



## Silage Winners announced for SW Scotland

The South West Scotland Grassland Society (SWSGS) has pleasure in announcing the results of their 2020 forage competition, which we are delighted to say drew a record entry from the SW counties of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, Wigtown and Ayrshire.

The SWSGS, as with all of society, has been greatly affected by the restrictions of the COVID-19 epidemic, with meetings cancelled, and communication limited to telephone and emails. Although this was the best we could do in the circumstances, it is never quite the same as having a face to face discussion on new ideas and opinions.

After some discussion, the committee of the SWSGS decided to proceed with the Society's annual forage competition in a slightly different format to overcome the current Covid-19 restrictions. It was strongly agreed that it was important to continue with the annual forage competition, as it would emphasise the Society's aim of maximising animal performance through quality forage production.

As in the past, all entries were initially submitted by members sending in their forage analysis. This was ranked by scoring the chemical results and a shortlist was created for the final judging by a guest judge. The final judging would usually be completed over three days by visiting the finalists' farms and a final mark would be formulated by totalling the scores for forage analysis and farm inspection. The winners would then be announced on the Society's winter farm visit which would usually be in the same week as the farm judging.

This year the format was the same as in previous years, except instead of on farm judging, the finalists for the beef and dairy classes were to be judged on fresh silages submitted by entrants, whilst the rest of the classes were judged purely on chemical analysis.

The final judging of the beef and dairy classes was held on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 at the Crichton Royal Farm, Dumfries when the winners of the dairy and beef classes were announced.

We were indeed fortunate to have the services of Mr. Hugh McClymont, Manager of the SRUC Crichton Royal (and SWSGS committee member) to judge the finalists. The judging was filmed and a video will be available for viewing in due course.

The SWSGS is indebted to the SRUC Crichton Royal for the facilities provided to enable the storage and judging of the competition.

Andrew Best

Secretary