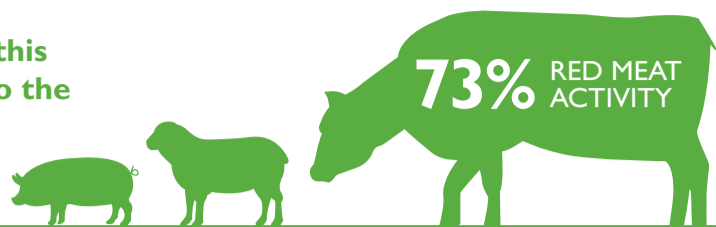


RED MEAT DASHBOARD

September 2020 – December 2020

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



Demonstration Network

Bodwi: Revising the bull beef enterprise, by exploring the potential benefits of homegrown crops

A total of 75 bull calves were weaned in early October 2020 onto a diet of treated rolled barley and grass silage. So far, the calves are consuming the silage well, with the barley introduced on top of the silage. The treated barley is fed ad lib.

The calves were not being creep-fed prior to weaning as normal this year. This was mainly to avoid compaction and churning of the fields due to increased cattle numbers. Implementing a rotational grazing system along with an abundance of grass grown meant that the calves weaned heavier this year than those in previous years. A sample of the both treated and untreated rolled barley was sent for analysis, and results showed that the crude protein content was high in the treated barley at 15.72%, compared to 8.9% and 9.7% prior to treatment.

Calves are currently consuming between 3-4kg/head/day of Alkagrain. Expenditure to-date is significantly less than last year due to less concentrates purchased and sufficient straw bedding produced. The host farmers are considering producing haylage on the farm next year, as the quality of the silage produced this year is varied and is rather butyric.

An additional element to the project for year 2 will include completing a carbon footprint for the beef enterprise at Bodwi. The carbon footprinting analysis will be completed between April-May 2021 as the host farmers will have all the data gathered on bull beef performance on the barley by then.



The carbon footprinting will focus solely on the effect of changing from feeding purchased concentrates to homegrown barley on the farm's carbon footprint (with all other variables kept constant between years).

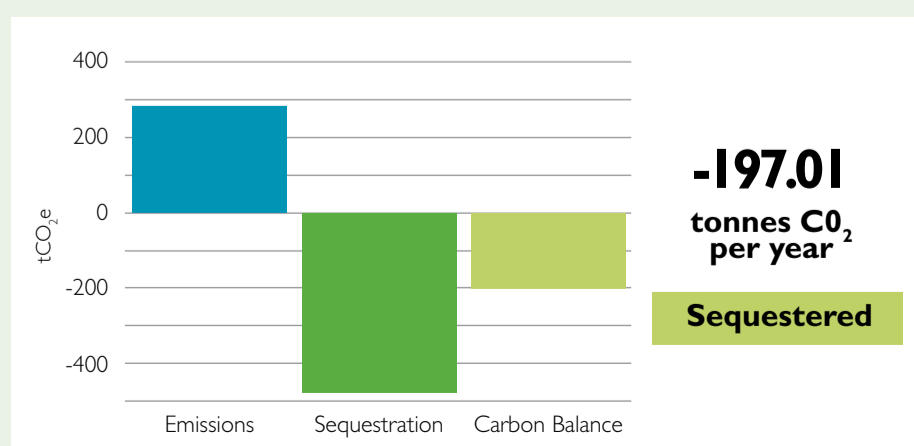
Figure 1. Weaned calves housed at Bodwi demonstration site

Hendre Ifan Goch: Improving soil and livestock management to improve soil carbon capture, and reduce farm carbon footprint

Hendre Ifan Goch demonstration site has been working with the Farm Carbon Toolkit by using their online Farm Carbon Calculator tool to calculate the farm's carbon footprint. Relevant farm business data was submitted via the online tool to calculate the carbon footprint.

This particular carbon calculator tool takes carbon sequestration into account, therefore calculating the balance between the farm's emissions and sequestration by the soils. The finalised report from the Farm Carbon Toolkit shows that Hendre Ifan Goch are currently sequestering -197.01 tonnes of carbon per year.

Figure 2. Summary graph of carbon sequestration for Hendre Ifan Goch using actual soil results – November 2020



Cefnllan: Managing the change – sucklers to dairy beef: Livestock performance

All calves were housed at the beginning of December 2020 at Cefnllan in a newly-designed slatted shed. Hefin Richards, an independent nutrition consultant, has been working closely with the host farmer to produce a ration for both growing and finishing calves.

All calves were weighed going into the shed, and were weighed again on 3 January 2021. The 36 finishing calves (averaging 24 months of age) are now weighing an average of 575kg. These calves have gained 2.1kg/day between 3 December 2020 to 3 January 2021. The 98 younger calves (12 months of age) are weighing an average of 410kg, an average weight gain of nearly 1.5kg/day since they've been housed.

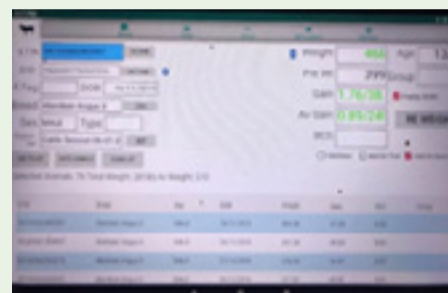


Figure 3. Calf weight records at Cefnllan demonstration site

All silage cuts have been analysed with an average ME of 11.5MJ/kg. The images below shows the border software app, as well as the Trutest Ezi-weigh 7 being used to record the calves' weights. Regular weighing and the use of precision farming technology is proving vital at Cefnllan for accurate weight records and monitoring.



Figure 4. Calves in the slatted shed at Cefnllan demonstration site

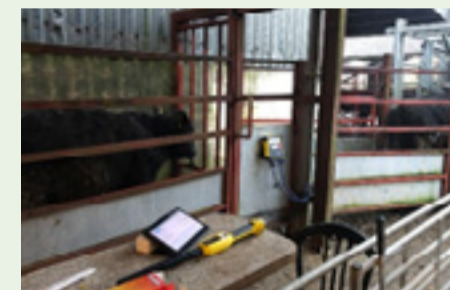


Figure 5. Weighing calves using EID equipment at Cefnllan demonstration site

Knowledge Exchange Hub

Technical articles produced by the KE HUB;

- BEEF QUALITY GRADING IN EUROPE: SHIFTING TO A CONSUMER CENTRED PERCEPTION OF BEEF QUALITY
- PRECISION LIVESTOCK TECHNOLOGIES IN THE PIG SECTOR
- LAND MANAGEMENT AND GRAZING FOR UPLAND FARMS: INCORPORATING MORE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
- AIR POLLUTION: THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURE IN WALES
- AIR POLLUTION: REDUCING AMMONIA EMISSIONS BY ADAPTING LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT APPROACHES
- ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR): CAN PRECISION TECHNOLOGY HELP?

Webinars



65 RED MEAT THEMED WEBINARS

held with



2061 VIEWERS

Examples of webinars held include:

Lamb finishing efficiency



Fodder beet for beef cattle



Keeping your meat goats happy and healthy with a focus on worm control



Discussion Groups



89 held with
RED MEAT DISCUSSION
GROUP MEETINGS



662
ATTENDEES

Number of Red Meat Discussion Groups: 36



Case Study

Two Sheep Discussion Groups from Merionnydd had expressed an interest in learning more about their business' carbon footprint, and had asked for Dr Prysor Williams from Bangor University to talk to them as a group.

Dr Prysor Williams gave a fascinating presentation via Zoom one evening, focusing on the change in market trends and consumer values, and how that should translate into primary production.

A high percentage of the group members are upland farmers, who are used to the concept of farming sustainably via Welsh Government schemes such as Tir Gofal and then Glastir. Prysor talked about the next stage in government support and how it will be focused on public goods.

Prysor discussed how benchmarking your business would help towards calculating the farm's carbon footprint, but care should be taken to use a relevant and useful tool to the farm business as there are many carbon calculators available. The group members are used to benchmarking via Measure to Manage and most were very keen to build on this so they could obtain a grasp on their individual farm carbon footprint. There was interactive and engaging discussion between the farmers and Prysor, and the general feeling was that farmers need to have an eye on the changes ahead and to prepare themselves for the shift in focus from production to provision of public goods. They saw the benchmarking process as a good step forward. The development officer will now consult further with Dr Prysor Williams on the best way to build on the Measure to Manage data and which carbon calculator would be best suited for these farms to get a valuable result.

Surgeries

21 Surgeries Held

Key topics included:



2 Accountancy surgeries

2 Business surgeries

3 Legal and succession surgeries

9 Marketing and diversification surgeries

4 Planning surgeries

1 Woodland surgery

A red meat business wanted succession advice in order to secure their business for the future generations of their family-run farm.

Surgeries are cross-sectoral events and a mixture of farmers from all sectors attend, including farmers from the red meat sector.

Mentoring Programme

22 NEW RED MEAT FARMERS ACCESSING THE MENTORING PROGRAMME



455
RED MEAT FARMERS currently being mentored

82%
OF ALL MENTEES ARE RED MEAT FARMERS

9 OF THESE ARE PIG FARMERS

New mentees sought advice on various topics including:

EID software



Increasing the productivity of a sheep enterprise



Flock health



Established a pig B&B enterprise



Animal Health & Welfare Workshops



23
WORKSHOPS

held with



196
ATTENDEES

Workshops held:

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea



Sheep Lameness



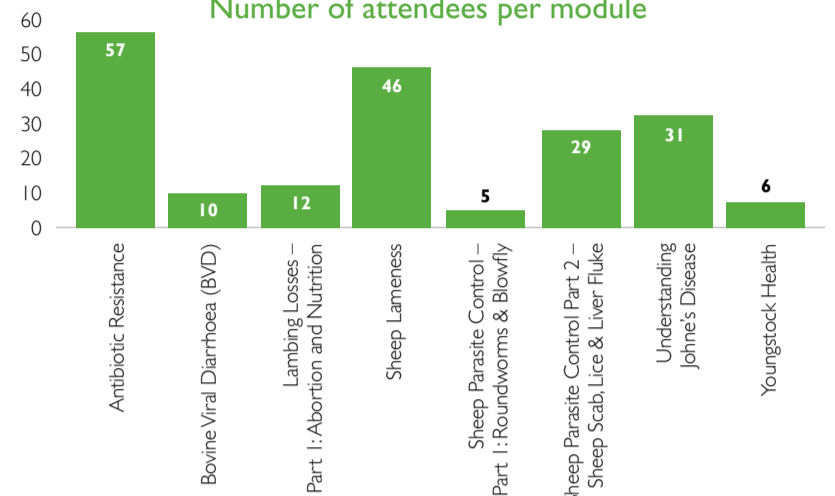
Sheep Parasite Control



Lambing Losses Part 1: Abortion and Nutrition



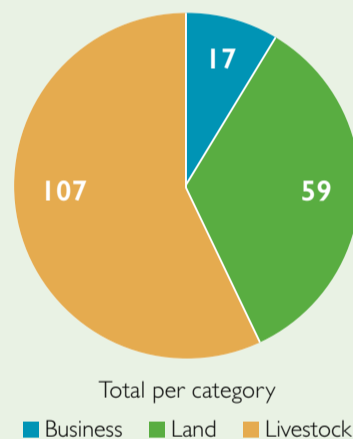
Number of attendees per module



Training

During this period, **183** instances of face to face training were delivered to the Red Meat sector.

Individuals trained by category



The most popular courses in each category were:

Claims



ROUGH TERRAIN TELESCOPIC LIFT TRUCK

17



SAFE USE OF SHEEP DIP

34



BOOKKEEPING

5



DIY AI

15

E-learning

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

RAM HEALTH



SHEEP LAMENESS



GRAZING SYSTEMS



FARM NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT



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

Animal Health Clinics



134 CLINICS

held with



938 BUSINESSES



FERTILITY



TRACE ELEMENTS



PNEUMONIA



SCAB