

DEMONSTRATION NETWORK DASHBOARD

December 2017 – February 2018

RAG Score

■ Red ■ Amber ■ Green



Demonstration Network

Innovation sites	8
Demonstration sites	12
Focus sites (Running Total)	90

Demonstration Network Events

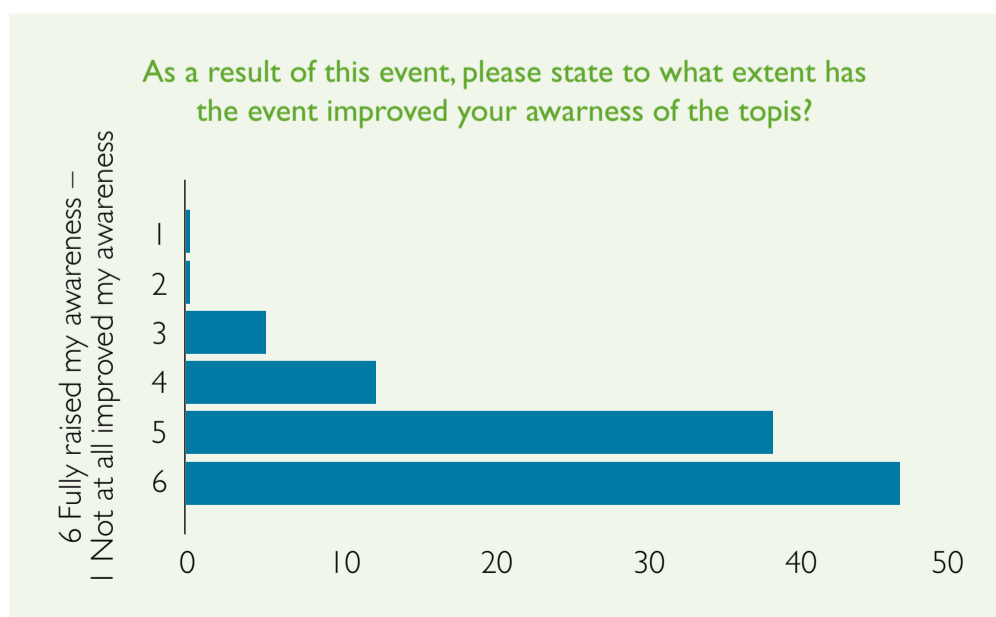
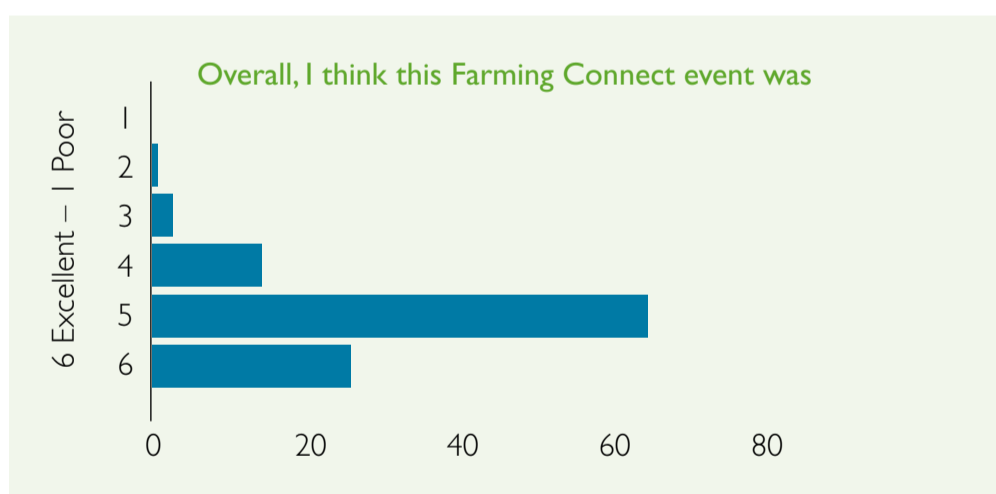
December 2017 – February 2018

Description	Total Events (Annual Target)	Total Events (Undertaken)
Innovation Site events	32	6
Demonstration Site events	36	16
Focus Site events	54	19

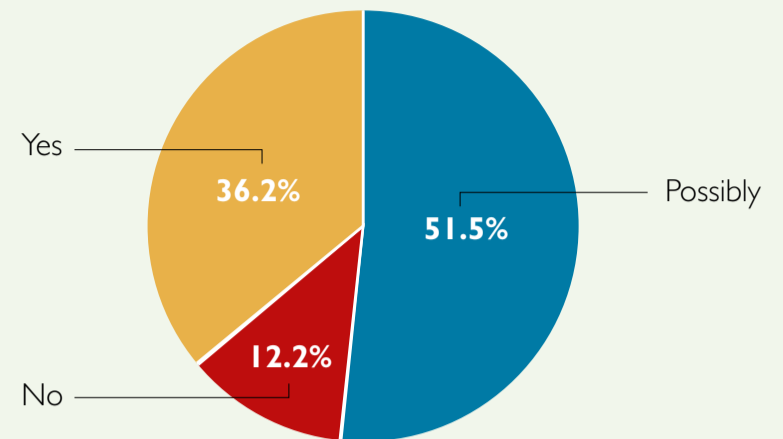


Feedback and evaluation reviews from participants that attended Demonstration Site Network events

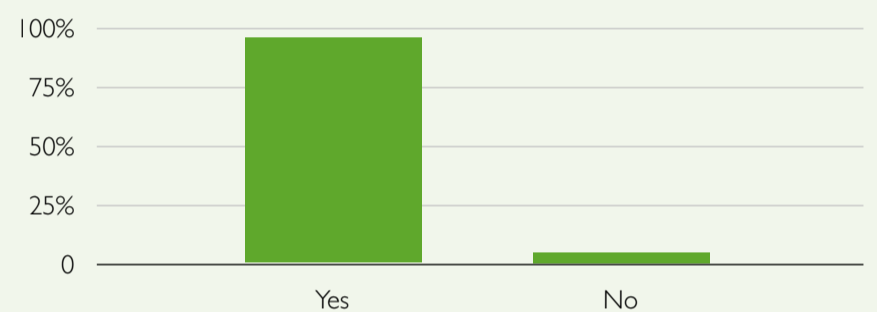
The following charts give an overview of the feedback provided by participants that attended Demonstration Site events. Please note, the data used to produce these charts are from 1,200 feedback forms completed by participants at events during a 12 month period up to February 2018.



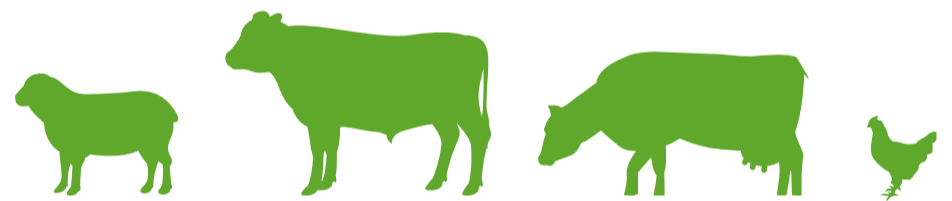
As a result of this event, do you intend to change your farming/forestry practices?



As a result of this event, have you learnt anything new about the topic?



Some examples of participant's journeys



Sheep

- Undertaking of a nutrient management plan and the implementation of a rotational grazing system following an open event at [Llysun Demonstration Site](#)
- Understanding the importance of testing for wormer resistance for lamb finishing at a progression event linked to [Rhiwgriafol Demonstration Site](#)
- Putting the 5-point plan for reducing lameness into action following on from the project at [Rhiwgriafol Demonstration Site](#)
- Evaluating the options to use TMR feeding for ewes pre-lambing following the open day at [Hendy Focus Site](#)

Beef

- Looking into contract rearing heifers after reading a technical article about the enterprises at [Rhiwgriafol Demonstration Site](#)
- Request for a South Wales meeting to be held on the out-wintering project at [Cae Haidd Demonstration Site](#) in North Wales. During the meeting eight farmers booked to participate in a clinic through their local Development Officer
- Implementation of an AI synchronisation programme following attending an event at [Fferam Gyd Focus Site](#)

Dairy

- Undertaking genomic testing (GeneTraker) of individual cattle by members of a discussion group following a visit to [Marian Mawr Demonstration Site](#)

Poultry

- Re-visiting of a flock health plan to introduce vaccines where applicable after attending open event on **'Vaccinating to increase the profitability of your poultry unit'**
- Completion of an energy audit for a poultry unit following a meeting on **'Reducing energy costs in your poultry unit'**

On Farm Projects

Focus on Cow Nutrition

A project at [Llysfasi Innovation Site](#) has been instigated trialling a Compact TMR feeding system. The aim of using Compact TMR is to reduce sorting of specific feeds from the silage base. This is achieved by a specific wagon loading order and adding a specific weight of pH neutral liquid, to bind any straight and compounds to the forage.



The herd at Llysfasi has been split and one group will be fed the current TMR and the other fed Compact TMR for a 6 week period. The project is looking at behavioural and yield differences between the two groups of cows along with rumination monitoring and faecal starch testing to monitor rumen health.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

Focus on Outdoor Lambing

Penwern – moving from indoor to outdoor lambing

This collaborative project working with the local vet and a grazing expert to move from an indoor to an outdoor lambing system has seen improvements in flock health and ewe nutrition at Penwern Farm. The move has also had a positive impact on productivity and cost of production.

The project included the following activities, all providing animal health and welfare benefits:

- Metabolic profiling – ensuring diet is suitable
- Condition scoring – actively managing the flock
- Faecal egg counting – managing parasites and any resistance
- Accurate record keeping enabling proactive management – reduced mortality

This project has also benefited from the following financial savings:

- £4,510 in cost savings/income
- Approximately 123 hours saved equating to £1,230 in savings

Click [here](#) and go to page 5 to read more.



Focus on Sensor Technology

A project at Focus Site Tir Barwn is looking into how sensor technology can maximise performance and benefit the health and welfare of broilers in intensive poultry systems. Wireless sensors which record temperature, humidity and water flow will be used in one of the units whilst the other will use existing management records. Bird health, welfare and productivity will be monitored to compare if there is an advantage in using the technology, and how it can be implemented to support high welfare.

Click [here](#) and go to page 5 to read more.

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:** 20 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 – 7 have been prepared
- **Social media**
Facebook posts: 44
Twitter posts: 54
- **Videos** 8
- **Web Page Hits**
Innovation Site: english 152, welsh 20
Demonstration Site: english 441, welsh 45
Focus Site: english 302, welsh 46



Some key highlights on our Website and Social Media platforms recently...

#Nutri7 / #7Maeth Social Media Campaign:

A week of daily videos, discussions and articles on ewe nutrition serving as an insight into 7 ewe nutrition systems used on 7 of Farming Connect's Demonstration Network farms. "Ewe nutrition through the eyes of 7 farmers"



Facebook 29/01/2018

Wythnos Maeth y Famog – Diwrnod 1 / Ewe Nutrition Week – Day 1

Richard Roderick, Newton Farm, Scethrog, Brecon (FC Demonstration Site / Saffle Arddangos CFF)

System hunan-fwydo / Self-feed system

#Nutri7 #7Maeth

People Reached: 7,016

Video Views: 2,177

Reactions, comments & shares: 96



Click on the TV screen to view Richard's video.