

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



Animal Health & Welfare Workshops



Group themes included:

- 4** Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) workshops
- 1** Understanding Johne's Disease workshop

Demonstration Site Projects

Focus on Antibiotic Awareness

Antimicrobial Use (AMU) data: 2018-19

Goldsland's antibiotic usage has been revisited a year on from the project to see how the usage has changed following the technical advice from Dr James Breen. Overall, usage has reduced dramatically in the year following the project.

- AMU for 2018-19 at 8mg/PCU, 1.5 daily doses and 0.5 courses per cow
 - Injectable Tylan now 1.5mg
 - Clinical mastitis treatments now 0.8 daily doses
 - Antibiotic dry cow therapy now 0.1 courses
- Clinical mastitis rate dropped to 21 cases per 100 cows/year from collated information for the 12 months ending June 2019
- 53 reported cases of mastitis in the last year compared to 91 the previous year
- All cases detected and treated; the farm has not stopped treating mild cases
- The rate of NEW cases in cows more than 30 days calved has reduced from 2.6 cows affected per 12 cows at risk to just 1.2 cows affected per 12 cows at risk

This is a great example of reducing new cases into the herd, and therefore, reducing recurrence. 38 fewer cases were had between 2017-18 and 2018-19 also meant a saving of £15,200 on mastitis cases alone.

	Clinical mastitis rate (100 cows/year)	Cases of mastitis	AMU use Mg/PCU	Daily dose per cow	Daily courses per cow	Critically important AMU use Mg/PCU
2017-18	49	91	17	2.9	1	0.37
2018-19	21	53	8	1.5	0.5	0.00

Comparison of 2017-18 and 2018-19 antibiotic usage and mastitis data.

This video was produced to highlight the good work achieved at Goldsland Farm.

Click [here](#) or the TV screen to watch.



Focus on Rearing Dairy Heifers

Evaluating the economics and practicalities of rearing dairy heifers on an upland sheep farm.



Very little is understood about the management of dairy heifers on grass within a highly stocked rotational grazing system. The main principles, in terms of utilization and management, will be based on the grazing practices of the mature

dairy herd. This project at Llys Dinmael Isaf Farm will monitor heifer growth rates against pre and post grazing covers with an aim to better understand how Holstein Friesian heifers can be grazed within a rotational cell grazing system with the aim of maximizing animal performance on a low-cost feeding regime.

20 dairy Holstein Friesian heifers will be reared by a non-milk producer on an upland sheep farm from 4 weeks old until calving down, with the aim of feeding as much grazed grass as possible to monitor and control feed, bedding, labour and housing costs. This will be achieved using a cell rotational grazing system which will also work alongside the existing sheep rotational grazing system.

Focus on Mycoplasma Bovis Vaccine

Since 2015, Wern Farm, a Farming Connect Focus Site near Bancyfelin, had experienced a high level of calf mortalities. The high levels of mortality at the start of the project were having a negative impact on the business through excess calf deaths and increased treatment costs. Three calves with pneumonia were originally tested for M. Bovis, with all three returning a positive diagnosis.

As a result of the vaccination policy, the business notes that 20 calves have been saved which is worth approximately £4,000 additional income per year. Not only have calves been saved, but overall calf health has also improved, resulting in stronger calves which are also returning higher growth rates. Further benefits amount to higher levels of overall "human wellbeing" due to having fewer sick animals to tend to. The business plans to continue vaccination prior to winter to see if further benefits can be seen. The results of this will determine if vaccination becomes "standard practice" once this batch of vaccine has been used.

Focus on Increasing Yield from Grazed Grass

Erw Fawr, a 192ha holding near Holyhead, is a new Farming Connect Demonstration Site. Their project will focus on improving the yield of grass available in order to improve grass utilisation and increase milk from grazed grass. They will also be using satellite technology to improve quality of multi-cut silage.

The grass was measured on 3 of September: the average grass cover was 2401kgDM/HA and grass demand is 2020kgDM/day. Below is a map of the farm's paddocks.



KE Hub

Technical articles produced by the KE HUB;

-  NUTRITIONAL QUALITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-BOVINE MILK IN THE UK
-  HOW LOW CAN YOU GO? THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTEIN IN THE DAIRY COW DIET
-  CUT YOUR LOSSES: MAXIMISING THE BENEFITS OF A NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Discussion Groups



Number of Dairy Discussion Groups: **32**

Case Study

Rob Drysdale visited the South Montgomeryshire Dairy Discussion Group in May to share his knowledge and experience of rearing calves to the group.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss the various stages in a calf's life, the KPI's and the housing facility within a dairy enterprise.

Rob gave specific detail on the importance of knowing your animals and understanding the different stages of the calf's life and its immune system at each stage. A discussion took place around what can cause stress to the animal such as, weaning, turn out, change of feed or grazing. Rob stressed the importance of strategic planning and being prepared well ahead of any change so the stress on the animal is reduced.

Details were shared within the group regarding the importance of feeding quality colostrum within the first three feeds of the calf's life. This can help the farmers to achieve the best quality calves and to reduce the impact of diseases such as pneumonia.

Other KPI's identified and discussed were:

- Scanning %
- Rearing%
- Weight at 8 weeks
- Mortality
- DLWG
- Vet & amp; Med
- KG of beef produced
- Quality of calves when they arrive
- Food intake
- Number of days to get back in-calf
- Days on farm

The discussion was followed by a farm walk where the members got to see examples of good practice when it comes to calf rearing.

Surgeries

41 Surgeries held

Topics included:



14 SUCCESSION SURGERIES

5 PLANNING SURGERIES

4 DIGITAL BUSINESS REVIEW SURGERIES

18 BENCHMARKING SURGERIES

Our 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 **16** dairy individuals attended a surgery, either face-to-face or over the phone.

Agrisgôp

42 MEETINGS WITH A DAIRY THEME TOOK PLACE WITH **233** ATTENDEES

Group themes included:

 Farmers for education

 Industry resources and campaigns

 Farm visit to world leaders in producing excellent cows for dairy production

Mentoring Programme

75 DAIRY FARMERS  currently being mentored



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

Management Exchange

Alec Cowan's Management Exchange, May 2019

Topic: Robotic Milking Herds

Country: The Netherlands



During May, Alec Cowan travelled to the Netherlands to complete his exchange. His aim was to gain insight into the robotic milking of dairy cows, from a practical point of view, with particular

focus on the reduction of antibiotic use. He chose to visit the Netherlands as 25% of dairy farms there use robots to milk, compared with 2-3% in the UK.

Alec visited four farms including a cheese producer. As well as gaining a better understanding of robotic milking, Alec gained valuable knowledge on herd health.

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

Venture

4 NEW DAIRY PROVIDERS | **4** NEW DAIRY SEEKERS | **1** POTENTIAL DAIRY MATCH ESTABLISHED DURING THE QUARTER

4 DAIRY MATCHES

currently being supported via the Advisory Service
9 new dairy Joint Ventures established via Venture during this period

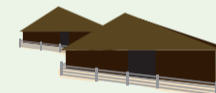
Current opportunities available:

Number of opportunities offered:



2 DAIRY UNITS

Total land area offered:



232 HECTARES (DAIRY UNITS ONLY)

Training

During this period, **56** instances of face to face training were delivered to the Dairy sector.



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

10

INDIVIDUALS TRAINED



TECHNICAL TRAINING

32

INDIVIDUALS TRAINED



MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT USE

14

INDIVIDUALS TRAINED

E-learning

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

CALF SCOURS



CATTLE LAMENESS



MASTITIS IN CATTLE



CONTROLLING BVD



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

