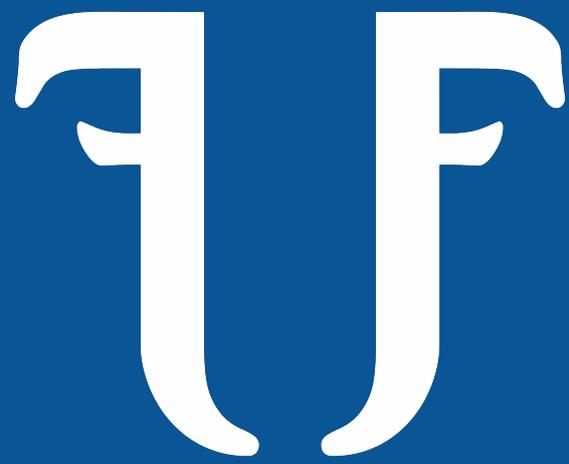


NEWSLETTER JULY 2020



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 Fearn Farm

 The Mill at Fearn Farm

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GREAT FROM GRASS 2020 WILL BE ON!

Finer details are still to be ironed out folks but the headline for this newsletter is that after months of speculation our ram sale will go ahead in a different format with the caveat of CV19 restrictions. As you all know the virus has brought all sorts of disruption to our country not to mention the heart ache for those families immediately affected.

At Fearn we rely on seasonal labour for lambing, this year several Belgian vet students were due to come to us to give us a hand, obviously this didn't happen but the knock on effect was that several local people were able to give us a hand where they often wouldn't have been able to, due to their own work commitments. They learnt a lot in a short space of time and next year hopefully they will be able to find time to help again.

Lambing despite the great weather was challenging, for some reason we had issues with joint ill in one mob, we think we might have taken their eye off the ball nutritionally but whatever the reason we lost more lambs than we should have and as a result the count is lower than it should be.

Sadly our assistant manager Sandy Mackay is moving to the West coast for personal reasons, we will miss him and thank him for what he has brought to the business over the past few years and we wish him all the best for the future.

Our placement student Matthew has also returned back to Northern Ireland for college, if anyone ever hears of anyone looking for a fresh challenge please get them to get in touch.

Good people are hard to find and its sometimes like recruiting a new bull or tup, easier to just take them when they are available, rather than wait until you really need one.

Gallagher Electric Fencing

We have recently teamed up with Gallagher fencing and are now an agent for all your Gallagher fencing requirements in our area. We have a selection of stock available from our shop here at Fearn, everything from energizers, to posts, wire and reels.

Get in touch with Sarah on admin@fearnfarm.com to discuss your requirements.



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Great from Grass - Ram Sale

We will have 120 rams forward for this year's sale with the usual selection of Texel, Aberfield, New Zealand Suffolk/Sufftex and Beltex along with some Beltex cross rams which certainly have plenty meat about them.

Rams as per usual have been rigorously inspected by Lucy our vet, have had all their vaccinations and are ready to work.

The sale will be run under a Helmsman auction style system which will give buyers the opportunity to bid online or by handing bidding slips to auctioneers, this will be different but please don't worry we will explain it all in due course.

Again we will have gimmers available for sale, this year's offering will include Suffolk cross, Aberfield cross and some Cheviot gimmers, these sheep are surplus to requirements at Fearn and offer buyers a chance to acquire top quality females to accompany their newly purchased rams.

Cattle - Synchronization Programme

For the first time in three years we have synchronized a batch of cows for artificial insemination with Fearn Elmer, Fearn Godfather, Dakota of Upsall and Jacobite Star of Longfield, are amongst the service sires whilst we have also strengthened our bull team with the following signings.

Highlee Minstrel from Mark and Tracey Severn is a son of former Highland Show and Great Yorkshire champion Millerston Jester. Firefox of Upsall an 8 year old Mandalong Super Elephant son from Gerald Turton has arrived to add experience to the team. Double signings from Dunsyre include Nightrider and Nimrod, both completely different but with cracking figures which will complement our breeding programme.

And finally under the R W Durham banner Luing Excel was bought at the Cadzow brood sale in November as a new stock bull for the Scotsburn Luing herd.



Dunsyre Nimrod



Bulls available for sale

We have quite a selection of bulls for sale at the moment with both two year olds, which have been semen tested, and yearlings which can be tested.

In the yearling field we have Luings and Beef Shorthorns, including several sons of Fearn Godfather which are really catching the eye both in the flesh and on paper.

These bulls have been reared naturally, have good performance figures, are very quiet and will go on and thrive.

Our culling policy is rigorous and anything not ticking all the boxes finds itself in the steer mob very quickly, this allows us to monitor the finishing ability of our genetics in a grass and forage based system. We are Johnes level 1 and have been for some time and are BVD accredited and vaccinated.

We also have bulling and in calf heifers available and some cows with calves at foot. Please get in touch with John to discuss any requirements you may have.



FACTFILE

- The area of Easter Ross is a peninsula with the Dornoch Firth to the north and the Cromarty Firth to the south.
- Glenmorangie Distillery is just 5 minutes along the road at Tain, fabulous whisky and distillery tours.
- Highland Fine cheeses are made in Tain, try some Minger or Fat Cow!
- Anta Pottery is based at Fearn, stunning fabrics, pottery and furniture.
- Tain is home to Greens Restaurant, one of our favourite places to eat.
- There is so much history in this area, Fearn Abbey, The Nigg Stone, the Shandwick Stone, WW2 runway and buildings.
- Want to fly here? Fly in to Easter Airfield.
- Easter Ross has an amazing coast line with beaches facing East and West! Dolphins can frequently be seen playing in the waters and dolphin tours can be taken from Cromarty.

THE MILL AT FEARN FARM

The Mill at Fearn Farm is a brand new self-catering holiday let in the heart of Ross-Shire. Located on Fearn Farm, 45 minutes north of Inverness, 1 hour from Inverness Airport, 5 minutes from the Royal Burgh of Tain and 15 minutes from the Royal Burgh of Dornoch.

The Mill is a new building, finished to the highest of standards, replacing the original Mill which once stood here. The Mill is a really adaptable property which can sleep one party of 14 or be split by internal doors with the Wee End sleeping 4 and the Main Mill sleeping 10. Wifi, smart TVs and firewood included. With the option to order some Fearn Farm beef to enjoy during your stay.

The Wee End

In the single storey end there is an open plan kitchen and living area with a full height ceiling open to the eaves and is stylishly furnished in a Scottish Scandi style. There is a wood burning stove and the room opens out through sliding doors to a private south facing patio area. The two bedrooms are bright rooms and have sliding doors which also open out on to the patio area and there is a shared shower room.

The Main Mill

Has a lovely semi open plan living, dining and kitchen area, there is access to an out-

side eating area and private patio through huge sliding doors. There is also a wood burning stove and a massive dining table for socialising around. On the ground floor there is a w/c room with a washing machine/tumble drier. A large bedroom with en-suite is also situated on the ground floor. There is plenty of coat hanging space and cubbyholes for shoes situated under the staircase. On the first floor there are 4 bedrooms with either single beds that can also be arranged as super king size beds. All the bedrooms have en-suites with views of the surrounding farm.

Easter Ross is a little known gem of an area with an amazing coast line, several beautiful beaches facing both east and west! There are hills to climb, rivers to fish, golf to play, sunsets to savour and some of the best food and drink in Scotland to enjoy. A warm welcome awaits you at The Mill at Fearn Farm.



To check availability & prices go to www.fearnfarm.com/holidays

Enquiries to fiona@fearnfarm.com



WWW.FEARNFARM.COM/HOLIDAYS



RSABI

RSABI supports people from Scottish agriculture emotionally, practically and financially in times of need.

Here at Fearn we are a RSABI Business Supporter, where by donating £150 a year, covers the average time a case officer needs to help a farmer who is unable to work after an accident or illness, making sure that the farm can continue and the family are not struggling.

For as little as £25 a year you can cover the cost of 6 helpline calls, providing vital support to someone in the agricultural community.



We have recently constructed our first ever silage pit which should make a huge difference to the winter at Fearn, silage should be better quality and easier to feed out and in keeping with our drive to have less of an impact on the environment with reduced plastic and diesel.

There was a fair bit of speculation as to how much it would hold and in the end we put 220 acres in it with room to spare which should see us through a large part of the winter, our next challenge is working out how we to feed it as efficiently as possible.



Our beef boxes have been a huge hit with demand increasing since the start of lockdown, the feedback we receive has been extremely complimentary both in the way its cut and presented by Macbeths in Forres and in the way it eats.

We hope to grow this side of the business, and have already identified some of the Beef Shorthorn and Luing heifers not suitable for breeding that will be ideal for this job later in the year.

Please contact fiona@fearnfarm.com to book a box.

Off the farm we continue our close association with Ross-Sutherland rugby football club, James is now in the senior squad whilst Archie plays for the U13's.

Being able to support this club gives us great satisfaction both my grandfathers played here plus a great uncle just like many other farmers of their era and their descendants are also involved.

Its vital that we make time for other things off the farm, its good for physical and mental well being and whether you are a player, supporter, volunteer or all three we would be delighted to see you at the Naval grounds once play resumes, our new clubhouse should also be close to completion by then.



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