

History.

Sandhill Farm is a 55-acre agricultural holding in Crawley Down West Sussex. It is owned and managed by me, Adrian Kirkpatrick.

I started working on the farm in around 1995 for the previous owner Mrs Jo Folmer who then left it to me in her will when she died in 2013.

Situation

The farm consists of a large Atcost barn, several timber sheds and stables, around 50 acres of grassland and a further 5 acres approximately of woodland, river and footpaths set across a valley between Crawley Down and Turners Hill.

As well as managing the farm, I am currently employed by West Sussex Fire Service and I have been using this income to support myself and family while the farm business increases in profitability.

I am currently having to live with friends and family and the occasional night spent in a touring caravan on site to provide care and security to the animals and property, this is because the previous farmhouse had to be sold due to a divorce settlement.

Future plan.

I anticipate a gradual increase to the profits and number of livestock on the farm in years 2024 and 2025, and then with some investment in 2025 a new barn will be built which will enable the livestock numbers to increase and allow me to expand the area rented to Baker Livery Service's thereby increasing the rental income.

The increase in income after 2026 coincides with a reduction in hours in the fire service and being able to dedicate more time to the farm. In 2027 I will leave the fire service completely and the farm will then provide a sufficient income to support my partner and me.

This is my preferred plan for the next few years but will depend on my ability to create a new dwelling on the property, this is necessary due to the financial cost of renting nearby and for the safety and security of the property and animals.

With the rental of the two parcels of land to Bakery livery services and Safe & Hound dog walking, the farm is currently providing employment opportunities to two businesses and with the new barn in 2026, a further part time employee post will be created.

Current position/forecast 2024

• Rental of portion of barn and 6 Acres of land to Baker Livery services -	£12,000
• Rental of 6-acre paddock to Safe & hound dog walking -	£6000
• Sale of home-grown hay -	£1500
• Breeding flock of 25 Texel sheep, 14 males to market £120 per head -	£1680
• Flock to increase with this year's ewe lambs +15 ewes.	
• Sale of Pygmy goat kids, and males	£650
• Farm gate sales of chicken and duck eggs	£1200
• Sale of fattened pigs at market	£240
• Sale of logs	£600
Total revenue for 2024	£23,870

Costs for 2024

➤ Casual labour	-£3600
➤ Animal feed costs	-£4800
➤ Utilities, insurance etc.	-£1200
➤ Purchase of new breeding stock, goats, calves & piglets	-£800

Total expenses 2024

-£10,400

Total profit

£13,470

2025 forecast

• Rental of portion of barn and 6 Acres of land to Baker Livery services -	£12,600
• Rental of 6-acre paddock to Safe & hound dog walking -	£6300
• Sale of home-grown hay -	£1700
• Breeding flock of 40 Texel sheep, 30 animals to market £135 per head -	£4050
• Flock to increase with this year's ewe lambs +10 ewes.	
• Sale of Pygmy goat kids,	£800
• Farm gate sales of chicken and duck eggs	£1600
• Sale of fattened pigs at market	£720
• Sale of logs	£910
• Sale of poultry, geese and bantams	£250
• Sale of finished cattle	£800
• Income from Sustainable farming incentive	£6000
• Income from selling rare breed goats	£750
Projected revenue for 2025	£36,480

Costs for 2025

➤ Casual labour	-£3600
➤ Animal feed costs	-£5400
➤ Utilities, insurance etc	-£1500
➤ Vet costs	-£500
➤ Purchase of new stock	-£600
➤ Professional fees	-£1500
➤ Tax	-£3000
Total expenses 2025	-£16,100

Total profit/personal salary

£20,380

2026 forecast

• Rental of new barn and 10 Acres of land to Baker Livery services -	£18,000
• Rental of 6-acre paddock to Safe & hound dog walking -	£6,615
• Sale of home-grown hay -	£2,000
• Breeding flock of 50 Texel sheep, 60 animals to market £145 per head -	£8700
• Flock to increase with this year's ewe lambs +10 ewes.	
• Sale of Pygmy goat kids,	£1000
• Farm gate sales of chicken and duck eggs	£1800
• Sale of fattened pigs at market	£1500
• Sale of logs	£1075
• Sale of poultry, geese and bantams	£500
• Sale of finished cattle	£2500
• Income from sustainable farming incentive	£6000
• Sale of rare breed goats	£1500
Projected revenue for 2026	£50,650

Costs for 2026

➤ Animal feed costs	-£6000
➤ Utilities, insurance etc	-£2000
➤ Vet costs	-£800
➤ Purchase of new stock including new ram	-£1200

➤ Professional fees	-£1000
➤ Tax	-£5,500
Total expenses 2026	-£16,500
Total profit/personal salary	£34,150

2027 forecast

• Rental of new barn and 10 Acres of land to Baker Livery services -	£19,000
• Rental of 6-acre paddock to Safe & hound dog walking -	£6,945
• Sale of home-grown hay -	£2,250
• Breeding flock of 50 Texel sheep, 70 animals to market £155 per head -	£10,850
• Flock to increase with this year's ewe lambs +10 ewes.	
• Sale of Pygmy goat kids,	£1000
• Farm gate sales of chicken and duck eggs	£1800
• Sale of fattened pigs at market	£1750
• Sale of logs	£1335
• Sale of excess poultry, geese and bantams	£500
• Sale of finished cattle	£3000
• Income from sustainable farming incentive	£6000
• Sale of rare breed goats	£1500

Projected revenue for 2027 **£54,930**

Costs for 2027

➤ Animal feed costs	-£6000
➤ Utilities, insurance etc	-£2000
➤ Vet costs	-£800
➤ Purchase of new stock	-£1000
➤ Professional fees	-£1000
➤ Tax	-£6700
Total expenses 2027	-£17,500

Total profit/personal salary **£37,430**