with WOSR or TGRS)
- no cultivations and application of fertilisers and 1 Jan - 31 Dec
pesticides within 2m from the centre line of hedges

Greening

Permanent grassland

Nitrogen fertiliser and lime plan prepared by 9 Jun

Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs)

EFA fallow period 15 Jan - 15 Jul

Establish EFA green cover by 1 Nov

Maintain EFA green cover until 31 Dec

Establish EFA catch crop in 'spring'

Maintain EFA catch crop until 31 Dec

Harvest of EFA nitrogen fixing crops after 1 Aug

Cut or graze EFA margins (buffers; cut only, not graze) after 15 Jul

EFA map submit by 15 May

Diffuse Pollution General Binding Rules (DP GBRs) - Scotland

Minimum legal working distances from watercourses:

Within 2m of a watercourse

- no application of inorganic fertiliser
- no application of pesticides
- no cultivation (from top of bank)

Within 5m of a watercourse

- prevent significant poaching

Within 5m of spring, well or borehole

- no fertiliser application
- no cultivation
- no livestock

Within 10m of a watercourse

- no slurry or manure application
- no storage of fertiliser (including temporary field middens)
- no livestock feeders

Within 50m of spring, well or borehole

- no storage of fertilisers (including temporary field middens)
- no slurry or manure application

NVZ - Scotland (SMR 1)

NVZ fertiliser and manure management plan prepared before 1 Mar

NVZ closed periods (organic manures with a high available N content):

	Grassland	Other land
Shallow or sandy soils	1 Sep - 31 Dec	1 Aug - 31 Dec
All other soil types	15 Oct - 31 Jan	1 Oct - 31 Jan

NVZ closed periods (manufactured nitrogen fertiliser):

	Grassland	Other land
Moray, Aberdeenshire, Banff & Buchan NVZ	15 Sep - 20 Feb	1 Sep - 20 Feb
All other Scottish NVZ areas	15 Sep - 15 Feb	1 Sep - 15 Feb

NVZ - England, Wales and Northern Ireland

NVZ closed periods (organic manures with a high available N content):

	Grassland	Other land
Shallow or sandy soils	1 Sep - 31 Dec	1 Aug - 31 Dec
All other soil types	15 Oct - 31 Jan*	1 Oct - 31 Jan*

*(15 Oct - 31 Jan NI)

NVZ closed periods (manufactured nitrogen fertiliser):

	Grassland	Other land
England and Wales	15 Sep - 15 Jan	1 Sep - 15 Jan
Northern Ireland	15 Sep - 31 Jan	15 Sep - 31 Jan

Business Management

Tax Return

- paper forms submit by 31 Oct
- online submit by 31 Jan

IACS forms (Scotland) submit by 15 May

AECS annual management options claim submit by 15 May

Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme claim submit by 31 Dec

Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme claim submit 1 Sep - 30 Nov

Agricultural and horticultural census (Scotland) at 1 st Monday in June	complete within 14 days
Agricultural survey (Scotland) at 1 st Monday in December (DAS)	complete within 14 days

Livestock Management

Physiological values and breeding cycles for livestock:

	<i>Cow</i>	<i>Ewe</i>	<i>Red Deer</i>	<i>Sow</i>	<i>Poultry</i>
Gestation (days)					
- mean	285	150	231	114	21
- range	269-299	140-160	226-238	109-125	-
Oestrus period (days)					
- mean	21	16	19	21	-
- range	18-24	14-20	17-21	19-23	16-24

Cattle (Scotland SMR 7):

Tagging calves (after birth):	
▪ beef	within 20 days
▪ dairy - one tag	within 36 hours
▪ dairy - second tag	within 20 days
Replace illegible or lost tags	within 28 days of discovery
Registering calves with ScotEID	within 7 days of tagging
Cattle deaths to be reported to ScotEID	within 7 days
Cattle movements to be reported to ScotEID	within 3 days
Cattle within business movements reported to ScotEID	within 48 hours
Retention of cattle records	at least 10 years

Sheep and goats (Scotland SMR 8):

Identify all animals (after birth):	
▪ intensive systems	within 6 mths
▪ extensive systems (or before they leave the holding whichever is soonest)	within 9 mths
All animals double tagged (one tag must be EID) from 12 mths of age	
Replace illegible or lost tags	within 28 days of discovery
Record details of identification, illegible or lost tags and movements	within 48 hours
Movements sent to SAMU	within 3 days
Retention of sheep records	at least 3 years
Annual inventory for animals kept (SGAI)	at 1 Dec

Pigs (Scotland SMR 6):

Register with local APHA office	within 30 days of the date pigs are first kept
Notify APHA changes of details	within 30 days of the change
Notify off movements to ScotEID	before or on the day of the movement
Notify on movements to ScotEID	within 3 days of arrival
Record on and off movements	within 48 hours of the movement date

Shooting open seasons for birds *

	England, Scotland & Wales	Northern Ireland
Pheasant	1 Oct - 1 Feb	1 Oct - 31 Jan
Partridge	1 Sep - 1 Feb	1 Sep - 31 Jan
Grouse	12 Aug - 10 Dec	12 Aug - 30 Nov
Ptarmigan (Scotland only)	12 Aug - 10 Dec	-
Common snipe	12 Aug - 31 Jan	1 Sep - 31 Jan
Woodcock (except Scotland)	1 Oct - 31 Jan	1 Oct - 31 Jan
Woodcock (Scotland)	1 Sep - 31 Jan	-
Wild duck and geese:		
- below high water mark	1 Sep - 20 Feb	1 Sep - 31 Jan
- elsewhere	1 Sep - 31 Jan	1 Sep - 31 Jan

Shooting open seasons for ground game *

	England, Wales & Northern Ireland	Scotland
Brown hare (not NI)	1 Jan - 31 Dec	1 Oct - 31 Jan
Brown hare (NI)	12 Aug - 31 Jan	-
Mountain hare	-	1 Aug - 28/29 Feb
Rabbit (not NI)	1 Jan - 31 Dec	1 Jan - 31 Dec

Shooting open seasons for deer *

	England, Wales & Northern Ireland	Scotland
Red deer:		
- stags	1 Aug - 30 Apr	1 Jul - 20 Oct
- hinds	1 Nov - 31 Mar	21 Oct - 15 Feb
Sika deer & red/sika hybrids:		
- stags	1 Aug - 30 Apr	1 Jul - 20 Oct
- hinds	1 Nov - 31 Mar	21 Oct - 15 Feb
Fallow deer:		
- bucks	1 Aug - 30 Apr	1 Aug - 30 Apr
- does	1 Nov - 31 Mar	21 Oct - 15 Feb
Roe deer (not NI):		
- bucks	1 Apr - 31 Oct	1 Apr - 20 Oct
- does	1 Nov - 31 Mar	21 Oct - 31 Mar

* all dates inclusive

Imperial-Metric Conversion

Conversion factors

	Imperial	A	Metric	B
Length	inch	25.4	mm	0.03937
	foot	0.3048	m	3.281
	yard	0.9144	m	1.094
	chain	20.12	m	0.04971
	mile	1.609	km	0.6214
Area	acre	0.4047	ha	2.471
	ft ²	0.0929	m ²	10.76
	yd ²	0.8361	m ²	1.196
Volume	ft ³	0.02832	m ³	35.31
	yd ³	0.7646	m ³	1.308
	pint	0.5682	litre	1.76
	gal	4.546	litre	0.22
	gal	0.004546	m ³	219.969
	fl oz	28.41	ml	0.0352
Weight	oz	28.35	g	0.03527
	lb	0.4536	kg	2.205
	cwt	50.8	kg	0.01968
	ton	1.016	t	0.9842
Energy	therm	105.5	MJ	0.009478
	kWh	3.6	MJ	0.2778
	btu	1.055	KJ	0.9478
	hp	745.7	W	0.001341
Temperature	°F	(°F-32)	°C	(°Cx1.8)
		x0.5556		+32
Rate of use	lb/ac	1.121	kg/ha	0.8922
	cwt/ac	125.5	kg/ha	0.007966
	ton/ac	2511	kg/ha	0.0003983
	lb/gal	99.78	g/litre	0.01002
	gal/ac	11.23	litre/ha	0.08902
	units (fert)/ac	1.25	kg/ha	0.8
Unit cost	£/ft ²	10.76	£/m ²	0.0929
	£/yd ²	1.196	£/m ²	0.8361
	£/ac	2.471	£/ha	0.4047
	£/yd ³	1.308	£/m ³	0.7646
	£/gal	0.220	£/litre	4.546
	£/ton	0.9842	£/t	1.016
	£/cwt	0.01968	£/kg	50.8
	£/lb	2.205	£/kg	0.4536

Note: Imperial unit x A = Metric unit
Metric unit x B = Imperial unit

	Imperial	Metric
Length	foot = 12 inches yard = 3 feet mile = 1,760 yards	cm = 10 mm m = 100 cm km = 1,000 m
Area	ft ² = 144 inches ² yd ² = 9 ft ² acre = 4,840 yd ² mile ² = 640 acres	m ² = 10,000 cm ² km ² = 1,000,000 m ² km ² = 100 ha ha = 10,000 m ²
Volume	pint = 20 fluid ounces gallon = 8 pints fluid ounce = 1.734 inches ³ pint = 34.6774 inches ³ gallon = 277.42 inches ³ foot ³ = 1,728 inches ³ yard ³ = 46,656 inches ³	litre = 1,000 ml cm ³ = 1,000 mm ³ m ³ = 1,000,000 cm ³
Weight	lb = 16 oz stone = 14 lb cwt = 112 lb ton = 2,240 lb	kg = 1,000 g tonne = 1,000 kg
Milk	1 litre = 1.03 kg	1 kg = 0.971 litre
Irrigation	1 inch/acre = 102.75 m ³	25 mm/ha = 250 m ³
Energy	hp = 550 ft lb force/sec	hp = 75 m kg force /sec
Velocity	mph = 1.609 km/hr	km/hr = 0.6214 mph m/sec = 3.281 ft/sec
Volume	ft ³ /second = 0.02832 m ³ /sec	m ³ /sec = 35.31 ft ³ /sec
Flow rate	gallon/min = 0.07577 litres/sec	litre/sec = 13.2 gallons/min
Specific volume rate	ft ³ /ton min = 0.02787 m ³ /t min	m ³ /t min = 35.88 ft ³ /ton min
Mass flow rate	ton/hr = 0.2822 kg/sec	kg/sec = 3.543 ton/hr

Contacts

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