



PRISM 2030 FARMER:

CROSBY CLELAND

Sheep farmer Crosby Cleland runs a closed flock of 850 ewes over 160 acres at Brookmount Farm, County Down. He supplies over 1000 lambs to ABP Linden yearly, which he sells via cooperative Strangford Down Lamb Group, which has 100 farmer members, supplying around 18,000 lambs annually.

Hailing from an area which has been predisposed to summer droughts of late, soil health is a top concern. Over the last three years, he has planted multi-species swards, which cover around 20% of his land, with a high percentage of clover too. Coupled with dung from his sheep, he has been able to reduce his fertiliser usage to less than a bag of fertiliser per acre.

Crosby is no stranger to soil sampling and its benefits and has been using data to better target lime application on his land to maintain a pH level of between 6.3 and 6.5 and is always looking at further ways to improve his soil health.

Commenting on his involvement with PRISM 2030, he said: "I've found throughout my farming career that to be able to compare with others, gives me the drive to make positive changes that will help both financially and in regards to climate.

"Gathering data is extremely important and is a key component of the PRISM 2030 project - we all need to know where we are performing well and badly, so we can identify improvements that can be made and drive the industry forward. Only then can we turn the target on farming's back and send a clear message around why UK farming is ahead of the world when it comes to animal welfare, quality assurance and climate mitigation. We are constantly progressing, and this work will capture some of these efforts."