



PRISM 2030 FARMER:

DYLAN JONES

[Watch Dylan's case study](#)

Dylan runs his family farm of more than 800 acres (323ha) with his father Wyn who finishes on average 1,500 cattle per year for ABP and grazes ewe lambs for sale as shearlings.

There are 500-600 mixed-breed store-to-finishing cattle at Castellior, who are fed a homegrown diet to minimise the farm's carbon footprint.

Dylan grows 330 acres barley, 30 acres peas, plus the best quality grass and clover mixes, and uses composted manure as fertiliser. Two-to-three-year red clover leys see little nitrogen application with two silage cuts taken before nitrogen is applied at 50kg/acre for the final two cuts.

Dylan says: "Getting protein levels right is key to finishing cattle and red clover is an important part of boosting protein content of our total mixed rations. Along with peas and barley and the added benefit of fixing nitrogen into our soils has halved our nitrogen application requirements since 2016."

Animals are weighed at six week intervals (150 cattle weighed per week) and those not gaining the required weight are sold. Dylan purchases cattle that he knows are efficient for his system.

500-600 high-quality ewe lambs are bought in September/October to graze paddocks until July/August when they are sold as breeding ewes.

Ewe lambs are shorn in October and again in May, with wool put under cattle as bedding to add 14% nitrogen to the resulting compost. 10-12tonne/acre of compost is ploughed in before sowing winter barley and red clover.

Dylan says: "This compost creates a good seedbed, tap roots of red clover go deeper to find water, creating a great crop. The resulting carbon sequestration and benefits of doing this balance out carbon lost through ploughing. It's important we consistently ask ourselves what the impact of our decisions and actions will be on the environment.



"Achieving net-zero through improving farm practices is entirely possible and applaudable."

Dylan adds: "Hitting net-zero is one of our priorities, I was really pleased to join PRISM 2030."

"I completed a carbon calculation of the farm some years ago which indicated that lambing a flock wasn't efficient for us with the amount of nitrogen we needed to graze ewes and finish lambs."

"Finishing cattle was self-sufficient but with further tweaks to the business we doubled the beef output per hectare after halving inputs to grass fields."

"PRISM 2030 made us realise how well we are doing, it's inspirational to get that boost when you're part of something like this, with 350 farmers working towards a common goal."

"PRISM 2030 and the information, advice, and farmers involved help drive my business decisions, aiding the future environment for our family farm."