

% of all activity in this period relevant to the Dairy sector



Demonstration Site Projects

Mastitis Control Plan

Positive results are being seen just six months into the project at Longlands Farm Focus Site to reduce mastitis incidents in the herd.

- 15% of cows with a somatic cell count of >200,000 cells/ml down from 20% of 2018 rolling average
- New infection rates during the dry period <10% in early 2019 compared to 20.5% in 2018
- The dry period cure rate for infections has risen from 68.4% in 2018 to 90% in early 2019
- Cost savings so far amount to £18 per cow between October 2018 and March 2019

Using a custom-made *Mycoplasma bovis* vaccine to safeguard herd health

Wern Farm Focus Site near Carmarthen has been using a custom-made vaccine to address a problem with *Mycoplasma bovis*, a highly contagious bacterium that is a major contributor to calf pneumonia and is also associated with meningitis, eye and ear infections as well as arthritis, mastitis, abortion and infertility in adult cows.

Cows at Wern Farm were vaccinated at six weeks and three weeks pre-calving to allow a passive transfer of immunity to their calves. Calves were then given the vaccine at two weeks and four weeks old.

Calf deaths from birth to weaning in January had been 63% but the first of the vaccinated cows calved on 10 February and mortalities in February dropped to 32% with most of these caused by scours.

Five hundred doses of the vaccine – sufficient to protect 125 calves – were produced for the trial at Wern Farm at a cost of £7.50/dose, which worked out at £30 to protect one calf. This would work out cheaper in the long term if a higher quantity of doses were ordered.

Early fresh grass sampling gives reassurance for early turnout and grazing

Rhiwlas Farm near Bala, has undertaken some early fresh grass sampling to ensure fresh calved spring cows are utilising optimum quality grass rather than more expensive concentrates and conserved forages. Reducing feed costs but without reducing feed quality is the priority, and based on a utilised Dry Matter total cost per KgDM, grazed grass can be valued at 10p/KgDM, silage at 14p/KgDM and concentrate at 23p/KgDM. According to AHDB, well made and ensiled grass silage should target 12ME and 15-17.5% CP, as we see in the analysis below, early spring grass is often higher in ME and CP.

Sampling carried out on 28/02/19

Analysis (Dry Matter)	Result	Low	High
Dry Matter	% 19.3	15	25
Crude Protein	% 23.8	15	25
ME	MJ/kg 12.4	10	15
Sugars	% 6.5	5	10
NDF	% 45.5	35	55
ADF	% 20.5	15	25
Oil A	% 5.2	4	8
Free Nitrates - Fresh	mg/kg 100.0	100	200

Utilising more grazed grass to cut costs

Moor Farm Demonstration Site has invested in infrastructure, including cow tracks, to extend the grazing season in early spring and late autumn.

The most profitable farms achieve 80-85% utilisation of grass grown. Increasing utilisation from six to seven tonnes per hectare can increase net profit by £235/ha. For a 100ha farm this amounts to £23,500 more net profit per year.

At Moor Farm the cows graze opening covers of 2,500kg/ha and by regular measuring is able to manage feed stocks and aim for a daily grass intake of 16-17kgDM/cow. Grass grazed in the first rotation is the cheapest feed of all – it can cost as little as £10-£20t/DM - but if it is not utilised because cows are not turned out early enough, then the opportunity for cheap feed is lost and the feed quality and yields of subsequent rotations will be poorer.

KE Hub

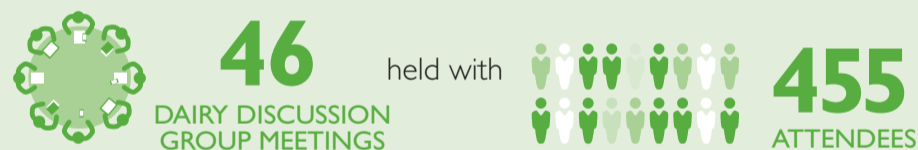
Technical articles produced by the KE HUB;

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

Factsheets produced by the KE Hub:

- SLURRY SEPARATION
- MULTI-CUT SILAGE

Discussion Groups



Number of Dairy Discussion Groups: **31**

Case Study

Keith Owen of Kebeck visited the Grazing Gogs Discussion Group in April to discuss farm infrastructure, looking at the following three main areas:

- Silage & slurry storage and handling
- Impact on storage of contaminated rainwater
- Current legislation and future issues

Following on from this, Keith emphasised the impact rainwater contamination has on storage capacity and that this issue should be addressed first. Covering a loafing yard and redirecting the rainwater alone can have a huge impact on the storage capacity and in some instances can bring a farm up to compliance. To demonstrate this, Keith told the group that a slurry lagoon typically holds 30% slurry, 25% parlour washing, 25% rainwater from yards and 20% rainwater from store.

Images of bad practice were shown to the group to illustrate what can happen if storage is inadequate or not up to standards, and how this breaches NVZ/SSAFO regulations.

The overarching message was that how sometimes simple changes can be made to reduce the volume of slurry, and ultimately reduce the risk of water pollution.

Strategic Awareness Events

59 Events Held with 2434 attendees

Examples of events held during this period:

<p>FARMING FOR THE FUTURE (FBG)</p> 	<p>HEALTH AND SAFETY ROADSHOW</p> 
<p>MAKING TAX DIGITAL</p> 	<p>SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION GRANT 2</p> 

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

Surgeries

39 Surgeries held

Topics included:



2 DIGITAL BUSINESS REVIEWS	9 SUCCESSION SURGERIES
1 DIGITAL SUCCESSION SURGERY	6 PLANNING SURGERIES
9 MARKETING AND DIVERSIFICATION SURGERIES	5 IT SURGERIES
2 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SURGERIES	2 DIGITAL SUCCESSION SURGERIES
2 DIGITAL MARKETING AND DIVERSIFICATION SURGERIES	1 DIGITAL PLANNING SURGERY

The one-to-one surgeries that we provide are open to all sectors, including the Dairy sector, meaning that expert advice can be spread further afield. During this period, a total of **209** dairy businesses attended a surgery, either face-to-face or over the phone.

Agrisgôp

45 MEETINGS WITH A DAIRY THEME TOOK PLACE WITH **235** ATTENDEES

Group themes included:

Exploring Joint Ventures	TB – the real impact
Herd Health and Genetics	Dairy empowerment – seeing the farm through others' eyes

Mentoring Programme

58 DAIRY FARMERS currently being mentored



Click [here](#) to access the full Mentor Directory.

Topics discussed include:

Safety of parlour air compressors	Dairy joint venture
Robotic milking	Implementing changes and targets

Venture

3 NEW DAIRY PROVIDERS **8** NEW DAIRY SEEKERS

10 DAIRY MATCHES currently being supported via the Advisory Service
2 new dairy Joint Ventures established via Venture during this period

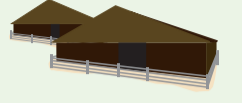
Current opportunities available:

Number of opportunities offered:



1 DAIRY UNIT

Total land area offered:



47 HECTARES (DAIRY UNITS ONLY)

Management Exchange

Rhys Davies' management exchange report was published on the website during this period.

Rhys visited Ireland at the end of October 2018 to explore the impact of the EBI on the Irish spring calving grass-based herd.



Click [here](#) to read his report.

Training

During this period, **58** instances of face-to-face training were delivered to individuals within the Dairy sector.

<p>BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>19 INDIVIDUALS TRAINED</p>	<p>TECHNICAL TRAINING</p> <p>22 INDIVIDUALS TRAINED</p>	<p>MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT USE</p> <p>17 INDIVIDUALS TRAINED</p>
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E-learning

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

FARM FINANCE	CATTLE LAMENESS
BIOSECURITY	FEED EFFICIENCY

Click [here](#) to visit the website.

