



Number of businesses registered:

12,103



Number of individuals registered:

25,293

EIP Wales



46 APPROVED PROJECTS WORKING

with



232 FARMERS AND FORESTERS



Demonstration Network

Dolygarn: Alternative forage options to improve productivity and reduce environmental impact on an upland farm

Dolygarn demonstration site aims to investigate alternative wintering crops in comparison to the conventional brassica (stubble turnip or swedes) system to mitigate against the risk of soil and nutrient loss, reduce the impact on water quality and ensure future farm productivity.

That trial, run from spring 2020 to summer 2021, demonstrated that growing a crop of Clampsaver (rape and grass mix) had allowed demonstration farmer James Powell to double his income from lamb sales – he produced 7,843kg of lamb on 4.7ha, returning £16,845 in sales, compared to 3,500kg of lamb worth £7,500 from the brassicas.

An additional bonus of the Clampsaver was the ability to graze regrowth with 200 ewe lambs – the value of that alone more than covered the £82/ha (£33/acre) difference between the seed cost of Clampsaver and Brassica Express; 88 bales of silage were also harvested.

The field was then reseeded in June at a time of the year when there is less risk of run-off. In comparison, the field that hosted the brassicas was bare from January until reseeding in May. The consequences of this can be seen in the images below:

Brassica Express vs Clampsaver – ‘run off catchments’



Clampsaver



Brassica Express



The results on the economic and production side of it are very impressive, but the rape and grass mix (Clampsaver) wins on the environmental side too. An assessment of the soil made in December 2020 had shown that the soil surface in the Clampsaver field was protected and had a root density that guarded against compaction, while the soil in the brassica field left bare after grazing was vulnerable to erosion and had less root density. The worm count alone in the soil hosting the Clampsaver was 50% higher than in the brassica field.

A golden rule to reducing risks from winter grazed brassicas is to keep roots and shoots in the ground to protect the soil.

Pantyderi: Growing a protein feed crop to improve self-sufficiency in beef feeding

Pantyderi Demonstration Farm finish 400 beef cattle annually and have been working to reduce their reliance on bought-in feed. The base ration is grass silage and crimped barley; work has been done over the last two years to increase the protein level in the silage from 10.5% to 16.5% by cutting silage earlier and at a younger stage of growth, from reseeded pastures that contain more clover in the sward.

The crimped barley is also treated with a urea preservative; however, despite these measures, the growing and finishing beef rations still required 1.0-1.5kg/head/day of bought-in protein concentrate blend to formulate balanced rations to maximise growth rates.

Careful consideration was given to the choice of a protein crop that could be grown and harvested to fit in with the system at Pantyderi farm; this resulted in the growing of the first bi-cropped field of peas and beans in the country. The 8ha field has yielded 42 tonnes of crimped peas and beans with an analysis of 26.5% protein and 13.6 MJ/kg ME in the dry matter. Adding all costs in for growing, harvesting, and crimping the crop, this product has cost £161 per tonne fresh weight to produce.

The table shows the cost savings being made for feeding the home-grown crop compared to buying in protein blend in 2020.

	Growing ration		Finishing ration	
Year	2020	2021	2020	2021
Cost/head/day £	1.35	1.29	2.39	2.18
Winter 2021 cost saving £	2,100		3,788	

Protein prices tend to be very volatile, and are currently trending much higher than a year ago, so growing the protein crop will help safeguard the resilience of the beef finishing system at Pantyderi and improve the sustainability and environmental credentials of Welsh beef production.



Figure 1. Crimped peas and beans

Advisory Service

Number of business who have received support through the Business categories of the Advisory Service during this period:



61 individuals received one-to-one support through the Business categories of the Advisory Service during this period.



3 (joint ventures) groups received support through the Business categories of the Advisory Service during this period.

Feedback from businesses on delivery of this Advisory Service:

“Very useful to help us understand the different aspects of the change of business direction.”

Personal Development Plans

A TOTAL OF **189** PDPS WERE CREATED DURING THIS PERIOD



Discussion Groups



Newtown dairy group

The aim of the meeting was to discuss and analyse results collected from the Dairy Financial Benchmarking survey. Each business provided data that reflected the performance of their business and which was discussed in the group meeting.

Tom Downes from Whittingham and Riddel opened the meeting by thanking the businesses that took part, and emphasised the importance of benchmarking within a business.

Benchmarking showcases the current business performance, along with possible areas to improve by comparing with others. It was explained that there are many possible factors that can influence dairy profits, including:

- Milk sales – Price, quality, yield
- Feeding – Sum of concentrates
- Forage – Quality and quantity
- Health – Mastitis, lameness etc
- Fertility – Submission and pregnancy rates
- Culling – Values
- Housing – environment, space, comfort etc.
- Management – business, overheads
- The person!

A very detailed discussion was held during which businesses were able to discuss cost differences and areas to improve within their business based on the results. The group also noted that they feel that dairy performance was of a high standard, and would like to perhaps concentrate more on overhead costs. The group will now undertake activities that can influence cost and look at benchmarking in this area.

Surgeries



19 SURGERIES HELD with **133** ATTENDEES

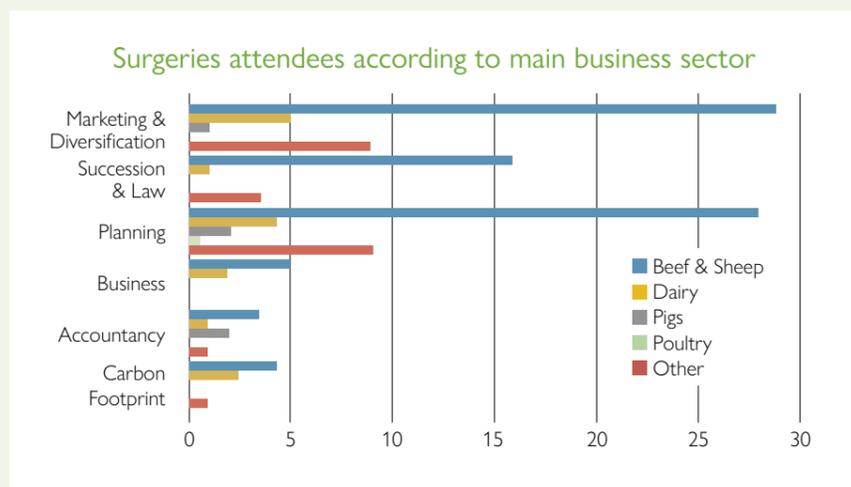


Figure 3. Number of surgeries attended per sector

Feedback from beneficiaries:

“Valuable information passed to us at the meeting. The expert was able to suggest possible options for the project.”

Webinars



3 LET'S TALK BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

Do you want to ensure your business is ready for future changes?

Let's Talk Business is an interactive webinar that discusses the main points to consider when planning ahead for the future of your business.

These webinars present crucial information on business planning and managing change, the importance of analysing current state of business and how to consider future opportunities.

Venture

773

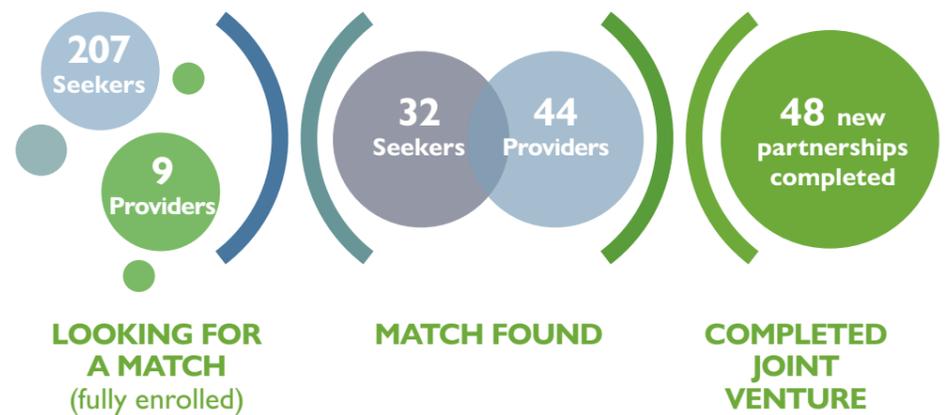


EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
SUBMITTED SINCE THE
START OF VENTURE

292



ACTIVE
PARTICIPANTS



52,589
ACRES
OF LAND
INVOLVED



E-learning

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

FARM BUSINESS
DIVERSIFICATION



VAT



COLLABORATIVE
SHARE FARMING



PLANNING
& FINANCE



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

Training

Courses	Number of individuals trained during this period
Emergency First Aid at Work	32
Marketing your Business	15
Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering, Manufacturing or Retail	11
Business Planning & Development	10
Book Keeping	10

ICT Programme

LEVEL 1

Computers for
Beginners =

99

individuals trained

LEVEL 2

One-to-one
tutoring =

26

individuals trained

LEVEL 3

Workshops =

47

attendees

Workshop themes included:

- An Introduction to QuickBooks
- Making Tax Digital
- 4G Broadband

