

ONE Agritech Programme

ONE AgriTech Update - E-Newsletter No 07

Dear Community Group Member,

Welcome to our seventh newsletter for the ONE AgriTech programme. In this edition we have numerous updates and links to the outputs that have been created over the last number of months including,

- Recap of the Winter Webinar Series
- Titaboutie on the Telly – FAS TV
- Arable Satellite Imagery
- Technology Evaluations
- AgriTech Survey

Recap of Winter Webinar Series

In January, we held two webinars, the first focussing on machinery management, where David was joined by Clive Blacker, Agrivation: David Barron, Nether Aden and Andrew Williamson, Highland autosteer. The second focussed on beef calf health, where Kirsten was joined by Daniel Robertson and his vet Rachael Robertson.

Machinery Management

“Getting a RTK GPS system on farm does not have to be expensive, there are cost effective solutions and an online community to help”



The banner features the ONE logo at the top left. The main title 'Webinar – Machinery Management' is centered in a large, bold, pink font. Below the title, it is supported by logos for SCOTLAND FOOD & DRINK PARTNERSHIP, Aberdeenshire COUNCIL, SAOS (with the tagline 'Working together to shape the future of farming and food'), and SAC CONSULTING (with the tagline 'Part of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)').

Clive Blacker provided an explanation of the Exatrek system and gave a demo of the platform first hand. The Exatrek system integrates directly with machinery to record



fuel consumption by task, machine utilisation and idle time, field efficiency metrics and operational costs on a per-job, per-field, or per-crop basis. Clive highlighted the system’s capacity to streamline compliance and administrative tasks. Automated digital logs reduce the need for manual record keeping and create a shareable data for agronomists, contractors, and farm managers to help make decisions on farm based on accurate data.

David Barron then discussed his experience implementing Exatrek on his own mixed farming enterprise at Nether Aden. He outlined how the technology has allowed him to benchmark machine performance under real farm conditions and made him more aware of the fuel used in different operations.

The session concluded with Andrew Williamson, who introduced Highland Autosteer, a business dedicated to making GPS more accessible to farmers. Andrew explained how farms can install a free RTK (Real-Time Kinematic) correction system, enabling machinery to operate with 2 cm accuracy.

Andrew highlighted the operational benefits this GPS delivers—from reduced overlap during cultivations and drilling, to more efficient spraying, lower fuel usage, reduced fertiliser, and enhanced timeliness of operations. By reducing barriers to entry for high-precision navigation, Highland Autosteer is enabling farms of all sizes to take advantage of guidance technology previously limited by cost.

This webinar can be viewed from the following link <https://www.opportunitynortheast.com/news/2026/news-watch-machinery-management-webinar-one-agritech-programme>

Technology to Enhance Beef Calf Health

“Pick technology that suits your system, nail the first few months and reap the rewards.”



We heard from Dan Robertson, Titaboutie Farm who is the livestock demonstration farm, along with his vet Rachael Robertson, Woodside Vets, Torphins. Dan outlined how they have changed their suckler enterprise from a mix of Spring and Autumn calving, to now having the whole herd of 140 cows Autumn calving. This has meant numerous benefits to the family including, having more time to prioritise the young calves, while not also lambing and sowing, not having mixed ages of calves in the sheds and aiding the prevention of the spread of disease in the young stock. He highlighted that technology has been critical in their decision to move the herd to Autumn calving, in that they had collected data throughout the years from the two herds through the EID tags, but hadn't used the data, when this was done through the project it was clear that the Autumn herd was performing better and was more profitable.

With having an Autumn calving herd, there is high pressure on the young, housed cows, with Dan naming his biggest challenges as pneumonia and scours. The business has adapted in the following ways to reduce this pressure.

1) Housing

Jamie Robertson, building specialist visited the farm, and discussed increasing the passive ventilation of the shed to increase calf health. A few small changes to the buildings have allowed for an increased air flow, through increasing the size of the ridge and using Yorkshire boarding. These small and smart changes have led to low cost adaptations, that have made a huge difference for the family.

2) Cow Nutrition and Colostrum – metabolic testing with the vet

Following problems with neonatal calf health, Rachael had taken bloods for metabolic testing, to help identify if the cow had all the energy and protein required to make good colostrum. In addition, she also looked at the calf vigour, to ensure it was able at birth to get up and suck.

Colostrum absorption tests were also used; to understand how effective the antibody absorption had been from the colostrum. This is not done routinely on the farm; however it was a good process to go through when identifying a problem and finding a solution.

Calving cameras are used on the farm, aiding the family to not intervene unless necessary at calving, allowing the cows to have a natural calving and enhance mothering.

3) Technology

Smartbell tags have been used in the young calves, which has proved to be very effective, especially for pneumonia. These show the temperature and activity of the calf and compares this to the rest of group. Which then aids decision making of when to intervene with treatment.

Scour Check has also been used, these consist of a lateral flow test, which identifies the cause of the scour (Rotavirus, Crypto, Coronavirus and Ecoli). This has proven useful to quickly identify the pathogen and treat appropriately with the support of Rachael, preventing spread within the shed.



Dan emphasised technology does not replace stockmanship, however it does allow for an additional tool, which can then excel your stockmanship. Dan works closely with Rachael and with the technology and knowledge in place there is quick treatment for ailments, which prevents the spread in the shed, secondary infections are also vastly reduced with this timely treatment.

Dan stated that he thought genetics are the driving force for a successful herd, with cows that can calf themselves, and calves that get up to sook quickly often having far less problems than those who experience problems at calving. The EID data has allowed the family to record problems and use selection decisions on this for future breeding stock.

Rachael highlighted that vaccines are in fact a type of technology, in that with vaccinating animals in the right place – for the right thing – at the right time – when its relevant to you can be hugely helpful.

This webinar can be viewed from the following link.
<https://www.opportunitynortheast.com/news/2026/news-watch-technology-to-enhance-beef-calf-health-webinar>

Titaboutie on the Telly – FAS TV

The ONE AgriTech project has been running since 2022, over this time, there has been numerous changes to the system and technology investments at Titaboutie. This technology has had a huge impact on the business, the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) recently captured a FAS TV episode starring ONE's Peter Cook and Dan Robertson, Titaboutie Farm.

Peter describes the project and how it aims to support growth in the North East food and drink sector through boosting productivity and sustainability. While Dan highlights the technology that is now being used on the family farm, and the positive impact this has had to the business. He highlights the lessons they have learned along the way and the potential for agritech going forward.



Photo Credit: Peter Cook

This can be viewed at [Agritech Programme Demo Farm Film | ONE](#)

Digital Crop Production Guide

One of the challenges we have heard from farmers, during the ONE agritech programme is that there is a vast amount of data being produced. However, making best use of it, practically on the farm can be difficult. We have produced a guide looking at the data being generated from arable production and how it can be used to inform practical decision making on farm. This includes,

- Soil analysis
- Yield data
- Satellite maps
- How do we use the data.

<https://www.opportunitynortheast.com/news/2026/arable-digital-guide>

Technology Evaluations

We have been adding to the suite of technology evaluations. These are short and simple evaluations carried out by producers using the AgriTech. These include a rating from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on – ease of use, reliability, benefits and drawbacks, effectiveness, value for money and a final overall assessment.

We have recently added four of these which can be viewed at – [Farm Tech Evaluations and Reports 2 | ONE](#)

Barn Owl Wireless Evaluation December 2025

This is a remote monitoring and control system for grain, oilseed or potato stores. The assessment was made by a farmer who runs his medium sized arable farm on his own and has used it during the 2024 & 2025 harvests in a grain store.



Variable Speed Electric Fans Evaluation February 2026

Energy-efficient, variable-speed electric fans used to dry and maintain daffodil bulbs. Now also used to dry potatoes.



Sensors for Bulb Store Evaluation February 2026

Sensors for bulb store – for humidity and temperature.



SKAI Spot Sprayer Evaluation February 2026

Developed by Soil Essentials, SKAI is an advanced spot-spraying system powered by AI. The system identifies and targets individual weeds in real-time offering maximum precision so that treatments are only applied where needed.



Previous evaluations can be found at [Farm Tech Evaluations and Reports | ONE](#) and [Microsoft Word – Titaboutie Tech Evaluation Aug 2023](#)

AgriTech Survey

Thankyou to everyone who took part in our AgriTech survey that was circulated at the end of last year. We are currently analysing this data and will circulate a summary. From a first look through the data it would suggest that awareness of Agritech has improved over the past 3 years since the last survey was completed. Farmers are now using the data more to make decisions on farm and but there is still a lack of support in using Agritech.

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