

Venture is designed to help match farmers and landowners who are looking to step back from the industry with new entrants looking for a way into farming. It guides people on both sides through the key steps required to find a potential business partner. An integrated package of training, mentoring, specialist advice and business support equips participants with the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to help them achieve their goals.



Since its launch **200 individuals** have expressed an interest in the Venture initiative.

There are currently **173 active participants**.

99 are new entrants seeking an opportunity while **74 are established farmers** or landowners providing an opportunity.



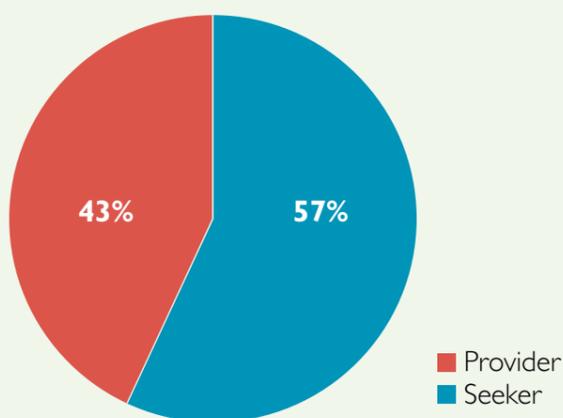
RAG Score

Red Amber Green

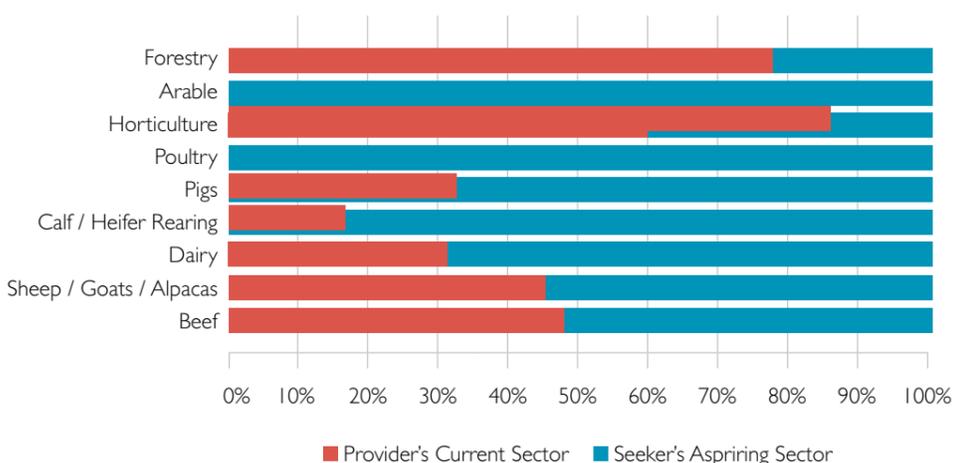
Green

Project and events are on target

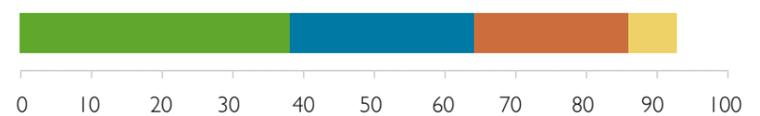
Ratio of Seekers and Providers



29
**matches have
been made**
32% of participants have
identified a business partner



Status

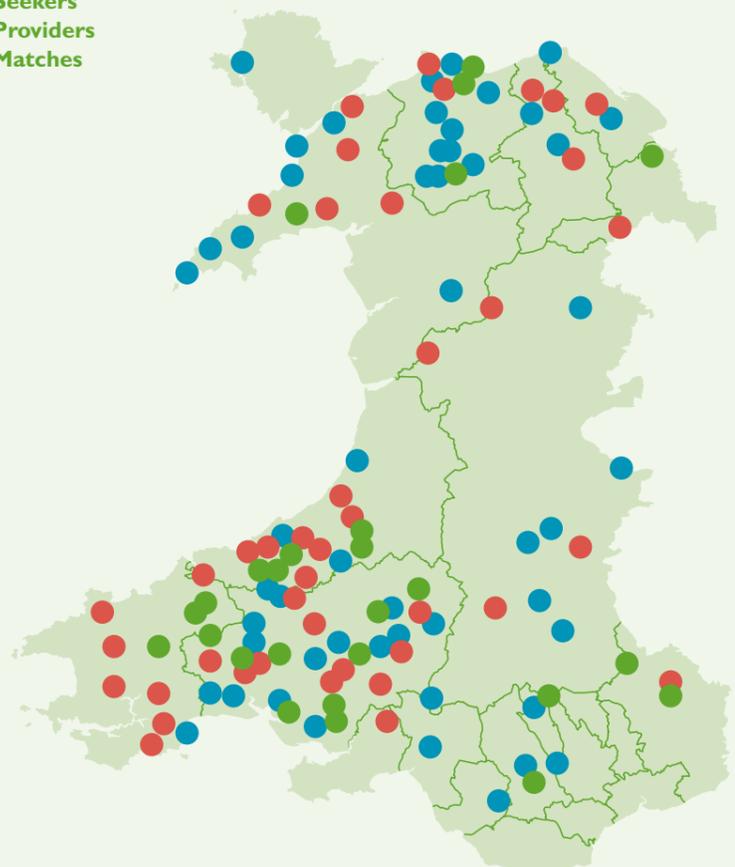


Information Gathering Profile Submitted Match Identified Joint Venture Established

Their next step will be to apply for the Farming Connect Advisory Service which provides up to €3000 of fully funded advice to agree on a business structure and form a plan for their new group enterprise.

Map updated on 31.08.2017

Seekers
Providers
Matches



15 partnerships have accessed the advisory service during this quarter and **7 new joint ventures** have been established.

First Venture Handbook published!

Our **new handbook** provides information on the key steps involved in setting up a new joint venture.



Learn about;

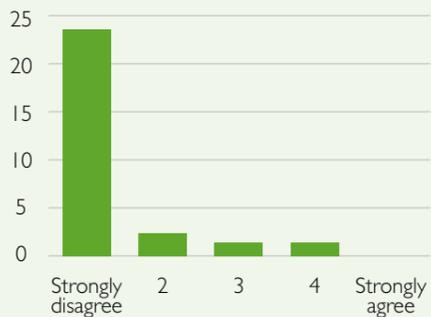
- Taking stock and evaluating your assets
- Finding the right match
- Creating a balanced agreement
- Selecting a legal framework
- Thinking long term

Click [here](#) to read our Venture handbook.

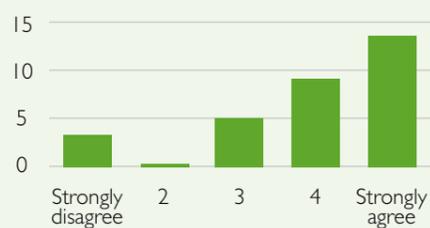
Seekers Survey

Due to a limited amount of Seekers coming forward to take the opportunities offered we conducted a survey to find out what the main barriers were. They were asked to state whether they agreed or disagreed with the following statements. 30 seekers completed the survey.

"Brexit uncertainties are making me less likely to take the opportunities provided through Venture"



"I have geographical ties to my local area which limit which opportunities I can take"



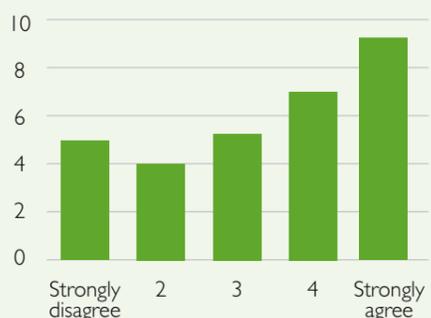
"Family reasons and ties are restricting my ability to take the opportunities offered"



"The lack of accommodation with the opportunities is putting me off applying for them"



"The size of holdings are too small for what I'm looking for"



"Lack of capital on my part is limiting my ability to apply for the opportunities offered"



Case Studies

Two ambitious young farmers in North Wales are confident they face a bright future thanks to the foresight of a local landowner and a new share farming arrangement facilitated by Farming Connect's Venture programme. Click [here](#) to learn more.



"Outputs were high. I needed two full time staff, plus two extra helpers during a lengthy indoor lambing period, as well as all the necessary infrastructure, machinery and vehicles you need to maintain a viable business. It was clearly time for a rethink on both grassland and stock management," said Mr. Fetherstonhaugh.

28-year-old Rhys Richards is proving how collaboration between farmers can be beneficial to all involved.

Now farming in partnership with brothers Nick and David Nichols, who run 60 Limousin-cross and Simmental-cross suckler beef cows on an organic system at 320-acre Gwernant Farm near Rhydlewys, Llandysul, Rhys has fulfilled his ambition to get a foothold on the farming ladder.

With assistance from 'Venture', they formed an agreement which provides Rhys with a house on the farm and an income and, within five years of the agreement starting, he will have accrued ownership of a percentage of the livestock. For the brothers, it means they can delegate many of their responsibilities to Rhys.



"We didn't want to sell the farm but we were finding the physical work more difficult. This agreement has taken the pressure off us both physically and mentally," says David.

"We are delighted to give a new entrant an opportunity to farm. Rhys has a vested interest in the end product so there is an incentive for him to run the herd well."

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

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