

the accidental smallholder

Introduction to smallholding

Rosemary & Dan Champion

1st May 2021, Dalmore

Housekeeping

- Safety first
- Hand washing
- Boot dipping
- Food allergies
- Toilet
- Fire
- Photography
- Etiquette

About us















About you



Programme

09:30-10:30	Session 1 Starting out; Planning; Laws and regs; Help & advice
10:30-10:45	Refreshments
10:45-12:30	Session 2
	Cattle; Sheep; Grass; Poultry for Meat
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:30	Session 3
	Vegetable garden; Pigs; Poultry for eggs; Apple orchard
15:30-15:45	Refreshments
15:45-16:30	Session 4
	Bees; Fencing; Tools & equipment
16:30-17:00+	Q&A

What we don't keep - goats



Camelids



Breeding sows



Waterfowl / other poultry



Laws & regulations

- It's not as bad as you might think
- Risk management, health and safety
- Insurance
- Per-enterprise regulation
- Security
- Biosecurity including boundaries
- Keep good documentation
- More on TAS website

Scottish Smallholder Festival





23rd October 2021 - www.ssgf.uk

Any questions?

the accidental smallholder DALMORE & CROFT

- Ask now or when we're out and about
- There are no silly questions

WHAT IF WE DIE AND IT TURNS OUT GOD IS A BIG CHICKEN ?? WHAT THEN ?!



Starting out

- Buy or rent
- Bare land vs farm property
- Location influences everything:
 - Price of property and land
 - Type of land / climate
 - Access to markets
 - Access to suppliers and services
 - Local environment

Help & advice

- Online
 - TAS forum: www.tas.re
 - Farm Advisory Service www.fas.scot
- Practical
 - WWOOF: wwoof.org.uk
 - HelpX: helpx.net
- Training
 - Lantra: lantra.co.uk
 - SRUC: sruc.ac.uk
 - Vets
 - Scottish Crofting Federation
 - NFU Mutual (Health and safety training)

Viewing properties

- Take someone with you who isn't invested
- Take loads of the photographs and video
- Take a close look at:
 - Fences and boundaries, walls, soil, sward, sun and shade, land drainage, neighbouring properties (Google maps can help), farm buildings
- Check:
 - Rights of way, water supply, drainage and sewage, access rights, recent local planning applications

Planning

- Enterprises you can do anything but you can't do everything
- Aspirations, wants and needs
- Business or pleasure, not mutually exclusive
- Resources
 - Time, energy, skills, money, enthusiasm
- Patience
 - Time observing is time well-spent
 - Record what you see, think, and do

Smallholding as a business

- Business setup
 - Company structure, accounts, VAT, insurance
- Funding
 - Grants, loans, self-funding
- Markets, marketing and differentiation
 - Local, organic, rare breed, niche
- Selling
- Diversification

Enterprises

- How much will it cost me to get started?
- How long before I see an income?
- How much time do I have to spend?
- Do I have the physical attributes?
- Do I have the skills and knowledge and if not, how hard are they to come by?

Dalmore Croft





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