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### Future Meetings

**Thursday 16th June 2016**

Drumbreddan  
Ardwell  
Stranraer  
DG9 9PD

by kind invitation of  
Lamont and Daniel Hair

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Tel: 01556 660155  
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South West Scotland  
Grassland Society



Farm Visit to

**DALHANNA FARMING CO**  
**Overcairn**  
**New Cumnock**  
**Ayrshire**  
**KA18 4NW**

By kind invitation of  
Mr John Wildman  
Farm Manager

**Wednesday, 24th February 2016**



## Background

Dalhanna, a privately owned and run hill/upland estate on the south eastern border of Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire, consisting of 7 farms amalgamated into one unit within a ring fence, the core of the business being centered and run from Overcairn, New Cumnock.

The farm extends to some 8000 acres, which consists of approximately:-

Mowing ground	260 acres
Improved pasture	500
Rough grazing	250
Hill	6500
Forestry	500

Included within the estate is also the site for Scottish Renewables "Hare Hill" wind farm consisting of twenty 660kw turbines, with construction of extension started in Dec 2015

## Altitude

Rising from approx. 550 ft up to a height of 2300ft

## Rainfall

Rainfall! The biggest challenge, 70-75"/per year.

## Livestock.

### **Cattle enterprise**

The closed herd presently consists of 300 spring calving saler x aa beef cows, with the offspring either retained for stock or sold as stores at 10-12 mths of age.

All cattle are housed for the winter.

### **Sheep enterprise**

The estate runs 2550 hill and in-bye ewes, lambing outdoors starting April 1st,

Split presently as follows:-

1160 Blackface ewes run in three hefts.

740 Cheviot ewes run as one heft.

320 Cheviot ewes crossed with Beltex and Texel X Bltx

310 Cheviot mule ewes crossed Beltex and Texel X

### **Staffing**

Team of four, consisting of

Working Farm Manager

Stockman/ Tractor Driver

2 Shepherds

## Silage

1st cut, 225 acres, usually week after Highland Show. The fields are shut up after lambing around 7-10th May, receiving 2500gal slurry and compound fertiliser.

Silage operation all in house, using trailed JF chopper, spread with mower, wilted for 24hrs if possible, tedded if required.

Invested in flotation tyres for all trailers (3) to help reduce soil compaction.

2nd cut varies 50 – 100acres dependent upon 1st cut yield and carry over from previous year and weather, 20th to late Aug. Have to be conscious of aftermath required for lambs, so have of late been pitting draff also.

### **Silage analysis 2015**

Dry Matter	25.2
D- value	65.2
ME	10.4
Protein	10.7
NDF	536
Sugar	2.4
pH	4.3