

% of activity relevant to the Forestry Sector:



502 BUSINESSES REGISTERED with Farming Connect are from the Forestry sector.

Demonstration Network

Sourcing biomass material from hedgerows



Plas y Cerdin Focus Site have been exploring how to make the most of hedgerow management by using the produce as biomass fuel. To this end, a template was needed to prepare a hedgerow management plan in order to assess content and condition and identify any actions to

undertake in terms of management over a five-year period. This plan can be used to prepare information and earmark activities for planning applications.

Some of the best practice factors noted in the coppicing programme were:

- No more than 50% of the farm's hedgerows to be managed for fuel use
- No more than 5% to be coppiced annually or 10% every two years
- Ensure that hedges can re-grow and are protected from stock

Managing hedgerows for wood fuel production

The aims of the event held at Plas y Cerdin Focus Site in November 2018 were to:

1. Provide a platform to integrate the work programme into the farming calendar.
2. Provide improved understanding of the multiple benefits of trees
3. Provide improved transparency on hedgerow regulation and compliance

The benefits of having a robust green infrastructure on the farm were explained covering improved biosecurity for livestock, health and welfare of animals, health and safety when handling livestock and how strategically placed linear woodland could improve handling and gathering practice. Future management plans were discussed as well as agri pollution and future WG directives with regard to the likelihood of regulatory practice being introduced. The facts are there for farmers to look at the opportunities available and take advantage of tree planting and establishing buffer zones and linear shelterbelts to improve the environmental aspect of the farm which will have a positive effect on the farm economics.

Feedback from attendees:

"I learnt about establishing hedgerows and the legal requirements."

"Great, informative event with good networking opportunity."

"I learnt more about processing, felling licenses and more."

"I learnt about the potential resource from hedgerows."

Farming the Environment Conference

An open day was held at Henfaes Farm, University of Bangor, which provided updates on environmental projects undertaken by Farming Connect and promoted discussion around the positive relationship between the environment and agriculture. A total of 70 people attended this event.

Key messages from the day were;

- Farming and the environment are dependent on each other, with food production integrated with farm woodland and green infrastructure which can lead to improved environmental and economic performance.
- Improving environmental and economic performance enables farmers to maintain the land in a strong environmental and ecological condition, providing a healthy resource for the business and the next generation by delivering nature-based solutions to improve environmental and business resilience.

Farmers that have embraced the ethos of managing the environment on the farm to improve returns, both in economic and environmental terms, spoke about their businesses and the work that's been undertaken on their farm to achieve tangible outcomes.

All presentations, as well as a podcast of the day, are available on the Farming Connect website.



Click [here](#) or the TV Screen to watch the conference highlights.

Events breakdown:



6 INNOVATION SITE OPEN EVENTS (199 ATTENDEES)



1 INNOVATION SITE PROGRESSION EVENT (21 ATTENDEES)



2 FOCUS SITE PROGRESSION EVENTS (33 ATTENDEES)

18 FOCUS SITE OPEN EVENTS (463 ATTENDEES)



KE Hub

The following technical articles have been produced by the KE Hub:



WAR OF THE WEEDS: THE RISE OF THE ROBOTS



ARE RIPARIAN BUFFER STRIPS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE TREE COVER ON UK FARMS WHILST SIMULTANEOUSLY REDUCING THE IMPACT OF AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION?

The following factsheets have been produced by the KE Hub:



BRACKEN CONTROL



EARTHWORMS AND SOIL HEALTH

Discussion Groups



5

DISCUSSION GROUP MEETINGS

have focussed on forestry issues



40
ATTENDEES

Comparison of the relative environmental benefits of low impact machinery in small scale woodlands

Small woodlands in Wales are currently an undermanaged resource, and if they could be brought back into management by landowners, they could provide a valuable source of extra revenue. However, the cost of conventional machinery used for timber operations is not economically viable to smaller landowners. Furthermore, timber operations can be damaging to soils and water if the machinery is not suited to the site, or operations are carried out inappropriately.

The project sought to quantify the volume of water and sediment concentration losses from four treatment areas, including a Control treatment (no activity), conventional harvesting treatment, and two low-impact forestry treatments using an Alpine tractor and a tracked harvester vehicle. Post-treatment runoff volumes, nutrient concentrations of runoff and soil structure were assessed to investigate the impact of treatments.

Results showed that soil structure did not change significantly post-treatment, and runoff volume and nutrient concentrations were not different between treatment plots. This may have been due to natural drainage channels. However, the study was useful in highlighting the issue of soil and water management during forest operations and did show that the low impact equipment was as capable at clearing small woodland rides as the conventional machinery, and did not cause lasting impacts on the soil structure.



Venture

8 OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE FORESTRY **2 FORESTRY SEEKERS**

Mentoring

We have **6 Forestry Mentors** on the framework

 Click here for Alwyn's profile	 Click here for Chris' profile	 Click here for Huw's profile
 Click here for Ioan's profile	 Click here for Neil's profile	 Click here for Phil's profile

6% of mentees are being mentored on forestry/woodland issues

Topics discussed

Sustainable forestry management	Health and safety on a large forestry nursery
Planting a new woodland	Possible opportunities for unused woodland

Management Exchange

Chris Hughes' Management Exchange, May 2019

Topic: Timber Extraction by Cable Crane

Countries: Austria

The aim of Chris' visit was to investigate what alternative methods were currently available in Europe that were different to those currently imported into the UK. The objectives were to look into the equipment that had been developed by two other firms to solve the problem of small-scale operations that are not being fully catered for by 'mainstream' manufacturers.

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



Agrisgôp

36 MEETINGS HAVE BEEN FORESTRY RELATED



Some examples of group themes

Planning for proactive water management
Treehouse adventure visit
The role of forestry in catchment management
360-degree farming: food, environment and people

Training

There have been four application windows between October 2018 and September 2019 with **808** instances of training delivered during this period.

Of this number, **31** instances were from businesses including Forestry as primary or sub-sector.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT 11 INDIVIDUALS TRAINED	TECHNICAL TRAINING 13 INDIVIDUALS TRAINED	MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT USE 7 INDIVIDUALS TRAINED
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E-learning

Some of the e-learning courses completed within this period relating to the Forestry sector:

BENEFITS OF TREES ON UPLAND FARMS	TREE IDENTIFICATION
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For more information on e-learning, please visit the [website](#).

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



Facebook 09/09/2019

The video below was produced to promote the Farming for the Environment conference.

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

People reached: 2,132 Video views: 497 Engagement: 47

