April – June 2024

Reduce on farm emissions and maximise carbon sequestration

FARMING connect
cyswllt FFERMIO

Our Farms Network

220 farms involved in the network

36 on-farm trials focusing on energy efficiency, renewable energy, animal health improvement cycle, genetic improvement, agroforestry, woodland and hedgerow management including:

- Transition milk trial targets calf health at Pembrokeshire dairy farm
- Nut trial looks at viability of producing walnuts in Wales | Farming Connect
- Glanalders | Farming Connect
- Use of IVF Technology for rapid gain in the genetic potential of block calving herds in Wales | Farming Connect

Mentoring

99 hours of mentoring have taken place

81 meetings held

- Hedgerow management cycle **34**
- Woodland management **28**
- Animal Health Improvement Cycle **10**
- Incorporating trees (including agroforestry) **9**

Animal Health and Welfare Workshops

180	130	540	16
Individuals Supported	Businesses Supported	Hours of Training	Workshops Delivered

Workshops included:
Improving Post Weaning Lamb Performance | Sheep Parasite Control Part 1: Roundworms & Blowfly | Antibiotic Resistance | Reducing Lameness in Dairy Cattle

Feedback: On Post Weaning course: *"As a result of this event intend to turn weaned lambs out to pasture with grass of ideal height."*

Discussion Groups

Reduce on farm emissions and maximise carbon sequestration
17 Discussion Groups with 130 attendees, 44 hours of CPD

Animal Health Improvement Cycle
15 Discussion Groups with 115 attendees, 39 hours of CPD

Making use of genetic improvement
5 Discussion Groups with 31 attendees, 10 hours of CPD

Key words: Animal Health, Rotational Grazing, Reduce risk, Data collection, Input costs, Overheads.

Feedback: *"An excellent group that stretches and challenges individuals to question their business performance and lifestyle."*

Clinics

31 Clinics completed

Topics included: EID Clinic | Soils | Grassland

Feedback: *"A great Clinic to learn how to use the software on the EID Stick Reader. It taught us how to use the data collected in a more efficient way."*

Strategic Awareness Events

15 Events **382** Attendees

Events included:

- Farming for Water Quality
- Benefits of Multi Species Leys
- Improve overall soil function on your farm

Technical Article

- Alternative Bedding Options for Dairy Cows: Recycled Manure Solids
- Why every Welsh farm should set a goal to increase soil organic carbon
- Opportunities for the Valorisation of Manure and Slurry and its Use Within a Circular Economy
- Phytoremediation: The Role of Plants to Purify Agricultural Wastewaters

Surgeries

7 Surgeries completed

Topics included: Infrastructure

Accredited Training

50 Individuals Supported

41 Businesses Supported

757 Hours of Training

Of the 925 courses that are available on BOSS, the following were undertaken by individuals:

- Practical hedge laying
- Chainsaw maintenance and cross-cutting
- Cattle Scanning
- Woodland Management for Conservation

New courses now available include:

- Health & Safety Awareness of Forestry and Woodland Operations for Landowners
- Fencing and Gate Installation Post and Strained Wire

Feedback: Individuals attending the Cattle Scanning course reported learning: *"How to safely scan cows, will be able to use the skills on own farm to help improve on farm efficiencies".* Cattle scanning course

Advisory Service

The Advisory Service supported the following instances of advice:

19 Business Planning Categories

146 Animal Health

2 Agri-Environment, ecosystem services & biodiversity

3 Livestock

198 Grassland and Crop Management

Feedback: *"We looked at the use of vet and med in more detail. Looking at preventative vaccines to be more resilient to potential animal health and welfare problems".*

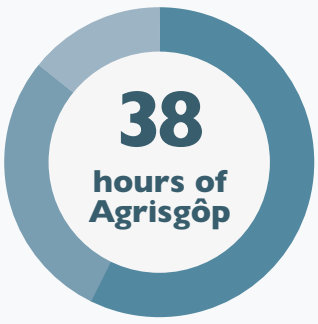
Welsh Sheep Genetics Programme

The Welsh Sheep Genetics Programme, alongside EID specialist Matt Blyth, hosted on-farm and online EID clinics, focusing on ensuring more effective use of performance recording equipment, and ensuring participating flocks are as efficient and productive as possible.

After benefiting from an WSGP EID clinic, Emyr Owen continued to improve the EID system at the Rhug Estate by taking advantage of the Advisory Service, another of Farming Connect's services. More information can be found here.

Agrisgôp

15 Agrisgôp meetings have taken place



- Animal health improvement cycle **8**
- Incorporating trees (including agroforestry) **4**
- Energy efficiency and producing renewable energy **3**

E-learning

90 Individuals Supported

56 Businesses Supported

Of the **78 modules available on BOSS, 22 topics were completed** by individuals.

Modules completed included:

Antibiotic Resistance
Sustainable Use of Anthelmintics
Reducing Emissions and Improving Sequestration on Farm
Biosecurity (Livestock and Arable)

New modules now available include:

NEW

An Overview of the UK Grid
Understanding Your MPAN and Your Energy Bill
Hedgerow Management Cycle

Casestudy

West Wales Farm Boosting Sustainability and Reducing Feed Costs through Farming Connect Try Out Fund.

Knowledge gained from Farming Connect mentor strengthens farm business

Podcast

The following Ear to the Ground podcast episodes were released highlighting the following topics:

Episode 4: People, purpose, processes and potential' are key ingredients to running a successful team

Episode 102: Getting the most of silage at lambing – planning and monitoring starts now – Part 2

For more episodes visit the website.

Ariennir gan **Lywodraeth Cymru**
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