



Increasing farm revenue with a consistent, supplementary income stream

The Fairlie family have been farming in Angus, Scotland for five generations, spanning over 150 years of farming tradition. In the experience of Mr David Fairlie - the current owner of Pickerton Farm – agricultural incomes can vary from year to year based on unreliable weather conditions, crop quality and yield, market prices, exchange rates and operational costs for fertiliser, fuel and other supplies. On top of that, concerns have been raised about increasing price pressures being exerted by supermarkets on farmers, and ultimately about the sustainability of the farming business due to the ending of the EU's agricultural subsidy – the Single Payment Scheme – in 2013. For all these reasons, Mr Fairlie sought a reliable, alternative source of income. This was found in the shape of an EWT wind turbine.

The turbine has an installed generating capacity of 500kW, with a rotor diameter of 54m and measures 77m to the tip of the blade. It has been operational since November 2013. By investing in the wind turbine, Mr Fairlie looked to increase farming revenue, support existing employment, create new employment, diversify land use and spread risks into a non-agricultural sector, allowing for the continuation of his current farming operations.



EWT Pickerton Farm Case Study

Not only does the wind turbine support for Pickerton Farm directly, it has also contributed to the wider economy. The wind turbine represents an investment of approximately £1.5m, of which it is estimated that around 30% was spent in Scotland. During the construction phase local companies were prioritised; the civils and ground works were done by local businesses and also the sourcing of aggregates, fencing and similar supplies was done locally. The wind turbine's construction created 5 jobs for 1 year.

Pickerton Farm employs 8 full time workers, as well as 4 seasonal part time workers. The turbine's revenue is intrinsic in keeping the farm going, and consequently in safeguarding those local livelihoods. All generated power is fed into the local distribution network.

Benefits to the Farm and the Community

- The wind turbine generates between 1,500 and 2,000MWh of green electricity per year of operation, a period expected to last for up to 25 years.
- This is the equivalent of the annual electricity demand of between 350 and 470 average UK households (source: RenewableUK).
- The wind turbine's electricity production is sufficient to replace between 800 and 1,100 tonnes of CO₂ per year, had the power otherwise been generated by power stations running on fossil fuels (source: RenewableUK).
- The wind turbine provides an alternative income stream for Pickerton Farm and in doing so, supports the livelihoods of 12 members of staff.
- Approximately 30% of the £1.5m investment in the wind turbine was spent within the Scottish economy.



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