

Can new technology help extensive farming systems?

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Introduction

Full farm systems scale research conducted at SRUC Hill & Mountain Research Centre in Scotland is investigating how technology can improve hill farm efficiency and animal management in extensive systems.

Farm Management



Automated weighing and shedding system using electronic ID for:

- Feeding
- Worming
- Drawing of lambs for slaughter

Handheld reader using Farm Management Software for:

- Animal movements
- Health treatment monitoring
- Lambing records
- Death records



On farm research

Monitoring of animal performance and physiological conditions.



Activity sensors (IceTag)



GPS collars & proximity loggers



Tracking systems for hill cattle

Potential benefits

- ★ Improved monitoring of animal performance
- ★ Rationalisation of the use of farm inputs
- ★ Optimisation of farm labour use
- ★ Increased farm returns