

DEMONSTRATION NETWORK DASHBOARD

June – August 2017

RAG Score

■ Red ■ Amber ■ Green

Green

Projects and events are on target

Demonstration Network

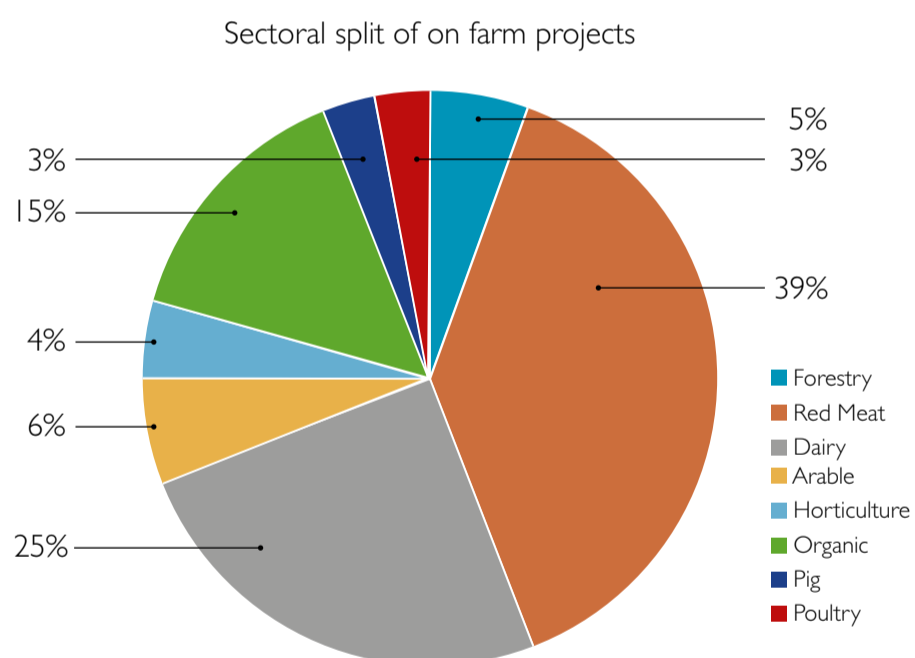
Innovation sites	8
Demonstration sites	12
Focus sites (Running Total)	77

Demonstration Network Events

Description	Total Events (Annual Target)	Total Events (Undertaken)
Innovation site events	30	3
Demonstration site events	36	14
Focus site events	54	32

801 ATTENDEES AT DEMONSTRATION NETWORK EVENTS

Activity by sector on the Demonstration network



Some activity may be cross sectoral and may have been allocated to more than one sector i.e. grassland projects

On Farm Projects

A Focus on grassland production

Acurate grassland management at Penrhiw Llandysul

An organic beef and sheep farm have seen a significant improvement in implementing a rotational grazing system to finish their cattle. Moving from a set stocked to rotational grazing has improved DLWG from an average of **0.4kg/day to 1.1kg/day** resulting in cattle being sent to slaughter on average at 16 months of age. The initial set up of the rotational grazing infrastructure was £3827.45 and at the current organic beef price, the additional live weight gain is worth £6,161. Therefore, the original set-up costs have already been paid off 1.6 times within 5 months.

Change in Grazing management at Ochor Tregaron

A focus site has changed their grazing management to adopt rotational grazing. 300 lambs were rotationally grazing on four one acre paddocks post weaning at 13 weeks. The lambs were moved at four day intervals, which has proven beneficial in terms of lamb growth and grass quality.

Welsh Pasture Project update

Through introducing improved genetics and focusing on grassland at Focus Site Nant yr Efail Welsh Pasture Project, outputs have increased by 14% of Liveweight lamb produced per ewe on a Farming Connect focus site. This means £12 more per ewe and £3600 more within the flock compared to the previous year.

Through improving the pasture and grazing systems by measuring the grass, making decisions based on the data, and combining this with the right genetics for a grass based system, it has resulted in improved utilisation of grass and on farm efficiency.



Tyreglwys dairy demonstration farm

The farm has doubled the production of milk from forage (from 2000lt to 4000lt) over the last year since working with Farming Connect to focus on this as a KPI and taking part in a grassland management project. 47 farmers were hosted at an event focusing on Autumn reseeding options and grassland management led by Chris Duller and drainage work has been featured in a popular video blog.



Click on the TV screen to view a video blog on this.

Establishing a cover crop for wintering

A focus site will compare growing fodder beet and kale to out winter their suckler herd. Grazing plans are yet to be confirmed, but current yields suggest the following:

Description	Fodder beet	Kale
Area	3ha	8.9ha
Predicted Crop Yield	18,000kg DM/ha	8000kg DM/ha
Ration	60:40 ration (Fodder beet:baled silage)	50:50 ration (Kale:baled silage)
Feeding	20 breeding heifers – 150 day winter with 52 round bales (at 14kgDM/hd/day) 500 in lamb ewes – ~70 days pre housing with 56 round bales (at 1.4kgDM/hd/day)	75 suckler cows – 150 days with 147 round bales (at 14kgDM/hd/day)



Round bale silage placed strategically in the kale to enable grazing from the top of the slope downwards to reduce potential runoff.

Focus on Parasitology

Faecal Worm Egg counts (FECs) have been used on 5 of our Network Sites over the summer. Of the sheep groups sampled, none had a high enough worm burden to warrant an Autumn dose of wormer. Having this knowledge to hand saved both time and money for the farmers. At Tyn y Pant Welshpool the financial saving would equate to around £285 (1000 ewes drenched + one 8-hour day of work for 2 farm workers @£10 an hour). The benefits in terms of avoiding selection pressure for resistance are invaluable.



Focus on suckler efficiency at Fferam Gyd

55 commercial suckler cattle were included in the oestrus synchronisation program, while an additional 30 were naturally served by a stock bull. 77% of the synchronised group had stood to the first AI service, exceeding our target of 60%.

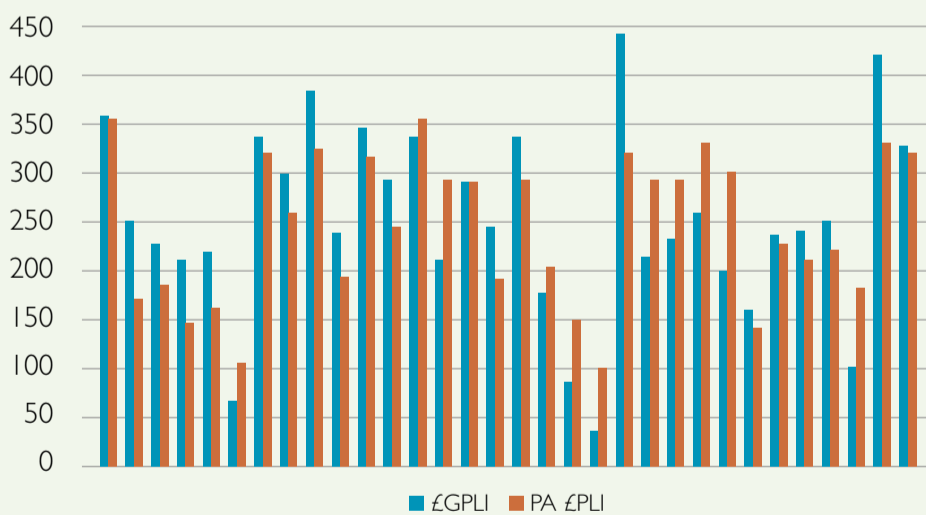
Conventional breeding by two stock bulls would cost approximately £63/cow with both bulls being changed every two years to allow breeding heifers to be retained.

Oestrus Synchronisation has resulted in a saving of £14.37/cow in bull replacement costs alone. For a 100 hundred cow herd this would equate to a saving of **£1437/year, and will also reduce the calving interval.**

A focus on genomics

At Marian Mawr, a short study has shown how the individual's genomic information (Genomic Profitable Lifetime Index (£GPLI)) can vary from their pedigree information (Parental Average Profitable Lifetime Index (PA £PLI)). The largest positive difference was an increase of £121 for one heifer and the largest negative difference was £98 on another heifer. The average difference of £6.97 £GPLI over PA £PLI for the whole group does not suggest a significant difference, however the additional reliability that the genomic test brings will give the farmer greater confidence in any future breeding decisions.

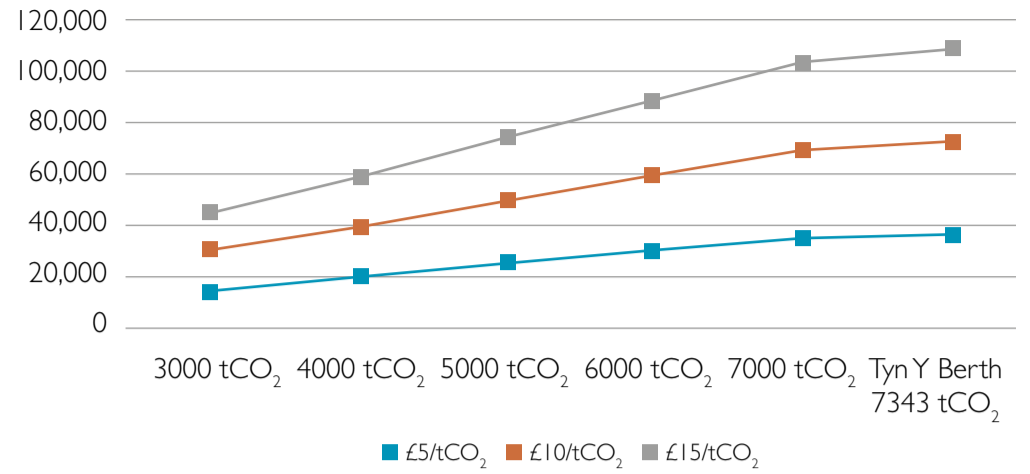
Difference between PA £PLI and £GPLI for 32 heifers at Marian Mawr



Woodland Carbon Code

A Farming Connect project has calculated the volume of carbon dioxide sequestered as a result of planting 130,000 trees on 48Ha through the Glastir Woodland Creation scheme through the Woodland Carbon Code. Taking into account species comprising 75% Conifer & 25% Native Broadleaf projected yield, thinning regimes and clear-fell at year 40 and replant the woodland, the calculation over a 65 year period shows that over 7,343 tCO₂ will be sequestered. Potential cumulative income from sale of carbon sequestered over 65 years at market price of £10 / tCO₂ could be **£73,430.**

Potential cumulative income from sale of carbon sequestered over 65 years at market price of £5 – £15 / tCO₂

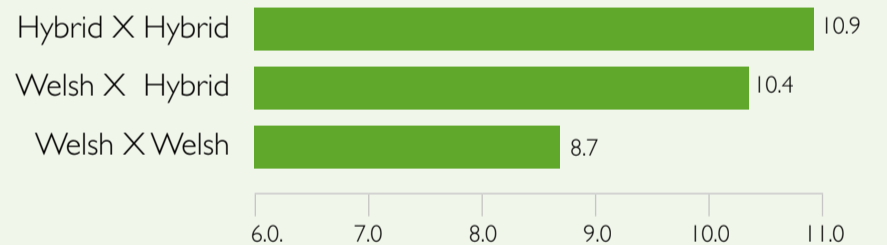


A section of the 48Ha plantation showing planting of trees into bracken land at Tyn Y Berth.

A focus on pig performance

Over the last 6 months, litter sizes of the Pedigree Welsh pigs at Glynllifon have increased from 7.7 piglets to 8.7 piglets per litter, increasing returns by £44.42 per litter and £104.39 per sow per year. Pedigree Welsh pigs litter size remains significantly lower than Pedigree Welsh X Hybrid and Hybrid litters.

Average Litter Size



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:** 4 have been produced – all articles are on the website and, depending on the content, some are shared with the Farmers Guardian, Farmers Weekly, NSA and the Farming Unions.
- **Blogs and Vlogs** to provide site updates – 11 have been prepared
- **Social media**
Facebook posts: 33
Twitter posts: 46
- **Videos** 20
- **Web Page Hits**
Innovation Site: eng267, wel41
Demonstration Site: eng467, wel32
Focus Site: eng402, wel32

