EIPWALES

Cydweithio er ffyniant gwledig
Collaborating for rural success

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menter a busnes

Summer 2018

EIP - A new approach to innovation

The European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) was launched by the European Commission in 2012. It aims to foster a competitive and sustainable agriculture and forestry sector that *"achieves more from less."*

Menter a Busnes delivers the EIP Wales scheme on behalf of the Welsh Government, and has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

What is EIP Wales?

The aim of EIP Wales is to solve common agricultural and forestry problems by bringing people from practical and scientific backgrounds together.

Each project can access up to **£40,000** and can run for a maximum of **3 years**.

It's an opportunity for farmers and foresters to put their ideas into practice, test new technologies or techniques.

The Requirements

The project must be innovative and be looking to tackle on farm problems. The results should benefit the wider agricultural and forestry sector. It should be looking to further apply the outcomes of primary research.

Each project group must contain:

- At least two farmers or foresters from separate businesses registered with Farming Connect.
- At least one additional member which could be a researcher, advisor, academic, non-governmental organisation or agri / forestry business member.

Innovative Projects

EIP Wales is eager to fund **45 projects** in Wales by 2023. The projects approved so far are tackling a variety of problems within the agricultural sector.

The main focus of projects:

- Technical solutions to increase productivity or resource efficiency
- Ecosystem services
- Soil functionality
- Water management
- Integrated supply chain solutions
- Benchmarking and managerial innovation for producers
- Development of new food quality and livestock health care schemes

Reducing antibiotic use at lambing time by improving nutrition and hygiene

The global burden of antimicrobial resistant infections is growing and poses a serious threat to human and animal health. This project is further developing the research that changes in flock management, mainly through improved nutrition and hygiene, can reduce the need for antibiotics and at the same time increase production, while maintaining high standards of animal health and welfare. It also provides a safe and healthy food supply when there are concerns that food producing animals may contribute to the development of human antibiotic resistance.

There is potential for global targets to be put in place to reduce antibiotic use *(per kg/animal weight)* in treated livestock, to an agreed level for each country. There is also likely to be restrictions on usage in livestock of those antibiotics that are critically important for human health. Taking measures now to reduce antibiotic use will make it easier to manage when these targets are applied.

Project Aims

- Promote responsible use of antibiotics to maintain the effectiveness of drugs and control costs.
- Increase farmer confidence in ration formulation and management practices, reducing prophylactic use of antibiotics at lambing time while maintaining and improving health and welfare.
- Improve nutrition and management practices in order to improve vigour, reduce mortality and reduce investment in finishing.
- Empower the next generation of farmers to adopt alternatives to the use of antibiotics, helping them become more resilient.

Activity so far

In the run up to the 2018 lambing season the farmers focussed on assessing the quality of their silage and the effect this was having on the ewe's nutritional status.

Generally it was discovered that silage quality was not quite reaching the target values of 72% D value, Metabolisable Energy (ME) of 11.5MJ/kg DM and a Crude protein (CP) level of 15%. Advice on feed supplementation was provided following these results.

The next stage was to carry out metabolic profiling of the ewes by having blood samples analysed. These showed that the nutritional levels of the ewes were on target but the results did show some low albumin levels. This is an indicator that the ewes are being challenged by a disease either at the current time or in the recent past. Further investigations highlighted some parasite problems including liver fluke.

During lambing the farmers looked at whether their lambs were getting enough colostrum. This was done by blood sampling some young lambs and testing for colostrum levels. On the whole, lambs were receiving a good level of colostrum in the first 24 hours which is vital for their immunity to disease. A few samples did show that some lambs were not receiving enough colostrum and in a couple of cases had received none. The farmers were able to use these results to identify where improvements could be made.

Another area of interest was whether lambs were being subjected to potential disease pathogens in the lambing pens. The samples were analysed for bacteria such as *staphylococcus*, *streptococcus* and *E. coli*. The levels on each farm varied with some farms having higher levels of *streptococcus* while others were higher for *staphylococcus*. *E.coli* was also high on a couple of farms. The farmers were able to use these results and make changes to their practices such as their lambing pen cleaning regime.

All of these investigations have armed the farmers with significant knowledge about what is going on on their farms. Reductions have already been made in the amount of antibiotic used prophylactically and the farmers are now looking ahead to where further improvements can be made next season. Monitoring of growth rates and finishing times will take place over the summer to demonstrate whether paying close attention to the ewe's health pre-lambing can reap benefits when it comes to lamb performance.

Going forward to the next lambing season, the group will continue to monitor nutrition and health parameters. In addition, the following actions will be considered:

- More detailed analysis of trace elements and minerals in silage for breeding ewes
- Blood sample lambs for colostrum absorption on 3 occasions rather than 2 and consider using refractometers on all farms
- Based on this seasons' bedding results, develop action plans for each farmer to reduce bacterial load
- Fluke count testing at scanning time and development of fluke plans

Innovation Broker: *Emma Jones (ADAS)*

Developing the Cambrian Mountains Beef group to manage and expand their short supply chain

Short food supply chains occur when farmers sell their produce directly to consumers or with minimal intermediaries. They are becoming increasingly more popular as consumers want fresh, seasonal produce and want to know where their food comes from. They represent an alternative to conventional longer food chains where small farmers often have little bargaining power and the consumer cannot trace the food to a known producer or local area.

In 2015, the Cambrian Mountains Beef Group established a successful, short supply chain with a large catering butcher who supplies hotels and high-end restaurants. The five farming businesses in the group have worked hard to get to this stage and would like to develop their group further in order to manage and expand their market in a self-sustainable manner. Through the project, the farmers will develop the skills and knowledge they need to sustain the short supply chain in the long term by taking part in a number of workshops that will look into the following areas:

- Customer relationship management
- Product promotion
- Understanding the requirements of the end user
- Red meat processing and butchery
- Effective engagement in the supply chain
- Managing social media
- Website management
- Invoicing, tax returns and administration

The group will use the resources they have developed to manage their supply chain, approach and develop relationships with potential new customers, market their own produce and manage their own website. The project will encourage the next generation of primary producers to develop their business skills and encourage self-sufficiency.

Innovation Broker: *Emma Jones (ADAS)*

Comparison of the relative environmental benefits of low impact machinery in small scale farm woodlands

Small woodlands, scattered over the countryside are a feature of the Welsh agricultural landscape. Many of these woodlands are under-managed due to their size as the high cost of larger forest machinery make it uneconomical to manage or harvest. This also has implications for biodiversity as single age structures of trees are less diverse than varied age structures. Areas choked by brambles restrict natural regeneration of trees and structural diversity. Another disadvantage of larger forest machinery is the challenge of minimising environmental disturbance. Timber harvesting can leave deep ruts where heavy machinery sink, leading to poor regeneration because of soil compaction and sedimentation in waterways because of soil surface runoff.

The use of low impact machinery has the potential to offer great benefits to the small woodland owner in Wales. These are small light weight machines such as tracked skid steers and articulated alpine tractors that have less impact on the topsoil and can also be used in less favourable weather conditions. Michael Lewis and Andrew Thomas are both farmers in the Vale of Glamorgan who are facing problems accessing their farm woodlands. They are investigating the benefits of low impact machinery to identify the most appropriate methods of minimising environmental disturbance.

Project Design

- The woodland sites will be surveyed and four representative study areas will be identified based on their uniformity in surface and subsurface site conditions *(such as soil type, slope, stand density etc.)*.
- The project seeks to quantify the volume of water and sediment concentration losses from four treatment areas, including a control *(no harvesting)*, conventional harvesting, and two low-impact forestry methods using an alpine tractor and a tracked harvester vehicle.

Innovation Broker: *Will John (ADAS)*

Feasibility study on Squill production in north Wales

White squill *(Drima maritima)* is a perennial herb that is native to the Mediterranean region. The bulbous portion of the base contains several steroid glycosides *(Bufadienolides)* which are key compounds in many anti-cough syrups. In recent years, the plant has been subject to severe uprooting and collection in its native country of origin, by pharmaceutical companies. The demand for bufadienolide is increasing.

Recent small-scale research has shown that this specific variety of squill can be grown in Gwynedd and has been proven to contain twice the active constituents than the varieties produced overseas. Five farmers are involved in the 18-month project that will investigate the ability to grow squill at various locations across North Wales. The aim is to understand the optimum growing conditions as well as harvesting and extraction techniques. During spring 2018, 200kg of squill bulbs will be planted on the trial plots, all with altering terrain, altitude, pH, and agronomy.

If results are positive, growing squill could be a diversification option for Welsh farmers.

➔ Growing

Plant trial plots of squill at a range of locations across North Wales

➔ Production

Investigate ways of harvesting and processing squill for isolating the bioactive target compounds

➔ Agronomy

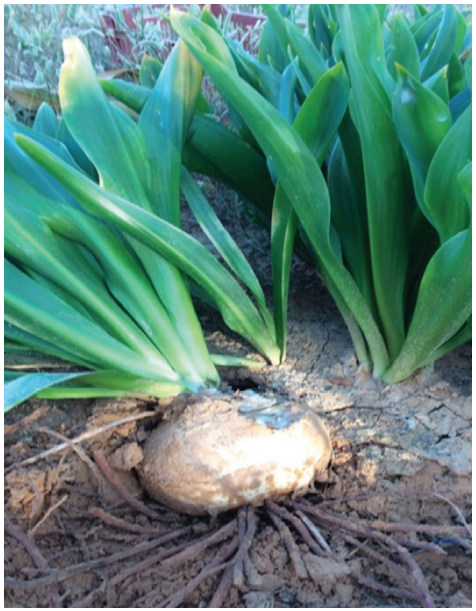
Establish data and analysis from the growing trials

➔ Market Evaluation

Identify suitable markets for the bio actives

➔ Business Model

Develop and evaluate a financial model of the business opportunity.



Innovation Broker: *Elaine Rees Jones (AgriPlan Cymru)*

Assessing the potential of genomic testing dairy heifers to increase genetic gains and financial returns

Through EIP Wales, eight North Wales farmers are aiming to maximise farm profits by accelerating the breeding progress of their dairy herds.

The reliability of traits being inherited from the traditional pedigree index is **35%**. By using genomic testing to measure DNA for production, type, fertility and health traits this can increase the reliability to **70%**.

"Bringing this modern innovation to farm scale will be very valuable to the industry by accelerating herd progression, boosting farm competitiveness and sustainability."

The project will fund the genomic testing of 410 predominantly Holstein-Friesian heifers to assess their genetic potential. The eight farms have listed the traits they're aiming to improve within their herd and progress towards these will be assessed over their first lactation.

The aims of the project:

- Produce a decision tree for using genomics
- Determine the correlation between genomic PTA's and actual performance
- Gain a better understanding of the herd's genetic profile, direction of travel and impact of breeding decisions for each participating farm.
- Produce a cost benefit analysis of genomic testing for each farm scenario.

"Through the small investment in genomic testing, breeding plans can be restructured to get the best output from the most valuable resource on the dairy farm, the herd."

All breeding females of a specific age will be tested. DNA samples will be taken from the heifers for a genetic profiling in time for first breeding at 13-15 months of age.

Innovation Broker: *Will Jones (Kite Consulting)*

Alternative forage systems for marginal land

Intensification of farming practice has resulted in the decline of species-rich, permanent pasture into fields of one or two grass species. Species-rich grasslands were once common across the UK and supported pastoral agriculture, healthy functioning soil, and diverse flora and fauna.

This spring, three upland farms in the South Wales Valleys will be reseeding 4-5 ha of marginal upland with a multi species ley alongside a conventional ryegrass/white clover ley to compare outputs from the two systems as part of a 3-year EIP project.

Project Design

- Fields will be sprayed with glyphosate to destroy the existing grass before being cultivated.
- 50% of the fields will be sown with a multi species lay containing 5 grass species, 3 legumes and 3 herb species, and 50% will be sown with ryegrass and white clover mix at 14kg/acre.
- An assessment will be made in year 1 on how well the seeds establish and how they outcompete the undesirable weed grasses and broadleaved weeds.
- In year 2 and 3 the project will monitor forage production and quality, stock performance and invertebrate populations in the new leys.

Welsh landscapes vary significantly in soil quality and fertility, therefore understanding the effectiveness of different sward compositions will allow a more efficient, targeted approach to sowing grass on marginal land.

If increased floral diversity can also reduce lamb finishing times and/or improve animal health, a true multi-species grassland could offer the potential to manage marginal land in Wales for both production and general biodiversity.

Innovation Broker: *Will John (ADAS)*

An examination of the practical and financial potential for growing small scale asparagus organically at two locations in South Wales

Asparagus has good potential in Wales as it's a high value crop which is a good draw for farm gate sales. The crop falls into the hungry gap period from the end of April to the end of June when few other crops are available in the UK. While there is a great demand for asparagus, the high establishment costs and long period before first harvest can make growing the crop unattractive to small scale growers.

The aim of this project is to monitor outputs and benchmark organic asparagus growing from establishment through to first harvest on two farms in Monmouthshire at a field scale. This will allow a thorough understanding of the practical and financial requirements of growing the crop.

As part of the 3-year project, different varieties of asparagus crowns will be planted on both farms.

- The asparagus have been planted in May this year and will be monitored for % emergence, fern numbers and height.
- In year 2, depending on the fern volume in year 1, a light pruning cut may be made, and then the fern will be left to develop. If the fern is not sufficiently strong the crop will be left to develop and fern number, height and quality will be assessed.
- In year 3 a light crop is likely to be taken at the end of May, so yields of 3 grades can be taken, jumbo, medium and sprue. Data will be gathered on weed/pest incidence, performance and costs of crop management to allow the financial benchmarking to be carried out.
- In the final year, the crop is likely to be cut in late June. A projection of the first major harvest of the crop will be made through assessing the plants from the previous autumn to early spring. Current organic retail prices will be utilised along with standard harvesting costs.

Innovation Broker: *Will John (ADAS)*

Potato blight control using components of indigenous non-food waste plants

Potato blight can hit farm profits hard as the disease can lead to complete crop failure. Recent estimates show that the control of the disease can cost the industry a staggering £70m across the UK in a bad blight year.

This project is aiding the development of a natural biopesticide by using a chemical compound *(Saponin)* sourced from common Ivy.

"This trial could result in a brand-new market opportunity, to grow common ivy commercially, and to use its natural saponin to help organic growers reduce blight infestation."

The generated biopesticide will aim to provide an effective, natural and potentially low-cost, alternative fungicide for potato blight.

"This will reduce crop wastage through decimation of crops through potato blight, and as a direct result allow increased potato sales, improved turnover and improved profitability."

The project is being led by representatives from Sarvari Research Trust and Emerald Crop Science and Naturiol Ltd. Trial plots are located on two farms, Ty'n yr Helyg near Llanrhystyd and Henfaes farm at Bangor University.

The first year's results showed that the extract was effective in slowing down the progression of the blight epidemic in the field, especially when combined with a bio stimulant. The second year will focus on trialling different variants of the extract and determining the most appropriate dosages to use in the second field trial; lab tests are already underway.

Innovation Broker: *Tony Little (ADAS)*

Electrophysical Dock control

Docks are a major problem in grassland systems. Infestation can reduce grass yields and utilisation and have only 65% of the feed value of grass. The use of herbicides to control docks can have a negative effect on clover in pasture and implications for the wider catchment ecosystem if used incorrectly. A reduction in the use of herbicides in grassland would benefit water and soil quality and preserving biodiversity.

Electrophysical destruction offers the potential benefits of controlling docks while reducing the need for herbicides. This project will be looking at the effectiveness and financial viability of using a Zasso Electroherb machine to control docks on two dairy farms near Raglan, South Wales. The machine uses high-energy electrons to apply an electric current through the leaves of the docks causing the death of all the tissues.

The electrical treatment is applied using a tractor-mounted system and is powered by the PTO. The boom which hold the set of electrodes has a width of 3-6m. The electrodes must make contact with the dock plant for control, so the boom will be on a flexible height system.

A machine will be hired over a period of two years to trial control of docks by electrophysical destruction. The main challenge for the project is to compare the effectiveness and financial viability of the Zasso Electroherb treatment against the use of herbicides in a high input dairy situation.

Innovation Broker: *Will John (ADAS)*

Pasture for pollinators

The dwindling population of wild bees and other pollinators in the UK poses a serious threat to the UK food industry. Bees play a huge role in UK agriculture by pollinating the many vegetables and fruits we eat on a daily basis, as well as some of the food our livestock depend on.

Six dairy farmers who are members of the Calon Wen Milk Co-operative are aiming to boost pollinator numbers on their farms through a 3-year project. More intensive farming and an increase in monocultural grass leys has unfortunately led to habitat loss for UK pollinator species. While there is a great deal of information on enhancing pollinators the majority of these studies have focused on arable or horticultural systems. Little attention has been given to how different farm management options in grass-based livestock farming, which is heavily dominant in Wales, can benefit pollinator populations.

A range of grassland management options will be explored on the six farms located throughout Wales:

Specialised seed mixtures (Herbal Dual Purpose Four Year Ley from Cotswold Seeds): including bird's-foot trefoil, clovers (red, white, sweet and alsike), yarrow, and other species which enhance pollinator populations.

Uncut field strips. Farmers will sow 2 seed mixes, one of which will include the 'new' mix formulated at the project's inception in partnership with a seed

company. Trial plots will be surveyed prior to first cut in late May, then again in June and July.

Late grazed flower rich/semi improved pastures. Potential sites will be identified in year one and base line data collected. The impact of delaying grazing and/or deferring grazing until the following year will be assessed in terms of pollinator populations.

The farmers, together with representatives from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and RSPB are hoping to see that simple changes to grassland management without sacrificing farm productivity and profitability can go hand in hand with bee conservation.

Innovation Broker: *Tony Little (ADAS)*

An analysis of the use of a computerised robotic weeder in small scale horticultural operations at two locations in South Wales

This project aims to compare the financial cost of two weed control methods on two small scale, organically managed horticulture units. Both Square Farm and Trealey Farm are mixed organic farms near Monmouth which grow a variety of vegetables.

As the use of herbicides are prohibited in organically managed systems, robotic equipment could hold significant benefits in undertaking crop maintenance activities such as weeding. These weeders are commonplace in larger operations but their effectiveness, and financial viability, in small scale situations has not been analysed. By trialling a computerised robotic inter-row weeder on two farms the project aims to determine the savings in terms of labour cost and time that can be made when compared with the current methods of labour intensive hand hoeing.

At each of the two sites, different treatments will be compared by doing the two different cultivation techniques in different crop types:

- Hand hoeing in field vegetable crops – Control
- Vision guided robotic weeding in field vegetable crops

These treatments will initially be carried out after the crops have been drilled, and after the first flush of weeds is seen. Then the hoeing will be repeated approximately every 3-4 weeks by the grower, or as dictated by weed growth and pressure, through the season.

After each 'weeding event' weed numbers and species will be assessed along with crop vigour and damage. A cost-benefit analysis, to identify what size of farm/level of productivity is required to make the use of the mechanisation cost effective, will be carried out, taking into account any effects of the methods on yield and crop quality.

Innovation Broker: *Will John (ADAS)*

Organic ancient cereal supply-chain

There is increasing demand from artisan bakers and more commercial outlets for ancient species of cereals which are becoming increasingly popular with consumers. There have been reports that these species may have higher levels of certain vitamins than the wheat that is commonly grown for bread-making in the UK.

Although the demand for these ancient cereal species has increased, it can be difficult to produce them in an economically viable manner, given generally low yields. There is little to no agronomic information relating to ancient cereal varieties. The ability to carry out research into the effects of different seed rates and under sowing on farm will allow the farmer group to have a better understanding of the agronomy and economics of growing the crops. Caerhys Farm, Caerfai Farm and Lower Harglodd Farm are all located in Pembrokeshire and together represent an excellent mix of experience and motivation to develop their interest in driving the market for ancient cereals in this part of West Wales.

Plots of no more than 0.3ha will be located on organically managed fields on each of the three farms with suitable uniformity in soil depth, fertility, drainage and topography. Soil fertility levels including pH, organic matter, soil

mineral nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and magnesium will be assessed prior to drilling.

The plots will be drilled with 4 different ancient cereal varieties. The two autumn sown treatments will include Hen Gymro and a seed mix of ancient wheats. The two spring sown treatments will be Emmer and Spelt. They will be grown at 3 different seed rates (low, medium and high) with and without under sowing with a legume crop. Plots will be managed as per normal host farm practises e.g. tined harrow for weed control before undersowing.

Post establishment data on plant counts, foliar disease, stem base disease, crop height, ear disease, lodging, harvest yield and quality, and baking quality will all be gathered.

Innovation Broker: *Will John (ADAS)*

Night Milk - Assessing the reliability and economic benefit

With farm-gate milk prices affected by erratic markets and decreasing demand, the need to identify unique selling points (USP'S) is more crucial than ever.

Reaching for a glass of milk is the most common go-to sleep remedy to help those struggling with sleeplessness, and there is good reason for this. Melatonin, a hormone that occurs naturally within bovine milk can help control sleep and wake cycles. Recent studies have shown that melatonin is produced in the cow's pineal gland at a higher concentration at night as there is less light hitting the cow's eye, which signals the cow's body to produce melatonin.

Two dairy farmers in the Bridgend area are using this knowledge to form an EIP project which could potentially find the best milking system to increase melatonin in their herds' milk. Both farms milk 3 times a day at 8-hour intervals. At present the milk from the three milkings is pooled together, but in this 13-month project the milk produced during daylight and darkness will be sampled separately for the melatonin levels.

To brand milk for its sleep inducing properties, levels of melatonin must be higher than 1mg per 250g of milk. This project will determine whether milk collected at night will reach this level. Factors such as seasonal variations, environmental factors and nutrition will all be monitored in order to discover the best system to increase melatonin levels.

This project could potentially offer dairy farmers in Wales the opportunity to consider developing a premium milk product that has added value and competitiveness. Rhys Lougher, Ty Tanglwyst Farm, one of the farmers involved in the project, states:

"I have always been interested in the link between melatonin in cow's milk and the potential beneficial impacts this could have for consumers in aiding sleep. EIP Wales provides the opportunity to finally conduct a study into this area and provided funding to commission Fera Science Ltd. to conduct the laboratory testing."

Innovation Broker: *Will John (ADAS)*

Investigation of the effect of contrasting dairy production systems in West Wales on the profile of milk fatty acids *(especially omega-3 and 6)*

The human body isn't capable of producing omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids. Unfortunately, most of us aren't getting enough omega-3 and tend to have much higher levels of omega-6 in our diets. This imbalance of fatty acids can negatively affect our health. Increasing our omega-3 intake and getting the right balance of the two is found to have multiple health benefits to both our mind and body.

Twenty dairy farmers from South West Wales have come together to investigate whether milk from their production systems contain valuable levels of omega-3. They aim to identify which pasture-based management practices produce the highest levels of the fatty acids. The results could give dairy farmers the opportunity to consider forage-based options as a way of producing milk with enhanced levels of omega-3. This could provide a marketing advantage without going to the extra cost of adding supplements to their forage. The group supply their milk to several different milk buyers and processors. These milk outlets could potentially take advantage of the project results by marketing the products for their high omega-3 content.

In year 1 every farm will provide monthly bulk-tank milk and feed samples for the 24-month project. Samples will be tested for their fatty-acid profile with particular emphasis on omega-3 and omega-6. Forage samples will also be collected from all 20 farms monthly, aligned with every bulk milk sample. Four dairy production systems will be examined, each consisting of five farmers representing each type of production system. These productions systems are:

- Conventional Housed Winter / Grazing Summer
- Herds housed all year round
- Organic herds
- Spring Block Calving

In year 2 of the project, the same milk sampling and feed sampling process as in year 1 will continue. Additional focus will be given to testing rations where systems are producing higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids to provide further information on the cow nutrition that produces optimum levels.

Innovation Broker: *Jeremy Bowen Rees (Landsker Business Solutions)*

Foliar feed for grassland

The majority of Nitrogen (N) fertilisers are applied to grassland systems in solid, or prill form with a spreader. The nutrients are applied to the ground before being washed into the topsoil by rain and then taken up by the root system of the plants. A host of factors such as soil compaction, drainage, bio-activity, soil temperature, dry or wet weather can affect the nutrient release and uptake by the grass with this method.

There is another, quicker, method of getting nitrogen directly into the grass, which is through the leaves of the plant. Leaves have pores between cell structures which can be good entry point for nutrients. Previous trials have proven that foliar feeding (through the leaves) fertiliser directly to the grass can decrease the amount of total nitrogen necessary whilst minimising nitrogen losses through runoff.

This project, involving four farms in Pembrokeshire, aims to assess the extent to which using a foliar feed that is based on urea and humic acid can reduce the application of conventional N fertiliser to grass. They aim to investigate the effectiveness of using foliar feed, which is more commonly used in horticulture systems, on a grassland system. For it to be successful, the quality and quantity of dry matter of the grass, as well as the clover content must not be compromised.

On each of the four farms, one large field will be split into three sections of equal size and the following treatments will be compared:

- Nitrogen fertiliser, as per current/ standard practice
- Foliar feed
- No fertiliser

The performance of each plot will be measured in terms of:

- Dry matter yield
- N content of fresh grass tissue
- Costs of N application per tonne of dry matter
- Clover content to assess the impact on species composition of the sward

Innovation Broker: *Tony Little (ADAS)*

The EIP Wales Process

Step 1 – The first step is to share your idea with us through the enquiry form on the Farming Connect EIP Wales web page.

Step 2 – We will discuss your idea with you to see if it falls within the scope of EIP Wales.

Step 3 – The Knowledge Exchange Hub at IBERS will undertake background literature searches to see what is already known about your subject area to help inform a potential project.

Step 4 – If your idea is within the scope of EIP Wales, you will have the opportunity to work with an Innovation Broker. An Innovation Broker will help you turn your idea into a project and guide you through the application process, and if your application is successful, facilitate the project throughout its lifetime.

Step 5 – At the end of the project, hopefully a solution to the problem has been found. The results will then be shared with the wider agriculture and forestry sectors across Europe.

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Tell us about your project idea!

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