

## GIRTRIDGE FARM INFORMATION PACK

### Business:

Girtridge Farm is run by the business of Messrs John Howie, a partnership consisting of John Howie, his mother Margaret and his sister Mary.

The family moved to Girtridge in 2000 with John taking control of the day to day management of the farm from 2010. The main farm enterprise is buying store cattle and finishing them for sale direct to local abattoirs. The business also maintains a commercial sheep flock and small suckler cow herd.

### Farm

- 116 ha (286 acres) Non-LFA land
- Purchased additional 24 ha (59 acres) Non-LFA land in December 2016.
- Farm a further 35 ha (86 acres) of LFA grassland at Ashyard.
- All classified as Region 1
- 140 ft. above sea level
- Soil types- Non calcereous gley, brown forest soil and peat.

### Cropping

#### Spring Barley

- 28 hectares (70 acres) of Spring Barley grown annually.
- Varieties used in 2016 were Sanette and Propino.
- All Barley and straw is used on farm
- Stored in the grain tower with surplus grain treated with Propionic Acid and stored in shed.

Yields of barley and straw achieved are as listed below.

Field Name	Ha (Acres)	Years in crop	Grain Yield t/acre	Straw bales/acre
Stone	7.70 (19)	SB since 2013	2.42	5.37
Roadend	7.07 (17)	SB since 2015	3.21	3.59
Railway	8.19 (20)	SB since 2016	2.53	5.2
Factory	5.67 (14)	SB since 2014	1.676	3.5

#### Forage

Crop	Ha (Acres)	Cut date	Chop date
Silage 1 <sup>st</sup> Cut	32.78 (81)	5 <sup>th</sup> June	7 <sup>th</sup> June
Silage 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cut	22.66 (56)	8 <sup>th</sup> Aug	9 <sup>th</sup> Aug
Hay	7.13 (17)	13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	

- No Silage additive used and silage not scattered.

Initiative supported by:



## Livestock

### Finished Cattle

- 233 finishing cattle currently on farm (80% females)
- Finished 490 cattle in the last 20 months (75% females)
- Purchased through the local market all year round
- Average purchase weight 350 kgs
- Aim to sell R4L (bonus if U)
- Sold through Stoddarts and Highland Meats

### Sheep Flock

- 140 cross ewes put to Suffolk, Texel and Beltex x tups
- All ewes housed for lambing in early March
- All lambs sold finished through the live market
- Average liveweight at sale 44 kgs
- Replacement females purchased through the market

2016 results		
Number of ewes put to the Ram	143	
Number rams used	4	(1 tup/35 ewes)
Lambs Scanned	270 lambs	189% (6 yield)
Live lambs recorded 15/06/2016	214 lambs	149%
Lambs recorded as sold	214 lambs	149%

### Breeding Cattle

- 10 mixed breed suckler cows
- Mainly spring calving
- Run with Limousin bull for 2 months
- Calves transition to finishing system
- Cast cows sold through local market or Stoddarts

2016 results		
Number of Cows put to bull	8	
Number in calf	7	88%
Calves lost pre calving	1	
Calves lost post calving	0	
Calves reared	6	75%

Initiative supported by:



Initiative supported by:

