



Is mixed farming sustainable for Old Leckie Farm?



- Small Conventional Mixed Farm near Stirling – average average for Scotland!
- Type of unit that is disappearing – lack of scale, part time unit
- Heavy clay carse to rolling dry field eskers, red sandstone based soils, about 1200mm rain/year
- Approx 200ha -owned and seasonal lets, 70 suckler cows, 500 ewes, 1500 hens, 4 sows, cereals for own use, small horticulture, accommodation/tourism
- Direct retail to customer now is half our income – conscious decision to not be dependent on the mainstream and have varied customer base



What is Mixed farming to us?



- Care for the land, minimal inputs, self sustaining, traditional, rotations, connection to products, feels right...but also in terms of diversified enterprises
- But still have all the tools in the tool box – N, Glyphosate, Plough but minimise use
- Utilise livestock and fodder crops to establish new leys with minimal disturbance, own manures, extensive use of clovers, internal system on sheep and cattle



Input Reduction?

- Fert – reduced to 9 tonnes
30/5/5
- Chemicals – glyphosate and dock control
- Feed inputs -Pigs and Hens require external
- Fuel? No change
- Infrastructure –hotlines
- Rotations – seed plus establishment costs
- Renewables – biomasss, solar
- Diversified people enterprises once established - little £ input and generate the best £ margin

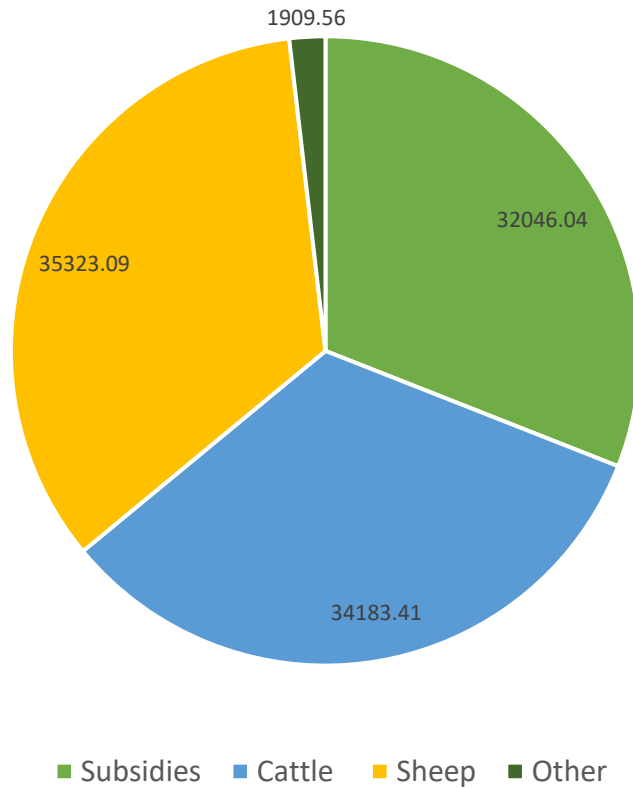


Environmental Gain

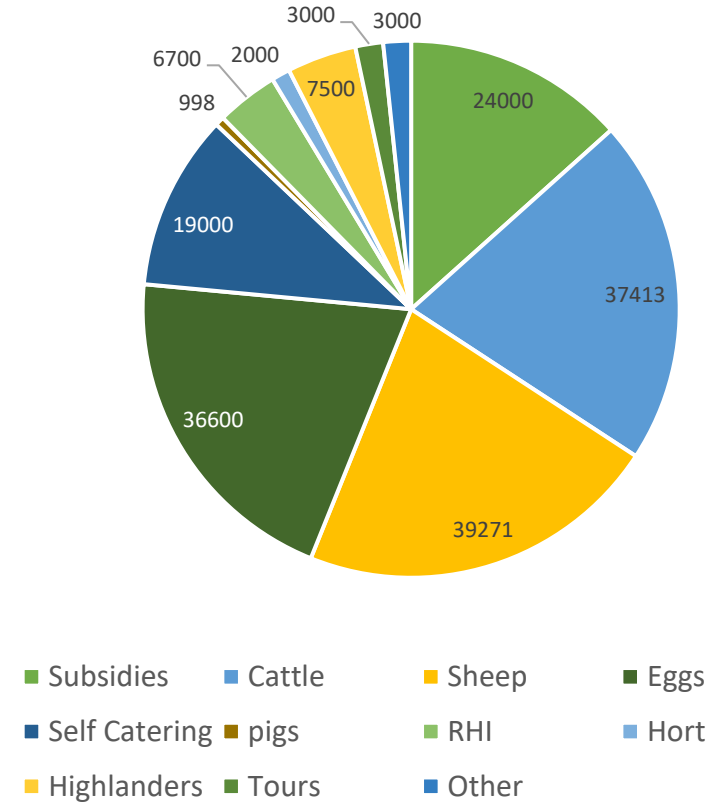


- Variety of habitats for insect, bird and mammal life and year round
- Soil health –worm counts
- Fertility build
- Flowering plants, clovers, hedges
- Minimal bare soil
- However – weed burden build up with clovers

2010/11 Income Sources - **£103,462.10**



2019/20 Income Sources - **£179,482**



Business resilience -Over 10 years shifted to more enterprises, increased in turnover and an improved profit –from 12-40k

Being Mixed

- Improves biodiversity of farm
- Reduces energy intensive inputs
- Better for “Good Heart” of the farm
- Selling story of our direct marketing enterprise
- Spreads financial risk
- Creates more work
- Requires more infrastructure
- Enterprises come and go in terms of profitability
- Much larger players on profitability -inflation, regulation, climate....
- Is nothing new – just doing what our forefathers did....working within our own resources