



On the Arable Seaboard of
Sutherland
PULROSSIE, Dornoch
Where Convener of County Council,
Mr G. J. GRANT, farms
Use of Combine for Harvesting and
Threshing
Registered Cheviot Flock and Store
Cattle

NEXT WEEK:
LANFIRE ESTATES, NEWMILNS

Pulrossie lies in the parish of Creich, Sutherland, on the Skibo estates—the farmhouse, with Mr and Mrs Grant.

THE county of Sutherland, back-ground to our pictures this week of Pulrossie 460-acre farm on the Dornoch Firth, may be best described by quoting two contrasting figures. This northern county, whose County Council convener is Mr G. J. Grant, occupier of Pulrossie, has a population of no more than 13,500 within its 1½ million acres.

Pulrossie, lying on the narrow eastern seaboard strip of this essentially rugged hill county, is primarily arable land run on a six-course rotation, about 380 acres coming within the rotation, and farmed along with 50 acres of the neighbouring Evelix, where Mr Grant was born.

While the farm is largely under the plough, Mr Grant—a governor of the North of Scotland College of Agriculture—maintains three livestock features—a North-country Cheviot flock, the rearing of store cattle and, more recently, to that has been added a pig-feeding unit. Both the store cattle and the store pigs are bred on Mr Grant's son's farm of Proncy Nain, also in Sutherland. The store cattle, bred out of cross Highland and Highland Angus cows and many by the Aberdeen-Angus bull, are summered and wintered at Pulrossie, and sold as advanced stores in the spring.

Some of the store cattle are sent north to summer on the hills, towards the Caithness boundary, in Kildonan strath, or to the parish of Rogart.

In making good use of the 20-25 acres of turnip crop, Mr Grant has successfully resorted to controlled "grazing" of the roots on the ground, using an electric fence, for periods between two and three hours at a time. The labour of pulling and carting is overcome in this way.

Rather than selling his Cheviot ewe lambs from the 220 ewes, Mr Grant's policy has been for thirty years to sell these gimmers at Aberdeen.

Of the "white" crop acreage of 120, about one-half is cut with the combine, which machine is given the additional duty of threshing that grain which has been stacked.

One of the big problems at Pulrossie is that of drainage with so much of the land—some heavy clay—lying at sea level.

Indoor storage has been adopted for the potato crop, of which 12 to 15 acres of King Edward and Majestic are grown for seed. Mashlum silage and grass silage are both secured, 30 acres of the latter cut; the mashlum mixture comprises oats, peas and tares, but not beans.

Left—Six-quarter-old store cattle on Pulrossie rough grazing; bred on Proncy Nain, farmed by Mr Grant's son.

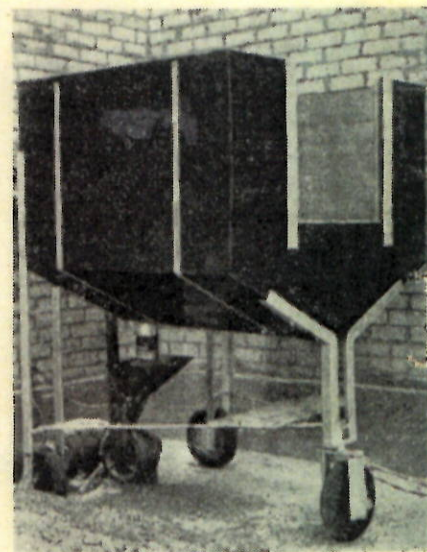
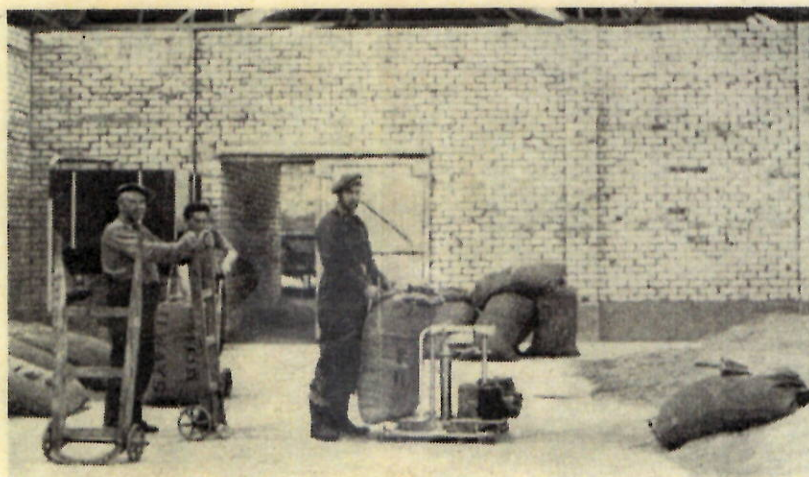
Below—Neat, small electric corn bruiser and mobile hopper for feeding bruiser; consumes comparatively little current.



Autumn scene on Pulrossie, the registered flock of North-country Cheviot ewes.



Below: Left—Mr G. J. Grant (second from right) with some of his staff—grieve Donald Gunn (31 years employment on farm), John Mackenzie, cattleman John Lockie (34 years employment with Mr Grant), Geo. Mackay and Ian Ferguson. Right—In the fine new farm buildings, built following a fire four years ago; ample accommodation for grain storage and handling in comfort.



Left—Gives some idea of the new roofing on workers' cottages were erected 1950-51; four-roomed cottages for the farm labour, turnip shed converted to a pig- and hinged divisions between feed pens

the farm buildings. Centre—These three attractive with all modern conveniences. Right—With the help feeding unit; 5 pens for 50 pigs; note auto-feeders to allow of straight-through cleaning.

