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**  Location  Access  Total area  Adjusted area  Woodland area  Quality / LFA status |  |
| **System**  Farm type (eg, dairy)  Livestock enterprises  Crop enterprises  Pasture and forages  Key KPI’s (eg, stocking rate)  Farm diversification  Off-farm work |  |
| **Buildings**  Livestock buildings  Crop storage including silage pits  Slurry towers, etc  Yards |  |
| **Infrastructure**  Fences (and dykes)  Internal tracks  Stock handling  Water  Drainage |  |
| **Plant & Machinery**  Milking parlours  Slurry pumps, scrapers, etc  Grain driers  Use of contractors  Operations covered by self |  |
| **Labour**  Family  Paid  Casual |  |
| **Ownership & Management**  Trading structure (eg, partnership)  Succession plan in place? |  |
| **Environment & Conservation**  Environmental and landscape features  Environmental schemes  Waste and pollution management  Nutrient and energy conservation  Biodiversity management strategies |  |
| **Other cross-compliance areas**  Animal health & welfare  Plant health  New entrants and women  Health & Safety |  |

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

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