The owners of Oakwell Farm re-examined their resources and realised that their land could be better used to make an increased profit. They created a thriving children’s nursery with outdoor areas which educate, interest and stimulate little minds. They also adopted sustainable technology and started to rent out a under-used field to a local allotment group. These steps have helped to maximise income and reduce operational costs.
This summary report is taken from a suite of case studies which demonstrate that green network and green infrastructure approaches can create a profit, save money and create better solutions for businesses. The full report for Oakwell can be downloaded from: www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org

The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) will change the face of Central Scotland by restoring and improving the rural and urban landscape of the area. For further information please contact:
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"People are increasingly conscious of the need to eat healthily and to source locally grown foods, this allotment initiative is a very important signpost for the future.”
Fiona Hyslop, MSP for Linlithgow.

Formerly a dairy farm, the owners decided to diversify activities and, in 2001, they opened a children’s nursery. One of the key reasons why the business has gone from strength to strength is the development of the farm’s extensive greenspace for natural play and exploration. This asset is a unique selling point for the enterprise and, despite its remote location, the owners have seldom had to advertise to fill places at the nursery.

Also a local allotment society rents a field from the owners. This group now provides the land-owners with ten times the annual income which the former tenant used to pay to graze sheep there.