



Protect & Enhance The Farm Ecosystem

Our Farms Network



Establishing and managing herbal leys webinar was delivered to introduce the Pan-Wales Welsh Herbal Leys Project -

FEEDBACK

"I found the webinar very interesting – among the best Farming Connect webinars that I've attended."

"I thought it was a very interesting and stimulating webinar"

Mentoring



115 mentoring meetings have taken place



No. of Meetings

- Soil health **13**
- Mixed farming **4**
- Benefits of using rare and native breeds **1**
- Managing and creating in-field and semi-natural habitats **16**
- Lowering the risk of diffuse pollution (water quality) **80**
- Efficient water use (including harvesting and storage) **1**

Extracts from mentoring diaries include:

"I talked through the agri pollution workbook, nutrient management plan and risk maps with the mentee."

"We discussed the need for the mentee to seek agronomy advice in order to decide the best way to cultivate the site taking into account the condition and weed infestation and the growing methods that the mentee wished to employ."

"We discussed appropriate tree choices for a silvopasture with horses and potential problems with certain trees being too rich for a horse's diet. We looked at a recently planted new woodland and talked about how to use a mycorrhizal inoculant to enhance growth."

E-Learning



Modules on offer

16

Individuals Supported

20

Businesses Supported

12

Modules completed included:

- E-Learning: Agrochemicals - Daffodils and Alzheimer's
- E-Learning: An Introduction to Sustainable Farming
- E-Learning: Organic Horticulture

New Modules Available on BOSS:

- E-Learning: Building Soil Fertility (slurry/muck, crop rotation, green manures)
- E-Learning: Nutrient management planning
- E-learning: Protect and enhance farm ecosystems

New Accredited E-learning suites:

- Transition to SFS: An Introduction to Sustainable Farming

Advisory Service



Instances of Advices supported:



Business Planning: 25



Grassland and Crop Management: 135



Livestock: 3

Feedback

"Following this advice I will use a more targeted use of nutrients"

"The results following this advice has supported us make the decision on when it's best to apply fertiliser to the fields"

Discussion Groups



Themes	Number of Discussion Groups	Number of Attendees	Hours of CPD
Protect and enhance the farm ecosystem	30	169	81
Lowering the risk of diffuse pollution	1	8	3.5
Mixed Farming	6	46	15
Soil Health	23	115	61

Key Words:

- Grazing Management · Control of quality and quantity · Herbal Leys
- Biosecurity · Soil Sampling · Nitrogen availability

Masterclasses



13 masterclasses focusing on the key themes: water quality, mixed farming, soil health, mixed farming and efficient water use have been delivered to **250** attendees.

Feedback:

"This Masterclass taught me how to look after soils & resilient systems"

"I have gained a much broader understanding of the life cycles of parasites and also the best quarantine practice"

Agrisgôp



7 Agrisgôp meetings have taken place:



6 Soil health



1 Mixed farming



2 Efficient water use (including harvesting and storage)

Groups that met during this period focussed on:

A visit to Tyn Bryn Farm, Pentrefoelas with a talk from farm manager Dewi Llion. A discussion was had on the aims of the farm to use no artificial fertiliser, and no concentrates for their herd of Jersey cross dairy cows. Dewi also explained how the Johnsonsue Bioreactor on the farm was able to turn waste milk into organic fertiliser. The group were impressed by the regenerative aims of the farm.

The group met up with officers from Welsh Water, NRW and university professor for food to discuss the proposal drawn up by the group on farmer collaboration within the Teifi Catchment to promote best practice for farming for the environment, community, and Welsh language.

The group received a presentation from Germinal seeds on the properties of clover and herbal leys and their environmental and production benefits such as soil health improvement and reduction in artificial fertiliser application.

Clinics



361 clinics completed. Topics included:



Soils



Water

Feedback:

"Very happy with the soil sampling experience. Both practical and the follow up calls from the advisor to discuss results details. Very comprehensive report."

"Excellent service that will definitely help me as I'm trying to start a water bottling business"

Strategic Awareness Events



8

Events

261

Attendees

Events included:

- > Skills, Nutrient Planning and Carbon Calculating
- > New slurry storage regulations - Are you prepared?

Horticulture



HORTICULTURE TRAINING

2 Horticulture events supported **16** individuals from **13** different businesses.

Events included:

- > Soil health
- > Setting up as a sustainable farmer/grower

Feedback:

"Great to have large scale agriculture perspective and specialist from that end of the sector, also great how that knowledge was tailored for smaller scale production."

- Soil Health training

"Very encouraging, inspiring and informative day."

- Setting up as a sustainable grower.

HORTICULTURE BUSINESS SUPPORT

2 Horticultural business support sessions supported **2** individuals from **2** different businesses.

Feedback:

"The trainer is very knowledgeable and supportive of our future plans as a business, it is amazing to have access to these experts in the industry"

- Agronomy support

Accredited Training



Courses on Offer	Individuals Supported	Hours of Training	Businesses Supported
8	16	293	15

Courses completed included:

- Safe Use of Sheep Dip - BASIS Foundation in Agronomy (Agriculture)
- Agronomy Course (Agored)

Quote from Safe Use of Sheep Dip Course:

"Very helpful training"

"Use what I've learnt and take back to farm"

Surgeries



67 Surgeries completed. Topics included -



Grassland



Regenerative agriculture & Biodiversity



Carbon

"After the discussion I will move forward with calculating our farm's carbon footprint."

Through these surgeries businesses looked at a variety of different things such as how to calculate their farms carbon footprint, grazing management including setting up rotational grazing and discussing ideas of the best ways to utilise certain areas of land such as peat bog on the farm.

