

K Stuart & Sons, Dyson Cote Farm, Business Case

Dsyon Cote Farm is a fully self-sufficient small scale dairy farm. The farm has been providing produce within the local area for over 80 years. The business is family owned and has been passed down through the family over generations.

The business employs 8 full time staff, who work 7 days a week. The business supply's milk to 4 milk men in the local area. The 4 milk men fully rely on Dyson Cote Farms supply and facilities to keep their businesses going, which support the upbringing of their young families.

Dyson Cote Farm runs its own fully self-sufficient dairy, which supplies milk around the local area and supplies Buckley's Dairy which is also a local business.

The farm grows and sells potatoes which are distributed on the milk round.

The farm is home to 150 free range chickens; the eggs are sold from the farm and are distributed on the milk round.

The farm has 1700 sheep and 60 cattle that are reared for beef.

The farm also mills 10 tonnes of corn each week which is all carried out on site

In order to carry out all of the process involved in each part of the business there is an extremely large demand for electricity, the farm currently uses approximately 145,000 kWh per annum.

The dairy uses electricity to power processing equipment; this includes pasteurisers, separators, heat exchangers, bottle washer, bottle filler, 5 milk bulk tanks. A 22 x 8ft^2 walk in fridge with compressors running 24/7 to keep the produce at the correct temperature.

The free range Hens require lighting 18hrs a day during the winter months the building where the livestock is kept also requires lighting, which is provided via artificial lighting.

The equipment to mill corn requires a substantial amount of electricity along with the heating system for the potato store.

Milk Prices have just recently dropped by 4p, this is putting pressure on the business to keep costs to a minimum. The proposed wind turbine would produce approximately 217,700 kWh per annum; this would offset a huge proportion of the farms energy usage and would be providing power from a low carbon sustainable energy source. The wind turbine would allow the business to continue to grow and support future generations, it would allow the business to be more competitive on price which in turn would create more opportunity for growth of the business and diversification. The wind turbine would enable the business to be fully self-sufficient and would provide energy security for the business and the local areas as excess power will be fed into the grid.

The proposed wind turbine would have a huge positive impact on the business, without the turbine the business could potentially not be financially viable in the future due to the increase in electricity prices and the fall in milk prices, which would have a huge impact on the family and the employees who rely on the business.