

Gupworthy Farm Walk



Gupworthy Farm is located in the Exmoor National Park and covers an area of approximately 1000 acres (405 ha). Rising to over 1083 feet above sea level, the farm's location affords some of the best scenery in the country but can also provide some challenging weather conditions in which to rear livestock and grow crops.

Owned by Richard and Carlyne Webber, Gupworthy Farm has grown in size to enable it to accommodate a growing suckler herd and youngstock, together with a flock, comprised mainly of (NEMSA) North Country Mules.

With an average rainfall of 80 inches (203cm) and a rich loam soil, the farm is able to grow 95% of its ration including winter barley, wholecrop and barley-pea. A further 25 acres of land is contracted out for growing potatoes.

Environmental contributions

The farm has been enrolled in the CountrySide Stewardship Scheme for a number of years, with a focus on maintaining the 16 miles of hedges around the farm. The hedges play an important role in offering protection to livestock in the summer and winter. The farm is considering next steps in terms of Environmental schemes. All feed is grown on the farm except for 15 tonnes of protein pellets. A Keenan MechFiber 380 machine allows various rations to be optimised.

The farm is also investigating the carbon sequestration capacity of different areas of the farm, in order to understand how it can offset that which is being generated.

Approaches to self-sufficiency

The farm's water supply is regularly tested using the Pruex water treatment system to reduce bacterial challenges, especially at housing.

In addition, wood from the farm is harvested and used to feed the Biomass boiler systems that have been installed at both the Shearwell Data site and the homes on the farm. The systems generate 100% of the heat that is required.

In the future, the farm is planning to install solar panels on a number of farm buildings, where there is a high demand for electricity. This will also help reduce demand on electricity at the Shearwell Data offices.

Interesting Fact!

The farm has a number of redundant mines situated around the farm, which were once mined for Iron Ore. This was collected by the West Somerset Mineral Line which once transected part of the farm and ran to Watchet where it was loaded on boats and transported to Wales.

Farm Facts

Total Farm Size: 1000 acres (405 ha)

Grassland 919 acres (371 ha)

Arable

- Wholecrop (peas & barley) 22 acres (9ha)
- Barley 46 acres (19 ha)
- Potatoes 13 acres (5 ha)

Herd Size: 240 Suckler cows

Plans to increase

Mix of Limousin and Angus cross cows

A number of pedigree

- Limousin cows & bulls
- Angus cows & bulls



Farm Health Plan

- Work closely with Dulverton Vets
- FABBL Assured
- Over the last 10 years all newborn calves are BVD tested
- Ewes are vaccinated for footrot (Footvax)



Flock size: 1200 breeding ewes

Primarily (NEMSA) North Country Mules

Together with some:

- Exmoor Mules
- Exlana
 - Fully Signet recorded
 - 80 to ram
 - Scanned at 191%
 - 90% lambed in the first cycle
 - Plan to increase to around 200 ewes
- Exlana shearling rams sold via www.exlana.co.uk

Machinery & Contractors

- The farm team undertake the 250 acres (101 ha) of silaging with a forage wagon
- Drilling and ploughing are carried out by a contractor

Farm staff

- Two full time staff
- Support & assistance from whole family

Site of historical interest on the farm

West Somerset Mineral Line



South West Region

NSA Young Shepherd event

Kindly hosted by The Webber Family

Leaflet designed by Shearwell Data Limited