

South West
Scotland
Grassland Society

Future Meetings

Wednesday 24th February 2016

DALHANNA FARMING CO
Overcairn
New Cumnock
Ayrshire
KA18 4NW

by kind invitation of
Mr John Wildman
Farm Manager

Thursday 16th June 2016

Drumbreddan
Ardwell
Stranraer
DG9 9PD

by kind invitation of
Lamont and Daniel Hair

For the latest up to date news
and information you can visit.

Our website
www.swsgrasslands.org
or like us on
Facebook [www.facebook.com/
swsgrasslands/](http://www.facebook.com/swsgrasslands/)

Secretary: Katie Keiley
Tel: 01556 660155
e-mail: katiekeiley@btinternet.com
Carton Croft
Haugh of Urr
Dalbeattie
DG5 4NH
www.swsgrasslands.org
www.facebook.com/swsgrasslands/

South West Scotland
Grassland Society



Farm Visit to

**Courance Farms
Nether Garrell
Courance
Lockerbie**

By kind invitation of
Alister and Anne Jack
and
Farm Manager
Raymond McKerlie

Friday 11th December 2015

Meeting kindly sponsored
by
Tarrff Valley

Head Office and Shop
Old Station Yard,
Ringford, Castle Douglas.
DG7 2AN
Telephone 01557 820247

BACKGROUND

The Courance Farm is owned by Alister and Anne Jack and managed by Raymond McKerlie.

Until 2014 it was a beef suckler unit of 300 pure Simmentals. These were disposed of between April and June of that year.

In preparation for the dairy herd, a major investment of £800,000 was spent in remodelling the existing beef sheds.

ALTITUDE

Altitude is between 100-150 m.

RAINFALL

Rainfall average approximately 610 mm.

CROPPING

Courance extends to

1118 acres owned

200 rented

Silage: 200 acres cut twice
100 acres third cut

Cereals: 129 acres Wholecrop
70 acres cereal

THE DAIRY HERD

On the 22nd July 2014 the unit started milk production with the purchase of 90 black and white Dutch cows and 90 in calf heifers. These were milked with 3 Lely A4 astronauts.

In April 2015 another three Lely A4 robots were installed and the cow numbers increased to 300.

Cows calve all the year round, and are currently averaging 25.2 litres with a calving index of 407 days.

Milk protein: 3.32

Butter Fat: 4.18

DAIRY COW RATION

For maintenance plus 16kg.

46 kg silage 1st cut

1.5 kg hay

3.5 blend

7kg arable silage

The milk is sold to Graham Dairies.

SILAGE MAKING

Target cutting date is 21st May, with a contractor employed to do the whole operation.

HOUSING

Cows are all bedded on green bedding and are kept indoors 365 days of the year. The dry cows are grazed during the summer.

THE TEAM

Niall, the herdsman is responsible for the day to day running of the dairy cows.

The dairy cow nutrition is managed by Ros Hughes of Kite Consulting.

GRASS

Grass seed is supplied by Watson Seeds, using their high yielding, later maturing Duart grass mixture.