

## Planning For Profit – East Scryne Factsheet

Key features of system	<p>Easily managed small cows with low feed costs  Hardy cows that thrive outside on poorer quality pasture  Tight calving pattern, excellent herd fertility  Low cow depreciation rate  Bull cost spread across two herds  Fast growing calves  Provide FYM that boosts soil fertility and maintains soil structure  Cattle enterprise designed to fit in with arable operations, with arable taking priority.  Autumn calving herd away summered on hill</p>
Beef enterprise	<p>191 Blue Grey cows. 86 autumn and 82 spring calving cows plus 23 replacement heifers introduced to autumn herd. Cows mated to Charolais bulls with high growth potential.</p>
Farm size	<p>890 acres of mainly arable land near Carnoustie. Autumn calving cows summered on hill ground in Glen Lyon.</p>
Spring calving cows	<p>Housed for calving from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> April – 2 month calving  Summer grazed at Carnoustie  Bulling 15<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> July  Wean calves 22<sup>nd</sup> September  Cows on rough grazings – very fit before winter, use body condition to reduce feed through winter  Cows clean up brassica and potato fields  Wintered on stubbles - fed straw plus mineral blocks  Cows in lean condition pre calving – few assists.</p>
Finishing spring born calves	<p>Bull calves creep fed pre weaning rising to ad lib. Finished on ad lib concentrate diets at around 14 months. Heifer calves – no creep feed at grass, silage plus 3kg concentrates rising to 5kg/head/day until finish.</p>
Autumn calving cows	<p>Cows calve outdoors from 12<sup>th</sup> September to 12<sup>th</sup> November, only brought in overnight for observation and if weather atrocious.  Turned out to grass after calving  Strip graze kale supplemented by straw from October to March – 30 cows and calves on each 8 acre block.  Stubble fields with silage supplementation  Calves weaned 15<sup>th</sup> April  Cows to hill in Glen Lyon.  Bulling 1<sup>st</sup> December to 1<sup>st</sup> February  Replacement heifers join autumn calving herd – March/April born calves bought in and mated following November at around 20 months. Move to spring calving herd if they fail to hold to the bull.</p>
Finishing autumn born calves	<p>Bull and heifer calves graze young grass – bulls get supplementary concentrates. Bulls on to ad lib concentrates by 15<sup>th</sup> August.</p>
Cow longevity	<p>Cows rear an average of 9 calves.</p>
Maximising cow:bull ratio	<p>Each bull expected to leave 200 plus calves, and produce a minimum of 50 calves each year  1 bull:30 cows autumn herd, 1 bull:26 cows spring herd.</p>

## Herd fertility and weaning weights – long term average

	Cow fertility	
	Autumn	Spring
Cows to bull	81	89
Barren cows	1%	2%
Calves born	96%	97%
Calves reared	94%	95%
Calving period	9	9
Replacements	11%	10%

	Weaning weights	
	Autumn	Spring
Bulls	334kg	332kg
Heifers	279kg	285kg

## Finishing cattle performance

Finishing cattle performance - calves born 2009 to 2011					
	Days to finish	Months to finish	Deadweight kg	DWT gain kg/day	Est LWG kg/day
Heifers	487	16.2	262	0.46	0.84
Bulls	438	14.6	342	0.73	1.26

Bulls born aut 2010						Heifers born spring 2011					
Grade	No	Grade	No	Grade	No	Grade	No	Grade	No	Grade	No
				U2	3%						
R3	10%			U3	8%						
R4L	13%	U4L	26%			O4L	5%	R4L	55%		
R4H	13%	U4H	28%			O4H	9%	R4H	32%		

## Financial figures

Figures from 2010/11 calvings show performance relative to QMS Enterprise costings.

	Financial performance suckler herds to weaning			
	Porter Spring 2011	Porter Autumn 2010	Hill herds QMS average	Upland herds QMS average
	£ per cow	£ per cow	£ per cow	£ per cow
Gross output	£526	£607	£634	£521
Variable costs	£186	£237	£354	£262
Gross margin	£341	£370	£279	£258
Fixed costs	£227	£240	£374	£343
Net margin	£114	£130	£-95	£-84

**Finishing cattle** – spring born bulls 2011 net margin £124/head, autumn born bulls 2010 £92/head v QMS intensive beef average of £50/head.

