

SKILLS & MENTORING DASHBOARD

March – May 2018

RAG Status

■ Red: Behind with target ■ Amber: Nearly achieved target ■ Green: Target on track

Training

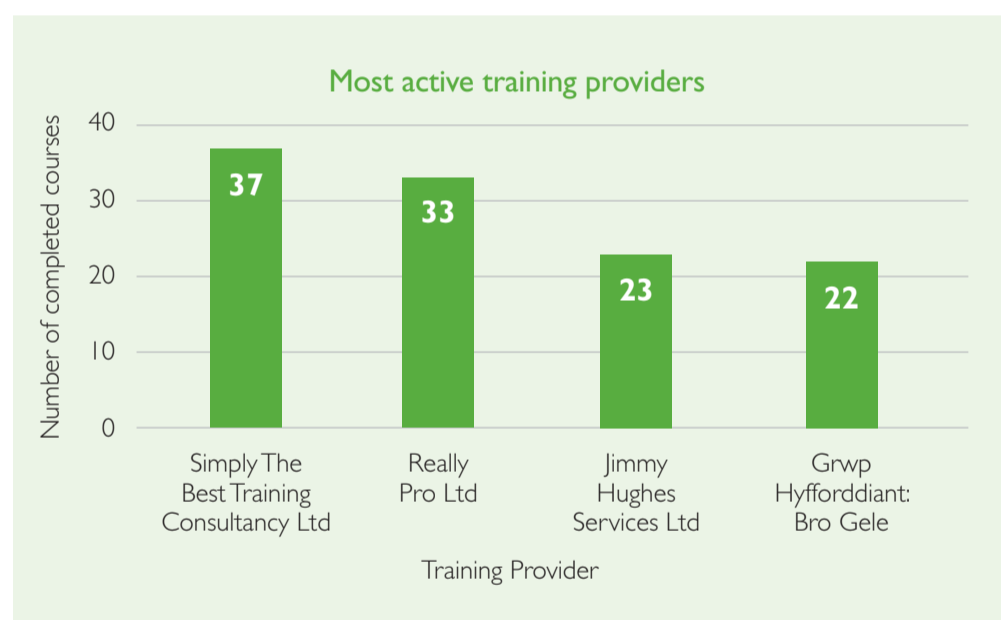
The breakdown per training category is as follows:

Category	No. of "Approved" Applications
Category 1 – Business Improvement	59
Category 2 – Technical	45
Category 3 – Machinery & Equipment Use	70
TOTAL	174

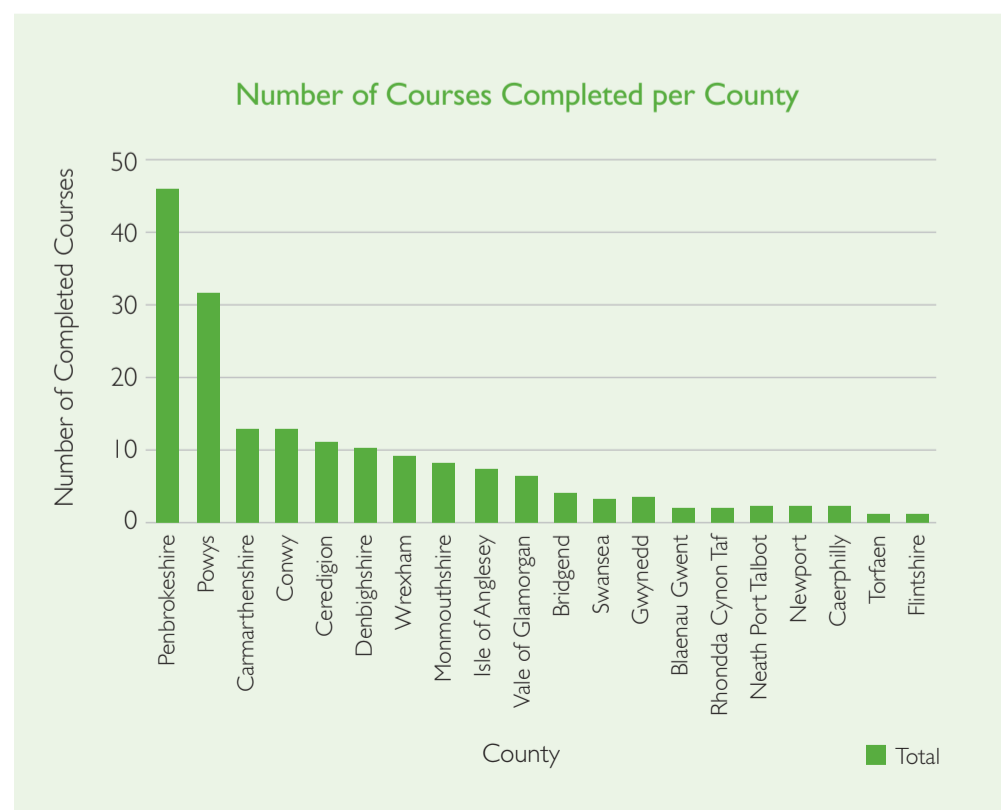
In Category 1 – Business Improvement, the most popular courses were for Business Planning and Development and Marketing your Business. The highest number of course completions within Category 2 – Technical, training was for Rodent Control on Farms, Emergency First Aid at Work and DIY AI. In Category 3 – Machinery & Equipment Use, the majority of the courses completed were pesticide related and Rough Terrain Telescopic Lift Truck.

Application Statistics

The table below shows the most active training providers within this time period, detailing the number of courses completed.



The table below gives a breakdown of the number of courses completed per county.



E-learning

A total of 52 e-learning courses are now available on the BOSS website and during this period 72 courses were completed. The most popular courses were:

Course Title	Number of Completed Courses
Health and Safety	14
Farm Finance	7
Piglet Survival – Sow Nutrition	6
Thistle Control	4

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Throughout the duration of the programme a total of 3590 clients have completed a Personal Development Plan. During this period a total of 50 new PDP's were created.



Agrigôp

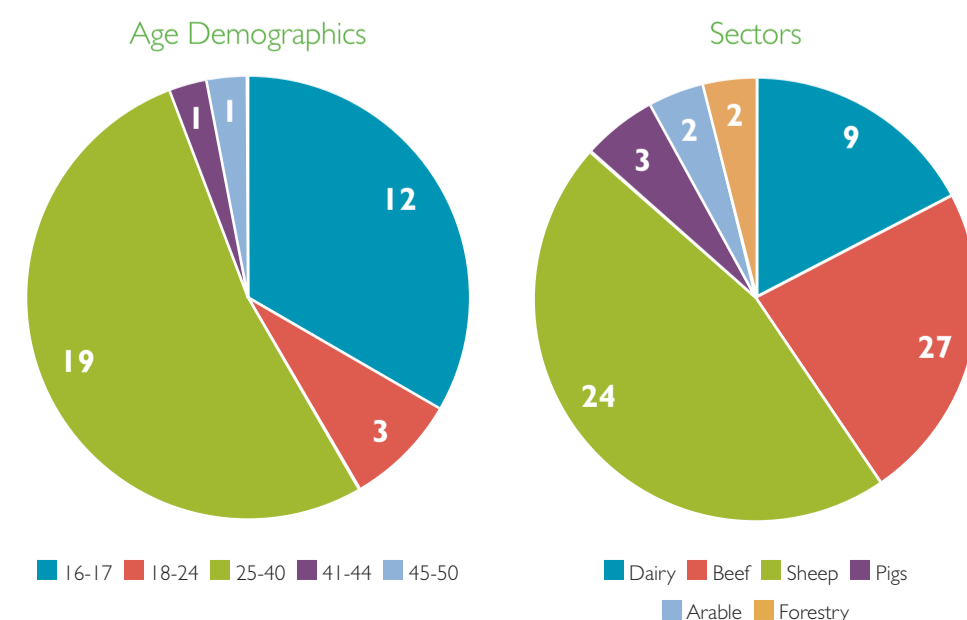
40 ACTIVE GROUPS with 372 MEMBERS attending a total of 57 MEETINGS

Discussion topics:



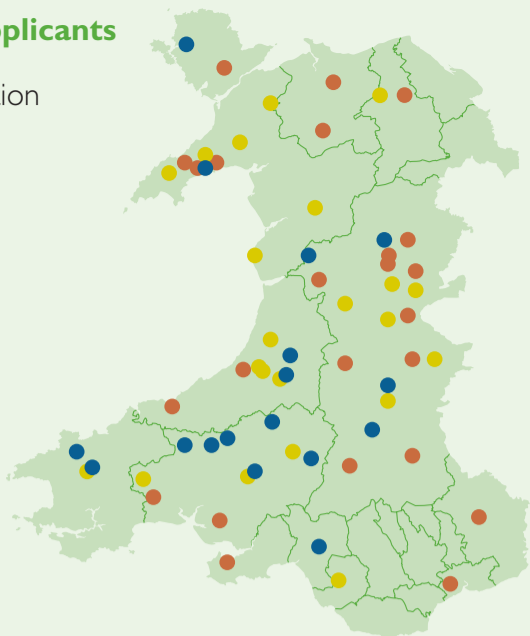
Agri Academy

36 Members Selected for Class of 2018



Map of all 2018 applicants

- Business & Innovation
- Rural Leadership
- Juniors



Management Exchange ■

John Yeomans' Management Exchange, May 2018

Aim: Expand knowledge of grassland management

Country: Finland

Exchange partners: Anu Ella and Jarkko Stoberg

During this quarter John Yeomans completed his Management Exchange. The first part of the exchange involved Anu and Jarkko visiting Wales. They attended the RWAS Grassland event and spoke at some Farming Connect events.

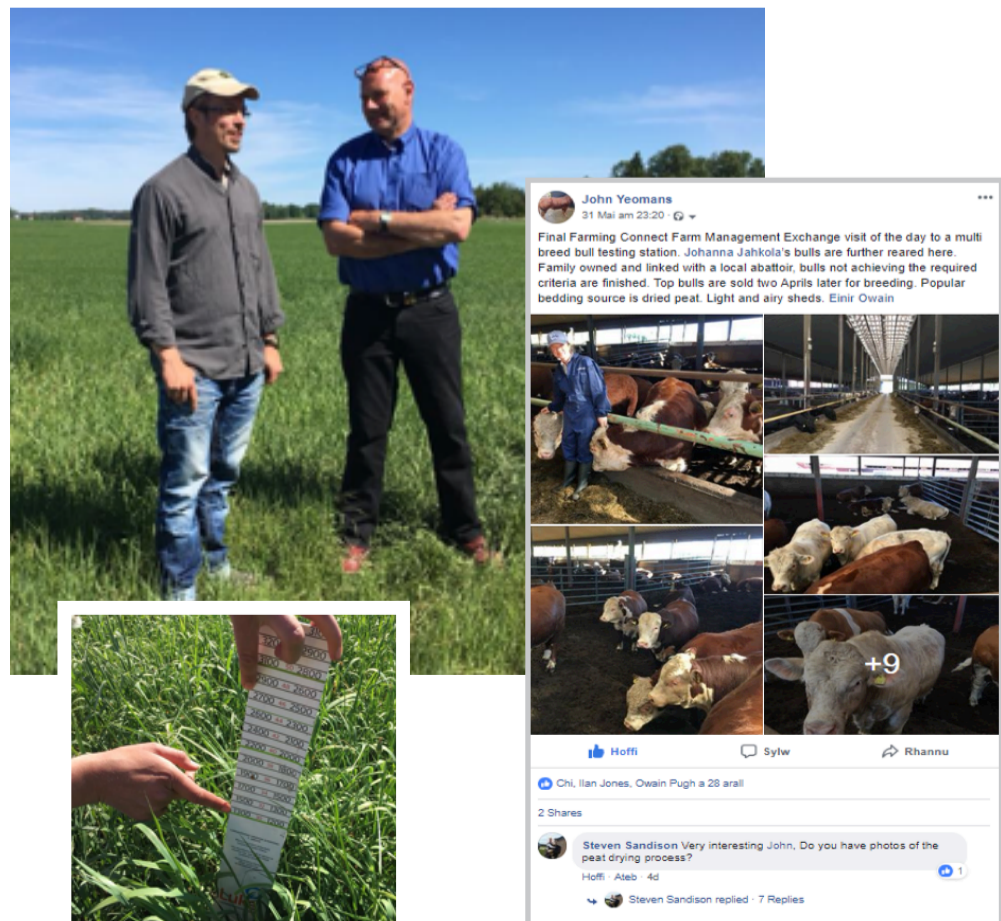
At the end of May John travelled to Finland where he and Anu visited numerous farms and grassland experts.

On the first day they met with a Finnish beef & sheep group looking at sward density & soil structure. They also discussed drought and options for silage cutting dates. They then went on to visit one of the country's top grassland farmers, Pettru Uusitalo, who used a robotic milking system. The farm produced around 13,000kg of silage in a five month growing season.

The following days included a visit to Timo Suni, an outstanding grass grower and breeder of some of the top lifetime production Ayrshires in Finland. Compaction issues and ice damage were discussed with a soil specialist. John also visited an organic farm who had been using a rotational grazing system since 2012 and put a great emphasis on temperament and cow structure. This was followed by a visit to a multi breed bull testing station which was family owned and linked with a local abattoir. On the final day John visited farmer Terho Hosike who had moved from arable and dairy to arable farming and was building up a large scale sucker herd. He also used rotational grazing to increase the herd further. John also had a chance to meet a team of consultants at Pro Agria during his time in Finland.

John posted updates on Facebook throughout his Management Exchange, attracting a lot of social media engagement from other farmers.

John's report will be available to read on the website in mid-June



Mentoring ■



136 MENTEES MENTORED



27 NEW MENTEES



49% PROGRAMME TARGET ACHIEVED

Case study:

A young farmer has avoided potential pitfalls and costly mistakes since the family beef and sheep farm converted to dairy with guidance from a Farming Connect mentor. Richard Downes farms with his parents, Terry and Jane, in their organic farming business at Cilcert Uchaf, near Tregaron.

Richard had some experience of dairying after spending three months working on a dairy farm but, as a new entrant, he was keen to take advantage of the support available through the Farming Connect Mentoring Programme. Richard's mentor was Eurig Jenkins, an established dairy farmer who farms less than four miles from Cilcert Uchaf. Eurig has since guided Richard in many ways, from advising on the siting of cow tracks to grazing strategies. "Eurig's input has without doubt saved us time and money," says 21-year-old Richard. Both men run block calving systems and, while Richard's is an autumn calving herd

and Eurig is a spring milk producer, the principles are similar. Richard says this has been beneficial. "We had our own ideas but Eurig had previously tried some of these in his own system and they hadn't worked for him so thanks to his advice we didn't have to make the same mistakes," he says.

Eurig has spent many hours with Richard at Cilcert Uchaf and has given guidance on everything from the siting of cow tracks and disease prevention to vaccination protocols and herd expansion.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Richard's mentoring experience.

New Mentors Appointed

17 new mentors have been appointed

Alan Parry Jones – Milking sheep

Andy Menzies – Goat meat

Carys Edwards – Beekeeping

Chris Hughes – Health & Safety (Woodland)

Gareth Davies – Succession

Delyth Parry – Business development and finance

Ioan Roberts – Native cattle

Glyn Davies – Health & Safety

Illtud Dunsford – Pigs & Charcutier

Lilwen Joynson – Personal development

Brian Rees – Health & Safety

Lowri Rees-Roberts – Health & Safety

Malcolm Thomas – Turkey rearing

Mark Davies – Joint Ventures, Poultry & Renewables

John Davies – Calf rearing, Rotational Grazing & Using EID

Keri Davies – Diversification, Holiday Accommodation & Renewables

Rhys Edwards – Sheep, EID, Diversification & Renewables

These mentors will be available to select on the Farming Connect website from mid-June. [Click here](#) to view the Mentor Directory.

Some highlights from our online and social media platforms:

Facebook 27/04/18

"Give it a go, there is always something you can learn from someone else. It would definitely have been more of a struggle without Eurig's input. Although the information is out there, I didn't have to go and look for it, I could get the information I needed first hand and immediately." Richard Downes about FC's Mentoring Programme.

People Reached – **5,182**

Reactions, comments & shares – **443**

Facebook 08/05/18

Planning for the future... achieving your personal goals

Are you thinking of submitting a funding application form to complete an accredited training course? A Personal Development Plan must be completed before submission. Take a look at our PDP Events designed to help you with your Plan.

People Reached – **2,450**

Reactions, comments & shares – **9**

