



PRISM 2030 FARMER:

NEIL BROWN

Watch Neil's case study

Neil is the third generation of his family to farm at the 300-acre (121ha) farm, with his father, Lewis.

With all land down to grass, the farm supports 35 suckler beef cows with all followers finished and 800 ewes lambing from mid-March, with progeny going to ABP.

Neil purchases Angus x and Simmental x heifers for breeding and AI's to easy calving Angus or Limousins for first calvings before running with a Charolais terminal sire thereafter.

Calves grow well off milky cows, with plenty of grass from herbal leys recently planted across the farm.

Neil has a small flock of Blue Texels to generate tups for 150 ewe lambs, and for show and sale.

The main flock consists of Suffolks, and Suffolk x North Country Mule ewes, mainly put to a Texel x Charolais tup.

The PRISM 2030 expert partners recommended:

- Reducing mature cow weight
- Calve heifers younger

- Create a flock health plan
- Hitting finishing spec more regularly

The Browns are set to achieve these recommendations by putting heifers to the bull at 15 months, improving herd output and reducing cow weight, as Neil also looks to select females with lower mature weight potential.

Neil used his PRISM 2030 Sustainability Grant to purchase grass seed to improve his herbal leys, these are now performing and improving output off the same acreage.

One of the biggest improvements that Neil made to the farm is the installation of a solar panel, which pumps water from a fenced off watercourse running adjacent to paddocks at the lower end of the farm, up into a main tank, which gravity feeds moveable water troughs across the paddocks.

This improved the riparian habitat and ensures fresh water is always available to livestock, whilst keeping water-use costs lower than they would be without the pump.