



Accredited Training



52 individuals were supported from



42 businesses

Popular courses included:

Course	Number of claims
DIY AI	30
Calf Management, Health and Housing (for both beef and dairy sectors)	10
First aid for Feet (cattle)	18
Safe Use of Sheep Dip	7
Safe Use of Vet & Med	3
Cattle Scanning	5
Lambing Techniques	1

Feedback:

"An excellent course, learnt a great deal, very detailed, practical session very good too, well organised, very worthwhile." (DIY Course)

"When we get to August, I will be able to use the skills learnt at home with our own calves." (Calf Management)

E-learning



91

Individuals Supported

58

Businesses Supported

Popular modules completed included:

Course	Number of claims
Mandatory Unit: Artificial Insemination	30
Mandatory Unit: Cattle Lameness	27
Abortion in Ewes	3
Lambing: the Basics	3
Castration of Calves	2
Lambing Survival	2
Eye Conditions in Cattle	2
Biosecurity (Livestock and Arable)	2
Antibiotic Resistance	2

Knowledge Exchange Hub



Calf Housing and bovine respiratory disease

Podcast



Episode 98: Ammonia – the issue and how to limit emissions from farming practices



Welsh Sheep Genetics Programme



Breeding for Reduced Methane Project:

1,153



Data collected from 1,153 lambs for reduced methane emissions project in 2023/2024.

Aim: To build a data set that will allow methane EBVs in hill flocks.

Data collection commenced in December 2023 and January 2024, which included CT scanning to measure rumen volume and changes, as well as PAC (portable accumulation chambers) to measure methane emissions from each lamb involved in the project.

Key findings so far:

PAC Chambers:

- A lot of variation in methane emissions between flocks
- Highest 20% of the flock emits 30-50% more methane in comparison to the lowest 20% of the flock.



CT Scanning:

- Heavier lamb = larger rumen
- Average rumen volume of 4.5 litres (adjusted for LWTV)
- Variation of 1-2 litres either side of average within flocks

Mentoring



42 Individuals have accessed mentoring



132 hours of mentoring



102 mentoring sessions



38% of all sessions were related to this theme

Topics covered in mentoring sessions include:

- Sheepdog handling
- Livestock nutrition
- Calving
- Lambing husbandry
- Genomic improvement of dairy herd
- Breeds for conservation grazing

Extracts from mentoring diaries include:

1. We talked about the importance of ewe nutrition and husbandry before/during lambing.
2. More discussion on the pros and cons of the mentees suckler herd. They have lost two or three months on their start of calving date. Mentee to consider blood testing half a dozen.
3. The dog is responding well to left and right commands and is better on the stop command. Both dog and handler have improved as she has got firmer with the dog and he listens better to her commands.

Our Farms Network



33 Our Farms Projects focussing on livestock, including:



Graianfryn:

› [Improving calf health & welfare](#)



Try Out Fund:

› [Transition milk trial targets calf health](#)



Pan-Wales project:

› [Welsh Udder health & milking performance benchmarking group](#)
 › The project aims to benchmark udder health and milking efficiency on four dairy farms across Wales to determine the effect of greater cost-effective management strategy on milk quality, mastitis cases and AMR use on farms

Discussion Groups



48 discussion group meetings took place

407

Attendees



109 hours of CPD

Keywords: Finishing Beef, Mastitis, Animal diseases, Concentrate v's forage, Optimising milk production

Advisory Service



The Advisory Service supported the following instances of advice to eligible businesses in Wales:

166

Animal Health

12

Livestock Management and Performance

Feedback:

"Review milking routine and reduce udder issues"

"Very thorough explanation and information."

Strategic Awareness Events



5 Events

97

Attendees

Events included: Making the most of your EID equipment for genetic improvement, Breeding and Genetics event at Carmarthen market

Agrisgôp



6 Agrisgôp meetings have taken place

39

Attendees



17 hours

Groups focused on:

1. Reviewing the successes and challenges in relation to foot health on one of the group members farms. The lesion data was reviewed and benchmarked against other members and the mobility scores discussed. Take home messages were regarding water trough space, heat mitigation and flooring surfaces. Action points suggested by the group.
2. The Pembrokeshire TB group considered future meeting topics including: Pasteurisation of colostrum and whole milk for calf feeding, BCG vaccination of cattle, TB isolation units, business continuity during a TB breakdown, TB tests, cattle movements and informed purchasing, slurry management, biosecurity, organic and ramifications to TB.
3. The red meat efficiency group went on a study visit to: Wales Veterinary Science Centre at Aberystwyth to learn about the benefits of post mortem in early identification of disease. IBERS at Aberystwyth University to learn more about the new varieties of grasses and red clover and how different varieties are developed to withstand drought or lower phosphate levels. Maesllwyni farm with Dafydd Parry Jones where clover is being used to provide a high protein crop for the farm's livestock.

Animal Health and Welfare



20

Workshops delivered

226

Individuals supported

165

Business supported

Workshop topics included:

Workshop topic	Individuals supported
Lambing Losses Part 2: Post Lambing Losses from Birth to Weaning	54
Sheep Lameness	41
Improving Post Weaning Lamb Performance	25
Understanding Johne's Disease	24
Sheep Parasite Control Part 1: Roundworms & Blowfly	20
Antibiotic Resistance	15
Reducing Lameness in Dairy Cattle	14
Lambing Losses Part 1: Abortion & Nutrition	13
Maximising Suckler Cow Productivity	12
Optimising fertility: managing the dairy cow from drying off to submission	8

