

RAG Status

■ Red: Behind with target ■ Amber: Nearly achieved target ■ Green: Target on track



Knowledge Exchange (KE) Hub ■

Key outputs during the quarter:

- Technical articles published:



IMPROVING DIETARY NITROGEN USE IN DAIRY CATTLE: REDUCING PROTEIN INTAKE IN GROWING HEIFERS – CAN WE MAINTAIN PRODUCTION PERFORMANCE? DR RUTH WONFOR



VERMICOMPOSTING: AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD FOR ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT. DR WILLIAM STILES

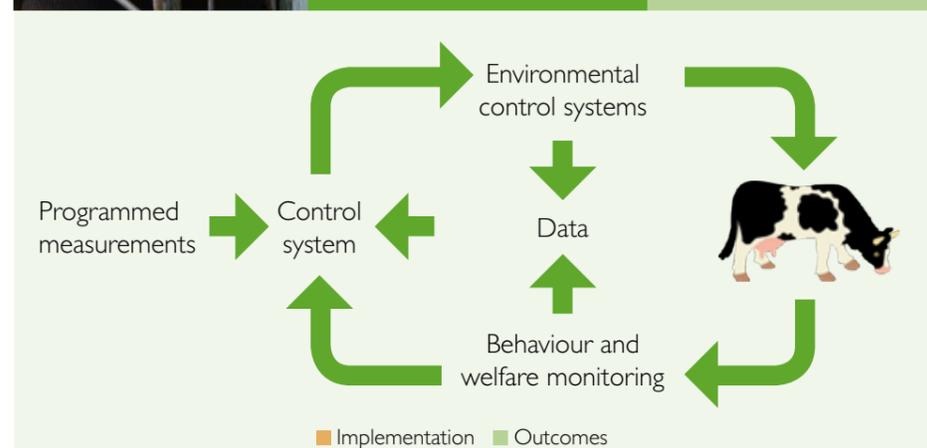


AGROFORESTRY: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF FARMLAND TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. DR WILLIAM STILES

Proposed future topics:

Several future topics have been proposed including the benefits of multi-species grassland and livestock parasitology and approaches for control.

Precision Farming



Monitoring	Precision farming technology enable systems to be developed for monitoring animal activity associated with animal well being such as rumination, temperature, lameness.
Greater sustainability	Automatic control for the support, management and sustainability of complex animal production systems by technical tools to aid farmers
New Technology	Developments include robotic milking, auto sampling and weighing, bolus technology recording for acidosis detection and fertility monitoring e.g. New vitality systems (Fullwood) and CowAlert systems (IceRobotics)
Higher productivity	Monitoring technology enables immediate response to potential problems reducing productivity losses, therefore improving animals wellbeing leads to higher productivity
Management	The refinement of management practices through technology use is important for livestock farmers to improve efficiency
Economic benefits	Production related information generated from PLF systems such feeding and nutrition analyses improved farm profitability

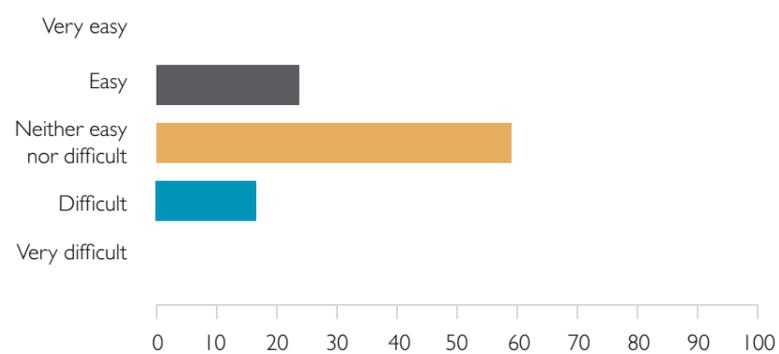
Adapted from Aerts et al 2003, Fournel et al 2017.

CPD Training for Farming Connect Technical and Development Officers

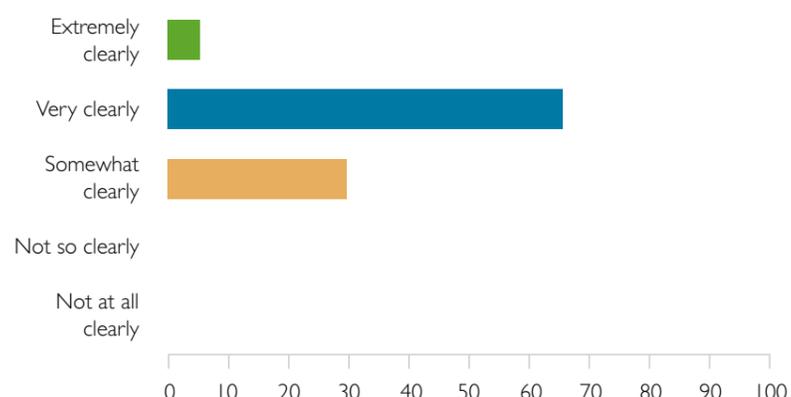
The first CPD session took place in August focussing on soils and carbon with the intention of providing Farming Connect staff with a greater understanding of soil processes to pass on this knowledge to farmer clients.

In general, the event was well received and the feedback from FC staff has been very positive. The staff found the material reasonably challenging and interesting, but clearly explained by the different speakers.

How easy or difficult was the subject material to understand?



How clearly did the speakers explain the subject material?



European Innovation Partnership ■



Gall gweithio'n unigol ei gwneud hi'n anodd i ganfod datrysiadau.
Working in isolation can make finding solutions difficult.

Mae EIP Amaeth Cymru yn cyllido grwpiau o unigolion sydd yn edrych am ddatrysiadau arloesol i sialensiau cyffredin.
EIP Agri Wales funds groups of individuals seeking innovative solutions to similar challenges.

Gellir cysylltu grwpiau ledled Ewrop i rannu syniadau a gwybodaeth ynglŷn â themâu cyffredin.
Throughout Europe, groups can be linked up to share ideas and information on common themes.

Menter a Busnes announced at the Royal Welsh Show that they have been awarded the contract for delivering EIP in Wales. The scheme will support businesses to work together and solve problems or try out new technologies. Up to £40,000 is available for each project and there is plenty of support available to scope out ideas and develop project plans.

Study Visits

The West Wales Grasshoppers discussion group took a study visit to Hampshire in June.

The group's key findings and action points on returning from their trip was as follows:

- Draw more comparative data of profitability at higher feed rates.
- Undertake personal Psychometric testing as a group.
- Review our own training needs to develop our management styles.
- Host a return visit from Hampshire farmers.
- Review staff management methods on each member's farm.
- Review our CFPs against the Hampshire dairy farmers.



Agri Lab ■



- The Agri Lab showcased a project by Harper Adams Precision Farming Centre called 'Hands Free Hectare' which aims to farm one hectare of cereal crop from establishment to harvest, without having to set foot into the field. This project has recently won exposure through the national media including BBC's Countryfile and One Show programmes. The Times also published an article online, click [here](#) to view the article.
- Uptake for 1-2-1 sessions with Ian Beecher Jones on Precision Farming proved very popular with half hour slots from 10am-4pm filled on the Tuesday and the Wednesday during Royal Welsh Show Week. Feedback was excellent, including remarks like:

'Fantastic to see FC supporting the arable industry'

'Very good knowledge gained on how to implement precision farming to my farm practically and profitably'

'Thank you for taking the time to put this on'

'Will try to use variable rate agronomy on my farm'

'Learnt options available to grassland farmers and what level of investment is needed'

