

% of all activity during this period relevant to the dairy sector

Demonstration Site Projects

Reducing lameness in the dairy herd

Graig Olway demonstration site is working towards reducing lameness in their herd and they will implement the AHDB Healthy Feet Programme with support from independent vet, Sara Pedersen to do this. The cows were mobility scored in early January as well as being checked for visual signs of digital dermatitis.

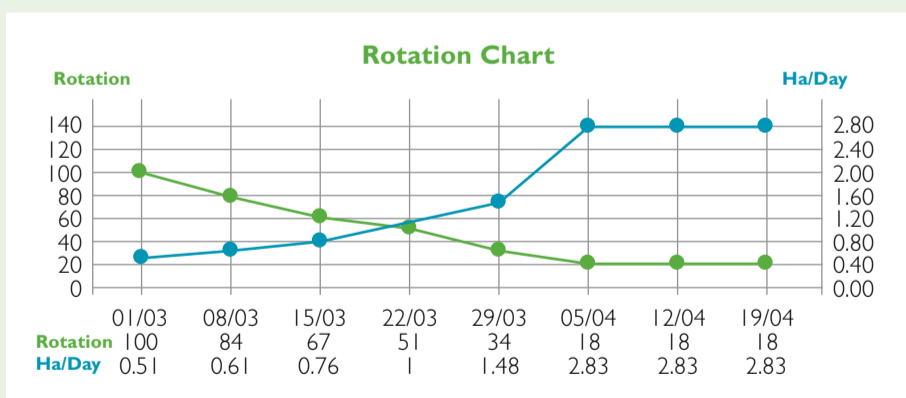


The following week the cows were assessed in the foot crush to see how visual assessments at the feed barrier compared with a more detailed examination in the crush.

Mobility scoring is continuing on a fortnightly basis to identify problems as early as possible and results will be collated later in the year.

Wet weather makes turnout decisions difficult at Erw Fawr

Despite having good infrastructure to allow for early grazing, early turnout proved difficult at Erw Fawr because of the wet weather. A grass walk was completed on 18 February to measure an opening farm cover along with the completion of a spring rotation planner with 1 March being the planned turnout date. This will ensure a near full platform grazing is completed before the magic/balance date where grass growth meets cow demand. The graph and table below show how much of the grazing platform in hectares should be grazed every day and the percentage to be grazed by the end of the week. By following this plan, commencement of the second round of grazing was planned for 13 of April with the rotation length reduced from 100 days to an 18 day rotation.



Week	Ha/Day	Target Ha Grazed by week end	Target %	Actual Ha Grazed by week end	Actual %	Week Start Target Cover	Actual Cover
01/03-07/03	0.51	3.57	7.0			2300	
08/03-14/03	0.61	7.84	15.4			2220	
15/03-21/03	0.76	13.16	25.8			2140	
22/03-28/03	1.00	20.16	39.5			2060	
29/03-04/04	1.48	30.52	59.8			1980	
05/04-11/04	2.83	50.33	98.7			1900	
12/04-18/04	2.83	70.14	137.5			1820	

Expected date to reach start of 2nd round is 13/04/2020

Improving fertility in a split block calving system at Nantglas

Nantglas demonstration site is using a heat detection technology to improve heat detection with a view to tightening the calving pattern. Collars that monitor activity were put onto the cows in April 2020. The cycling patterns of the cows are being monitored ready to start inseminations in mid May. The heifers will be synchronised using a prostaglandin injection to bring their calving dates to the beginning of the calving period.



A group of cows at Nantglas were blood tested to assess whether the mineral supplementation was adequate and whether the ration was meeting dietary needs.

Cow number	NEFA µmol/l	Magnesium mmol/l	Copper µmol/l	GSH-PX (selenium) µ/ml RBC
94	1076	1.0	8.6	177.1
777	188	1.0	9.3	201.9
620	177	0.9	7.4	108.5
799	219	1.01	9.0	166.6
38	258	0.9	10.0	189.2
137	477	0.8	15.5	166.8
824	174	0.7	9.5	184.5
781	220	0.9	8.4	85.8
136	820	0.9	7.3	128.6
823	259	1.0	9.7	166.3

The results show that the trace elements are within the acceptable range apart from cow no.824 which has a slightly low magnesium level. Overall, the current strategy for mineral supplementation was working well.

Cows no. 94 and 136 had raised NEFA (Non esterified fatty acids). The NEFA concentration reflects the energy status of the cow with high results indicating the cow is in negative energy balance. For these two cows, it could be explained by reduced intakes as the cows approached calving. They would be monitored closely over the transition period.

KE Hub

Technical articles produced by the KE HUB;

- UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (UAVS) – A BIRD'S EYE VIEW IN AGRICULTURE
- STRATEGIES AND TECHNOLOGIES TOWARDS REDUCED LAMENESS IN CATTLE
- CARBON AND CLIMATE CHANGE – AN OVERVIEW
- CAN PRECISION FARMING HELP MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE?

Discussion Groups

Number of Dairy Discussion Groups: 18

Improving the diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal roundworms in cattle



In response to concerns over poor growth rates in dairy heifers, three dairy farms in Ceredigion are investigating parasite management with emphasis on reducing the development of resistance to wormers.

An initial round of testing for resistance to any of the commonly used products has highlighted a few issues as can be seen in the table.

Farm	Wormer (group)	Average Start FEC	Average End FEC	% Reduction	Confidence
Pentrefelin	BENZIMIDAZOLE ORAL (1BZ)	323	1	100%	High
Pentrefelin	IVERMECTIN Injectable (3ML)	153	29	81%	High
Henbant	LEVAMISOLE Oral (2LV)	43	1	98%	Low
Henbant	IVERMECTIN Injectable (3ML)	50	28	44%	Medium
Henbant	IVERMECTIN Pour-On (3ML)	33	30	8%	Medium
Henbant	MOXIDECTIN Injectable (3ML)	29	4	86%	Low

If the % reduction in faecal egg count (FEC) is more than 95% there is confidence that the product has worked effectively but, in several cases, the % reduction was much lower than this. The farms are now armed with new information about wormers work on their farms and new management strategies can be developed with their vet.

Work is ongoing to monitor growth rates under the new management strategies and also investigate which worm species are prevalent at different times throughout the season.

Surgeries

42 Surgeries Held



Marketing & Diversification	Grassland
Digital planning	Legal
Staff management	Animal health
Business planning	17 individuals from the Dairy sector attended these surgeries.

Agrisgôp

20 MEETINGS WITH A DAIRY THEME TOOK PLACE WITH **91** ATTENDEES

Group themes included:

Agricultural pollution	Marketing dairy products
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Animal Health & Welfare Workshops

32 WORKSHOPS held with **422** ATTENDEES

Workshops held:

Bovine TB	Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)
Reducing Dairy Cattle Lameness	Reducing Mastitis in Dairy Cattle
Understanding Johne's Disease	Antibiotic Resistance

Mentoring Programme

93 DAIRY FARMERS currently being mentored

[Click here](#) to access the full Mentor Directory.

Venture

3 NEW DAIRY PROVIDERS **3** NEW DAIRY SEEKERS **3** POTENTIAL DAIRY MATCH ESTABLISHED DURING THE QUARTER

6 DAIRY MATCHES currently being supported via the Advisory Service
2 new joint ventures established via venture during this period

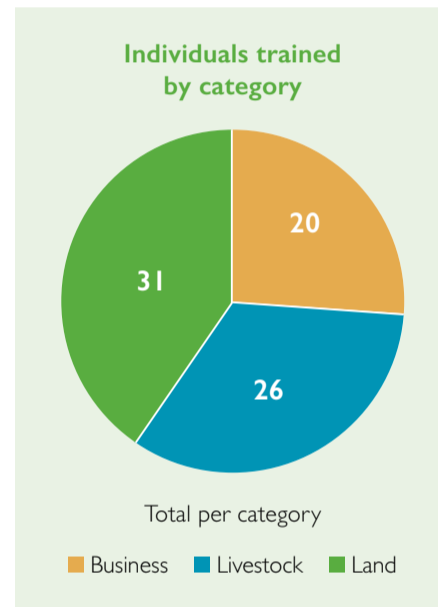
Current opportunities available:

Number of opportunities offered: 4 DAIRY UNITS	Total land area offered: 542 HECTARES (DAIRY UNITS ONLY)
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Training

During this period, **77** instances of face to face training were delivered to the Dairy sector.

The chart below shows the breakdown of individuals trained by category during this period.



The most popular courses in each category were:

BUSINESS	BUSINESS PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
LIVESTOCK	DIY AI & CATTLE FOOT TRIMMING
LAND	ROUGH TERRAIN TELESCOPIC LIFT TRUCK

E-learning

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

PLANNING & FINANCE	REDUCING AGRI-POLLUTION
GENETIC IMPROVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK	JOHNE'S DISEASE IN CATTLE

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

Some key highlights on our **Website** and **Social Media** platforms recently...

Facebook 16/04/2020

Rhys Davies, Farming Connect dairy Technical Officer for North Wales provided an insight into his management practices when transitioning from first to the second round of grazing at his home farm in Flintshire. #OurFarms

[Click here](#) or the TV screen to watch.

People reached: 2,243
Video views: 927
Likes, comments & shares: 24

