

**SHETLAND MONITOR FARM INFORMATION PACK**

**Business:**

Bigton Farm trades under the name of J Budge A Firm. Toab farm trades under the name of Black & Budge LTD. Both businesses are family run.

Bigton farm has been in the family since late 1800's. The farm was purchased from the laird in 1950. Toab farm is made up of a number of smaller crofts which were either bought or inherited by Derek Black. Since 2014 Kirsty and Aimee Budge took over the running of both of these with help from their family.

The main farm enterprise is suckler cows with store calves being sold at a year old. Other enterprises include a flock of commercial ewes and spring barley.

**Farm:**

- 305ha (750 acres) all LFA land
- A mix of region 1 and region 2 land
- Max 190 ft above sea level at Bigton
- Max 280 ft above sea level at Toab

**Livestock:**

**Breeding Cattle**

- 72 Suckler cows
- Mostly Shorthorn X Saler homebred replacements
- All spring calving
- Heifers run with Saler bull
- Older cows run with Shorthorn or Charolais bull
- Charolais store calves sold at Lerwick
- Saler and Shorthorn store calves sold at Thainstone
- Later calves retained for finishing off grass and sold locally
- Outwintered on sandy ground

	2016 Calving Results	2017 Calving Results
No. of cows put to bull	69	72
No. in calf	62	72
Scanning Percentage	90%	100%
Calves lost pre-calving	1	
Calves lost post-calving	5	
Calves Reared	54	
Rearing Percentage	87%	

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### Sheep

- 240 Shetland X Cheviot breeding ewes
- Put to Suffolk ram
- Lambing outside in May
- Most lambs sold store in November and December
- Others kept and finished sold through the live market in Thainstone
- Replacement females purchased from Oxna

	2014	2015	2016
No. of Sheep to Ram	217	215	234
<b>Scanning Percentage</b>	<b>167%</b>	<b>156%</b>	<b>157%</b>
No. of lambs reared	285	245	254
<b>Rearing Percentage</b>	<b>131%</b>	<b>114%</b>	<b>109%</b>

### Cropping:

#### Spring Barley

- 24 ha (60 acres) of Spring Barley grown annually
- Some barley undersown with grass clover mixture. Straw is baled and wrapped for feed.
- The varieties grown in 2016 were Waggon and Propino
- Straw is used for feeding and bedding on farm
- Barley is used for feeding with any surplus being sold locally

#### Silage

- 40 ha (100 acres) cut in 2016
- One cut of silage
- No silage additive used
- All silage in two pits, one at Toab and Bigton

#### Forage Rape

- 4.4 ha grown annually
- Strip graze cattle then lambs follow on

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