

SKILLS & MENTORING DASHBOARD

September – November 2017

RAG Status

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

Training ■

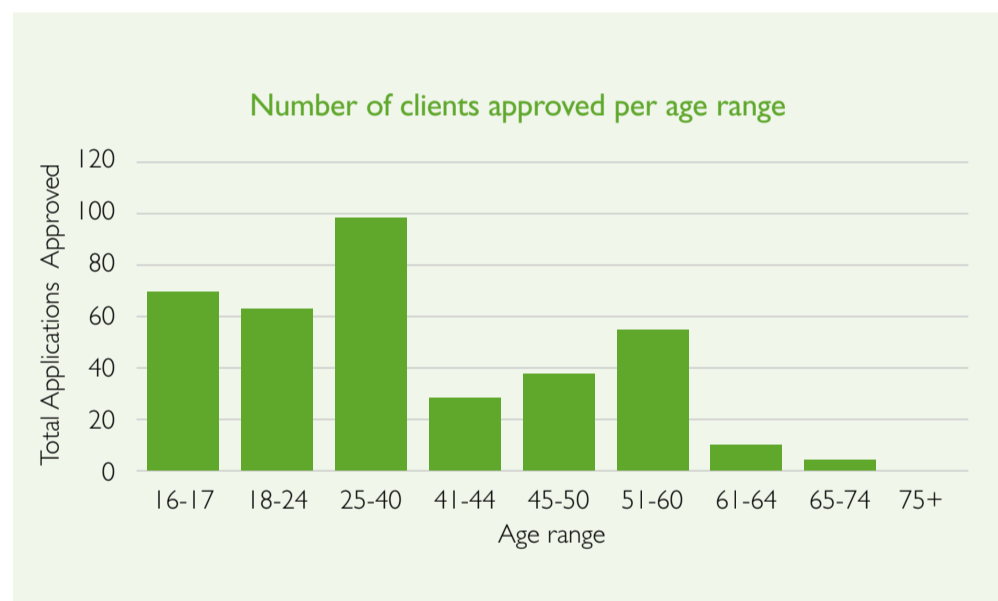
The breakdown per training category is as follows:

Category	No. of "Approved" Applications
Category 1 – Business Improvement	68
Category 2 – Technical	186
Category 3 – Machinery & Equipment Use	112
TOTAL	366

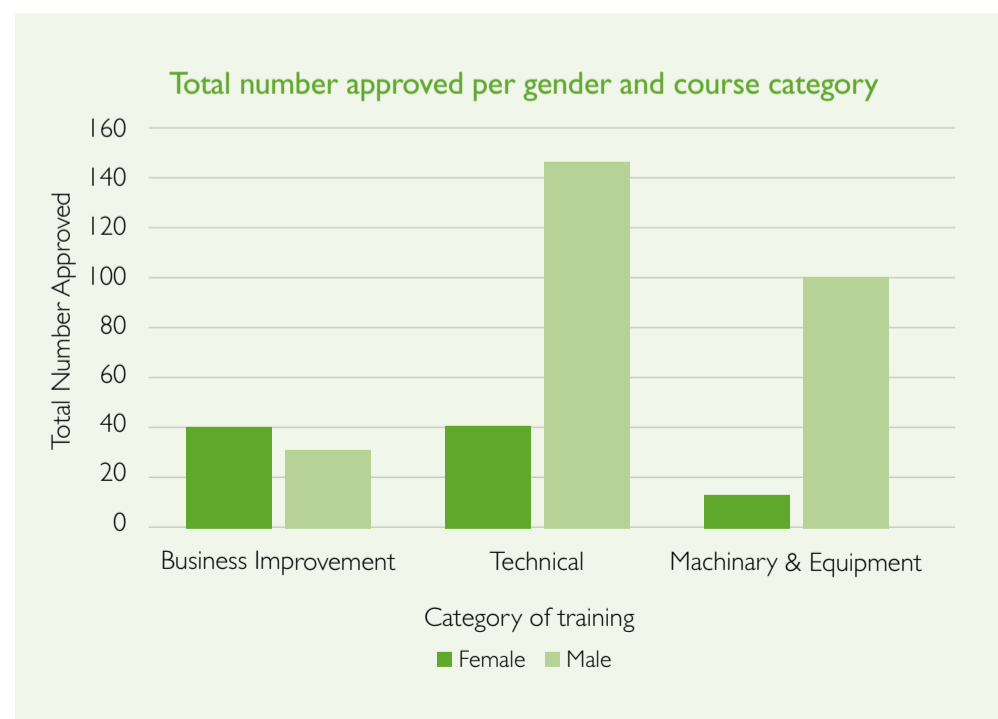
In Category 1 the majority of course applications were for the Business Planning and Development and Marketing courses. The highest number of applications approved within Category 2 was for the Rodent Control on Farms course followed by DIY AI. There was also a high number of applications for Advanced Sheep Shearing within this period. Pesticide related training is still in strong demand within Category 3.

Application Statistics

The breakdown provided in the chart below shows the number of applications approved per age range.



The breakdown provided in the chart below shows the number of male / female clients approved this period per training category.



PDP

Throughout the duration of the programme a total of 3,391 clients have completed a Personal Development Plan. During this period a total of 228 new PDP's were created.

E-learning

A total of 38 e-learning courses are now available on the BOSS website and during this period 128 courses were completed.

Course Title	Number of Completed Courses
Health & Safety	110
Grazing Management	5
Tree Identification – Deciduous Trees	4
Other completed courses included Business Planning, Biosecurity, Preparing a Winter Feed Budget, Farm Finance, Thistle Control, Farm Liverfluke Management and Anthelmintic Resistance on Sheep Farms.	9
TOTAL	128

Agrisgôp ■

39 ACTIVE GROUPS with 396 MEMBERS attending a total of 55 MEETINGS

Discussion Topics

Dairy Sheep Husbandry On-farm Tourism
Diversification Glamping The Power of Social Media
Woodland Planting & Management
Local Digital Marketing Grass Management
Preparing for Brexit Dairy Cow Housing
Leadership Lamb Products – Customer Profile & Current Trends Marketing & Branding The Value of Soil

Case Studies

Exciting times lie ahead for eight North Wales sheep producers who are hoping to benefit from the growing 'ready meals' market. The group, who have adopted the brand name 'Family Farms', first got together last year thanks to support from Farming Connect's Agrisgôp programme.



Click [here](#) to learn more.

Third generation farmer Alan Jones, wife Bethan and two sons Osian and Morgan farm a 230 acre holding in Chwilog. The family recently set up a secondary enterprise producing ewes' milk for artisan Welsh cheeses from their mixed flock of 20 Friesland and 8 Lleyen ewes milking and say they may not have taken that leap into the unknown without the support received through a Farming Connect Agrisgôp group.



Click [here](#) to read more about their new enterprise.

Agri Academy ■

Business & Innovation Programme:Weekend 2

Switzerland

15-18 October 2017



Guest speakers & activities included:

Innovation in Business

AlpTracker Technology

Agriculture Post-Brexit

Meeting with Hybu Cig Cymru Swiss representative

Swiss Farming Unions – Overview of Swiss Agriculture

Syngenta – Biotechnology

Brewery

Cryptocurrency

Dairy & Fruit Farm Visit

Visit to GVFI – Switzerland's leading meat importer



Click [here](#) to read about the lessons learnt in Switzerland.

Junior Programme:Weekend 3

Ireland

31 October – 2 November 2017



Guest speakers & activities included:

Lorna Sixsmith, Author & Blogger

Teagasc Research Centre

Dairy, Beef & Sheep Farm Visits

Ballyminane Mill

Derrie Dillon - Brexit & Routes to Market



Rural Leadership Programme:Weekend 2

Brussels

5-8 November 2017



Guest speakers & activities included:

Katie Jarvis, European Policy Advisor at NFU

Lisa Penny, Welsh Government – EU Protected Food Names

Nia Lewis, Head of Economic Development Policy at Brussels

DEFRA Minister George Eustace Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Frances Brockie, Second Secretary for New Zealand Mission - 'How non-EU countries represent their rural and agricultural interests in the EU'

Nicola Hinder (Agricultural Counsellor) at Australian Embassy

Chris Miles Head of Agriculture, Environment and Food at Welsh Government EU Office

Derek Vaughan and other MEPs at European Parliament

Opportunity to observe the EU-Mercosur Trade Deal: What next for Europe's sensitive agricultural sectors, with speakers from the Commission, farming stakeholders and industry experts.

Owen Jones, Head of Direct Support Unit, DG Agri

Tom Jones at EESC discussing his work in the EESC and the Department for Agriculture, Rural and Environmental Issues.

Rural Link Chief Executive Ireland

CEJA Chief Executive

Speaker from Denen, representing the Danish youth organizations

Speaker on Norwegian Treaty agreement with EU



Business & Innovation Programme:Weekend 3

North Wales

17-19 November 2017



Guest speakers & activities included:

Sion Roberts – Accounting, Business Structure & Mindset

Ben Hellfeld – What is a brand?

Farm Hacks

The Power of Social Media

Business & Innovation Challenge



Huw Jones presenting his vision to the panel of judges.

Winter Fair Agri Academy Ceremony



Huw Jones was awarded 1st prize for the Business & Innovation Challenge. Click [here](#) to read more.



The Rural Leadership Academy produced and premiered a film outlining their priority focus areas for stakeholders. Click on the TV screen to view.

The Junior Academy also received their end of year certificates.

Management Exchange ■

Richard Roderick

Location: Brecon

Destination: Scotland and the North of England

Topic: Investigating Profitable Suckler Cow Production, based on the maximum utilisation of forage.



Click [here](#) to read Richard's exchange report.

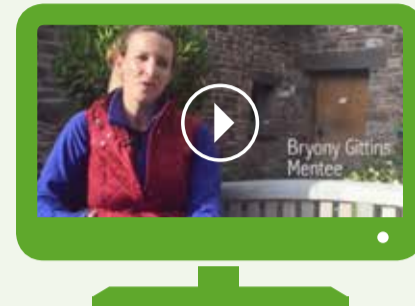
Mentoring ■



Case Study

Bryony Gittins from Abergavenny couldn't speak highly enough of her mentoring experience with Ben Anthony and was extremely positive about the benefits it could bring her and the business. Bryony chose Ben to mentor her on increasing stock, improving grazing management and increasing her skill level as the new head of holding.

Click [here](#) to read more about Bryony's experience and take a look at the film clip below.



Some highlights from our online and social media platforms:

Facebook 14/11/2017

"Dad advised me to register with Farming Connect, and I soon realised just how much guidance and support is available, most of it either fully funded or heavily subsidised.

I remember signing up for Farming Connect business courses many years ago, when we first set up the equine venture, and I'm still utilising those skills today, so I didn't need much convincing." #thelatest

People Reached – **5,659**

Likes, Comments & Shares – **143**

Facebook 27/11/2017

V high standard reached in Business and Innovation challenge, Agri Academy: creating 5 year action plan fernhill farm, Bristol. Congratulations Huw Jones!

People Reached – **4,616**

Likes, Comments & Shares – **53**

Twitter 27/11/2017

'Good ideas, lateral thinking, good presentation for a plan, and met client's need'

Congratulations to Huw Jones: Winner of the Business and Innovation Academy Challenge! Llongyfarchiadau i Huw Jones ar enill Sialens Busnes ac Arloesedd yr Academi!

Impressions: **1,207**

Engagements: **61**

Twitter 27/11/2017

Rural leadership members discussing the important factors in agri industry: community, family, employment, animal welfare...showing that agriculture is a v broad industry.

Impressions: **1,000**

Engagements: **61**

