

Business performance

All cattle finished off grass alone by 28 months

Average daily live-weight gain of 0.8 kg per day –out wintered with no hay.

System has allowed me to expand my operation from small family farm of 44 acres to 455 acres. I now rent 180 acre farm and 190 acre farm and just taken on another 35 acres of SSSI meadows nearby.

Gross margin per cow of over £600 per head

Net cash profit of over £300 per cow

National average stocking rate





EBVs – Very Useful but be careful

Important and valuable

It is not a race to the highest number

Avoid Single trait selection

Calving Ease Direct vs Calving Ease Daughters

Antagonistic traits

Growth vs Sexual Maturity for calving at 2/Structural
Soundness/Finishing

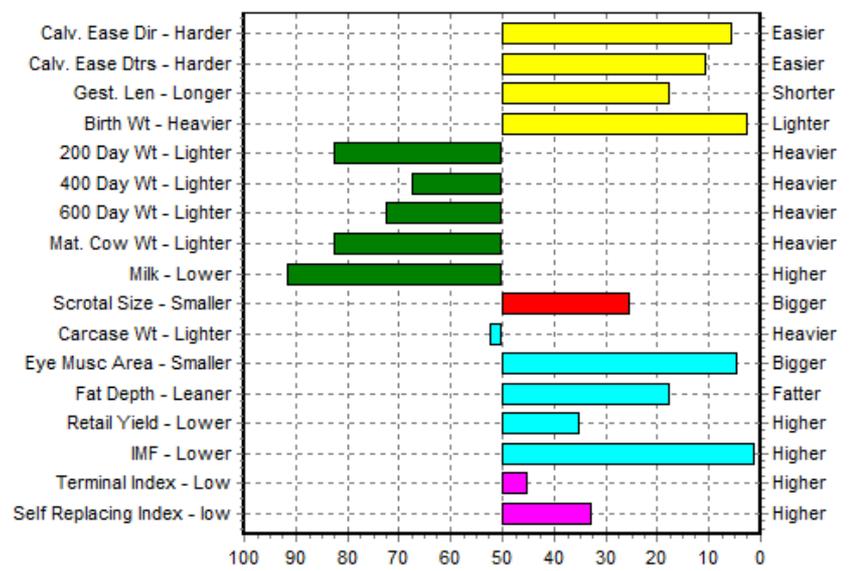
Marbling vs Meat yield

Feet and leg structure EBV?

Epi-genetics

Be careful what you wish for – you might just get it!

EBV Percentiles for DONAUMOOS LORD ZORRO J602



50th Percentile is the Breed Avg. EBVs for 2016 Born Calves

[Switch Graph](#) [Graph Explanation](#)

September 2018 Aberdeen-Angus BREEDPLAN																
	Calving Ease DIR (%)	Calving Ease DTRS (%)	Gestation Length (days)	Birth Wt (kg)	200 Day Wt (kg)	400 Day Wt (kg)	600 Day Wt (kg)	Mat Cow Wt (kg)	Milk (kg)	Scrotal Size (cm)	Carcase Wt (kg)	Eye Muscle Area (sq cm)	Fat Depth (mm)	Retail Beef Yield (%)	IMF (%)	
EBV	+3.6	+2.3	-0.1	+0.3	+30	+59	+71	+60	+4	+1.3	+52	+6.3	-0.4	+1.2	+0.7	
Acc	56%	37%	72%	93%	84%	86%	78%	62%	56%	82%	70%	57%	70%	58%	55%	
Breed Avg. EBVs for 2016 Born Calves Click for Percentiles																
EBV	-1.7	+0.2	+0.7	+3.2	+38	+67	+83	+79	+11	+0.9	+52	+3.4	-1.2	+1.0	+0.0	

Traits Observed: BWT



M&C





Cow size

How many 650kg cows can you keep compared to 900kg cows?

100 / 72

90 calves compared to 65 @ 90% weaning rate. That is a **£16,250** difference. To make this up you would need 100kg extra per calf weaned – but at what cost? Off grass?

Optimal not extreme growth

Optimal not extreme frame size/weight

I aim for my smallest heifers to finish at 275kg DW to avoid penalties.

Important to deliver a marketable calf for my Bull customers.

Don't focus on cow size!

Functional Traits

Fertility – a function of body condition?

Feet/Legs

Udder

Ability to maintain condition in your environment.

UK environment is much kinder than US/Canada

Shade?

What is the future of the cattle industry? How many units of labour per 1000 cows?

Welfare

Conclusion

The savings outlined above are additive. This means an average producer could make a saving of 16 p/kg on production costs.

Management Changes	Cost per kg weaned calf per cow served (p/kg)
Average variable costs	67
Increase calf survival to 95%	-3
Reduce calving period	-2
Reduce feed costs by 10%	-5
Use a terminal sire of high EBV	-2
Increase cow longevity	-4
Possible production costs	51

For a 250kg weaned calf a reduction of 16p/kg in variable costs is equivalent to £40 per calf.

Further information

Please contact HCC's Industry Development Team

Tel: 01970 625050 or email: enquiries@hccmpw.org.uk

For further information on this brochure or the work of HCC please visit

www.hccmpw.org.uk

Fertility/Maternal

85% Weaned vs 95% weaned on 100 cows is 10 calves

@300kg weaned that is 3000kg or about £6000.

You would have to increase your average weights by more than 30kg a head to have the same impact.

Increasing growth/weight has unintended consequences as discussed.

Keep it simple

If she rears a calf every year trouble free, holds condition and breeds back on time then she's alright.

Foot EBV or longevity?

Old Granny

Pinebank – From NZ

Shoshone – From North America

Native Angus

Add in modern growth genetics to hit carcasse specs and keep functional cattle only.



















Using holistic grazing principles to increase/maintain diversity

Advantages of Holistic grazing:

WILDLIFE!

Wintering COSTS! – Seen on Twitter:

“Every day without feeding silage is a day without feeding silage”.

Low Fixed costs.

No additional feed costs

Low barriers to entry for young farmers

Cheap Infrastructure

Contract grazing other peoples stock

Farming is fun when you are moving forward.

Questions identified by other farmers:

3 leaf vs Holistic – Top 3/Diversity/Difference now or in 10 years?

Drought tolerant species – Species diversity and choice important!

Wintering Costs/Winter Forage/Straw

Forage Rye??Kale??

Machinery Costs/Labour Costs/**Fixed Costs**

Time

Brexit – Circle of Influence vs Circle of Concern

Subsidies – What will farming look like?

Does it work?