J&R Park / Buston Farms Limited
Buston Barns
Warkworth
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 0XX

31st August 2023

Integrated Farm Management (IFM) Policy

J&R Park/ Buston Farms Ltd is an arable farm in mid-Northumberland. We farm within an AONB and are involved with Catchment Sensitive Farming. We are currently taking part in an SFI Pilot Scheme. We have a close involvement with local schools and encourage visitors old and young to come to see how their food is produced.

We hold at least 2 open days per year, in partnership with Hutchinsons Crop Protection Ltd. 2023 event attracted over 200 people. They had the opportunity to view trial crops of wheat/OSR and to view a range of farm machinery.

We have welcomed farm visits from Canadian farmers for two consecutive years and look to do this in the future.

We have created a farm shop, with an honesty box, and this is proving to be very popular. In the future we would hope to expand our range of items on sale.

We view these events as vital, not only to allow the general public to see how agriculture works but also to allow us to market our produce to our local area.

As a business, we aim to create a farm that is sustainable for the future by protecting the natural environment and allowing us to continue to produce quality food in a profitable way, thus giving us the ability to invest in new technologies and techniques as they come to market.

We aim to meet and exceed all regulatory and legislative requirements.

We are committed to our membership of LEAF, LEAF Marque, Red Tractor Assurance & Safe Haven. These organizations supply us with guidelines to ensure that we are meeting up to date requirements within our agricultural industry and give us important training opportunities, designed specifically for our industry. They give us opportunities to communicate and educate the general public about changes within the agricultural sector.

Our aim is to farm in a way that allows the business to develop in a profitable, sustainable way, whilst ensuring that the environmental affects of food production are mitigated as much as possible.
A 6-year crop rotation has been established which includes green manures and cover crops to help reduce our requirements for bought-in fertilisers and to enhance soil health and quality.
This also helps limit pest infestations and nourishes beneficial microbes in the soil with a more diverse diet. Rotating between nitrogen-fixing crops like soybeans and nitrogen-hungry crops like corn does reduce the need for fertilizers and this has a direct effect on our input costs.

Whilst we do not have livestock on our farm, we have an arrangement with a local cattle farmer whereby we supply him with our straw, at no cost, we then get this back as manure after he has

wintered his stock on the straw. This organic matter is then to re-introduced into our land. This enhances soil quality and health.

We review the machinery used for specific work to reduce soil compaction and adapt our processes with this in mind.

We consider the seed varieties we plant to ensure they are suitable and adaptable to our growing conditions.

We review this annually to enable us to analyse the growing conditions and yields. This is necessary to, not only allow us to be financially viable but also to ensure we are caring for our soils and ensuring our land is kept in good agricultural condition for future generations.

The cover crops used also have the advantage of being beneficial to pollinators.

We have a close relationship with local beekeepers and welcome their hives onto our land. We currently have 2 apiaries which house ½ million bees at the height of their breeding season.
It is our policy to ensure the safety of nesting birds and nest sites are marked and monitored.

We hope that by diversifying into different cropping we can protect ourselves from the volatility of global pricing and build some resilience into our business structure.

We aim to be a caring employer and to provide a safe environment for our employees, where their personal development is at the forefront of our thinking. We look to ensuring our employees stay with us for the long-term and currently have 1 member of staff who has been with us for almost 45 years. His experience is invaluable to younger members of the team. We aim to ensure all employees are aware of potential hazards and are trained in the use of machinery, as necessary. Regular training sessions are provided, and all employees are encouraged to 'look out' for their fellow workers. Training, both in house and with external providers will be provided as required.

It is well publicized that farmers and their workers suffer from poor mental health. We are affected by weather conditions and periods of long working days, lack of sleep as well as financial concerns. We aim to have relationships with our employees that enable them to speak to management and/or fellow workers if they find themselves struggling with their mental health.

We aim to continue to utilise resources with care and ensure that fertilisers and chemicals are only apply as required by the specific crop.

Agriculture is known to have a significant effect on climate change, so it is vital that our industry looks at ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

- We aim to follow international guidelines to tackle three main objectives:
- Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes.
- Adapting and building resilience to climate change.
- Reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions, where possible.

Each small change can have a positive effect and will contribute to industry change.

We aim to ensure that our land is cared for in a way that protects the soil and natural environment for future generations, and we will endeavour to continually adapt our practices to embrace advances in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

It is vital that we continue to monitor all inputs and reduce waste. To this end, we continually access the costs of inputs, however costs of services are taken out of our hands, i.e., increased fuel, electricity costs. It is essential that we reduce our use of these services as far as we can.

- Engines must not be allowed to idle.
- Crops should be cut at optimum moisture to reduce the need for excessive drying.
- Non-essential journeys must not happen.
- Reduction of waste materials, buying in bulk, reducing packaging and disposing of plastic waste in a sustainable way.

To enable us to obtain as much value from our product as possible, we aim to increase our local market for our potatoes. By selling directly to the general public, we increase our revenue and reduce food miles. We aim to add value to our products by exploring other varieties, selling 'washed' potatoes and smaller bags.

We intend to introduce worm counts throughout the farm, commencing Autum 2023. We would like to involve our local school in this venture and are currently looking into this possibility. If this proves possible, we believe that this would be a valuable opportunity for the children to get involved in the science of agriculture.

As part of SFI pilot scheme, (Sustainable Farming Incentive Scheme), we have goals to achieve.

- increasing biodiversity
- improving habitat
- expanding woodland areas
- improving water quality
- improving air quality
- improving natural flood management

These are longer term targets to work towards but by following the guidelines we hope to be able to see enriched diversity of native habitats and species and ensure we hand our land over to the next generation in good agricultural condition whilst ensuring we are also caring for the natural environment and with the understanding necessary for long term success.

We are looking to work towards 'Regenerative Agriculture' which describes farming and grazing practices that, among other benefits, reverse climate change by rebuilding soil organic matter and restoring degraded soil biodiversity – resulting in both carbon drawdown and improving the water cycle

It is a known fact that agricultural is a major contributor to global warming and as such, it is our duty to consider what we can do to mitigate the effect we have on the natural environment, whilst still be able to deliver the food production necessary for the ever-increasing world population.

We have embraced the use of precision farming. This allows us to use only the necessary amounts of fertiliser and chemical required by our soil. We have been regularly testing our soil for several years and adapt our inputs and machinery use as necessary.

We try to deliver a farming system that promotes maintenance of a permanent soil cover, with minimum soil disturbance, and includes diversification of plant species.
We monitor predicted rainfall and soil conditions to ensure we only irrigate our crops when and where is necessary.

It is our farm policy to leave margins and hedging alongside ditches and streams to minimise the effect of any 'run-off' into water courses.
We are members of 'Catchment sensitive Farming' who advise of any potential environmental issues in the area.

We ensure that machinery is washed out in safe areas of the farm, and we are careful to use chemical as advised by our agronomist, at the correct dilution.

We are conscious that all water used on our land needs to meet certain standards as this is being used on food which will enter the human food chain, but in an effort to reduce our need for water to be drawn directly from the public supply or from our on-farm bore-hole, we are investing in tanks to harvest rainwater from shed roofs.

We have yet to establish a testing regime to establish the suitability of this water for direct application to crops but we hope to be able to use this water for washing down machinery etc, in the meantime.

Signed

John D Park Rosamund O Park W David Park Andrew J Park

Partners of J&R Park & Directors Buston Farms Ltd

I confirm that I have read and understood the Integrated Farm Management Policy for J&R Park/ Buston Farms Ltd.
I accept my commitment to its content and will endeavour to work towards its targets.

Signed

Brian Smith

Robert Tully

Craig Scott

Dave Lee

Lucy Atkinson

As our new Integrated Farm Management Policy has been reviewed at harvest time (August/September 2023), it has not been possible to have all staff in one place to deliver the document.

Each member of staff has been given a copy of the policy to read and discuss.
We will schedule a full staff meeting to discuss all elements of the policy, in full, at the end of harvest.

We have emailed the policy to our one external contractor, Mark Vickers, he has returned a signed copy.

The partners/directors are discussing how we will communicate our IFM policy to a wider audience.