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## Digester Performance

Current productivity for the last quarter from Mar 2019 to Jun 2019 is running at

**94.4%**

The overall output on the meter reading this quarter is **521,225 kWh** of renewable electricity.

Overall value of green electricity produced this quarter is **approximately £83,396**

(NB This is the approximate gross income before running costs)

## Chairman's Report



We have had another good quarter up until the middle of June. The digester has run very well, but the gas engine (CHP) struggled to maintain full power during the extremely warm weather that we had this spring, hence performance was down 4% on the previous quarter.

This next quarter from July to September will unfortunately be our lowest performance to date! The digester de-gritting arm stopped turning at the beginning of July. Fre-energy were unable to ascertain why this should have happened. We made the decision to empty the digester tank to investigate what was causing the problem. The good news is that the digester was clean inside and not silted up with grit. The bad news is that the shaft that drives the de-gritting arm was broken. As I write this report the shaft has been replaced with a new one. The digester has been sealed and re-filled with slurry. It will take several days to get the digester back up to working temperature 40C and several weeks to get the gas production up to full power.

This has been our first major breakdown since the project started over two years ago and hopefully it will be our last. Please be assured that your interest and capital repayments will continue as normal. The board has prudently kept a 50k contingency fund to one side to insure against just this type of eventuality.

## Directors' report

The Directors of LPF Co-operative work as a team, that does not mean it is always harmonious because we all have a view; debate and discussion is encouraged. Tasks and roles are divided between the Board according to individual backgrounds and specialisms.

Meetings are usually held in the early evening with a start time of 6pm and the business is completed in about two hours. The Agenda includes reports covering all aspects of the Co-operative business followed by other matters that need to be discussed. Draft Minutes are circulated within a few days of meetings for comment and any amendments, ready for signature at the next meeting.

Any urgent matters that occur between meetings are circulated via e-mail and responses shared electronically to ensure prompt action can be taken.

As we had a resignation earlier this year, there is a vacancy - are you interested in being more involved in running the Co-operative? If so, please fill in the nomination form, which is being sent out with the AGM paperwork, and ask for a proposer and seconder, from the Co-operative's shareholders.

The form should be returned via: [info@lowerparkfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@lowerparkfarm.co.uk) and the closing date is Friday 30th August 2019.





This wouldn't be a Farm report without me complaining about the weather! In fact, the weather has been perfect for growing grass, with plenty of rain followed by warm sunshine. My only issue is that when it is hot it is almost too hot, and when it is wet, the rain is torrential and does as much damage as good. We grow a large acreage of Organic crops on the meadow land at Holt. Obviously for those of you that live locally, you will have seen the lake that once was green crops in June. All of our corn was covered with four feet of very dirty water. The river Dee burst its banks after 36 hours of torrential rain. Luckily this year I decided to under sow the arable crops that flooded with grass and clover and it would appear that this along with an equal quantity of weeds is the only crop to survive the floods.

The farmer next door has decided to give up milk production and we have entered into a contract farming agreement that allows us to utilise his land for our dairy herd. This could not have happened at a better time considering the crops that we have lost to the floods. How are the donkeys I hear you ask? Well they are still not producing any milk to pay for their keep, and we are still losing cows to TB (18 last month) so my theory that they would protect the herd from infection from the local wildlife (badgers) is not holding water!

The good news is that our two boys are back home from university and they are working hard on the farm:

- Earning money that I can't really afford to pay,
- To spend on things that they don't really need.

Well at least university has taught them "how the world economy works"!

## Financial update - £1M total revenue passed

**Lower Park farm Co-operative** has now passed the £1m of total renewable electricity and heat produced from our digester. Richard Tomlinson the farmer and chairman of the co-operative comments "I'm really proud that we have managed to produce so much renewable electricity in a relatively short period of time. The digester produces renewable energy 24/7 and is not dependent upon the weather unlike solar or wind power. The RHI scheme has allowed us to further invest in drying equipment to utilise the phenomenal amount of heat that can be produced by burning excess methane through biogas boilers

## Save the date

The next AGM for Lower Park Farm Co-operative will be held on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 at 7.00pm

Formal details are being sent at the beginning of August

## Renewable update - UK Government urged to utilise anaerobic digestion opportunities to help climate

The UK Anaerobic Digestion and Bioresources Association (ADBA) is urging the government to maintain momentum on building a more sustainable circular economy. The plea follows new appointments to the cabinet by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, including Environment Secretary Theresa Villiers, and Business, Energy and Industrial Secretary Andrea Leadsom.

ADBA believes that the UK will not meet its net zero carbon obligations without support from the sector, which also offers opportunities to boost the UK economy. The World Biogas Association (WBA), of which ADBA is a founding member, recently published a report highlighting the crucial role that anaerobic digestion (AD) and biogas can play in decarbonising sectors such as energy, transport and agriculture.

AD technology can treat organic waste from various sources to produce biogas for electricity, heat and fuel. The UK AD industry has grown by more than 350% in the last 10 years and established itself as a world leader in biogas.



## Additional Member Benefits

As members of the co-operative you are also entitled to the following extra benefits

### Free Digestate\*

### 10% off Calon-Wen produce\*\*

- For the free digestate contact Sadie Tomlinson on 07811 960254 to arrange collection from Lower Park Farm.
- Please bring your own containers / bags to carry the digestate.

\*\* for the 10% off Calon-Wen claim a refund or order on-line @ <https://calonwen-cymru.com>

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