

Beef Feed Efficiency Programme

Update 7 December 2015

The programme consortium met and received an update on progress in early November. The first batch of trial cattle, which comprised 96 Limousin-cross steers, have completed their trial period and moved onto a finishing ration at Scotland's Rural College's (SRUC) Easter Howgate Farm. The second batch have been sourced, health tested and are in quarantine, before moving to the feed recording pens on 24th December. This second batch of cattle have been sourced from the north of England up into Perthshire and have been both purchased and loaned on a B&B basis.



The tender for provision of feed intake recording equipment has been won by Growsafe, based in Alberta, Canada. These specially developed feed bins will continuously weigh feed in the troughs and record eartag numbers as feeding takes place, in order to accurately measure each meal an animal eats. Installation of this equipment on two commercial farms is scheduled for spring 2016, with the first measurements planned for summer 2016.

Assessment of the commercial units is on-going, with careful consideration of a number of issues, not least of which is bovine TB, and how the impact of a breakdown would affect the progress of planned trials.