



Reduce, reuse, and recycle inputs, nutrients and waste

Discussion Groups



270 Discussion groups meetings - 652 Hours of Knowledge Transfer - 1784 Individuals Supported

Examples of meeting topics:

- › Spring Grazing Management
- › Vaccination Programming
- › Wintering Feed Options
- › Grazing Infrastructure Planning
- › Herbal Leys and Forage Crops
- › Suckler Beef Nutrition
- › Milk Quality & Hygiene
- › Cow Signals

Knowledge Exchange Hub



5 literature reviews focusing on opportunities for genetics improvement within sheep breeding for better health, improved eating quality and sustainable future.

Accredited Training



27 businesses were supported.
30% of individuals supported were in the 25-40 age group

Courses on Offer	Individuals Supported	Hours of Training
21	30	211

Courses included:
Level 2 Award in Rodent Management
/ Safe Use of Vet & Med

Feedback:
Trainee quote (Rodent Management Course):
"The entire course was essential learning and knowing the difference between rats and mice and ways of controlling them without using poison was ideal".

Agrisgôp



5 Agrisgôp meetings have taken place

- Nutrient management planning & soil testing **3**
- Antibiotic resistance **1**
- Grassland management (including multi-species swards and mixed grazing) **1**

Groups that met during this period focussed on:

1) The properties of red and white clover, plantain and lotus. The environmental benefits in terms of reduced use of artificial fertilisers and soil improvement from using clovers and herbal leys was discussed and the growing conditions and specific management of each type of plant required.

2) Cow lameness group reviewed trimming data and how the data altered priorities in terms of targeting lameness interventions.

3) Talked about best practice for farming within the Teifi Valley and how to educate the public and other farmers about good farming practices relating to air and water quality.

Mentoring



32.1 hours of mentoring have taken place

Topic	No. meetings
Nutrient management planning & soil testing	4
Building fertility (slurry/muck, crop rotation, green manures)	1
Grassland management (including multi-species swards and mixed grazing)	8
Nutrient management planning & soil testing	4

Extracts from mentoring diaries include:

- “Extend the existing track network at top of farm to utilise more grazing acres for cows. Improve young stock ground grazing infrastructure (water, fencing) to allow better utilisation of grass.”
- “The mentee and I discussed which seeds would best suit compacted clay soils.”

Advisory Service



Instances of advice delivered:

- 78** Business Planning Advice
- 85** Animal Health advice
- 3** Technical - Agri environment, ecosystems services & biodiversity
- 207** Technical - Grassland & Crop Management
- 9** Technical - Livestock Management & Performance

Feedback: "The adviser was fantastic, as informative as ever and extremely helpful." "I was very happy with the steps taken from start to finish, and very happy with the thorough advice given."

Welsh Sheep Genetic Programme



A study tour to Scotland was held during December 2023, with **34 individuals** present. The study tour focused on the use of genetics and flock health practices within different farming systems.

Visit feedback:

"The importance of future proofing the business to be less reliant on support payments by using technology and EBVs to find the 'sweet spot' on the farm, whether it's the correct stocking rate or the balance between food production and the environment."

Surgeries



49 Surgeries were completed

"I found the surgery to be both useful and interesting. I was provided with valuable information both during the surgery and also in the subsequent letter of advice."

E-Learning



66 businesses were supported
40% of individuals supported
 were in the 25-40 age group

Modules on Offer	Individuals Supported
51	99

Modules completed included:

E-Learning: Mandatory Unit: Pesticide Safety
 E-Learning: Mandatory Unit: Cattle Lameness
 E-Learning: Abortion in Ewes

New Modules Available on BOSS:

E-Learning: An Introduction to Sustainable Farming
 E-Learning: Keeping your plants healthy in a commercial setting
 E-Learning: Overview of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Inputs, Nutrients and Waste

Horticulture



Horticulture Training

2 Horticulture events supported **28 individuals** from **22 different businesses**.

Events included: Key strategies for establishing a pumpkin crop for your horticulture tourism enterprise / Vineyard - Winter pruning training.

Feedback:

Thank you for this online meeting, it has encouraged us to look at more initiatives through Farming Connect. It was a great session and nice to have input from other growers. - Key strategies.....

Great course, really well presented good practical and presentation. - Vineyard training

→ 92.5 % of all evaluations received within this period rated the content of the day as 5 out of 5 (excellent).

HORTICULTURE BUSINESS SUPPORT

9 Horticultural business support sessions supported **13 individuals** from **8 different businesses**.

Feedback: We have received good advice on a range of subjects including Pest and Disease management. These experts have the knowledge for you to extract.

Animal Health and Welfare Workshops



358 unique individuals from **278 businesses** were supported

Workshops Topics Delivered Included:

Optimising Fertility - Managing the Dairy cow from drying off to submission / Sheep Lameness / Lambing Losses Part 1: Abortion & Nutrition

Individuals Supported	Training Hours Delivered	Workshops Delivered
421	1263	28

Feedback from attendees:

"Very informative talk, clear and well explained."

"Very good presentation & informative."

Strategic Awareness Events



12 Events **302** Attendees

Events included:

- New slurry storage regulations - Are you prepared?
- Nutrition and silage quality

Feedback:

"It's important that we attend these events to remind ourselves that we aren't the only ones in this position and that there is support out there for us through Farming Connect."

Masterclasses



448 attendees across **29 Masterclasses** including:

- Opportunities and benefits of trees on farms
- Focusing on genetic results with Matt Harding, Bentley Suffolks
- Responsible use of medicines in the dairy herd
- Control of Agricultural Pollution

Feedback:

"Lots of practical tips gained and leaving with a better understanding of withdrawal days after using antibiotics."

Our Farms Network

Welsh Pasture Project - 2023 end of year report

"There are many farmers, myself included, who have been measuring and monitoring grass for a good number of years. If we can encourage others to do that through the Welsh Pasture Project and utilise that information then this project has been successful."

- Dairy farms = 13.4tDM/ha grown
- Beef and/or sheep farms = 8tDM/ha grown



5 Knowledge Transfer events with 83 attendees including:

- Farm walk with Matt Swarbrick at Henbant
- Creating and managing buffer zones to watercourses
- Pre-lambing nutrition
- Getting ready for 2024 grazing season: planning starts now!

Clinics



460 clinics were completed

Examples of clinics:

Soil Sampling Water Sampling

"Thank you for the soil clinic, it was very beneficial, we are in the process of adding nutrients to the soil as a result."

