

LUCKY EWE

**Annual report and accounts
for the year ended 31st March 2024**



Lucky Ewe

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Trustees' report

Board of Trustees and Administration Details

Lucky Ewe was established as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a constitution and recognised as a charity in Scotland (No. SC050034) on the 13th March 2020.

The structure of the charity consists of the members, comprising of:

- the Ordinary Members (resident in the KY and DD6 postcode);
- the Associate Members (representing organisations or residing outside the defined area);
- the Junior Members (individuals aged 12-15).

Ordinary Members have powers to elect Charity Trustees and make changes to the constitution.

The Charity trustees are elected or appointed from the pool of the Ordinary Members (otherwise known as Member Trustees) or co-opted for their specialist skills or expertise (Co-opted Trustees).

The current Trustees, who also served during the year, are Joan Brown, Mary Gibbon, Jill Dawson, Alana Paterson-Brown, Elizabeth Elliot, Susan Usher and Hazel Fletcher. Richard Young served as a Trustee during the financial year.

The office of the charity is 15 Ceres Road, Cupar, Fife, KY15 5JT.

The Objects of the Charity

The purposes of the charity are:

- the advancement of Education; by fostering and promoting vocational, social, and life skills.

Lucky Ewe provides experiential learning opportunities in land-based food production for people with additional support needs.

- the relief of those in need by reason of ill-health, disability, or other disadvantage.

Lucky Ewe placements are open to those with ill-health, disability, or other disadvantage such as care-leavers, history of substance misuse.

The above purposes are carried out to the extent that they are consistent with furthering the achievement of sustainable development.

Trustees' Annual Report

Lucky Ewe has had a very full year with 46 interns benefiting from placements on the farm. At present, 17 adult volunteers give on-farm support, while our 8 trustees are helped by many other friends and supporters. This year we have handed out 27 Saltire Awards for those in the 12 – 25 age group making a substantial regular volunteering contribution, and 8 more certificates will go to our current CAMHS volunteers. Our membership increased from 69 and is now standing at 92 individuals, with 5 associate members, Howe of Fife Rotary, Sustainable Cupar, Windward Education, Bell Baxter High School and Kilmarnock School. We have 871 Facebook followers, 1,978 followers on Instagram and 726 on TikTok. Lucky Ewe continues to receive generous core funding from the National Lottery, Robertson Trust and

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Trustees' report (continued)

Fife Voluntary Action amongst others. We are very grateful to all our funders and especially for private donations from our supporters. Over the winter we have delivered our second SCQF4 in Rural Skills and helped 7 more young people (17 now in total) transition into further education and training.

This year, Lucky Ewe has received recognition from Dr Alex George, the UK Mental Health Ambassador within the Department of Education, and from Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister, making Lucky Ewe a Point of Light, for the charitable work we do. Treasurer, Jill Dawson was honoured as a Coronation Champion last summer and led a wee posse of scrubbed-up Trustees to Holyrood Garden Party where Alana, Libby and Abby met Queen Camilla and First Minister, Humza Yousaf. Our relationship with elected representative continues on a very positive footing and Trustees have taken advice and support from Wendy Chamberlain and Willie Rennie this year. The Scottish Government has since asked Lucky Ewe to host a workshop at their Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing In Our Communities: Emerging Practice event. This was to share our journey and good practice with Councils and Charities across Scotland. We could not be prouder of our former interns, staff, volunteers and trustees who worked on the presentation and delivered it so well.

Staffing has been rejuvenated this year with Craig Holmes, in the Farm Operations post since September, leading the team; Gillian Smith, working with Interns and their families in Support and Development; and Kerry Nimmo providing Administrative Support. So, we have had to say goodbye to Colin Marshall who left after lambing last year, to seek new pastures on his croft in Skye, with his wife, and previous trustee, Claudia. They take our best wishes with them. Franki Campbell and Caroline Weinberger have also left the employed team, though we are very grateful that both continue as Lucky Ewe volunteers. Alyssa Gowans has moved on after 3 years as our founding Administrator. Alyssa set up all our systems and, crucially, created the payroll system, dealing with everything to do with HMRC and pensions. Alyssa also receives our grateful thanks, and we wish her all the very best in her future career. The Trustee group has also received an injection of youth and vigour this year. Hazel Fletcher, joined as a farm volunteer after leaving a Senior Post in Market Research in London. Hazel is loving the outdoor work on farm, and has progressed to Trusteeship. Another new Trustee is Susan Usher who has been coming to Lucky Ewe with her CAMHS group and helping at all our events for years. So we offer a big Lucky Ewe welcome to our new blood.

In early summer we took delivery of the Hisun 450 utility vehicle, funded by Fife Voluntary Action and Foundation Scotland, and Meldrum's the supplier have included lifelong free servicing. We have enjoyed finding many uses for it on the smallholding – transporting equipment, feed and people. Staff and regular volunteers have been trained in its use, via Tayforth Machinery Ring, and are now able to help others learn how to operate the UTV safely. It is a valuable addition to our potential for skills training. During the snowy weather it became our 'Uber', bringing Interns from the track end up to Bonnyton Farm stabling. Tayforth also delivered First Aid training to 2 staff members, bringing Lucky Ewe's Health and Safety profile up to standard. In January, our Christmas meal was the venue for in-house Staff and Volunteer Training, and sessions in Mental Health Support (delivered by Joan and Susan), Zoonotic Diseases (by Gillian) and Rare Breed Livestock (by Hazel and Craig) gave the 18 volunteers attending the chance to increase their knowledge and reflect on their input to Lucky Ewe. Each was presented with their choice of a pair of luxury waterproof or leather work gloves.

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Trustees' report (continued)

The new (to us) milking parlour was complex to install and commission. However, we got there in the end, learned to operate it and produced a quantity of milk to raise funds from cheese sales. The sheep got the hang of running up the ramp and our Interns enjoyed moving the ewes from the holding pen, feeding them during milking and putting the clusters on. Across the board, Interns reported enjoying working closely with the sheep best. The close and caring relationship between the human farmer and domestic livestock is the unique selling point of Lucky Ewe. It is an ancient relationship, dating back millennia, and working in an animal husbandry environment helps to calm and focus our participants, allowing them to achieve their potential.

The on-farm staff, Craig and Gillian, are working hard to grow and develop Lucky Ewe's network of onward transitions and progressions for our Interns. Fife Zoo has been the most recent local business to welcome an Intern. The young person is thoroughly enjoying the experience of working with exotic animals and will benefit immensely from this when taking up his place on NC Animal Care at SRUC in the autumn. Places at St Andrews Aquarium are also in development, and our neighbouring estate, Teasses, is providing work experience with their cattle. These expansions have required due diligence by Trustees and Employees to assess risk and to make sure our insurance is 100% compatible. This network of onward progression will be an area of growth for Lucky Ewe and we plan to develop another four onward progression placements during the course of this year.

Funding and Fundraising have been going well for Lucky Ewe and as the Treasurer's Report will show. The Christmas Market and potato sales brought in around £1000. Lamb sales also brought in around £1000. These monies can go towards bolstering our reserves, which grant funders often do not allow. Lucky Ewe Trustees are keen to achieve the stability for the charity afforded by a commensurate reserves fund. That would mean 3 – 6 months running costs in the bank. So, we are covering our day-to-day salary and farm outgoings, starting to build reserves, and have collected £44,000 this year towards the cost of setting up in our new premises.

The mention of 'new premises' brings this report to the only substantial barrier to success currently being experienced by Lucky Ewe, namely, no lease from NHS Fife has yet been offered. People ask me 'why?' but I cannot explain or, indeed, understand why NHS Fife is continuing in its wholly negative stance towards Lucky Ewe's successful Community Asset Transfer request, when our charity is doing so much valuable and enjoyable work with and for their patients. NHS Fife has, unfortunately, continued in its last ditch intransigence for over a year now (last ditch because the appeal was upheld and our right to the land was all finally ratified in January 2023). NHS Fife astonishingly persists in disallowing any access for any vehicle across their campus, nor will they allow Lucky Ewe to make connection to water or electricity supplies on their campus. Moreover, NHS refuse to offer a lease until we give them full details of how we are going to afford and build a new road. As is well known, funders require a signed lease before they will consider releasing grants for feasibility and planning, as well as construction costs. So, it seems NHS's aim is not to comply with Community Empowerment legislation and to continue to block our rightful asset transfer.

Meanwhile, we have received a Notice to Quit our current premises on 31st of May 2024. All lambs will be born by then, so agriculturally it is an appropriate point in the year to move the flock, but we need fences and water in place at our new premises. We are prohibited from undertaking any improvements, or sowing grass seed for animal nutrition, till the lease is signed. Last year, as you know, Lucky Ewe members passed a motion, unanimously, to go ahead and take up the lease of land at Stratheden, under the Community Asset Transfer

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Trustees' report (continued)

legislation. This year, I will be asking members to consider a motion at the AGM to the effect that we offer to install our own water and electricity supplies within 1 year of taking up the lease; that we will create a rough access route from the top road, and then seek funding to build the access route; we will meet any further requirements of NHS Fife, on the understanding that they will sign the 25 year lease with an entry date of 1st May 2024.

In conclusion, the past year has been full of valuable work to help people with additional support needs gain the skills and confidence they need to help them transition to their next step. Volunteers and employees have continued to work together to create a service that really is about filling a gap in society and helping prevent people falling through the cracks.

Financial review

At the year end cash funds stood at £94,591, of which £56,802 were restricted. The charity's policy is to hold reserves equivalent to 6 months running costs. The Board aims to build up sufficient unrestricted funds in line with this policy.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf:

Signed

Date:

Dr Joan Brown

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Lucky Ewe charity

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on pages 6 – 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Date

Lucky Ewe
Receipts and payments account for the year ended
31st March 2024

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2023/24 £	Total 2022/23 £
<u>Receipts</u>				
Grants	83,412	19,862	103,274	64,269
Donations	-	2,743	2,743	1,563
Fundraising	-	1,420	1,420	1,737
Produce sales	-	1,922	1,922	2,740
Other income	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	<u>83,412</u>	<u>25,947</u>	<u>109,359</u>	<u>70,309</u>
<u>Payments</u>				
Fundraising expenses:				
Administrative costs	-	-	-	-
Fundraising events	362	295	657	299
Payments for charitable activities:				
Staff salaries	44,502	-	44,502	38,121
Accessibility costs	-	-	-	995
Consultancy	-	-	-	-
PPE	432	-	432	661
Equipment	20,451	745	21,196	3,975
Farm consumables	4,819	-	4,819	4,297
Farm rent	270	-	270	270
Insurance	1,498	-	1,498	800
Office costs	2,800	-	2,800	546
Volunteer costs	1,249	-	1,249	165
Intern qualification	2,100	-	2,100	1,520
Legal and professional costs	1,469	-	1,469	-
Miscellaneous costs	-	-	-	107
Total payments	<u>79,952</u>	<u>1,040</u>	<u>80,992</u>	<u>51,756</u>
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for year	3,460	24,907	28,367	18,553
Cash funds brought forward	53,342	12,882	66,224	47,671
Cash funds carried forward	<u>56,802</u>	<u>37,789</u>	<u>94,591</u>	<u>66,224</u>

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31st March 2024

Bank and cash on hand

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Opening balances	66,224	47,671
Surplus / (deficit) for year	28,367	18,553
Closing balances	94,591	66,224

Assets

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Farm equipment and livestock	19,429	9,225
Grants due	-	3,000
	19,429	12,225

Liabilities

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Liabilities	1,200	1,200

Funds movement

	Balance at 01/04/2023	Received	Paid	Transfer	Balance at 31/03/2024
Foundation Scotland (2)	196	-	-	-	196
Robertson Trust	4,877	9,900	(9,000)	-	5,777
National Lottery	18,788	30,072	(43,720)	-	5,140
Fife Voluntary Action	5,746	-	(5,746)	-	-
Bank of Scotland	5,370		(2,090)	(2,220)	1,060
Co-operative	1,977		-	-	1,977
Fife Voluntary Action (2)	10,762		(6,800)	-	3,962
FVA Capital Grant	4,870		(3,496)	-	1,374
Nineveh Trust	756		(756)	-	-
Youth Action Fife	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Cervus Fund	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Foundation Scotland (3)	-	-	(1,344)	2,220	876
Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund	-	12,563	-	-	12,563
Duffus Park Disabled Garden Fund	-	23,877	-	-	23,877
	53,342	83,412	(79,952)	-	56,802
General fund	12,882	25,947	(1,040)	-	37,789
Total funds	66,224	109,359	(80,992)	-	94,591

Foundation Scotland (2)

Fudning awarded to construct a polytunnel and improve outdoor facilities.

Robertson Trust

A grant awarded to cover salary and running costs.

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Restricted funds (continued)

National Lottery

A grant awarded to cover salary and running costs.

Fife Voluntary Action

A grant awarded to cover salary and running costs.

Bank of Scotland

Funding for the purchase of a milking trailer. The transfer represents a grant received in previous year, erroneously allocated to the Bank of Scotland Foundation.

Co-operative

Funding to cover salary and running costs.

Fife Voluntary Action (2)

A grant awarded to cover volunteer expenses, salaries and running costs.

FVA Capital Grant

A grant from Fife Voluntary Action toward the costs of buying an all terrain utility vehicle.

Nineveh Trust

A grant awarded to deliver SCQF4 in Rural Skills.

Youth Action Fund

Funding awarded for a purchase of a hen house.

Cervus Fund

Funding for purchase of a quad bike.

Foundation Scotland (3)

The transfer represents a grant received in previous year, erroneously allocated to the Bank of Scotland Foundation.

Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund

Funding to cover salary and running costs.

Duffus Park Disabled Garden Fund

Funding received to support relocation and expansion of the farm in Stratheden.

Related party transactions

The members of the Board did not receive any remuneration in the year. No expenses were paid to Board members (2023: £14).

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf

Signed

Date:

Dr Joan Brown