

Amanda Burrell & Peter MacIntosh
Gravel pit
Lynn Road
Wereham
Norfolk
PE339BD

CURRENT
HOME
ADDRESS

R.E
The Croft, Narborough Road, Pentney PE321JD

To whom it may concern

Please find a summary of our business interests.



Peter left Newton Rigg agricultural college and went straight in to shepherding on various estates in the north of England, he then moved to Norfolk and has managed various livestock enterprises. In 2012 we purchased our first flock of sheep, our enterprise has grown over the years and continues to expand.

In November 2016 we purchased the land in partnership with friends and moved a touring caravan on site to use at lambing time and our welfare.

Since purchasing the land we have erected new fences, renovated the existing barn and most recently we purchased and erected a new barn.

In July 2019 we purchased the land outright so are now the sole owners.

It became apparent that the touring caravan was insufficient for our needs so we replaced with a larger caravan in October 2019.

In 2016 we purchased a small herd of cattle along with our first bull, we have subsequently sold this herd as it became apparent that living off site was detrimental to the cattle's welfare.

We have reared dairy calves on site but the cost of purchasing older calves is not profitable. We would like to re-establish this enterprise by purchasing much younger calves and hand rearing on milk.

We support a local micro brewery by removing their waste products (brewers grain) to feed our livestock. Since purchasing our small flock of sheep the number now runs annually in the region of 600 head including 8 Rams.

Initially we were lambing once per year and selling through the livestock markets, however we now supply a local abattoir so we lamb 3 separate flocks to lamb in January-February, March- April and a further flock in April- May to enable us to have a constant supply to the abattoir.

This comes with the inevitable orphan lambs which have to be hand reared and bottle fed (approx 30 a year)

We graze our sheep on various sites, predominately Foulden Latimer Estates, Church farm, Foulden (227.5 acres) and Sibelco, Wicken North, Leziate (104.52 acres) we have a 5 year Natural England countryside stewardship on the Sibelco grazing.

This year we have taken on 25 acres at Salters Load (grazing agreement pending) and a further 25 acres at Oxborough.

Throughout the winter we graze a further 80 acres on land that has been cropped for hay during the summer.

Annually we purchase 40 acres of stubble turnips for grazing Ewes and lambs and 20-25 acres of cover crops.

We currently have four heifers at the Croft which we intend putting to the Bull in the coming months.

An enterprise like this requires a substantial amount of equipment.

At the Croft there is currently a tractor, livestock trailer and a further three trailers including a specialist trailer for electric fencing. If any of this equipment was stolen it would have a huge impact on the business.

The plans going forward would be to increase the lambing to:

Jan/Feb to 100 ewes
Mar/Apr to 200 ewes
April/May to 200 ewes

ALSO HAVE DORSET SHEEP
WHICH LAMB IN OCTOBER

Once the orphan lambs have all been reared (approx mid July) and are out of the barn we would then have room in the barns for calf rearing and the heifers calving

Please also find enclosed all supporting documents for your perusal

Kind regards
Amanda Burrell & Peter MacIntosh

Documentation list

Sheep movements including numbers
Norfolk council trading standards correspondence
Herd/flock numbers
County parish holding numbers
APHA correspondence
Grazing licences
Natural England countryside grant information
A sample of invoices and remittance advice from 2012-2016

WELFARE

Rearing dairy calves

The calves are bought in at 10 days old

They require bottle feeding for approx 6 weeks

As the calf's are so young that it is inevitable they can become ill very easily and quickly.

The main cause for rapid illness in calf's is pneumonia this can come on all of a sudden with rapid deterioration, if not injected with the correct medication immediately the calf will die.

We would expect to purchase these in batches of 4 at 8 week intervals.

Rearing Orphan lambs

The lambs can be orphaned for a variety of reasons:

Triplets & Quads (a ewe can only successfully rear two)

The mum does not have enough milk

The mum only has one teat so can only rear one

The mum rejects the lambs

The mum dies

The lambs are too sick to suckle

If the lambs are healthy they have to be bottle fed 5 times a day, first feed a 7am last feed 11pm and are kept under a heat lamp in a special pen

If the lambs are sick/very small they are kept separate and fed little and often (approx every hour) They require much more monitoring as medication is often needed rapidly, some of these lambs may also need a tube down the throat to feed them as they are too weak to suckle.

Adult Ewes and Rams (the saying is "sheep live to die")

There are so many ways that sheep will just drop down dead for no apparent reason but there are also lots of occasions when if caught earlier enough death and suffering is preventable.

Cast :

This occurs when a sheep lays down on its side usually in a small dip in the ground but not always and gets stuck. The sheep then can not get up and if it is not helped up immediately this can cause the organs in the body to start to shut down and dehydration sets in very quickly.

Fly strike:

Flys will lay their eggs in the fleece of the sheep, when the maggots hatch they eat the flesh of the sheep this can happen rapidly and can only be spotted when the fleece starts to come away from the flesh, if spotted quick enough it can be treated with specialist fly treatment.

If not spotted soon enough blood poisoning can occur and can cause a slow and painful death.

Fox predation:

A fox will prey on young lambs, with ourselves and the collies on site the foxes do not try their luck.

Ewes lambs and Rams can and do regularly get there heads stuck in fences and have to be freed to prevent injury.

Ewes and Rams regularly fight, this can cause life threatening injuries if not treated rapidly

WELFARE Continued

Cattle: (a heifer is a female that has not yet calved once calved it is then a cow)

We have had a few distressing incidents with cattle at the croft.

In December 2019 we did our last check of the day at 11pm to our in calf heifer, she appeared fine and not in labour.

When we arrived back at 5am the following day she had laid down to have her calf but got stuck in a corner of the barn, she had delivered her calf but had been unable to lick the mucus from the calf's mouth and nose consequently the calf suffocated.

We had to use a hoist to stand the cow up, over the following 17 days we lifted the cow up every two hours too try to get the circulation working in her legs, eventually on the 17th day she was able to stand unaided.

Due to the trauma she had endured we made the decision that she could not be bred with again, this was a young cow with 11 years of breeding in front of her.

She had to be culled (sold for meat)

If we had been on site night and day we would have been able to move her out of the corner she was stuck in and save the calf and cow.

This cow was worth approx £1200 as a young breeding cow, her calf would have been approx £900 at weaning let alone the potential for another 10 calf's through her breeding life.

Obviously this is not all about the profits, we care very deeply about all our livestock and this was extremely distressing.

In September 2020 we had a 9 month old heifer in the field go down between checks, she was perfectly healthy 4 hours earlier.

The vet was called but could not make a proper diagnosis as we had not seen why she had gone down.

As you can see from the vets bill enclosed, the vet tried everything he could think of but the day after his second visit she died.

Financially adding in the vets bill and disposal of the carcass the total cost was in the region of £500

This was such a waste of a future breeding cow.

SECURITY

At The Croft alone at the present time we have 30 orphan lambs and 28 lambs that have been weaned off their Mums.

At this weeks prices of £131.50 per head x 58 lambs is a total value of £7,627 (see enclosed remittance from abattoir)

These lambs are all tame due to constant human intervention, this would make it very easy for anyone to climb the gate pick the lambs up and steal them.

As these lambs are sold more weaned lambs are bought to The Croft to feed to enable us to get the correct weights required by the abattoir and markets, not all our lambs are given extra feed but we would expect to have approx 30 left at the end of the year to sell Jan/Feb.

We would expect more lambs next year due to the extended lambing period.

The Rams are also very tame as it makes it much easier to handle them, so just with a bucket of food they would follow anyone.

The value of the Rams is on average £400 each x 8 £3,200 total

If the Rams were to be stolen at breeding time the implications would be dire and the cost implications would be incalculable as the ewes would not get in lamb (pregnant)

All sheep are tagged with an individual number and a flock number, the flock number identifies the breeder which can be traced by movement records to the current owner.

At the present time especially with the price of lambs being very high there has been increasing thefts from farms.

The thefts are not just transporting them off the farm.

One tactic is inhumanely slaughtering the sheep/lambs in the field and removing the heads so they can not be identified

Another distressing tactic is to steal Ewes/Lambs live but cut the ears to remove the tags.

The thefts obviously would not just be about the financial implications but time ~~about the the time~~ and care given to all our flock to breed healthy and well bred stock.

Please also note the equipment listed previously

Summary

Category	Grade	Quantity	Average Weight	Pay Weight	Average Value	Price Per (Kg)	Value
NSL	R2	2	16.4	32.8	108.24	6.600	216.48
NSL	R2	1	16.4	16.4	108.24	6.600	108.24
NSL	R2	2	19.2	38.4	130.56	6.800	261.12
NSL	R3L	2	17.0	34.1	112.53	6.600	225.06
NSL	R3L	1	20.3	20.3	138.04	6.800	138.04
NSL	R3L	2	20.4	40.7	138.38	6.800	276.76
NSL	U2	2	19.0	38.0	131.10	6.900	262.20
NSL	U3H	1	25.7	25.7	149.60	5.821	149.60
NSL	U3H	1	24.1	24.1	149.60	6.207	149.60
NSL	U3H	1	21.4	21.4	145.52	6.800	145.52
NSL	U3L	1	23.7	23.7	158.70	6.696	158.70
NSL	U3L	3	19.8	59.4	136.62	6.900	409.86
NSL	U3L	3	18.9	56.8	130.64	6.900	391.92
		22	19.6	431.8	131.50		2893.10

Adjustments

Description	Amount	Quantity	Net Value	V.A.T Rate	V.A.T	Value
AHDB Levy	0.600	22	13.20	20.00	2.64	15.84
Classification	0.250	22	5.50	20.00	1.10	6.60
Disposal	0.250	22	5.50	20.00	1.10	6.60
Inspection	0.250	22	5.50	20.00	1.10	6.60
			29.70		5.94	35.64

Producer VAT Number	
---------------------	--

Abattoir VAT Number	105 1185 16
---------------------	-------------

Net Carcase Value	2893.10
Carcase VAT @ 0.00%	0.00
Gross Carcase Value	2893.10
Net Adjustments	29.70
Adjustments VAT	5.94
Gross Adjustments	35.64
Total Net Value	2863.40
Total VAT Value	-5.94
Total Value	2857.46

EXAMPLE OF VALUE OF SHEEP

WOOL WORTH NOTHING