




*“It’s been a busy few months for our technical officers in mid and south east Wales. They have been working closely with our new demonstration sites to plan exciting new projects to inspire you. Keep an eye out for project updates on our website and social media channels”.*

- Dewi Hughes, Technical Manager



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## FOCUS ON FEET at Graig Olway demonstration site

The aim of the project at Graig Olway, Usk will be to implement the AHDB Dairy Healthy Feet Programme, and assess its impact on lameness and mobility within the herd. Based on current lesion data at Graig Olway, a ‘blitz’ treatment approach towards digital dermatitis (DD) will be taken. Monitoring the response to this approach will create the first case study of its kind within a robotic milking dairy herd.

**KEY KPIS:** **1)** Reduce Lameness % to <10% (currently 39%) **2)** Reduce DD % to <10% (Currently 39%)

**FARM FACT:** In 2013, three milking robots were installed and the housed herd of 170 high yielding Holsteins have since been run on this system. Cow visits to the robot average 3.2 in a 24-hour period.

### Managing the change – sucklers to dairy beef

A new project has recently begun at Cefn Llan, a demonstration site near Llangammarch Wells. The aim of this project is to investigate the feasibility of changing from a traditional suckler cow enterprise to rearing, growing and finishing bought-in Angus cross dairy calves, with the aim to do this on a low-cost grass and forage-based system. In addition to this, monitoring and optimising the performance of the calves, as well as monitoring and controlling costs, will be a key aspect to the project.

### Improving homegrown feed value from clovers

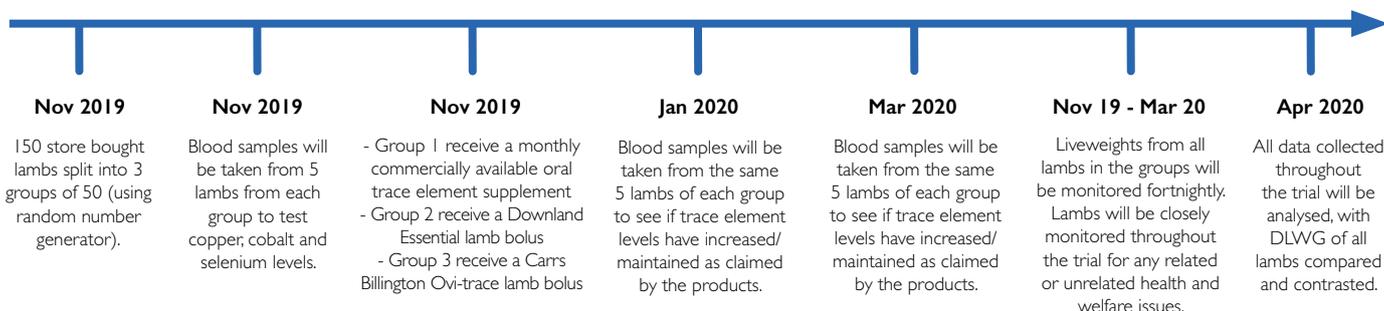
A brand-new project focusing on improving homegrown feed value from clovers has recently begun at Cefngwilgy Fawr demonstration site in Llanidloes. Project objectives include:

1. Reduce purchased concentrates by improving forage quality.
2. Reduce artificial fertiliser use by increasing clover nutrient benefits.
3. Improving lamb finishing weights and dates by improving grazing options.

## Exploring methods of trace element supplementation at Pentre Farm

A project focusing on trace element supplementation is currently on-going at Pentre Farm, Llansoy, Usk. The aim of the project is to compare different methods of supplementation and their impact on lamb daily liveweight gain.

### Project Timeline - Pentre Farm



## Farming Connect - Update

Following the recent developments with regards to the Coronavirus, all Farming Connect open events and one-to-many events have been postponed until at least the end of May. Please see our website and social media channels for our latest news and updates.



Keep up to date with the latest project developments and results by visiting our website and by following us on social media.

[www.gov.wales/farmingconnect](http://www.gov.wales/farmingconnect)

