Fact Sheet

climate change Focus Farmers; Neil and Linsey Butler, Stewart Tower

Run by Neil and Linsey Butler, Stewart Tower is a mixed dairy and arable (cropping) farm covering 160 hectares near Stanley, Perthshire. They grow wheat and barley on the farm and make grass silage to feed the 70 dairy cows over the winter months. The farm also has a thriving ice cream business including an ice cream parlour inside the farm shop.

Stewart Tower is one of four farms taking part in the Scottish Government funded Farming for a Better Climate initiative.

What steps are being taken at Stewart Tower to help to combat climate change?

- Reviewing energy use on the farm - Neil and Linsey have looked at how much electricity and fuel they burn and identified a number of ways to reduce this, saving money as well.

- Using renewable energy. By installing a wind turbine they can generate electricity for use on the farm, rather than relying on energy produced from fossil fuels.

- Changing fertiliser use on the farm. The clover growing amongst the grass adds soil nutrients and all that cow poo is also put to good use. Dung contains a range of nutrients that help crops grow. By spreading it at the right time they make best use of these plant nutrients. They keep expensive artificial fertiliser for when an extra boost is needed.

- Keeping the cows happy. Giving them a balanced diet over the winter months, making sure they are in top condition and providing for their general daily requirements keeps the ratio between producing milk and greenhouse gas emissions low.

- Telling people about it. Neil and Linsey are spreading the word about small steps farmers can take to reduce their impact on climate change.

Stewart Tower produces over 450,000 litres of milk a year and has around 200 flavours of ice cream. Some of the milk is sold in Sainsburys, while some is kept on the farm and used to make their own ice cream which is then sold around Scotland.

Want to find out more?

Pick up a leaflet about Farming for a Better Climate at Stewart Tower or visit www.farmingforabetterclimate.org

Get in touch

We would love to know what you think. Email the project at climatechange@sac.co.uk. You can follow Farming for a Better Climate on Twitter at #SACFarm4climate and keep up to date with Stewart Tower on their facebook page via www.stewart-tower.co.uk