



# Sustainable Land Management

## Our Farms

15 Focus Farms have joined the [Our Farms Network](#) focusing on the SLM outcomes (some projects focus on more than one). The most common outcomes are:

5 Discussion group projects have started with 85 farmers across a range of discussion groups focusing on:



## Masterclasses

1124 attendees across 78 Masterclasses including:

The Masterclass events directly align with the SLM outcomes, whilst also contributing to other outcomes indirectly, the highest numbers of attendees were in events covering the following SLM outcomes:

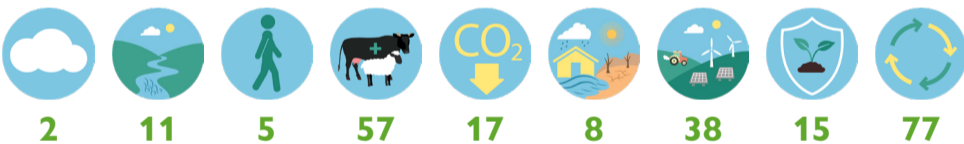
- > Resource efficient
- > Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- > Clean Water
- > High animal health and welfare

### Feedback:

*"Exceptional day. I had never heard of dung beetles before and their role in a resilient ecosystem. Enjoyed the Faecal Egg Count demo and how this can have a positive impact on animal health & welfare"*

## Discussion Groups

SFS Categories & Number of Discussion Group Meetings



### Examples of meeting topics:

Herbal Leys and root crops | Agri Pollution | Nutrition | Genetics and EBV's - Sheep and cattle | Benchmarking | Infectious diseases in poultry | Farming Business Design

## Mentoring

516.9 hours of mentoring have taken place

Extracts from mentoring diaries include:

- 1) We looked at various methods of establishing plantings in fields while continuing to graze with sheep, some biomass crops which would be appropriate for horticultural mulch / compost and wind-firm species that could be used as a shelter belt with severe maritime exposure.
- 2) We discussed the mentee's current VAT filing protocol and if there was a more affordable way to file her VAT. I showed her examples of other filing systems and how they could work for her. We also looked at the efficiency of her laptop and what improvements could be made to speed it up and work better for her.
- 3) Discussed yard run off risks, manure store rules and silage clamp rules (SSAFO) regulations as well as new Control of Pollution regulations. We looked at various opportunities to reduce dirty water by installing roofing over yard areas and which would be the most practical to do. Discussed yard covering grant scheme which can help do this.

## Agrisgôp

23 Agrisgôp meetings have taken place

- Clean Water 3
- Enhanced access and engagement 4
- High animal health and welfare 10
- Maximise carbon storage 2
- Reduce greenhouse gases 5
- Resilient ecosystems 2
- Resource efficient 7

Groups that met during this period focussed on:

- 1) The take home message was to start incorporating Lameness Advantage into genetic decisions and look at genomics of heifers to help with breeding decisions. Genetics can account for 30% of the variation in lameness susceptibility and so we can reduce lameness through improved genetic selection which in terms improves production and reduces emissions.
- 2) Site visit to view the Anaerobic Digester plant - hosted by the farmer & installer - step by step tour of the entire process including the investment & Return On Investment.
- 3) Presentation on the current energy market and future projections - along with a demonstration of their Power Purchase Agreement portal to aid generators maximise their returns - forward buying up to 12 months ahead. Sleeving opportunities within own business use and external purchase by the major multiples / supermarkets etc discussed at length.
- 4) During site visit & in the review much time was spent discussing the value of the digestate & separated water both on a savings level & nutrient value - meaning a reduction in carbon footprint as reduction in imported inorganic fertiliser.

## Accredited Training

195 Individuals supported

SLM OUTCOME	Individuals Supported	Example of Courses Taken
Clean Air	6	Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides (PA1) & Safe Application of Pesticides (PA2)
Clean Water	7	Safe Use of Sheep Dip
Enhanced access and engagement	60	Level 2 Award in Rodent Management
High animal health and welfare	63	Machine Sheep Shearing
Maximise carbon storage	7	Conservation Grazing
Resilient ecosystems	2	Basic Tree Inspection
Resource efficient	43	Chainsaw maintenance and cross-cutting
Protected natural landscapes and historic environment	7	Conservation Grazing

## E-Learning

All e-learning modules align with the SLM outcomes.

**Most popular for this period being:**  
Enhanced access and engagement

Individuals Supported: 531

### Example of modules completed:

- E-Learning: Mandatory Unit: Fundamentals to a Successful Business
- E-Learning: Mandatory Unit: Artificial Insemination
- E-Learning: Precision Technology in Agriculture

## Animal Health and Welfare Workshops



**SLM OUTCOME:**  
High animal health and welfare  
Individuals Supported: **627**

### Example of Workshops Taken:

Sheep Parasite Control Part 2: Sheep Scab, Lice and Liver fluke  
Sheep Lameness  
Understanding Johne's Disease

## Advisory Service



Instances of advice delivered against SLM Outcomes:

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

Feedback: "I find the adviser very helpful to our business, and is well educated in his field one of the best, thanks." "Excellent advice, easy to talk to adviser. It's been very valuable to our business."

➤ All articles, videos, technical publications, articles and podcasts are published on the [Farming Connect website](#).

## Ear to the Ground



**Episode 88:**  
Woodland management and adding value to timber at Fron Haul, Abergele

## Clinics



**519** clinics were completed

"Thank you for the chance to understand more about our soils. It has provided a baseline for the management changes that we are hoping to make."

## Surgeries



**268** Surgeries were completed

Topics included - Woodland Grassland

## Case study

**Confidence to change management through grass measuring reduces input costs by £20,000 for Welsh Dairy farmer**

"It has shown me what is possible. If someone had told me a few years ago how much milk I could produce on this farm from grass I would have laughed in their face but having the data has shown what we can achieve."

## Welsh Sheep Genetics Programme



SLM OUTCOME	Number of events	Number of attendees
High animal health and welfare	6	101
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	7	74
Resource efficient	1	34

Examples of topics include:

- Introduction to performance recording
- Genetics study tour to Scotland
- Importance of ewe nutrition pre and post-lambing

## Horticulture

12 Horticultural training events have taken place:

SLM OUTCOME	Number of events	Number of attendees
Enhanced access and engagement	3	15
Resilient ecosystems	3	33
Resource efficient	6	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>120</b>

**Examples of Training workshops:**

- Considering growing field scale vegetables
- Practical measures to reduce overwinter nursery stock losses
- Digital marketing for new entrants into horticulture

Horticulture Business Support:

**75 hours** of support have taken place:

SLM OUTCOME	Number of businesses	Number of participants
Clean Water	1	1
Enhanced access and engagement	6	6
Resilient ecosystems	9	12
Resource efficient	33	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>58</b>

