

Kintyre Local Food Produce Feasibility and Development Project **December 2008**

The Kintyre Local Food Produce Feasibility Study aims to establish what the supply and demand is for fresh local food produce. The results of the study will be used to identify actions that can be taken to support local business and the wider community. Funding for this study was secured through LEADER AND Scottish Government Wider Role by the Kintyre Environmental Group, Fyne Homes and the Argyll and Bute Agricultural Forum. The main focus of the development project is to look at the supply and demand for horticultural produce in Kintyre, with a smaller project focussing on the possibilities of returning red meat to Kintyre.

Kintyre Red Meat Feasibility Project

Aim

The primary aim of this project was to identify the options for farmers in Kintyre to be able to return their livestock produce to Kintyre as a meat product.

Methodology

A project worker was taken on to assess:

- alternative transport routes to the abattoirs
- the service the abattoirs and butchers offer
- the logistics of returning the meat to Kintyre

Results

The resulting directory (Annex 1) includes the contact details, information and costs (based on figures collected in October 2008) needed by farmers who would like to supply meat locally. This information is not only applicable to those in Kintyre, but can be used by farmers throughout Argyll. (Please note this information was gathered to form a guide for farmers and does not claim to contain all possible routes).

Discussion

Discussions with local farmers and butchers indicated that the primary restriction in the local meat supply chain is the distance animals need to be transported to an existing abattoir. The lack of an abattoir in Kintyre or mainland Argyll compounds this transport problem.

It is expensive and time consuming for farmers to take livestock to be slaughtered and butchered. To transport livestock over 65km (approximately 40 miles) the farmer is also required to have a 'Certificate of Competence'. To obtain this certificate drivers must attend a training course and pass a test. The meat must then be returned to Kintyre at the correct temperature and in a suitable vehicle.

The livestock auction markets organise and co-ordinate livestock transport on behalf of the farmers for sales, making it a far simpler and more viable option.

It has been shown that generally, dependent on the number of animals an individual is transporting, it is financially more viable to use some of the existing livestock transport routes suggested than for a farmer to drive the animals themselves. This is expounded if the farmer's time is taken into consideration. The abattoirs and butchers listed have arrangements between themselves to transport the carcasses and this is included in the prices listed in Annex 1. There are a number of methods of returning the meat to Kintyre and all those listed use refrigerated vans.

However, although the financial viability can be shown to improve, the practicalities are not always so simple. Many routes are dependent on fitting in with the hauliers when they have journeys already booked to markets etc. This is not always weekly, can sometimes be last minute and may not

coincide with when the abattoirs can receive the animals. This is most difficult with pigs as most abattoirs have a designated pig day.

If the animals are going via markets they have a wait of 2-4 days between leaving the farm and being slaughtered. This happens to all of the finished livestock from Kintyre that are sold through the markets. Consideration must be given to the stress levels of the animals as this will affect the quality of the finished product. This waiting period is considered to be too long by some. However it has been suggested that animals benefit from resting for a period of time before being slaughtered, particularly given the length of journey from Kintyre. See *'Effect of Transport on meat quality and animal welfare of cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, deer and poultry'* (G.Smith, T.Grandin, T.Friend, D.Lang & J.Swanson 2004) for further information on this area. The feeding and watering of the animals is obviously also an important factor throughout this time. At present there is no comparative animal welfare or meat quality study on animals from Kintyre that have gone through the markets and those that have gone directly to the abattoir.

If farmers prefer animals to go directly from their farm to a mainland abattoir, then co-operation between farmers would enable this to be a more viable option. Rather than a number of journeys being done by different farmers with livestock trailers to the same abattoir. A haulier such as McKerrals could fill their small lorry and do a single journey. To make this financially beneficial the lorry would need to be as near to capacity as possible. This 'economy in numbers' is also found with the prices at some butchers who are willing to reduce the price for larger or regular numbers. However it should be noted that some butchers might find a large number of beasts arriving at one time a problem, although a staggering of the hanging times could overcome this.

Sending animals' together will also help the return transport, with all refrigerated deliveries decreasing per kg as the volume increased. It was also cheaper with fewer delivery points. Some could not travel all the way down the Kintyre peninsular and none were keen to do a number of small multiple deliveries.

Conclusions

- A list of abattoirs, butchers and hauliers has been identified.
- A study of carcass quality and animal welfare on Kintyre animals that have gone through the livestock auction to abattoir and those that have gone directly to the abattoir could help improve best practice knowledge.
- For farmers to achieve the benefits of co-ordinated transport it would be necessary to have a staff resource dedicated to a part-time co-ordinator role.
- Return transport would benefit from one central delivery point and a local refrigerated van to undertake the smaller deliveries.
- A central mainland Argyll abattoir could overcome many of the financial and technical problems associated with animal welfare, carcass quality and transport.

Useful Links

www.calmac.co.uk Ferry times, information and fares

www.food.gov.uk details on a variety of regulations concerning meat from labelling and packaging to a guide for selling at farmers market. Other information can be gained from Patrick Mackie at environmental Health 01646 604780 patrick.mackie@argyll-bute.gov.uk

<http://www.hie.co.uk/meat-processing-research.html>

www.localfoodloads.co.uk

ANNEX 1

Approx. driving distances times and costs based on AA Route Planner and a mileage allowance rate of 40p/mile. The times and costs are for a car so it would be necessary to increase these figures for a truck and trailer.

| From | To | Distance | Time | Cost Return |
|--------------------|------------|----------|--------|-------------|
| Campbeltown | Dunblane | 149.5 | 3hr24 | 119 |
| Campbeltown | Shotts | 160.5 | 3hr36 | 128 |
| Campbeltown | Wishaw | 156.9 | 3hr31 | 126 |
| To the ferry ports | | | | |
| Campbeltown | Kennacraig | 32 | 45mins | 26 |
| Campbeltown | Oban | 86.9 | 2hr19 | 70 |
| Campbeltown | Claonaig | 36.6 | 55mins | 30 |

Ferry Costs for a truck and livestock trailer returning empty (each <5m) Return fare with driver and no passengers. Trailers must be accompanied.

| From | To | Time | Winter £ | Summer £ |
|------------|-------|--------|--|----------------|
| Kennacraig | Islay | 2hr20 | 115.35 | 141.95 |
| Claonaig | Arran | 30mins | None in winter 61.40 - only one ferry a day | 67.95 |
| Tarbert | Arran | 1hr25 | | None in summer |
| Oban | Mull | 46mins | 75.1 | 101.05 |

For further information on ferries contact Caledonian MacBrayne 01880 730 253 www.calmac.co.uk

Abattoir

tel
 website
 £/bullock
 £/lamb
 £/pig
 slaughter days

Avonvogie, Islay

Chloe Randall 01496 840232 chloe.randall@btconnect.com
www.avonvogie.co.uk

£80
 £17
 £25

Wednesday cattle, Thursday sheep and pigs.
 Arrive between 8am-8.30am, but can be flexible to accommodate ferry times.
 Book-in about 2 weeks in advance. Has handling facility for horned cattle.
 Current capacity 6 cattle or 40 sheep or 20 sheep and 9 pigs.
 If arriving at 9.45am with the morning ferry the capacity will be reduced.
 Can be flexible by arrangement but are limited to two species on one day,

Butcher

Tel
 Fax
 E-mail
 Website
 £/bullock
 £/lamb
 £/pig
 Blast Freeze
 Packaging
 Cutting

Campbells, Islay

Neil Campbell 01496 300480
 01496 300480
campbells@aol.com
www.campbellbutchers.com

£250
 £25
 £65

No but can freeze small quantities in a standard freezer.
 Vacuum packed and labelled
 Standard is on website but can meet any requirements.
 60p/lb for sausages

Butcher

Tel
 Fax
 e-mail
 website
 £/bullock
 £/lamb
 £/pig
 Blast Freezer
 Packaging
 Cutting

Barbreck Farms, Lochgilphead

Katie Ritchie 01852 500271
 01852 500271
katie@barbreckfarms.co.uk
www.barbreckfarms.co.uk

£1/Kg
 £20
 80p/kg

No
 Vacuum packed and labelled - Labelling machine only takes their labels with their farm name on.
 Butchered as required. Also do burgers, sausages, links or lorne at 80p for 1/2Kg packets

Livestock Transport options

Dunlossit Estates vehicle comes over fortnightly and suggest they could hitch on a farmers livestock trailer on their return journey. This would then need to comeback on another vehicle.

Andrew Wood – Islay - 01496 850594, 07771636193.

£/bullock

£25

£/pig
£/lamb
(Kennacraig –
Avonvogie)

£12
£7

Meat Transport Options

Butcher over at the end of each month, can deliver meat to Kennacraig. Additional trips at approx. £25/box or Lamb.
Min. 5 lambs

Mundells, James McMillan, Tarbet 01880 820223
Comes back from Islay daily but carries whisky. The lorry has a separate compartment but may only know on the day how much space is available
Can deliver to Kennacraig or Tarbet.

Kevin Heads, Islay Courier 01496 810362
Comes over 3 or 4 days a week. Currently the van does not have a frozen compartment but he hopes to buy a new van soon. Approx. prices - 5 lambs to Kennacraig £15-20, 6-7 lambs to Glenbarr £30, 9 lambs to Glenbarr £35, 5 lambs to Campbeltown £35-40. Cattle to Glenbarr £50.
These figures will reduce with quantity and are an example only.

Comments

Neil Campbell cannot freeze in larger quantities and Barbreck farms cannot freeze. Some customers require the meat to be frozen.
Abattoir hoping to increase the size of their lairage so they can hold animals overnight.
There are talks of a collection centre being started at Kennacraig, for further information contact NFU Jill Johnson 01496 302225
The producer would need to arrange transport between the abattoir and Barbreck Farms butchers. This could be done by Kevin Heads.

Abattoir

Tel
 Fax
 E-mail
 £/bullock
 £/lamb
 £/pig
 Slaughter days

Duncan Stevenson, Dunblane

01786 822554
 01786 822554
stevedunblane@btconnect.com

£75

£17

£25

Closed on a Thursday, pigs on a Tuesday. Pigs must arrive before 12am. Cattle and sheep can be held overnight in straw yards.

Butcher

Tel
 Fax
 E-mail
 Website
 £/bullock
 £/lamb
 £/pig
 Blast Freeze
 Packaging
 Cutting

Aberfoyle Butcher Ltd. Stirling

Mr. Honeyman 01786 815557
 01786 815557
contact@aberfoylebutcher.co.uk
www.aberfoylebutcher.co.uk

£80/kilo vacuum packed or 1/kilo trayed

£23

£80/kilo

Yes

Vacuum packed or on trays

As requested

Butcher

Tel
 Fax
 e-mail
 Website
 £/bullock
 £/lamb
 £/pig
 Blast Freeze
 Packaging
 Cutting

Highland Drovers, Perth

Gordon Kennedy 01738 561523
 01738 628497
sales@highlanddrovers.co.uk
www.highlanddrovers.co.uk

£1/Kg

£30

£1.04/Kg

Yes

Vaccum packed and labelled

The producer fills in a form specifying how they would like it - see website.

See website for more details on prices. These are negotiable with quantity.

Butcher

Tel
 Fax
 e-mail
 website
 £/bullock
 £/lamb
 £/pig
 Blast Freezer
 Packaging

Barbreck Farms, lochgilphead

Katie Ritchie 01852 500271
 01852 500271
katie@barbreckfarms.co.uk
www.barbreckfarms.co.uk

£1/kg

£20

80p/kg

No

Vacuum packed and labelled - Labelling machine only takes their labels which has their farm name.

Cutting

Butchered as required. Also do burgers, sausages, links or lorne at 80p for 1/2Kg packets

Livestock Transport Options

Mckerrals 01586 820258 small lorry £415 Capacity approx. 100 sheep or 50 sheep, 4 bullocks, 1 pig for example. Prices would be about £4.15/sheep, £45/cattle, £45/pig for a full lorry. The price for pigs would be reduced considerably if there was more than one as a whole compartment would need to be designated for a single one.

Mckerrals frequently go to Stirling Market, cattle £33, sheep £2.60 The animals arrive the day before the sale. The market will hold them until after the sale when they will go on the markets trailer to the abattoir for approx £1.50/lamb £6/cattle.

They will then be slaughtered the following morning. During their wait at the market they will be watered, fed silage and bedded on deep shavings. In the summer they will be turned out at grass. To arrange the animals to go via the market contact John Stirton (United Auctions Head Yardsman) 07720 420680 or Richard Close (auctioneer) on 07769 644690. Sheep and cattle can only go on their respective market sale days.

Meat Transport Options

Mr. Honeyman of Aberfoyle Butchers will deliver to Glasgow to meet Eric Walton, Oban courier 07776 307404 eric@waltonsofoban.co.uk

Mr. Honeyman will only charge the price of his fuel. Eric Walton will charge, as an example, £30 for 10 lambs.

Eric Walton will also collect from Highland Drovers on a Thursday and deliver Saturday morning to Kintyre. He has a van that can carry frozen and refrigerated goods. He charges by the kilo and if we sent a full Mckerral lorry to Stevenson's we think it will work out at £360 over 3 deliveries (to allow for different hanging times). 10 lambs delivered to Glenbarr would be £60

Barbreck Farms will deliver all to Glenbarr for £60 - based on one journey

Comments

The large lorries can't get under a bridge which is on route to Stevenson's

Abattoir

Tel
 Fax
 E-mail
 £/bullock
 £/lamb
 £/pig
 Slaughter days

Wishaw, Motherwell

Phillip Goodwin 01698 372667
 01698 351057
wishawabattoir@btconnect.com

£69
 £11.99
 £18.57

Tuesday-Friday, pigs on Wednesday

Butcher

Tel
 Fax
 E-mail
 £/bullock
 £/lamb
 £/pig
 Blast freezer
 Packaging
 Cutting

Cairns

Jim Cairn 01698 350738
 01698 811454
cairns246@btinternet.com
 Approx 280-300kg £240 inc. killing cost
 Approx £42 inc. killing cost
 70kg approx. £90 inc killing cost
 No but industrial freezer
 Vacuum packed or trays, all labelled
 As required, price quoted includes some sausages/burgers but can do more for reasonable additional cost.

Livestock Transport Option

Mckerrals 01586 820258 small lorry £415 Capacity approx. 100 sheep or 50 sheep, 4 bullocks, 1 pig for example. Prices would be about £4.15/sheep, £45/cattle, £45/pig for a full lorry. The price for pigs would be reduced considerably if there was more than one as a whole compartment would need to be designated for a single one.

Mckerrals go to Lanark on Friday when there's a sale, animals could then go on to Wishaw on Monday. Mckerrals charge £33/bullock & £2.60/lamb. Lanark would charge £10/cattle in winter for those not normally using the market but in the summer no charge, no charge for lambs. Arrange with Jim Bennett (Auctioneer Lawrie&Symington) 07775 754885. The animals will be watered and bedded and fed silage in winter or turned out at grass in the summer.

George Anderson 07831 193514 drives from Lanark to Wishaw on a Monday approx £12/bullock, £12/pigs, £2.50/lamb

Willie Skilling 07774 603 103 goes to Longtown Market some Wednesdays. He could deliver livestock on the way. Price dependent on numbers, for example 10 lambs £40.

Meat transport options

Eric Walton, Oban courier 07776 307404 eric@waltonsofoban.co.uk will collect on a Wednesday in deliver in Kintyre on the Thursday. The cost, for example, would be £40 for 10 lambs.

Comments

If it was a full Mckerrals lorry load Cairns would need to stagger hanging times to cope with the quantity.

Abattoir

tel
 e-mail
 website
 £/bullock
 £/lamb
 £/pig
 Slaughter Days

Arran Lamb Company, Arran

Iain Anderson 01770 860354
iain@arranlamb.com
www.arranlamb.com

No Cattle

<25Kg £11.50
 >25Kg £12.50
 £25

Tuesdays

Butcher

£/bullock
 £/lamb
 £/pig
 Blast freezer
 Packaging
 Cutting

Arran Lamb Company, Arran

No Cattle

£10.50 basic cuts, bagged, extra 30p/kg vacuum packed and labelled

< 50Kg £25, >25Kg extra 60-70p/Kg.

yes in small quantities, larger by arrangement

Bagged or vacuum packed and labelled.

Pork is boned and rolled, sausages and burgers £2.50/kg

Livestock Transport Option

Willie Skilling (Kintyre livestock contractor and haulier) 07774 603103
 could take his small trailer, capacity 2 cattle or 24 sheep. Cost approx
 £100 excluding ferry charges.

Iain Anderson can collect a trailer from the ferry by arrangement.

Meat transport options

Iain Anderson can come over to Kintyre about once a month to deliver.
 Eric Walton, Oban courier 07776 307404 eric@waltonsofoban.co.uk
 goes to Arron weekly in the summer and fortnightly in the winter on
 Tuesdays. The cost, for example, would be £40 for 10 lambs.

Comments

Iain Anderson hopes to start doing cattle soon.
 Can offer a price reduction for larger numbers.
 Is licenced to do venison

Abattoir

Tel
 Fax
 E-mail

James Chapman Butcher Ltd. Shotts

David Sim 01501 820329
 01501 825242

shottsabattoir@btconnect.com

| | | |
|----------------|---|-------|
| £/bullock | | 68.29 |
| £/lamb | | 10.78 |
| £/pig | | 16.95 |
| Slaughter days | Mon-fri, pigs mon & thurs but can be flexible | |

Butcher

Tel
 Fax
 E-mail

Cairns

Jim Cairn 01698 350738
 01698 811454

cairns246@btinternet.com

£/bullock
 £/lamb
 £/pig

Approx 280-300kg £240 inc. killing cost
 Approx £42 inc. killing cost
 70kg approx. £90 inc killing cost

Blast freezer

No but industrial freezer

Packaging

Vacuum packed or trays, all labelled

Cutting
 As required, price quoted includes some sausages/burgers but can do extra for a reasonable additional cost.

Livestock Transport Option

Mckerrals 01586 820258 small lorry £415 Capacity approx. 100 sheep or 50 sheep, 4 bullocks, 1 pig for example. Prices would be about £4.15/sheep, £45/cattle, £45/pig for a full lorry. The price for pigs would be reduced considerably if there was more than one as a whole compartment would need to be designated for a single one.

Mckerrals go to Lanark on fri. when there's a sale, animals could then go on to Shotts on mon. Mckerrals charge £33/bullock & £2.60/lamb. Lanark would charge £10/cattle in winter for those not normally selling at the market but in the summer no charge, no charge for lambs. Arrange with Jim Bennett (Auctioneer Lawrie&Symington)07775 754885 The animals will be watered and bedded and fed silage in winter or turned out at grass in the summer.

George Anderson 07831 193514 drives from Lanark to Shotts on a Monday approx £12/bullock, £12/pigs, £2.50/lamb

Willie Skilling 07774 603 103 goes to Longtown Market some Wednesdays. He could deliver livestock to Shotts on the way. Price dependent on numbers.

Meat transport options

Eric Walton, Oban courier 07776 307404 eric@waltonsofoban.co.uk will collect on a Wednesday and deliver in Kintyre on the Thursday. The cost, for example, would be £40 for 10 lambs.

Abattoir

tel

e-mail

website

£/bullock

£/lamb

£/pig

Slaughter Days

Mull Slaughter House Ltd. Mull

01680 300318 or 01680 300231

sarah@braid0.wannadoo.co.uk

£75

£15.03

£29.07

Flexible

Butcher

Tel

£/bullock

£/lamb

£/pig

Blast freezer

Packaging

Cutting

Mull Slaughter House Ltd. Mull

01680 300318

93p/kg

£12

60p/kg

no freezing

Vacuum packed and labelled

No sausages or burgers but could take trim to another butcher by arrangement.

Livestock Transport Option

Mckerrals 01586 820258 and Willie Skilling 07774 603 103 both occasionally go to Oban livestock Market, prices dependent on numbers.

Donald MacGilliuray (Mull Haulier) 01680 300335 can then take on to Mull on return journey. Limited to up to 6 cattle (£25/head) or up to 15 sheep (£8.50/head), pigs (£15/head) due to ferry charges increasing above those numbers.

Meat transport options

Eric Walton, Oban courier 07776 307404 eric@waltonsofoban.co.uk will collect on a Wednesday in deliver in Kintyre on the Thursday. The cost, for example, would be £40 for 10 lambs.

Comments

Mull Slaughterhouse Ltd also does venison and has handling facilities for horned cattle.