

% of all activity in this quarter relevant to the dairy sector



49%
DAIRY ACTIVITY

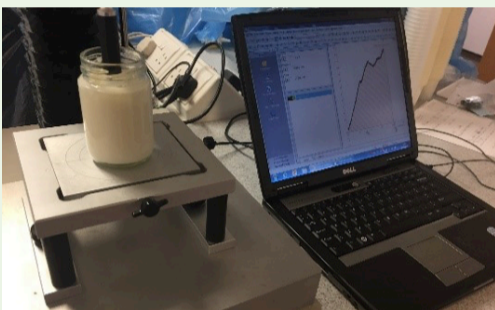
80%

OF WELSH DAIRY FARMS
REGISTERED WITH
FARMING CONNECT

Demonstration Site Projects

Focus on Milk for Cheese Production

This project at Clawdd Offa focus site has been looking at the total cheese yield and formation times of soft cheese from milk produced by cows with different genotypes. The Kappa Casein gene has an influence on cheese yield and production and studies have shown cows with the BB form of the gene yield higher amounts of cheese. The cows were classified according to their genotype: AA, AB or BB. Milk was separated from the different groups and taken to the Food Technology Centre for testing. The differences between the milk from cows with different genotypes are being examined. These research findings aim to support farmers to understand what market they can access with their milk supply.



Focus on Reducing Pollution from Agriculture

Local farmers from the Pulford catchment attended an event at Shordley Hall focus site, Wrexham to hear about the latest SSAFO regulations. Particular emphasis was given on ways to reduce rainwater and slurry volumes to reduce pressure on storage facilities.



Focus on Reducing Antibiotic Use

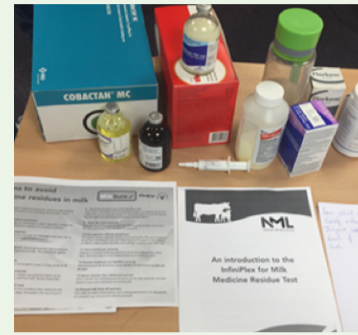
Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT) workshop at Holebrook Farm Focus Site, Wrexham

This event in December highlighted the successes and improvements made at Holebrook Farm since SDCT was introduced as part of their focus site project. The workshop demonstrated the practical administration of SDCT using sealant instead of antibiotics. The farm has only been practising SDCT since March 2018 and significant improvements have already been made as well as less antibiotic used.



Responsible use of antibiotics workshop

This workshop held in December was run by Farming Connect in conjunction with Wern Vets and brought farmers together to discuss how they can make changes to the amount of antibiotics used without compromising herd health and welfare.



The workshop focused on:

- correct administration
- record keeping
- correct drug storage
- relevant legislation

Focus on Soils

A group of 15 farmers attended a Master Soils workshop in October where they learned about the importance of managing soils to maximise grass production. The workshops were led by grassland specialists Charlie Morgan and Chris Duller and covered a wide range of issues that affect soil health and fertility. Careful use of slurry was a key topic and farmers heard how the timing of application is important to get the most from it.

Applying 3,500 gallons/acre of 6%DM slurry in October provides 17kgN/ha worth £12.24/ha but if that slurry application is made in March, the optimum month for slurry applications, then it will provide 40kgN/ha worth £28.80/ha.

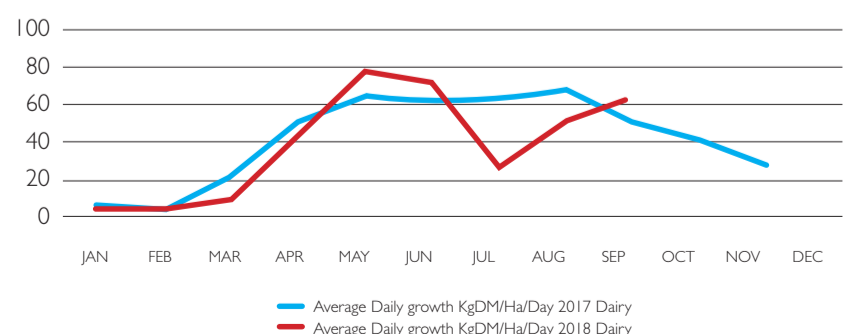


Welsh Pasture Project Review 2018

Grass Growth in 2018

2018 proved to be one of the most challenging seasons in living memory with farmers being pushed to the extremes of grassland management. After a cold, wet late spring Wales saw one of the driest and warmest summers leading to poor grass growth rates and the need for silage clamps to be opened in the summer to support livestock. Rain finally fell in September but some regions fared better than others with project farms in Pembrokeshire and Gwynedd growing 50-60kgDM/Ha/day compared to farms in Denbighshire and Monmouthshire struggling with 20-30kgDM/Ha/day.

Welsh Pasture Project participating dairy farms Grass growth curve 2017/2018



Discussion Groups



Number of Dairy Discussion Groups: 31

Case Study

Sara Pedersen of Farm Dynamics visited a South West dairy discussion group to increase the groups awareness of the different causes of lameness, treatment and prevention in order to reduce the instances of lameness on their farms.

The meeting began with a facilitated discussion on the main causes of lameness and what each case can potentially cost the business. Sara went onto explain that there are a number of risk factors on farm that can cause lameness. Each risk factor was discussed in turn and Sara explained how they resulted in lameness and the type of lameness they cause. Prevention measures were also explained with how each one could be managed in the future.

During the meeting Sara also emphasised the importance of lying times, which is a common cause of lameness, and how this can prevent lameness. She explained that there are a number of reasons why cows do not get sufficient lying times on farm, including:

- Milking talking too long
- Overstocking & lack of cubicles
- Heat stress which causes the cow to stand
- Unsuitable cubicle dimensions
- Head rail & brisket board in an incorrect position
- Insufficient bedding

Members of the group gained an understanding of all the different factors that can cause lameness on a farm, the structure of a cow's foot, foot bathing and foot trimming protocols as well as different treatment methods. As a result, the farmers present should see fewer cases of lameness on their farms which will in turn improve production, profitability and improve cow health and welfare.

KE Hub

Technical articles produced by the KE Hub:

- USE OF MEMBRANE FILTRATION TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION
- IMPROVING SLURRY MANAGEMENT USING SEPARATION TECHNOLOGY
- BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS FOR AGRICULTURE

Factsheets produced by the KE Hub:

- DOCK CONTROL

Strategic Awareness Events

27 Events Held with 889 attendees

Key topics included:

<p>ADDRESSING CATTLE LAMENESS</p>	<p>ERADICATING JOHNE'S FROM YOUR HERD</p>
<p>FARMING FOR THE FUTURE</p>	<p>TB, KEEP IT OUT</p>

*Strategic Awareness Event themes are often cross-sectoral that tend to attract farmers from all sectors, including the Dairy sector.

Venture



Mentoring Programme



Management Exchange

5 Management Exchange candidates who were successful in Stage 1 of the 2019 application process are hoping to investigate dairy related topics:

- Dairy beef performance and profitability
- Improved breeding techniques in dairy goats including use of artificial insemination
- Robotic milking in the Netherlands
- Milking sheep



Rhys Davies

Location: Holywell

Destination: Ireland

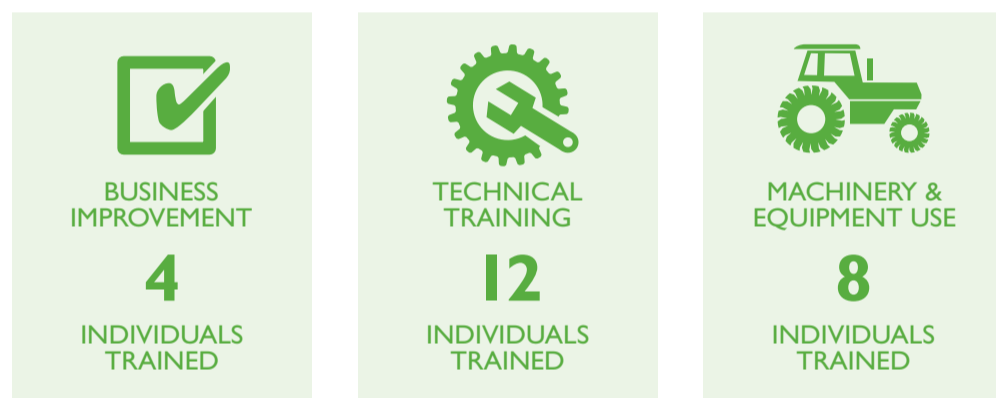
Topic: Impact of the EBI on the Irish spring calving grass based herd.

Click [here](#) to read Rhys' report.



Training

During this period, 24 instances of face to face training were delivered to individuals within the Dairy sector.



E-learning

Some of the e-learning courses completed within this period:

- Business Planning
- Farm Finance
- Feed Efficiency
- Preparing a Winter Feed Budget

Click [here](#) to visit the full list of e-learning modules available.

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

Technical article:

IMPROVING SLURRY MANAGEMENT: USING SEPARATION TECHNOLOGY

Page views: 243



Facebook 18/11/2018

Feed Budgeting – Hefin Richards

Hefin Richards Independent dairy & beef nutrition specialist believes flexibility is key and having the willingness to do things a little bit differently when feeding livestock this winter.

Click [here](#) to watch the video.

People Reached: 2,096

