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.

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.

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).

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

**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**

- **RED MEAT DISCUSSION GROUP MEETINGS**
  - 89 held with 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 Pryor Williams from Bangor University to talk to them as a group.

Dr Pryor 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. Pryor talked about the next stage in government support and how it will be focused on public goods.

Pryor 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 Pryor, 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 Pryor 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**
  - 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
- Flock health
- Increasing the productivity of a sheep enterprise
- 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

**Training**

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

**The most popular courses in each category were:**

- **ROUGH TERRAIN TELESCOPIC LIFT TRUCK**
  - 17 Claims

- **SAFE USE OF SHEEP DIP**
  - 34 Claims

- **BOOKKEEPING**
  - 5 Claims

- **DIY AI**
  - 15 Claims

**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**

[www.gov.wales/farmingconnect]