



PRISM 2030 FARMER:

MIKE POWLEY

Mike Powley runs a mixed beef and arable farm based between York and Harrogate, with the arable side supplying barley and spring beans for the beef enterprise, which consists of 100 suckler cattle.

He has made the move away from Norwegian Reds to Angus Dams and choosing Charolais progeny over Blues, which he says are easier to flesh and can be slaughtered earlier at 13 months, weighing in at 400kg.

Cattle are grazed outdoors all summer in a rotational grazing system, weaned in the autumn and housed over winter. All feed is grown inhouse, bar molasses, and red clover is sown into the arable rotation to produce high protein forage and to remove the need for bought-in fertiliser.

Commenting on his involvement with the new PRISM 2023 project he said: "We hope to get a snapshot of how we are performing from a carbon point of view, as well as gain access to world-

renowned specialists such as Jude Capper. We have already been exploring regenerative techniques such as no-till on the arable side of things, but if we can find new ways to push the business forward on a carbon basis, we know this will also drive efficiency across the board.

"This will be a useful exercise to benchmark ourselves against other UK farmers but also farmers globally, which couldn't be more timely, with the carbon debate happening at COP27 – we are ahead of the curve and can prove what can be done.

"PRISM 2023 will demonstrate how beef farming can work in tandem with the environment, especially in the face of a lot of negative press, and will provide a benchmark for how British beef and lamb compares to the rest of the world, sending a strong message for ABP to take forward in future."