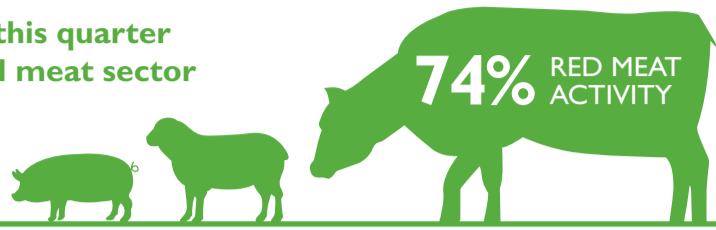


RED MEAT DASHBOARD

May – August 2019

% of all activity in this quarter relevant to the red meat sector



Demonstration Network

Focus on techno grazing

The main aim of this project at Carreg Plas focus site is to demonstrate the transition from a set stocking system to a rotational grazing system. The project will promote the benefits involved in making the transition and provide farmers with a blue print of the relevant information required to improve their own businesses. The project will highlight all of the practical considerations involved, including the division of land and the installation of infrastructure. Grazing management is currently carried out by eye alone and is not supported by actual data collected by regular grass measuring.

Over the 2019 grazing season, 86 suckler cows have been grazing the platform and also calved whilst rotationally grazing. When set stocking, the farm grew 8tDM/ha and utilised 6.5tDM/ha. Since adopting rotational grazing, growth has increased to 10tDM/ha and utilisation is 8.5tDM/ha up to August this year. Grazing is forecasted to extend into November.

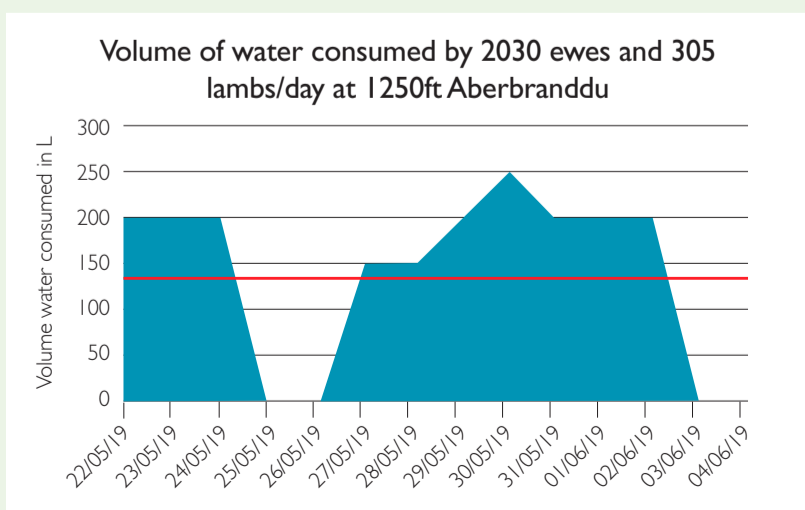
The installation cost of the grazing infrastructure at £311/ha will be paid off by after the first grazing season due to the cost savings in fertiliser, labour, increased grass growth and the increased possible stocking rate. Due to the success of the rotational grazing, John and Ianto Pari will be increasing the suckler herd numbers and converting the bull finishing system from intensively grain feed to finishing from forage.



Focus on water intake by sheep at 1,250ft

Rotationally grazing in fields with limited water supply can be a limiting factor. This in-field project at Aberbranddu demonstration site aimed to measure how much water was actually used over a period of two weeks from 22.05.19 – 04.6.19. After this period, the sheep and lambs moved rotationally to an area with a water source. The water was changed twice, in case of staleness, but there was no effect on consumption. This trial will continue when the sheep return to the fields that are lacking in a water supply. It is felt that more data needs to be collected before any firm conclusions can be made, although initial results show less water was used in practice than the industry figures would suggest.

The graph below shows the daily volume of water consumed at 1,250ft by a mob of sheep and lambs from a mobile drinking unit.



The average daily water consumption over the period trialled was 139L/day which works out at approx. 0.6L/day for the ewes (not including the lambs) which is well below the industry standard of 3.3-7.5L/day. Whilst this is only part of the full project, it shows that this is an area that would benefit from further research.

AHDB figures of industry standard water use for livestock:

Approximate daily water requirements of beef and sheep:

Class of stock	Litres per day (drinking)
Beef cow, dry	15-40
Beef cow, lactating	40-70
Fattening cattle	25-75
Growing cattle	15-50
Sheep	3.3-7.5

Note: water requirements are highly dependent on the type of ration fed, ambient temperature and stage of the production cycle, particularly whether lactating.

Focus on Digital Dermatitis – 2-point plan

To use an integrated herd health, nutrition and grazing plan to control lameness in Beef cattle to reduce reliance on antibiotics in the future. Digital dermatitis causes lameness in cattle, which as well as the welfare implications, can cost around £99/ case, due to reduced production output, increased labour, and vet costs.

At Trapps Farm focus site, they used the expertise of vet Sarah Pederson, who specialises in cattle lameness and advised on a whole herd health plan. The largest investment the farm made in regards to tackling lameness was installing a permeant footbath. Since foot bathing, clinical diagnosis of digital dermatitis has reduced dramatically with only persistent cattle showing signs; there have been no new cases.

Below are the guidelines Sarah Pederson and the host farmer Richard designed, a simple 2-point plan that can easily be followed and implemented.

Controlling Digital Dermatitis in a Beef Herd: A two point plan

★ 1

BLITZ TREAT

REDUCE THE DISEASE RESERVOIR:
'Blitz' treat: Treat **all** lesions at the **same time** to reduce infection levels in herd and environment.

★ 2

PREVENT

PREVENT FUTURE CASES:
STOP new strains entering herd
STOP new cases in uninfected animals
STOP old cases coming back

Agrisgôp

93 MEETINGS WITH A RED MEAT THEME TOOK PLACE WITH **557** ATTENDEES

Group themes included:

- Sheep lameness prevention
- Grazing options, and the on-farm benefits
- Profitable sheep farming
- Constructing a business plan

KE Hub

Technical articles produced by the KE HUB;

- PRODUCING FODDER CROPS USING HYDROPONICS
- NUTRITIONAL QUALITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-BOVINE MILK IN THE UK
- IT'S A GUT FEELING: A HEALTHY RUMEN IS A HEALTHY RUMINANT

Discussion Groups



86 held with
RED MEAT DISCUSSION
GROUP MEETINGS



509
ATTENDEES

Number of Red Meat Discussion Groups: 50

Case Study



In August, the independent specialist Liz Genever visited a sheep discussion group in Anglesey to deliver on 'Setting KPI's for the coming year'. She highlighted to the group how important it is to plan ahead and set tangible business targets.

Liz went around all group members individually and asked the following questions:

- "Which specific benchmarking measures are relevant to your farming system?"
- "Which order would you rank them in your business in terms of importance?"

Scanning percentage came up as the highest scoring benchmarking measure, and all agreed with Liz that it was an influential factor in measuring the enterprise performance.

Liz proceeded to list the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) with the group and rank their importance/influence individually. Following this exercise, the group decided on four KPI's which they would benchmark over the coming year. These were:

- DLWG (due to its effect on 'Days on Feed')
- Labour costs
- Replacement costs
- Kg LWT per Ha

Each group member will receive a synopsis of the action points, and will be using M2M as their benchmarking tool to measure these KPI's.

Strategic Awareness Events

33 Events Held with 689 attendees

START TO FARM



HEALTH AND SAFETY ROADSHOW



SHEARING WORKSHOP



WORM CONTROL ROADSHOW



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

Surgeries

41 Surgeries Held

14 SUCCESSION SURGERIES

5 PLANNING SURGERIES



4 DIGITAL BUSINESS REVIEW SURGERIES

18 BENCHMARKING SURGERIES

The one-to-one surgeries that we provide are open to all sectors, including the Red Meat sector, meaning that expert advice can be spread further afield. During this period, a total of **149** red meat individuals attended a surgery, either face-to-face or over the phone. **18** Benchmarking surgeries were held and these were specifically targeted to the Red Meat sector.

Venture

10 NEW RED MEAT PROVIDERS

7 NEW RED MEAT SEEKERS

2 POTENTIAL RED MEAT MATCH ESTABLISHED DURING THE QUARTER

5 RED MEAT MATCHES currently being supported via the Advisory Service

Current opportunities available:

Number of opportunities offered:

14 RED MEAT UNITS

Total land area offered:

1803 HECTARES
(RED MEAT UNITS ONLY)

Mentoring Programme

67 NEW RED MEAT FARMERS ACCESSING THE MENTORING PROGRAMME

347 RED MEAT FARMERS CURRENTLY BEING MENTORED

84% OF ALL MENTEES ARE RED MEAT FARMERS



8 OF THE ABOVE ARE PIG FARMERS

Animal Health & Welfare Workshops



20 WORKSHOPS

held with



275 ATTENDEES

4 BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHOEA (BVD) WORKSHOPS

1 UNDERSTANDING JOHNE'S DISEASE WORKSHOP

2 LAMBING LOSSES WORKSHOPS

13 SHEEP PARASITE CONTROL PART 1: ROUNDWORMS & BLOWFLY WORKSHOPS

Training

During this period, **210** instances of face to face training were delivered to the Red Meat sector.



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

67

INDIVIDUALS TRAINED



TECHNICAL TRAINING

94

INDIVIDUALS TRAINED



MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT USE

49

INDIVIDUALS TRAINED

E-learning

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

BEEF HERD FERTILITY



SHEEP LAMENESS



GENETIC IMPROVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK



JOHNE'S DISEASE IN SHEEP



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

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

Facebook 02/05/2019

John Vipond spent the week with us at various locations across Wales discussing how to grow and finish lambs successfully. Here are his top 5 tips! Full report available on our website shortly.



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

People Reached: 4,607
Engagements: 410
Likes, comments & shares: 39

Twitter 29/05/2019

Investing £15,000 in grazing infrastructure halves beef farmer's winter housing period. Beef Farmer of the Year 2012, James Evans, will discuss how he has changed his farming practices to maximise beef output from grass.



Impressions: 2,197
Engagements: 73

