



Protect & Enhance The Farm Ecosystem

Our Farms Network



220 farms involved in the network

30 on-farm trials focusing on soil health, mixed farming, water quality, efficient water use, natural flood management, managing and creating in-field and semi-natural habitats including:

- [Wallog](#) | Farming Connect
- [Treathro](#) | Farming Connect
- [Regenerating Existing Woodland at Glyn Arthur Farms Through Management](#) | Farming Connect
- [‘Try Out Fund’ dairy farmer aims to increase soil biology](#) | Farming Connect

Discussion Groups



Protect and enhance the farm ecosystem

13 Discussion Groups **77** Attendees **37.5** hours of CPD

Lowering the risk of diffuse pollution

5 Discussion Groups **27** Attendees **13.5** hours of CPD

Soil Health

13 Discussion Groups **77** Attendees **40** hours of CPD

Key words: Grazing Management, Control of quality and quantity, Herbal Leys, Biosecurity, Soil Sampling, Nitrogen availability.

Knowledge Exchange Hub



Literature review

› Mycorrhizal Fungi and Rhizobacterial Inoculants in Agriculture

Masterclasses



What habitats have we got on farm and how to manage them – masterclass with Gwent Wildlife Trust.

Feedback:

“I learned that we are already doing quite a bit for biodiversity.”
“Already doing similar management and the event has given me the confidence to continue.”

Mentoring



334 hours of mentoring have taken place



- Lowering the risk of diffuse pollution (water quality) **82**
- Managing and creating in-field and semi-natural habitats **16**
- Soil health **5**
- Efficient water use (including harvesting and storage) **5**
- Mixed farming **4**
- Natural flood management **2**
- Benefits of using rare and native breeds **2**

Extracts from mentoring diaries include:

- 1) We went through the mentee's Agriculture Pollution Workbook, Risk Maps and discussed what things an inspection might bring to light.
- 2) We looked around the farm at the fields, livestock, boundaries and water. Livestock looked excellent. We discussed rotational grazing, improving grass leys, livestock performance and water supply.

Advisory Service



The Advisory Service supported the following instances of advice:

23 Business Planning Categories **122** Animal Health
3 Agri-Environment, ecosystem services & biodiversity **12** Livestock
290 Grassland and Crop Management

Feedback: “A very detailed report, with excellent feedback on the night from the adviser. Highly recommendable”.

Feedback:

“I have gained a better understanding of how to complete online paperwork and record on-farm information on Excel Spreadsheets. I am working through the agri-pollution workbook now that I have a better understanding of ICT.”

Agrigôp



5 Agrigôp meetings have taken place



- Soil health 3
- Mixed farming 1
- Efficient water use (including harvesting and storage) 1

E-learning



35

Individuals Supported

14

Businesses Supported

Of the 25 modules available on BOSS, 14 topics were completed by individuals.

Modules completed included:



- Protect and Enhance Farm Ecosystems
- Improving Soil Health
- Identifying Farmland Habitats

New modules now available include:



- Technology For Monitoring Wildlife
- Identifying Farmland Habitats
- Lowering External Inputs to Maximise Profits and Benefit The Environment

Horticulture Training



5 Horticulture events supported
36 individuals
from 26 different businesses

Events included:

- › Soil Health Training
- › Oxton Organics study visit – soil health building techniques
- › Vineyard training

Feedback: "Really helpful and relevant. Great that the consultant talked about non chemical treatments and working alongside nature".
– (Soil Management for a healthy and productive vineyard, including cover crops).

Accredited Training



17

Individuals Supported

11

Businesses Supported

233

Hours of Training

Of the 9 courses that are available on BOSS, the following were undertaken by individuals:

- › Safe Use of Sheep Dip
- › The Maintenance, History and Ecological Principles of Wildflower Meadows
- › BASIS Foundation in Agronomy (Agriculture)
- › Basic Management and Maintenance of ponds and Wetlands

New courses now available include:

- › Grassland Systems

Feedback: "How to calculate the quantity of dip as well as information of the types of diseases we are dipping for".
(Sheep dip course).

"A great deal about the importance of botanical species in regard to understanding the health of wetland systems". (Ponds & Wetlands course).

Strategic Awareness Events



7 Events

201

Attendees

Events included:

- › Farming for Water Quality
- › Farm Infrastructure Planning
- › Nutrient Management Investment Scheme

Clinics



31

Clinics completed

Topics included:
Woodland | Grassland |
Water | Soils

Surgeries



7

Surgeries completed

Topics included:
Infrastructure

Podcast



The following episode was included in the Ear to the Ground podcast:

Episode 104: What is healthy soil?

For more episodes visit the [website](#).

