

RAG Status

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



Knowledge Exchange (KE) Hub ■

Key outputs during the quarter:

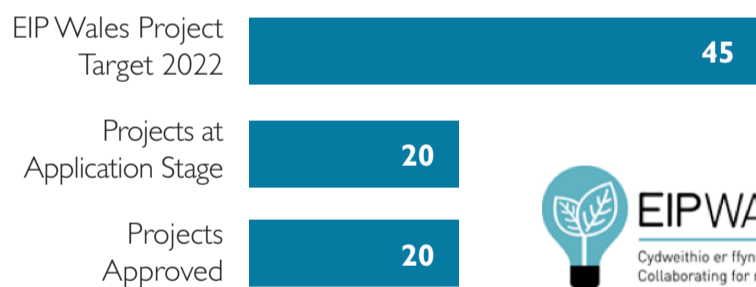
5 Technical articles published:

-  A SMALL BUT DEADLY GREENHOUSE GAS: HOW TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS FROM LIVESTOCK
-  METABOLIC PROFILING OF EWES TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTION
-  ON THE FARMER'S RADAR: TOP 10 TECH TRENDS FOR AGRICULTURE
-  THE USE OF THERMAL IMAGING TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION
-  METABOLIC PROFILING OF DAIRY COWS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTION

5 Factsheet produced:

-  DIGESTATE FROM GRASS
-  BRACKEN CONTROL
-  DOCK CONTROL
-  SLURRY SEPARATION
-  EWE NUTRITION DURING PREGNANCY

European Innovation Partnership ■



New projects approved during this period:

Managing dairy ewes to produce a better outcome for cheese production

When compared to the conventional dairy cow sector in Wales, there is a poor understanding of the factors that control the bacteriological profile of sheep's milk. This project aims to investigate how the breed of sheep, stage of lactation, and supplementation with selenium influence the bacteriological profile of the milk over two seasons. The group's vision is to be at the forefront of this emerging sector in Wales and to put a strong foundation in place where the production system is based on high quality milk for the consumer.



Updates on current projects:

Advanced nutritional management in sheep

"The results, so far, show that there can be undetected under or oversupply of trace elements, and it is important to investigate thoroughly to get a complete picture of the overall nutrition of the ewe, especially when it comes to elements such as copper. This investigative approach should allow farmers to better understand what's going on inside the ewe before any clinical symptoms of under or oversupply of supplementation occur," said Dr Joseph Angell of Wern Vets.

Going forward, the flocks will undergo further blood analyses to manage energy and protein supply closer to lambing before additional tests to monitor progress in the summer.

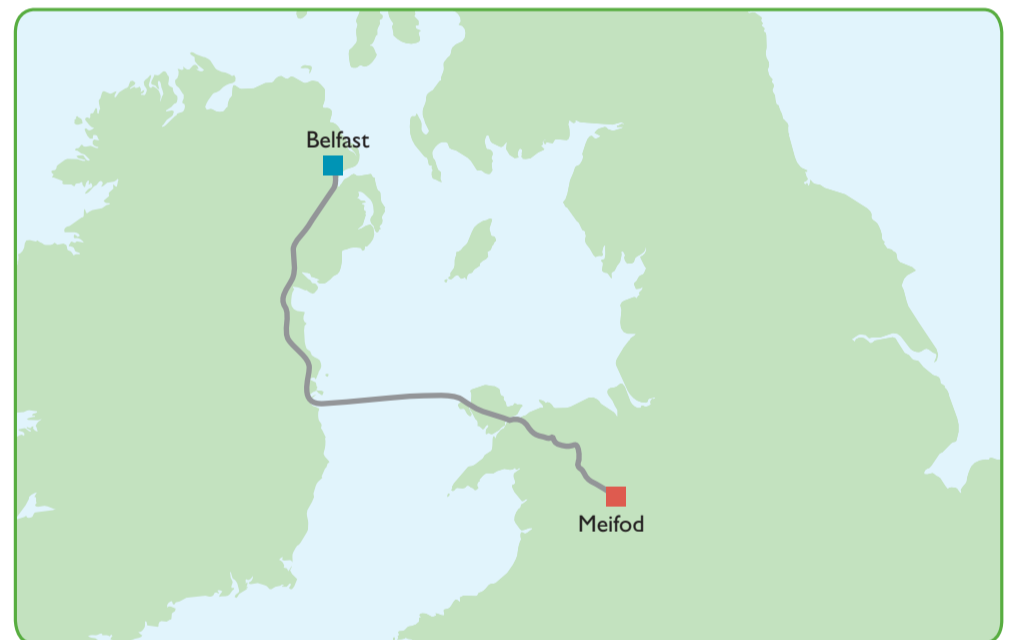
Click the [TV screen](#) to see the project in action.



Alternative forage systems for marginal land

The three farms in this EIP Wales project focused on establishment of the reseeds in 2018, in what turned out to be a very challenging year for crop growth. Despite this, performance of the herbal leys was good with yields of 67kgDM/ha on one of the farms in September. At scanning, one of the farms noted a scanning percentage of 162% from ewes grazing the herbal ley compared to 141% for ewes on the grass/clover control. Weeds were an issue in patches on all three farms and advice is being given on how to control this through good management.

Study Visits ■



1 study visits took place during this period

In January a group of young farmers from Montgomeryshire travelled to Belfast to explore farming practices in Northern Ireland and hear from progressive farmers who were willing to share their experiences within the industry.

The group visited a number of forward-thinking farmers and organisations including:

Dale Farm – one of Northern Ireland's leading dairy companies owned by a cooperative of 1,300 dairy farmers

College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise – a college for individuals looking for a career or working in the agri-food industry

Matthew Brownlee – Farmers Weekly Mixed Farmer of the Year 2018/19

Gary Fitzpatrick & John Toland – calf rearers in County Antrim

Members gained knowledge in a variety of subjects; from business structure and operations to handling systems and ventilation, all of which will benefit their businesses at home.

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