

The Scottish Government's New Entrants to Farming Programme



Photo courtesy of MacGregor Photography

Callum Hume

Callum and Duncan Hume are brothers who were given the opportunity to take over the owner occupied family farm of Sundhope, based near Selkirk in May 2007. This was following their fathers decision to pursue a career in politics. At this point the brothers were in their early 20's and accepted the challenge.

The hill farm extends to over 2,000 acres of grassland. Both cattle and sheep are produced by the business in a closed flock/herd basis. The herd consists of 80 Aberdeen Angus cows and 1,200 pure South Country Cheviots bred on the hill. There are a further 300 Cheviots which are crossed to the Suffolk, Texel and Bluefaced Leicester for cross lamb production.

After leaving school, both brothers attended college where Callum studied Agricultural Engineering while Duncan studied Agriculture. They have both travelled and worked in New Zealand, where they gained a wealth of agricultural experience.

They are also very lucky to have a lifetime of agricultural knowledge passed down to them from their father.

What has been the biggest challenge you have faced as a new entrant?

The biggest challenge we have faced, was actually learning how to manage the farm and delegating the day to day tasks involved.

Case Studies

Learn from the experiences of other new entrants in a series of case studies.

Guidance notes are also available which are tailored specifically to assist new entrants to farming, with their business needs.

Find further information, including links to other case studies and the guidance notes, at www.sruc.ac.uk/newentrants

This programme is funded by the Scottish Government as part of it's New Entrants to Farming Advisory Activity.



What hurdles have you had to overcome?

As new entrants, we initially found it a challenge to source finance, as we ourselves didn't have a credit history with the bank.

However hard work and determination has paid off, as we now have a borrowing facility with our bank.

What is your main motivation to farm?

Farming is a way of life for us and we have a real passion for what we do.

Our motivation is always to achieve more and to produce the best animals that our farm can.

What financial and advisory assistance have you received?

We applied for funding to assist with a new cattle shed through the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP). As we are new entrants we got an additional 10% funding. We used our local agricultural consultant to provide assistance with this, along with putting together financial projections for the bank.

"The main thing is that you enjoy yourself, and focus on one area at a time. Ensure you keep on top of the cash flow and budget wisely."

Callum Hume



What advice would you give to someone thinking of entering the industry?

Our best bit of advice for anyone coming in to the industry would be

“to take your time and enjoy yourself.”.

What are your future ambitions?

We would ideally like to expand both the land and the livestock numbers in the future.

If land became available near our farm we would definitely try our hardest to source finance for it. This would allow us to achieve the goal of growing the business

Looking for some more information?

There is a network of new entrants across the country who are in various stages of developing their businesses and achieving their goals. You can contact this network through various streams including:

- Regional workshops
- Facebook
(www.facebook.com/NewEntrants)
- Website
(www.sruc.ac.uk/newentrants)

For more details contact

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