

20/04 **Farm Strategy**

Received: an oral update from the Vice-Chancellor on work being undertaken on the future shape and function of the Farm;

- Noted:
- i) that a review on the performance and management of Farm resources to provide an overarching view of the future direction of the Farm was in hand. An initial draft paper had been prepared by the Farm Manager and reviewed by the Vice-Chancellor and Colin Bailey, who had recently agreed to take on the role of Lead Governor for the Farm;
 - ii) that Colin Bailey and Scott Kirby would have further discussions to fully understand the issues and challenges set out in the paper, along with any other factors or considerations that emerge during their discussions and would report back to the Committee; **CB/SK**
 - iii) that the Vice-Chancellor and Andy Wilcox would meet with a view to starting a similar review of the livestock section

vii) that

- xxii) that there had been a reduction in lameness over the past few months due to regular foot bathing and engagement of a new foot trimmer;
- xxiv) that production had continued to increase with a yield/cow/day of 31.7l for August against 28.6l in the same period last year. With the exception of May, when production had to be cut as a COVID measure, production had exceeded 30l per cow per day;
- xxv) that the next dairy cow feed trial was due to start in November;
- xxvi) that a number of tutorials had been arranged to take place in the Dairy and it was anticipated that there would be a large increase in the number of student

case for investing in a better system that needs less maintenance;

RH/SK

- vi) that physical performance of the herd continued to improve with the weight of pigs higher than ever from 15% fewer breeding females. In total, 5,862 pigs had been sold versus the budgeted 5,562;
- vii) that the Pig Unit accounts to 30th September 2020 showed a contribution before slurry management charges of £19k which was £4k ahead of budget;
- viii) that pork sales for the current year to date were £30k behind budget predominantly due to timing in addition to fluctuating prices;
- ix) that general repairs and maintenance were £9k below budget with minor works likely to be undertaken later in the year;
- x) that livestock feed was £21k lower than budget offsetting the lower pork sales;
- xi) that physical performance in both breeding and feeding herds was exceeding but not yet disappeared entirely as hoped. At the last health screening the herd remained negative to Enzootic Pneumonia and PRRS;
had eased
- xii) that antimicrobials continued to be used as little as possible but as much as at a low level when compared to industry benchmarks;

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- xii) that CERC had lost approximately 50-60% of its commercial work in April due to the pandemic and it was hoped that further work would be secured to achieve financial targets;
- xiii) that CERC are now using both GPS and a new drill to establish teaching and commercial teaching plots;
- xiv) that 5 research projects totalling £250,000 plus VAT were taking place in the Poultry Unit;
- xv) that 8 refereed papers had been published;
- xvi) that 16 conference papers had been published;
- xvii) that 6 PhD students were linked to the Unit together with 3 HRP students;

20/08 **Any Other Business**

Noted: that a new Home Office Inspector had recently been appointed.

20/09 **Date of Next Meeting:** 21 May 2020 at 10.00am