

Project Title:

Sheepdrove Organic Farm Research and Development. Farm Monitoring – Enterprises



Short Title: Sheepdrove Organic Farm Monitoring - Enterprises

Project Code: SOF047 – SOF053

Project Leader: Claire Aspray

Project Partners: Sheepdrove Organic Farm

Start Date: June 2002

End Date: Ongoing

Funder: Sheepdrove Trust

Key Words: Sheepdrove Organic Farm, SOF, Sheep, Beef, Pig, Poultry, Arable, Forage, Benchmarking

EFRC Programme: EFRC-SOF Research and Development

Abstract of Research: The EFRC-SOF Research and Development programme started in June 2002 and led to the establishment of the Farm Monitoring programme in early 2003. The programme consists of three key areas, Enterprises, Soils and Environment. The initial priority within all three areas was to gather information in order to establish a comprehensive baseline data set to compare future annual results with. The 2003/2004 seasons baseline will act as a point of reference enabling each annual performance to be compared to a SOF benchmark as well as against other organic farms.

The 2005 programme will develop and build on what has been undertaken and reported on in the last 2 years.

Specifically within the Farm Monitoring – Enterprises programme a series of projects were put in place to establish baseline information on the sheep, beef, pig, arable and forage systems. The baseline data was reported to the farm owners and director in November 2004('Sheepdrove Organic Farm Agronomic Benchmarking Report 2003/04') and was used in the 2004 annual report.

On going analysis and interpretation of the sheep, beef, pig, arable and forage systems are in place, as well as the addition of poultry monitoring programme. A full physical and financial report for all the enterprises performances in 2004/05 will be produced in May 2005.

Expected Benefits: A full physical and financial report for each enterprise will be produced annually commenting on the enterprise performance in light of the year at SOF, against the SOF baseline data, against previous annual performances and against a national organic average. This will provide the farm owners and director with a comprehensive analysis of the performance of each enterprise in many contexts. It will also show the progression of each enterprise and will highlight any areas of possible weakness and any on going problems.

Output:

- Sheepdrove Organic Farm, Whole Farm Plan. A Discussion Document. March 2004
- Energy Inputs into the Average Arable/forage crop at Sheepdrove Organic Farm 2003/4. October 2004.
- Sheepdrove Organic Farm Agronomic Benchmarking 2003/04. November 2004.
- Sheepdrove Organic Farm Agronomic Benchmarking 2004/05 (interim). December 2004.
- Abstract submitted to IFOAM 2005. 'Whole Farm Plans: Their value in Organic Farm Management'. December 2004.