

Farming for a Better Climate



Corrimony

Corrimony Farm near Glen Urquhart, Inverness shire is run by David Girvan in partnership with parents Lyndsey and Maime.

The farm covers 3,035 hectares and is mostly permanent grass and hill ground. Corrimony has 130 spring calvers, mainly Stabiliser cross and older Aberdeen Angus cross, Limousin cross to Stabiliser and Charolais along with 550 Llyen ewes, both pure and crossed with New Zealand Highlander.

David has volunteered to work with SRUC as a *Climate Change Focus Farm*. Over the three year initiative, David will consider ways to improve farm efficiency whilst reducing the farm carbon footprint.

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| Name | David Girvan |
| Farm | Corrimony |
| Locality | Inverness shire |
| Farm type | Upland Beef and Sheep |
| Size | 3,035ha |



David said *"It appeals to our inventive nature to try and make the business more efficient and improving efficiency should also improve income"*

How might climate change affect Corrimony?

As with many farms in the Highlands, Corrimony is best suited to upland livestock production from a grass based system. Cold, late springs and wet summers can make it difficult to manage grassland efficiently so the Givrans are looking at matching stocking rates to grassland potential to reduce the need for costly bought in concentrates. Looking at how to maximise the genetic efficiency of the Stabiliser breed of cattle and Highlander sheep, plus the potential for finishing the bull calves, running them separately from the heifer calves, are all things they are considering to improve farm profitability in a changing climate.

Case Study

Find out what other farmers are doing to improve profitability and adapt to a changing climate in our series of case studies.

There are five sets of Practical Guides covering :

Use energy and fuels efficiently

Develop renewable energy

Lock carbon into soils and vegetation

Optimise the application of fertilisers and manures

Optimise livestock management and the storage of manure and slurry

Find further information, including links to other Practical Guides and Case Studies, at



www.farmingforabetterclimate.org

Funded by the Scottish Government as part of their Climate Change Advisory Activity

Websites

www.farmingforabetterclimate.org

www.adaptationscotland.org.uk

www.agreacalc.com



Corrimony

Nutrient use

As a starting point, 6 fields covering approximately 48 ha were GPS soil tested.

This will help target lime and nutrients to even out productivity.

Soil structure can have a real impact on productivity; soil structure has also been examined with no major issues highlighted.

The 2015 grazing season has seen a move towards paddock grazing to optimise productive grass growth. This can be quite challenging when there are a lot of feet on the ground in a wet year.

Livestock efficiency

The Girvans bought their first Stabiliser bull in 2009 and Highlander tups 3 years ago in a move to enhance enterprises that suited the farm while improving output per hectare.

The cows are out wintered on the hill with supplementary straw and pot ale syrup. The young stock are housed on slats after weaning. The Charolais calves work well through the store ring but from 2014 the male Stabiliser calves will be kept entire and finished on farm.

From 2015 when the bulls come back in, the cows with male calves will be separated and they will continue to be creep fed.

Renewables

Corrimony Farm has a wood chip district heating system that feeds the farmhouse plus four other houses. The wood is chipped on farm with the boiler and hopper located centrally in an adapted vernacular building. David and family have also installed a ground source heat pump for a house that was too far to connect to the district heating system.

There are also five 2MW wind turbines on Corrimony Hill, owned by Corrimony Energy Ltd with the equivalent generation income from one turbine supporting a range of community investments in Glen Urquhart and Strathglass.



Can you benefit from the activities at Corrimony?

Reducing the farm carbon footprint can save you money. A series of on-farm meetings to consider practical ways to improve profitability are underway at Corrimony, Auchmore and Clynelish farms who are working together as a '*Highland Farming Efficiency Network*'. Meetings are free to attend and all farmers are welcome. For more information on the meetings, practical ideas to improve efficiency and the farms taking part in the project, visit the website at www.farmingforabetterclimate.org, follow us on Twitter @SACFarm4Climate or find Farming for a Better Climate on Facebook.

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