

DEMONSTRATION NETWORK DASHBOARD

September – November 2017

RAG Score

■ Red ■ Amber ■ Green

Green Projects and events are on target

Demonstration Network

Innovation sites	8
Demonstration sites	12
Focus sites (Running Total)	85

Demonstration Network Events

September – November 2017

Description	Total Events (Annual Target)	Total Events (Undertaken)
Innovation site events	30	12
Demonstration site events	36	26
Focus site events	54	22

1100 ATTENDEES AT DEMONSTRATION NETWORK EVENTS

The map below demonstrates the events held across Wales linked to the demonstration site network.



📍 Events held from October 2015 to August 2017 **294 events in total**

📍 September 2017 to November 2017 **60 events in total**

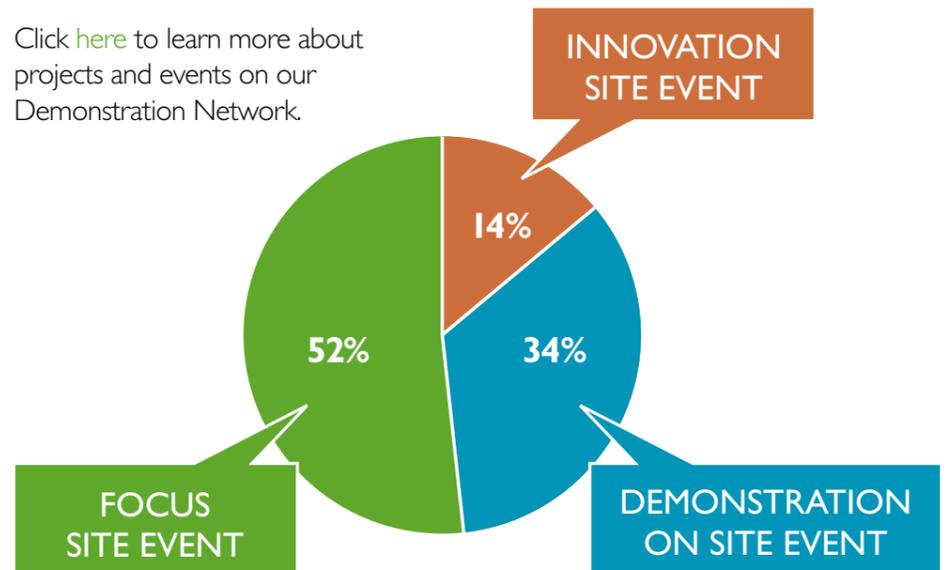
Event type



Activity by sector on the Demonstration Network

Event split by Site Host (October 2015 – November 2017)

Click [here](#) to learn more about projects and events on our Demonstration Network.



On Farm Projects

Focus on Data

Rhug Estate Focus site is re-assessing the current beef finishing enterprise and is considering utilising EID technology to monitor and achieve KPI's, which include:



INCREASING DLG FROM 0.5KG/DAY TO 0.8KG/DAY



REDUCE FINISHING TIME FROM 29 MONTHS TO 24 MONTHS AT 625KG



FEED COST/DAY <£1.21 (£1.50/KG GAIN) > 30P MARGIN/KG GAINED/DAY

Taking into account that this is an organic enterprise, options of alternative feeds will also be considered to ensure the KPI margin per day is achieved.

Focus on Profit

Working on a number of forestry projects has led to significant improvements at **Tynyberth** Demonstration Farm, including:

- +£12,000 through the planting of over 40Ha of mixed woodland
- +£60,000 potential lump sum through the Carbon Code as a result of tree planting

The output levels from the sheep flock have also been addressed and Farming Connect projects have:

- Produced an additional 150 lambs from only 30 more sheep
- Significantly reduced lameness levels at less than 2% flock incidence
- Increased forage quality through planned reseeding and better selection of legumes

Focus on Summer Forage

The nitrogen-fixing properties of Balansa and Berseem clovers have improved soil fertility and saved £2,016 at **Llyn Rhys**, a Farming Connect Focus Site near Wrexham. The crop was also cut for silage, yielding 33 bales - the equivalent of four tonnes per hectare. Silage analysis results determined a crude protein value of 14.5%, ME of 11.5MJ/kg, a D-value of 72 and 46% dry matter (DM). The silage was fed to twin and triplet bearing ewes during the pre-lambing period. Feeding this very high quality forage meant a delay of two weeks before concentrates were fed, resulting in an estimated saving of £1.68 per head.



Focus on Winter Forage

Outwintering sheep on forage crops has saved **Rhiwgriafol** Demonstration Farm over £4,000 compared with using the traditional system of feeding concentrates and deferred grazing. Feeding 250 ewes on only 6 acres of swedes also led to:



Reduced labour requirements



Better ewe condition



Better land management



Focus on Nutrients

Nutrient Management Planning

Moving away from the purchasing of standard fertilisers to applications based on soil status and crop requirements has led to an increased business focus at **Lower Eytton Focus Site**. Entire farm soil sampling of 35 fields indicated that 50% of the land required additional lime whilst nutrient management planning has shown that the value of the poultry and cattle manure produced from the farm was £5,600.

£5,600 =



£1,000 MANURE VALUE FROM 5,000 HEAD POULTRY FLOCK



£4,600 MANURE VALUE FROM 300 BEEF CATTLE

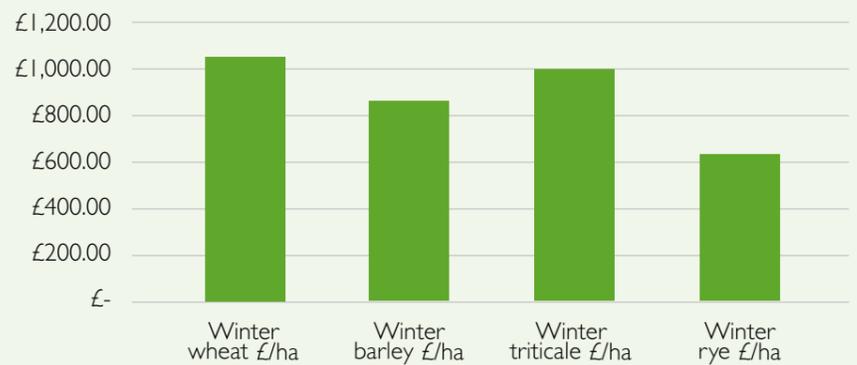
Focus on Benchmarking

Gross margin of arable crops

Calculating gross margins and subsequent benchmarking has helped the mixed farming system at **Upper Pendre** Focus Site near Brecon to evaluate the role of the different enterprises and consider the future of the business. A particular focus has been placed on the arable enterprise. The arable crops usually comprise of 40ha of wheat, 20ha of barley and 16ha of triticale. Difficulty in sourcing quality triticale seed has resulted in the farm growing 6ha of rye in 2017 as a trial crop. Project results indicated the following:

- All crops have an above average gross margin per hectare
- Wheat and triticale are the most profitable crops
- All crops except rye have a positive net margin
- In 2017, rye has not been as successful as triticale due to lower output and higher variable costs

Gross Margin (2016 – 2017)



COMMUNICATING THE RESULTS

Communicating the results of work undertaken on the demonstration network is vital. Farming Connect use various ways to ensure maximum uptake of the knowledge gained in undertaking projects, including:

- **Articles:** 10 have been produced – all articles are on the website and, depending on the content, some are shared with the Farmers Guardian,
- **Blogs and Vlogs** to provide site updates – 12 have been prepared
- **Social media**
Facebook posts: 50
Twitter posts: 52
- **Videos** 6
- **Web Page Hits**
Innovation Site: english 209, welsh 25
Demonstration Site: english 706, welsh 122
Focus Site: english 553, welsh 160

