

Planning For Profit – Isauld Farm Factsheet

Farm details	<p>Land: Isauld extends to 700 acres, free-draining, fertile and flat. The farm neighbours the Dounreay Nuclear plant and is largely down to grass. Part of a larger family business</p> <p>Enterprise mix of cattle (pedigree), and spring cereals (180 acres)</p> <p>Cattle: 140 spring-calving cows, of which 110 AA Pedigree, 30 cross commercial, 5 Li pedigree 30 heifers calved at 2 yrs of age,</p> <p>Staff: Family labour plus 1 FT and 1 p/t staff.</p>
Farm's Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to maximise the farm's output /margin from a simple system • To maintain a high-health herd, with high fertility, easy-care cows, achieving good performance (LWG) from home produced feed. • Build cows numbers up to 200. • To sell as many as possible top performing bulls per year • Quality of life! (Ranald has young family)
Cattle System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The family established a pedigree herd of Aberdeen Angus (AA) in 2008 with the aim to increase the farm's output. • AA was selected for their ease of calving and ability to be outwintered. • Cow numbers are currently 140 with plans to increase to 200 cows. • A small herd of pedigree Limousins has also been introduced. • Cow longevity target is as long as possible to minimise depreciation (oldest cow was 21-years old) • Normally select 40 AA Bulling heifers with the aim to calve 30 at 2-year-old. • In-calf heifers are wintered inside. 2nd calvers are treated well and never mixed with cows, • Cows are allocated into groups depending on body condition • Cows are out-wintered on the sandy links until February when they are taken inside for calving from March – May. Anything still to calve by end of May go outside. • Cows winter ration is silage & straw fed through feed trailers which are filled twice per week with hay bales on Friday. • All the bulls calves are kept entire with those not required for breeding finished. • Winter rations are total mixed ration (TMR) based on silage, straw, oats, barley sugar beet, soya, draff and minerals using a Keenan feed wagon. • Growth rates for bulls post-weaning to finishing are 2.1kg /day • Bought new cattle crate and electronic weigh cells, moving to full EID.
Labour Machinery & Management	<p>Staff: 1 FT (Andrew) and 1 p/t staff – does maintenance and makes own gates, handling pens, etc</p> <p>Main equipment – 2 tractors JD 130hp + Claas 100hp, JCB Loadall, Keenan feed wagon, Straw blower</p> <p>Contractor – Used for all silage work, the sowing and spraying of cereals. Have two big moist grain towers which hold 185to each</p>
Other Enterprises	<p>Arable comprises 130 ac spring barley and 50 ac oats. Av yields 2.5t /acre. Approx 1/3 goes own feed (other farms too), 2/3 sold.</p>