




“It’s been a busy few months for our technical officers in north 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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connect
cyswllt
FFERMIO

08456 000 813

INCREASING GRASS UTILISATION

– a key focus at Erw Fawr

Although Erw Fawr in Holyhead, Anglesey can already grow an impressive quantity of grass, new demonstration farmers Ceredig and Sara Evans aim to improve its utilisation. By mapping the farm’s infrastructure and inputting the grazing platform on grass management software, AgriNet, they aim to increase their understanding of grass growth trends at Erw Fawr and how to manage grass yields efficiently to maximise productivity from grass.

REARING DAIRY HEIFERS ON AN UPLAND SHEEP FARM - AN OPTION FOR YOU?

Llys Dinmael Isaf, Corwen is a prime example of an upland sheep farm, however, this project will identify the economics and practicalities of rearing dairy heifers at the Farming Connect focus site.

Three key performance indicators will be measured during the project to determine the effectiveness of the enterprise.

1. Target liveweight gain (kg LWG)
2. Daily liveweight gain (kg DLWG)
3. Heifer rearing cost (£)



Reducing vices at Farming Connect pig focus site

Tail, ear and flank biting and chewing are common issues in intensive pig rearing systems. Llwyn yr Arth focus site, located on Anglesey is currently trialling methods of reducing these issues within their commercial pig herd. By working closely with vet Eddie Devlin, Bodrwnsiwn Vets, health and management protocols are being developed to dissolve the issues, which has a significant impact on health, welfare and profitability of the business.

Scanning results are in at Halghton Hall

A brand-new project focusing on improving conception rates and rearing percentage in ewe lambs has recently begun at Halghton Hall in Bangor on Dee, Wrexham.

The ewe lambs were weighed in on 26 September and split into three weight groups, under 41kg, 41 – 45kg and over 45kg. At scanning, a representative percentage of animals from each weight group were weighed again to identify changes. The average weights of each group at scanning were 40.8kg, 44.4kg and 47.8kg respectively.

Scanning results suggest that heavier ewe lambs scanned higher in comparison to lighter ewe lambs.

KEY KPI: Increase conception rates from 60% to >75%.



HEDGEROW MANAGEMENT - maintaining biodiversity on a hill farm

A project focusing on hedgerow management is currently underway at Fedw Arian Uchaf, Y Bala. The aim of the project is to identify species content, objectives and prescriptions to achieve shelter, reduce overland flow and to accommodate diffuse pollution issues. A hedgerow management plan is currently being implemented at the focus site to promote biodiversity as well as to provide livestock shelter.

Picture: Dairy heifers at Llys Dinmael Isaf

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

