



Monitor Farm Scotland:

Farmer Led, Farmer Driven

Beth Alexander and Peter Beattie
North East Scotland Agriculture
Advisory Group
08/05/24



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Background



- First Monitor Farm in 2003
- Launched 9 new farms in November 2022
- Managed by QMS with support from AHDB
- Fully funded by Scottish Government KTIF Grant



Our aims



"Farmer Led, Farmer Driven"



Create an open and honest space for peer-to-peer based knowledge exchange



Drive data-based decision making



Establish a network of discussion groups to share best practice and drive innovation and new thinking

9 Monitor Farms



•• North Cluster

- ~~Christine Beattie, Regional~~
Maura Wilson, Regional
Regional Adviser
- ~~Bairnsdale Monitor Farm~~
East Lothian Monitor Farm
The Duncan Family, Lands
• Stuart McNicol, Castleton
• Bruce Irvine, Sauchentree
Farm
- South Ayrshire Monitor
- ~~Roxburgh Monitor Farm~~
Strathpey Monitor Farm
- ~~Robert Wilson, Galloway~~
John Davidson, Dumfries
Forreston Family,
Swinton
- ~~Auchernack Farm~~
Agyllines Monitor Farm
- ~~Deeside Monitor Farm~~
• Richard McCormick and
• Duggan Family, Claire
Family, Barnbackle Farm
Morrison, Meikle Maldron

Farmer Led, Farmer Driven



The farmer's voice on
their farm



Bruce Irvine
Banff & Buchan Monitor Farmer
Summer 23 Open Meet

Real facts and figures



Duncan Morrison,
Deeside Monitor Farmer
Management Group Meet

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Management Group



Ventilation at Strathspey

Community Group



The right beast at Deeside

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Learning



Superb soils day at Meikle Maldron

Local Innovation



HerdAdvance – livestock drafting

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Attracting experts



Prof Simon Turner
Body Condition Scoring @ B&B



Abbie McGillivray
ScotEID on MyHerdStats @ Strathspey

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Collaboration Huntly Lamb Demo

Keynote Speakers



**Local farmer, Buyer, Mart, Caterers,
Vets & Butchers
130 attendees**



**Michael Blanche
Mixed Species Swards
at Deeside Summer Meet**

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Visiting others

Low Input



Stuart Mitchell - Organic

High input



John Elliott - Rawburn Bulls

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Political Opportunities - Holyrood



Ariane Burgess (Green Highland MSP)
& Kate Rowell (QMS Chair) at Strathspey MF
with Malcolm and Calum Smith

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Political Opportunities - Westminster



Richard Thomson (MP for Gordon) & Sarah Millar (QMS CEO)
with Duncan Morrison and Keith Stewart at Deeside

Measuring Impact



- Management Group Survey
- 8.7/10 recommendation score
- Have you made any changes as a result of MFP?
 - 45% answered YES
- Are you planning to make a change as a result of MFP?
 - 67% answered YES

Changes to practices



Complete an ILMP



Outwintering livestock



Use of forage crops



Red clover



Improved data collection

Key messages



“Collaboration and knowledge exchange is vital to keep farming relevant and profitable”



“If you don't record it you can't manage it”

Summer Open Meeting Dates



- Argyllshire: 20th May
- **Strathspey: 3rd June**
- **Banff and Buchan: 7th June**
- East Lothian: 11th June
- Stirlingshire: 12th June
- South Ayrshire: 26th June
- **Deeside: 16th July**
- Roxburgh: 18th July
- Argyllshire: 25th July
- Dumfries: 30th July



Open to all 😊



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