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Digester Performance

Current productivity for the last quarter from Oct 2019 to Dec 2019 is running at

92%

The overall output on the meter reading this quarter is **495,517 kWh** of renewable electricity.

Overall value of green electricity produced this quarter is **approximately £79,282.00**

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

Chairman's Report



The October to December quarter was down slightly on prediction, this was due to a faulty underground electricity cable between our CHP and the substation. We have two 150Kw armoured cables underground and one of them was damaged. This resulted in the one of the three phase fuses in our substation tripping out sporadically over a two week period, resulting in the CHP and the entire farm being without electricity until Scottish Power could come out to replace the fuse.

This happened several times until our farm electricians eventually tested the connection between the CHP and the substation, to find that one of the two underground cables were going to earth.

We were able to run the CHP on half power for a couple of days through the healthy cable while the other cable was dug up and repaired. We could not see any physical reason why the cable became damaged, so can only assume that it had been faulty from day one had got progressively worse over time until it eventually caught fire.

Apart from that unfortunate incident things have gone pretty well with the AD plant, and the financial performance is well on schedule to pay the next tranche of capital repayments this May.

I would like to welcome Sarah Haywood to the board of directors. She has a wealth of business experience. I am sure she will be a great asset to the smooth running of the co-op.

Directors' report

Throughout the winter months your Board of Directors continues to hold regular meetings where detailed reports are received from the Chairman, the Financial Director, the Secretary and the Communications Director. This format ensures that all aspects of the business are debated thoroughly, and a consensus reached where decisions are required.

In the main, expenditure incurred relates to the running of the plant involving servicing, maintenance and running costs.

As we go to press with this issue, we have reached the end of another financial year and a set of accounts will be compiled by the accountants when all transactions have been finalised and the Co-operative will move into the next year of trading. The accounts will be available later in the year.

A challenging trading environment is widely predicted in the business media for the several months ahead, as many of you will already be aware of.

Any changed circumstances relevant to the Co-operative will be monitored by the Board and appropriate responses put into place.

We also wanted you to **save the date** for the next **AGM** that will be held on **Wednesday 2nd September 2020** at Lower Park Farm.





On my favourite subject the weather! Two hundred and fifty acres are under water on the meadow land near Holt. Its unbelievable that it's the eighth flood in the last twelve months. Roll on spring!

Our TB is still 'grumbling on'. In the February test we lost eighteen cows. The test, though, was quite encouraging because we actually passed on the skin test which is very accurate. The eighteen cows failed on the mandatory blood test, which can identify TB at an earlier stage, but has up to a 4% false positive rate. Of the six hundred and fifty cows tested we had 2.8% fail.

This spring we are having a big change in our farming policy. We are going to plant three hundred acres of Combi-crop. This is a cereal mix containing peas, barley and oats. This crop will be combine harvested early next autumn and stored as moist crimped grain in an outdoor clamp. If we manage to attain the expected yields, this will make the farm totally self-sufficient for all of the corn and forage that we feed to our cows. The peas in the Combi-crop provide good quality protein, this will enable us to eliminate the need to feed, imported soya bean meal completely, hopefully reducing our cost of production and our carbon footprint at the same time.

Financial update - next capital repayment

LPF Co-op is going to make its **second repayment** to our members at the end of May. You will all be receiving a cheque in the post so **if you have moved house** since purchasing your shares, please ensure that we have your new address asap by email. The board have opted to send out hand written cheques as this option transpired to be the least complicated and costly method of making the payment. We will continue to make annual payments, the interest payment in November and a capital repayment in May.

Meet your Board - Alex McNamara

The board have decided that as part of the digest we should introduce our board members who represent you the members of the co-op.

This issue is focusing on Alex McNamara

Alex is the Financial Director for the Lower Park Farm Co-op, he has been on the board now for over three years, a role which he enjoys very much, working closely with Susie, our Company Secretary and the other board members, to keep our investment goals on track and ensuring the interest / capital repayments are made on time, additionally working alongside our accountants DSG, to produce the yearly financial accounts.

Alex has been living in Rossett by the Green for some 23 years, and very much enjoys the village lifestyle, in his spare time he and his partner Joy like to get out and about on their mountain bikes, depending on the weather, which means that they haven't been used much this year !!

Alex gained his B.Sc.(Hons) in Quantity Surveying at the University of Glamorgan. In the last 15 years he has held senior commercial positions and currently works for Schindler Limited (the Lift and Escalator company) as the Head of Commercial for the UK and Ireland, based between Surrey and Warrington. This is a new and challenging role which Alex is thoroughly enjoying.



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 that will be available after April 17th.
- 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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