

**BGS GRASSLAND FARMER OF THE YEAR 2023**

**COMPETITION ENTRY FORM**

**ALL ENTRANTS – Complete Sections A and B below.**

**Please include as much detail as possible**.

Additional supporting documents may be included e.g. up-to-date production and performance figures, costings, soil analysis. Where appropriate, please include photographs.

### Candidate Details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| First Name: |  |
| Surname: |  |
| Local Grassland Society: |  |
| Address: |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Postcode: |  |
| E-mail: |  |
| Telephone: |  |

### Section A: Farm Details

Farm Area

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total Farm Area: |  | acres/hectares\* |
| Annual Rainfall: |  | inches/mm\* |
| Altitude: |  | feet/metres\* |

Forage Area

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total Forage Area: |  | acres/hectares\* |

\*delete as appropriate

Main soil type(s): Clay  Peat  Chalk  Loam  Sand & Gravel  Shallow soil over chalk/rock

Please give details of the area of each forage type on your farm.

**Please indicate whether areas are acres or hectares**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Permanent pasture |  |
| Long term leys (up to 10 years) |  |
| Short term leys (less than 5 years) |  |
| Very short term leys (1-2 years) |  |
| Other crop: |  |
| Other crop: |  |
| Other crop: |  |
| Other crop: |  |

For other forage crops, please indicate type e.g. turnips, kale, cereals fed to stock, maize….

Arable Crops

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total Arable Area: |  | acres/hectares\* |

\*delete as appropriate

Mark as appropriate:  Cereals – sold grain  Oil seed rape  Set-aside  Stewardship areas

Other:

Labour

Please state the farm labour units (whole or part labour units)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family: |  |
| Paid: |  |

### Section B: Stock

Dairy Cows

Please list the number of dairy cows for each breed, including youngstock and outline your breeding policy:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Milk production: Conventional / In conversion to organic / organic (delete as appropriate)

If organic, please state conversion date:

Herd type:  Pedigree herd  Milk Record (NMR or CIS)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Average age of heifers at calving: | months |

Milking frequency:  once a day  twice a day  three times a day  robotic milking

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| State calving period: | From: | To: |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Housing System   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Cubicles: |  | % of herd | | Loose yards: |  | % of herd | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Herd Costings  Please complete this section or enclose a copy of your latest 12month rolling results   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Costings for year ending: |  | | Average cows in herd: |  | | Milk sold per cow (litres): |  | | Yield from forage (litres): |  | | Yield from grazed grass (litres): |  | | Butterfat % : |  | | Protein % : |  | | Bactoscan: |  | | Cell count: |  | | Milk price (pence per litre): |  | | Concentrate use (kg per cow): |  | | Concentrate price (£/tonne): |  | | Total purchased feed costs (£/tonne): |  | | Average stocking rate (Cows/ha): |  | |

Winter feeding and supplementation

Winter forage feeding system: Self feed  Easy feed using a loader  Forage box  Mixer wagon

Concentrate feeding when:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | In parlour feeders | Out of parlour feeders | On top of silage in feed troughs | Forage box | Complete diet |
| Housing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grazing |  |  |  |  |  |

Type of concentrates fed: Compounds  Sugar beet pulp  Brewers grains  Blends  Maize gluten  Wheat  Soya  Rape

System of concentrate allocation:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Feed to yield | Step rate | Flat rate | Total mixed ration only |
| Housing |  |  |  |  |
| Grazing |  |  |  |  |

Briefly describe your winter feeding regime:

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| --- |
|  |

Suckler Cows

Please list the number of cattle for each breed (including youngstock and bulls) and outline your breeding policy:

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| --- |
|  |

Heifer replacements:  Home reared  Purchased

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Heifer calving age: |  |
| Calving period: |  |

Please include spring/autumn herd and to/from dates

Briefly describe your winter feeding regime:

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| --- |
|  |

How are stock marketed?:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Finishing Cattle

Are the cattle homebred or purchased?:  Homebred  Purchased

If purchased, explain purchase policy, breeds and numbers:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Age at start of finishing period:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Heifers: |  | months |
| Steers: |  | months |
| Young bulls: |  | months |
|  |  |  |

Please state the age at purchase and weaning

Finishing system:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Forage based throughout | Intensive throughout | Forage based followed by intensive |
| Heifers |  |  |  |
| Steers |  |  |  |
| Young Bulls |  |  |  |

Performance:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Growth rate (kg/d): |  |  |
| Slaughter age (months): |  |  |
| Conformation: |  |  |
| Fat grade: |  |  |
| Slaughter weight (kg): |  |  |
| Carcass weight (kg): |  |  |
| Length of finishing period (days): |  |  |

Briefly describe your winter feeding regime:

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| --- |
|  |

How are stock marketed?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Sheep

Breeding flock

Please list the sheep breeds and numbers (including ewes and rams) and outline your breeding policy:

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| --- |
|  |

Briefly describe your winter feeding regime:

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| --- |
|  |

Ewe replacements:  Home reared  Purchased

Flock type:  Pedigree  Commercial

Weaned lambs:  Sold at weaning  Sold as stores  Finished

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lambing period: |  |
| From: | To: |
| Lambing period: |  |
| From: | To: |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Finishing Lambs  Performance:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Growth rate (g/d): |  |  | | Slaughter age (months): |  |  | | Conformation: |  |  | | Fat grade: |  |  | | Slaughter weight (kg): |  |  | | Carcass weight (kg): |  |  | | Length of finishing period (days): |  |  | |  |  |  |   Include reports as appropriate  Finishing System:  Forage based throughout  Intensive throughout  Forages based followed by intensive  Source of lambs:  Home reared  Purchased  Finishing start age:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | At purchase: | At weaning: | months |   Briefly describe your winter feeding regime:   |  | | --- | |  |   How are stock marketed?   |  | | --- | |  | |

### Section C: Grassland Management

Grazing System

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Turnout dates: |  |
| Housing dates: |  |

Please include the dates for all stock that applies to your farm

System(s) used: Set stocking  Block grazing  Paddock grazing  Strip grazing  Zero grazing

How do you optimize your use of grazing?

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| --- |
|  |

Describe your policy for supplementing grazing stock – include concentrate/forage type:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

What is the clover content of grassland?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | None | Low <10% | Mod 10%-40% | High >40% |
| Grazing |  |  |  |  |
| Silage |  |  |  |  |

Grass Improvement & Reseeding Policy

Explain your grassland improvement policy e.g. reseeding and rejuvenation methods, mixture selection

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| --- |
|  |

Explain your weed management policy in new sown leys and established grassland.

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| --- |
|  |

Nutrient Use

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| --- | --- | --- |
| What is the Nitrogen use on grassland: |  | kg/ha or units/acre\* |

\*delete as appropriate

Explain your policy on Nitrogen (N) use and why this is appropriate on your farm:

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Explain your policy on Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) use:

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|  |

Conserved Forage – Grass Silage

Please give quantity and quality details for conserved forages fed in winter

Describe your grass silage making system.

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Please include details such as: how you decide on number and timing of cuts, integration of cutting and grazing, wilting policy, type of silage made (e.g. clamped; round bale)

Silage Quality

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cut number |  |  |  |  |  |
| Area cut  (acres or hectares) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Date silage made |  |  |  |  |  |
| DM % |  |  |  |  |  |
| ME |  |  |  |  |  |
| CP % |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ammonia-N |  |  |  |  |  |

Other Forages

Describe alternative forages grown and how they are utilised, including Maize and Wholecrop:

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| --- |
|  |

If you have quality data for ensiled alternative forages, please include it here.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Forage type |  |  |  |  |  |
| Area cut  (acres or hectares) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Date silage made |  |  |  |  |  |
| DM % |  |  |  |  |  |
| ME |  |  |  |  |  |
| CP % |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ammonia-N |  |  |  |  |  |

Machinery Policy:

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| --- |
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Please give details of your machinery policy including the proportion of field operations carried out by contractors.

### Section D: Environmental Issues

Environmental Schemes

What schemes do you participate in?

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| --- |
|  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Proportion of farm in an NVZ (%): |  |

Summarise what actions you have taken to farm in an environmentally beneficial way:

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| --- |
|  |

### Section E: Additional Information

Please give details of any farm assurance schemes for which you are certified:

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| --- |
|  |

How have you cooperated with other farmers to improve efficiencies and save costs?

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| --- |
|  |

e.g. Labour sharing, buying groups etc.

Describe what you have done to put research into practice or innovative practices which improve your grassland management:

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| --- |
|  |

Is there anything you would like to add to your application?

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