Podcast episode 32 transcript
Looking back at the 2020 Grazing Season

0:00:00.620,0:00:05.150
[Music]

0:00:01.950,0:00:05.150
[Applause]

0:00:08.000,0:00:11.840
Hello I'm Aled Jones and you're

0:00:09.840,0:00:14.160
listening to episode 32

0:00:11.840,0:00:16.480
of Ear to the Ground, a podcast brought

0:00:14.160,0:00:18.240
to you by Farming Connect.

0:00:16.480,0:00:19.600
As we're getting closer to the end of

0:00:18.240,0:00:22.720
the year we thought we'd take a look

0:00:19.600,0:00:24.720
back at the 2020 grazing season.

0:00:22.720,0:00:26.480
We had an extremely dry spring if you

0:00:24.720,0:00:28.400
remember followed by some very wet

0:00:26.480,0:00:30.640
conditions over the summer

0:00:28.400,0:00:33.360
but how has these weather extremes

0:00:30.640,0:00:35.440
impacted on grass growth rates on farms

0:00:33.360,0:00:36.480
this year. Well to help understand the

0:00:35.440,0:00:38.160
impact of weather

0:00:36.480,0:00:40.160
and grass management on pasture

0:00:38.160,0:00:42.719
production, Farming Connect has been

0:00:40.160,0:00:44.960

working with 43 farms across Wales

0:00:42.719,0:00:45.760
to monitor their grass growth as a part

0:00:44.960,0:00:48.160
of the welsh

0:00:45.760,0:00:49.520
pasture project. I caught up with two

0:00:48.160,0:00:50.239
people who've been involved in the

0:00:49.520,0:00:53.520
project

0:00:50.239,0:00:54.960
to find out more. My name is Sarah

0:00:53.520,0:00:56.559
Morgan.

0:00:54.960,0:00:58.079
I'm based in south Shropshire where I

0:00:56.559,0:00:59.840
was lucky enough to grow up on a beef

0:00:58.079,0:01:01.359
and sheep farm

0:00:59.840,0:01:02.879
and then from there I went to study at

0:01:01.359,0:01:05.040
Harper Adams where I studied

0:01:02.879,0:01:06.240
agriculture with farm business

0:01:05.040,0:01:08.720
management and

0:01:06.240,0:01:10.159
in my gap year there, or placement year, I

0:01:08.720,0:01:11.680
went to work on a dairy farm in New

0:01:10.159,0:01:13.840
Zealand.

0:01:11.680,0:01:15.680
After graduating, I was lucky enough

0:01:13.840,0:01:17.840
to get a job at Precision Grazing

0:01:15.680,0:01:19.600
where I work alongside Rhys Williams

0:01:17.840,0:01:21.360
and James Daniel.

0:01:19.600,0:01:23.200
We have a focus on grassland management

0:01:21.360,0:01:25.680
to allow us to advise and promote

0:01:23.200,0:01:26.720
profit performance and environmental

0:01:25.680,0:01:29.119
sustainability on

0:01:26.720,0:01:30.320
livestock farms in the UK and through

0:01:29.119,0:01:32.159
that as well we do a lot of work with

0:01:30.320,0:01:33.680
Farming Connect. We work with the

0:01:32.159,0:01:35.840
discussion groups through the Prosper

0:01:33.680,0:01:37.680
from Pasture programme and also recently

0:01:35.840,0:01:41.360
the Welsh Pasture Project.

0:01:37.680,0:01:44.240
I'm Tomos Huws from the Llyn Peninsula.

0:01:41.360,0:01:46.399
I grew up on a small holding, about 40

0:01:44.240,0:01:49.840
acres with some sheep and dairy

0:01:46.399,0:01:52.320
beef cattle, then went to

0:01:49.840,0:01:54.799
Aberystwyth and graduated in

0:01:52.320,0:01:57.560
countryside management.

0:01:54.799,0:01:58.719
I struggled to find some work

0:01:57.560,0:02:01.439
post-graduation

0:01:58.719,0:02:02.719
so I turned my eyes to dairying where I got

0:02:01.439,0:02:06.560
an opportunity by

0:02:02.719,0:02:08.800
David Wynn Finch and Rhys Williams. Then

0:02:06.560,0:02:10.720
the ball started rolling and then they

0:02:08.800,0:02:14.000
offered me

0:02:10.720,0:02:17.200
some time to go to New Zealand to

0:02:14.000,0:02:19.599
further my skills and then

0:02:17.200,0:02:20.959
from that I went back to work for them

0:02:19.599,0:02:24.239
for 18 months. I then

0:02:20.959,0:02:26.319
got a farm manager job here in

0:02:24.239,0:02:29.000
Carmel by Llanrwst where I work with Huw Clwyd and

0:02:26.319,0:02:32.560
Gareth Meirion where I run a

0:02:29.000,0:02:36.400
350 cow spring block calving system

0:02:32.560,0:02:38.319
in a new dairy unit. Well fantastic, thank

0:02:36.400,0:02:39.519
you very much both to you Sarah and Tomos

0:02:38.319,0:02:41.360
for joining us

0:02:39.519,0:02:43.440
on this podcast. Both of you

0:02:41.360,0:02:45.280
referred there to your experiences

0:02:43.440,0:02:47.280

in New Zealand where I understand you

0:02:45.280,0:02:48.239
both worked on the same dairy farm some

0:02:47.280,0:02:51.440
years ago.

0:02:48.239,0:02:51.920
Sarah talk to us about that experience. Yes.

0:02:51.440,0:02:54.400

0:02:51.920,0:02:56.000
Me and Tomos both worked down in the South

0:02:54.400,0:02:57.840
Island in Canterbury

0:02:56.000,0:02:59.920
on a little farm, well not a little

0:02:57.840,0:03:02.560
farm but a farm just outside Fairlie.

0:02:59.920,0:03:03.680
That was in 2017 to 2018 or

0:03:02.560,0:03:06.720
something Tomos?

0:03:03.680,0:03:08.000
Yes, it was. And the farm

0:03:06.720,0:03:10.720
was owned by

0:03:08.000,0:03:11.280
Libby and Kieran Guiney and they

0:03:10.720,0:03:13.440
owned

0:03:11.280,0:03:15.120
four farms Tomos? Yes, it

0:03:13.440,0:03:16.959
was four.

0:03:15.120,0:03:18.159
I think they had six in

0:03:16.959,0:03:21.680
total with

0:03:18.159,0:03:24.959
the runoff for dry cows and the

0:03:21.680,0:03:26.720
young stock farm. Yes, so

0:03:24.959,0:03:28.000
me and Tomos worked alongside each

0:03:26.720,0:03:30.080
other there with

0:03:28.000,0:03:32.000
Wil Green as our manager who is also

0:03:30.080,0:03:33.840
from Shropshire actually

0:03:32.000,0:03:35.840
and then Chris Garner, he was from the

0:03:33.840,0:03:37.680
same area as you Tomos? Yes, he was from the Llyn

0:03:35.840,0:03:41.840
Peninsula as well.

0:03:37.680,0:03:45.519
We milked 860 cows there

0:03:41.840,0:03:49.120
and four of us working over a

0:03:45.519,0:03:51.519
240 hectare platform. Then

0:03:49.120,0:03:53.599
two of us were milking twice a day

0:03:51.519,0:03:57.439
through a 45 side parlour.

0:03:53.599,0:03:58.159
It was a seriously low cost

0:03:57.439,0:04:01.280
system,

0:03:58.159,0:04:03.519
very basic,

0:04:01.280,0:04:05.040
fully irrigated which took a lot

0:04:03.519,0:04:08.239
of our time during the

0:04:05.040,0:04:08.480
summer but it was such a low cost

0:04:08.239,0:04:11.680

0:04:08.480,0:04:13.200
low input system it was unbelievable.

0:04:11.680,0:04:15.040
They had a rule didn't

0:04:13.200,0:04:16.880
they on the farm that

0:04:15.040,0:04:18.479
each cow couldn't have over 300

0:04:16.880,0:04:20.799
kilograms of supplement

0:04:18.479,0:04:22.079
over the grazing period and things like

0:04:20.799,0:04:24.639
that just kept

0:04:22.079,0:04:25.520
you on your mark really. And I guess

0:04:24.639,0:04:26.880
Tomos

0:04:25.520,0:04:28.720
the experience of working there has

0:04:26.880,0:04:29.840
influenced the way you manage your

0:04:28.720,0:04:33.199
dairy farm?

0:04:29.840,0:04:35.840
Yes, the grass

0:04:33.199,0:04:37.040
is the key and I just

0:04:35.840,0:04:40.160
learned so many

0:04:37.040,0:04:42.639
small things. Wil was a

0:04:40.160,0:04:44.320
great manager and

0:04:42.639,0:04:45.919
it showed because he got second through

0:04:44.320,0:04:48.000

New Zealand for the dairy manager of

0:04:45.919,0:04:48.800
the year so I picked up a lot of tips

0:04:48.000,0:04:51.840
and his

0:04:48.800,0:04:54.960
way to manage people on the farm which

0:04:51.840,0:04:58.240
I can implement here, which is

0:04:54.960,0:05:00.560
great. And Sarah,

0:04:58.240,0:05:02.639
have you noticed that working with

0:05:00.560,0:05:04.320
the 43 farms which are part of the Welsh

0:05:02.639,0:05:06.479
Pasture Project, have you noticed

0:05:04.320,0:05:07.759
that there is a lot of influence from

0:05:06.479,0:05:10.320
the New Zealand style of thinking

0:05:07.759,0:05:12.000
particularly amongst dairy farmers?

0:05:10.320,0:05:13.440
Yes, I think it's becoming more and more

0:05:12.000,0:05:15.120
now and

0:05:13.440,0:05:16.479
I found by working in New Zealand, they've

0:05:15.120,0:05:17.919
just got some set

0:05:16.479,0:05:20.000
morals really. Even the

0:05:17.919,0:05:22.639
work-life balance was so clear there.

0:05:20.000,0:05:25.120
If anyone was working past 5 pm

0:05:22.639,0:05:25.919
they were almost looked on badly upon,

0:05:25.120,0:05:27.280

0:05:25.919,0:05:29.440
they did look after their staff

0:05:27.280,0:05:30.080
really well and we had a good road to

0:05:29.440,0:05:32.960
set up.

0:05:30.080,0:05:35.360
Just simple things like that.

0:05:32.960,0:05:36.720
Even the weekly farm walk would be

0:05:35.360,0:05:39.440
a team effort

0:05:36.720,0:05:41.199
wouldn't it Tomos? Yes,

0:05:39.440,0:05:42.720
everyone was involved which was

0:05:41.199,0:05:44.080
great because everyone knew then, for the

0:05:42.720,0:05:46.479
week,

0:05:44.080,0:05:48.720
what was the plan of grazing,

0:05:46.479,0:05:50.080
what covered targets was supposed to be

0:05:48.720,0:05:51.520
and the round length.

0:05:50.080,0:05:53.520
Everyone was involved not just the

0:05:51.520,0:05:55.520
manager and the owners.

0:05:53.520,0:05:57.120
We're here today of course to

0:05:55.520,0:05:59.120
talk about the Welsh Pasture

0:05:57.120,0:06:01.520
Project, Sarah talk us through some of

0:05:59.120,0:06:03.840
the aims and objectives of that project.

0:06:01.520,0:06:06.160
Some of the broad aims

0:06:03.840,0:06:08.479
is to take advantage of that ability for

0:06:06.160,0:06:10.080
Wales to grow so much pasture and high

0:06:08.479,0:06:12.800
quality pasture as well.

0:06:10.080,0:06:13.440
Unlike maybe South Canterbury, New

0:06:12.800,0:06:15.360
Zealand,

0:06:13.440,0:06:16.720
Wales doesn't need irrigation as we

0:06:15.360,0:06:19.600
found out over the last couple of

0:06:16.720,0:06:21.440
months with the constant rain,

0:06:19.600,0:06:23.120
or high reliance on

0:06:21.440,0:06:24.960
inputs like fertiliser.

0:06:23.120,0:06:27.039
Farms can grow a lot of grass in

0:06:24.960,0:06:28.880
Wales and it's just trying to

0:06:27.039,0:06:30.400
encourage Welsh farmers really to

0:06:28.880,0:06:32.319
increase the grass growth on their farm

0:06:30.400,0:06:34.319
and utilise as much as possible

0:06:32.319,0:06:35.759
because it's just got such a

0:06:34.319,0:06:38.400
good direct correlation to

0:06:35.759,0:06:40.720

profit and performance on farm.

0:06:38.400,0:06:41.280
And there are 43 farms as a part of the

0:06:40.720,0:06:44.080
project,

0:06:41.280,0:06:45.280
give us an overview of what type of farms

0:06:44.080,0:06:47.919
are they?

0:06:45.280,0:06:48.960
We've got 16 dairy

0:06:47.919,0:06:51.360
farms in the project

0:06:48.960,0:06:53.039
and then 25 beef and sheep farms and

0:06:51.360,0:06:56.240
they're a range of systems and a range

0:06:53.039,0:06:58.160
of farm types from lowland to upland.

0:06:56.240,0:07:00.160
Each farmer was asked to measure a

0:06:58.160,0:07:02.720
minimum of 30 hectares

0:07:00.160,0:07:04.560
and they were asked to measure this in a

0:07:02.720,0:07:05.120
sort of consistent manner so each had to

0:07:04.560,0:07:06.639
measure

0:07:05.120,0:07:08.639
at least 30 measurements in a field to

0:07:06.639,0:07:11.120
ensure they were consistent.

0:07:08.639,0:07:12.720
Tomos is one of the dairy farmers up

0:07:11.120,0:07:15.840
in North Wales aren't you Tomos?

0:07:12.720,0:07:17.599
Yes I am. Tomos,

0:07:15.840,0:07:20.800
were you measuring grass before joining

0:07:17.599,0:07:23.840
this project? I was,

0:07:20.800,0:07:24.400
well since I've started dairying I've

0:07:23.840,0:07:26.560
been

0:07:24.400,0:07:28.639
drilled to

0:07:26.560,0:07:31.840
measure the grass every week.

0:07:28.639,0:07:32.639
I didn't

0:07:31.840,0:07:34.800
start until

0:07:32.639,0:07:37.280
the end of March because our parlour wasn't

0:07:34.800,0:07:39.759
ready until then, so it was a bit of a

0:07:37.280,0:07:40.639
juggling act and we had a lot of work

0:07:39.759,0:07:43.280
going on.

0:07:40.639,0:07:44.479
After that I measured every

0:07:43.280,0:07:47.680
week probably

0:07:44.479,0:07:50.639
throughout the summer.

0:07:47.680,0:07:51.840
Because it was a new farm, it's pretty

0:07:50.639,0:07:53.440
hard to

0:07:51.840,0:07:55.199
measure it to start off with because

0:07:53.440,0:07:57.039
you don't know the land, but

0:07:55.199,0:07:59.440
after a couple of weeks it was quite

0:07:57.039,0:08:00.319
easy. I bought a plate meter

0:07:59.440,0:08:02.960
for the first time.

0:08:00.319,0:08:03.680
On the other farms I worked on

0:08:02.960,0:08:07.599
we used to

0:08:03.680,0:08:10.000
cut and weigh but I felt, because of

0:08:07.599,0:08:11.440
of the area we've got which is just

0:08:10.000,0:08:13.599
over 100 hectares,

0:08:11.440,0:08:15.520
it would toke me a while to cut and weigh every

0:08:13.599,0:08:18.720
field so I bought a plate meter to

0:08:15.520,0:08:21.440
just walk along and

0:08:18.720,0:08:23.440
drop it and then got all the

0:08:21.440,0:08:25.120
measurements. I set up Agrinet just

0:08:23.440,0:08:28.479
before I started here as well

0:08:25.120,0:08:30.080
and from then it's been going

0:08:28.479,0:08:32.080
really well and the farm has adapted

0:08:30.080,0:08:35.039
well to the change from

0:08:32.080,0:08:36.479
beef and sheep to dairying.

0:08:35.039,0:08:37.839
It looked really well throughout the

0:08:36.479,0:08:41.200

summer. It's a

0:08:37.839,0:08:43.120
heavy farm so we did

0:08:41.200,0:08:46.160
a lot of silage throughout the summer

0:08:43.120,0:08:47.040
to think it was quite dry in April, May

0:08:46.160,0:08:50.320
and June we

0:08:47.040,0:08:51.120
cut a lot of the winter forage

0:08:50.320,0:08:54.399
from the

0:08:51.120,0:08:56.080
platform. And Sarah,

0:08:54.399,0:08:57.839
there are some beef and sheep farms

0:08:56.080,0:09:00.080
involved in this project as well?

0:08:57.839,0:09:01.760
Yes, there are. A lot of the beef and

0:09:00.080,0:09:02.480
sheep farms originally hadn't actually

0:09:01.760,0:09:05.040
had any

0:09:02.480,0:09:06.480
experience measuring grass. They're

0:09:05.040,0:09:07.200
all part of the Prosper from Pasture

0:09:06.480,0:09:08.800
programme

0:09:07.200,0:09:10.240
so they understood the benefits of

0:09:08.800,0:09:11.519
managing grass but some

0:09:10.240,0:09:13.360
just lack the confidence to actually

0:09:11.519,0:09:14.959
start and go out and measure.

0:09:13.360,0:09:16.720
At the beginning of the project we

0:09:14.959,0:09:18.720
ensured everyone was set up with Agrinet,

0:09:16.720,0:09:22.320
which is a grass measuring software,

0:09:18.720,0:09:25.760
and also a plate meter.

0:09:22.320,0:09:28.080
It was good. A lot of

0:09:25.760,0:09:29.440
farmers gained confidence

0:09:28.080,0:09:30.720
throughout the project as they were

0:09:29.440,0:09:32.080
measuring more and more. During the first

0:09:30.720,0:09:34.320
couple of weeks

0:09:32.080,0:09:36.640
you'd get some random measurements but

0:09:34.320,0:09:38.240
as we guided them and to

0:09:36.640,0:09:40.240
reassure them on their measurements and

0:09:38.240,0:09:41.760
how to do it and the correct

0:09:40.240,0:09:42.800
route to take throughout the fields they

0:09:41.760,0:09:44.880
got better and better

0:09:42.800,0:09:46.560
each week. Within a couple

0:09:44.880,0:09:48.480
of weeks they were really confident with

0:09:46.560,0:09:50.080
measuring grass.

0:09:48.480,0:09:52.240
And did you find that Tomos, the more

0:09:50.080,0:09:53.680
you did it the quicker it became the

0:09:52.240,0:09:56.480
process of measuring grass?

0:09:53.680,0:09:58.080
It became a much quicker process

0:09:56.480,0:10:00.959
the more experience you had?

0:09:58.080,0:10:02.560
It's unbelievable once you've done

0:10:00.959,0:10:03.440
a couple of weeks in.

0:10:02.560,0:10:06.640

0:10:03.440,0:10:08.399
On the dairy farm,

0:10:06.640,0:10:10.160
you've got your three weeks rotation.

0:10:08.399,0:10:12.079
You kind of get your eye in as well so

0:10:10.160,0:10:13.920
you don't have to you use the plate

0:10:12.079,0:10:16.000
meter as a guide but

0:10:13.920,0:10:17.360
usually I would alter it a little bit

0:10:16.000,0:10:19.680
with my eye because

0:10:17.360,0:10:21.680
your eye tells you much more.

0:10:19.680,0:10:22.320
The plate meter gives you the guide

0:10:21.680,0:10:25.120
but the eye

0:10:22.320,0:10:27.440
gives you a real good insight of what

0:10:25.120,0:10:29.519
the grass looks like and

0:10:27.440,0:10:31.440

and what you're going into and what

0:10:29.519,0:10:33.040
you're coming out of.

0:10:31.440,0:10:35.120
And Sarah, you mentioned earlier on about

0:10:33.040,0:10:36.160
Agrinet, tell us a bit more about that

0:10:35.120,0:10:38.720
software?

0:10:36.160,0:10:40.800
It's an

0:10:38.720,0:10:43.120
Irish-based software and its

0:10:40.800,0:10:44.480
basic role is to help you manage

0:10:43.120,0:10:46.480
your grass.

0:10:44.480,0:10:47.920
All the farmers each week,

0:10:46.480,0:10:49.040
they'd measure their pasture with their

0:10:47.920,0:10:51.360
plate meters

0:10:49.040,0:10:53.040
and they'd record down their average

0:10:51.360,0:10:54.800
farm cover for each field.

0:10:53.040,0:10:56.720
They would have their fields names, the

0:10:54.800,0:10:58.480
area maybe and the cover that they

0:10:56.720,0:11:00.720
measured with their plate meter

0:10:58.480,0:11:01.760
and then each week they'd upload the

0:11:00.720,0:11:04.880
figures themselves

0:11:01.760,0:11:05.279
onto Agrinet. From that, they would

0:11:04.880,0:11:07.839
get

0:11:05.279,0:11:09.839
something called a grazing wedge. It

0:11:07.839,0:11:11.600
basically orders your fields from

0:11:09.839,0:11:13.440
left to right. On the left

0:11:11.600,0:11:15.440
you're filled with the highest pasture

0:11:13.440,0:11:19.440
cover and on the right your lowest

0:11:15.440,0:11:22.800
and then each bar represents a field.

0:11:19.440,0:11:25.519
It gives

0:11:22.800,0:11:27.279
a clear visual automatic indication of

0:11:25.519,0:11:31.360
where your farm's at.

0:11:27.279,0:11:33.440
Tomos, having been

0:11:31.360,0:11:34.800
through that now and capturing the data

0:11:33.440,0:11:37.040
and recording

0:11:34.800,0:11:39.040
all the information that the plate

0:11:37.040,0:11:41.519
meter and your eye has given you,

0:11:39.040,0:11:42.959
does it become almost addictive,

0:11:41.519,0:11:44.480
you're looking at the software,

0:11:42.959,0:11:46.079
you're doing the analysis because it's

0:11:44.480,0:11:48.000
really fascinating?

0:11:46.079,0:11:50.320
It's great. You can do your

0:11:48.000,0:11:51.600
budgets, you can do your planners,

0:11:50.320,0:11:53.360
you can see how much you've grown

0:11:51.600,0:11:56.000
throughout the year and

0:11:53.360,0:11:56.880
which fields are best performing.

0:11:56.000,0:11:59.839

0:11:56.880,0:12:01.680
Every week, I try to print it out or

0:11:59.839,0:12:03.680
give a screenshot

0:12:01.680,0:12:05.200
on our Whatsapp group for the farm so

0:12:03.680,0:12:08.079
everyone knows which paddocks are we

0:12:05.200,0:12:11.120
going to go into for the coming week and

0:12:08.079,0:12:14.000
decide how long it should last and then see

0:12:11.120,0:12:14.639
if it works out well.

0:12:14.000,0:12:16.079
Because

0:12:14.639,0:12:17.680
some of the staff are quite new to

0:12:16.079,0:12:20.320
dairying

0:12:17.680,0:12:21.279
it just gives them a good way of knowing,

0:12:20.320,0:12:23.680
all right

0:12:21.279,0:12:24.800
that field's supposed to last a day

0:12:23.680,0:12:27.600

so they can leave

0:12:24.800,0:12:28.240
the cows there for a day.

0:12:27.600,0:12:30.240

0:12:28.240,0:12:31.519
It doesn't always work out but most of

0:12:30.240,0:12:33.440
the time it does.

0:12:31.519,0:12:34.720
It's great because

0:12:33.440,0:12:36.480
you can add people

0:12:34.720,0:12:38.000
into your group so you can look at what

0:12:36.480,0:12:41.120
other farms are growing and

0:12:38.000,0:12:41.519
compare and see what covers they've got

0:12:41.120,0:12:44.000
and

0:12:41.519,0:12:45.920
see if you're behind. Because I'm

0:12:44.000,0:12:47.040
quite new I follow people like Rhys

0:12:45.920,0:12:50.639
Williams

0:12:47.040,0:12:53.760
or Sam Carey so I know then

0:12:50.639,0:12:55.120
where to benchmark myself and try

0:12:53.760,0:12:57.600
and follow what they're doing because

0:12:55.120,0:12:58.959
they've been doing it for years.

0:12:57.600,0:13:01.040
Yes and that's interesting isn't it,

0:12:58.959,0:13:02.720
that to the extent where there's

0:13:01.040,0:13:04.480
influencers within the agricultural

0:13:02.720,0:13:07.120
industry, have you found that Sarah? You

0:13:04.480,0:13:09.440
know key players high-profile farmers

0:13:07.120,0:13:10.959
who are doing this, having a

0:13:09.440,0:13:12.320
great influence on other farms across

0:13:10.959,0:13:14.480
Wales?

0:13:12.320,0:13:16.160
Yes definitely, and as Thomas said,

0:13:14.480,0:13:17.120
people like Rhys Williams are really

0:13:16.160,0:13:18.560
strong in the

0:13:17.120,0:13:20.160
dairy industry for that and then we've

0:13:18.560,0:13:22.480
got other people in the beef and sheep

0:13:20.160,0:13:23.839
industry now more and more starting

0:13:22.480,0:13:26.160
to play that role as well.

0:13:23.839,0:13:28.079
I think as soon as farmers

0:13:26.160,0:13:30.000
see people starting to rotationally

0:13:28.079,0:13:32.560
graze and measure grass,

0:13:30.000,0:13:33.440
increasing their grass growth

0:13:32.560,0:13:35.440
on farm by

0:13:33.440,0:13:36.639
a lot and then cutting costs and,

0:13:35.440,0:13:38.720
as

0:13:36.639,0:13:40.480
Tomos said, it's addictive when you

0:13:38.720,0:13:43.040
start measuring grass

0:13:40.480,0:13:44.720
you carry on and you can't stop almost

0:13:43.040,0:13:46.320
because you just see the value.

0:13:44.720,0:13:47.680
You know as soon as you're cutting

0:13:46.320,0:13:50.880
maybe a ton of concentrate out of the

0:13:47.680,0:13:52.720
System, that's an automatic reward there.

0:13:50.880,0:13:54.399
Yes as soon as you start seeing the

0:13:52.720,0:13:55.120
financial gains it almost gives you that

0:13:54.399,0:13:57.440
encouragement

0:13:55.120,0:13:59.760
to do more and do it more often, but

0:13:57.440,0:14:00.240
looking back at the 2020 grazing season

0:13:59.760,0:14:02.000
Sarah,

0:14:00.240,0:14:03.279
how has it been overall from the data

0:14:02.000,0:14:04.560
you've gathered

0:14:03.279,0:14:06.560
and the work you've done with all those

0:14:04.560,0:14:08.480
farms?

0:14:06.560,0:14:10.079
Obviously the project only started in

0:14:08.480,0:14:11.760

September so

0:14:10.079,0:14:13.279
from then we've seen

0:14:11.760,0:14:14.560
really good growth rates much better

0:14:13.279,0:14:16.959
than expected.

0:14:14.560,0:14:17.920
The wet weather especially in Wales

0:14:16.959,0:14:20.800
has made that

0:14:17.920,0:14:22.240
grass growth hard to utilise but

0:14:20.800,0:14:23.199
towards the end of the project all of

0:14:22.240,0:14:26.320
our farms are

0:14:23.199,0:14:27.839
in a really good position. We had

0:14:26.320,0:14:30.079
our last measurement at the

0:14:27.839,0:14:31.199
end of November and dairy farms are

0:14:30.079,0:14:34.240
finishing then

0:14:31.199,0:14:35.839
on an average farm cover of 2,300 kg/DM/ha and

0:14:34.240,0:14:38.880
beef and sheep farms were

0:14:35.839,0:14:40.160
at 2,100 kg/DM/ha. They'd took

0:14:38.880,0:14:41.360
advantage of that grass growth and

0:14:40.160,0:14:42.959
really managed it well

0:14:41.360,0:14:44.480
to save it up and that'll be ready for

0:14:42.959,0:14:46.240
now for spring for them to get out and

0:14:44.480,0:14:49.040
graze.

0:14:46.240,0:14:50.880
And Tomos, how's it been for you in

0:14:49.040,0:14:52.639
Llanrwst there? What's the grazing

0:14:50.880,0:14:54.560
season been like with you?

0:14:52.639,0:14:56.160
It's been a good year

0:14:54.560,0:14:59.519
for us on this farm because it's a

0:14:56.160,0:15:01.120
quite a heavy farm. When the dry

0:14:59.519,0:15:03.279
period started

0:15:01.120,0:15:04.720
we were growing ridiculous

0:15:03.279,0:15:07.760
amounts of grass. I

0:15:04.720,0:15:12.000
think we did about

0:15:07.760,0:15:14.320
nearly 550 surplus bales on the farm

0:15:12.000,0:15:16.320
out of just over 100

0:15:14.320,0:15:20.160
hectare block and we carried about

0:15:16.320,0:15:21.519
extra 80 cows. We got 80 extra cows

0:15:20.160,0:15:24.639
to the herd because

0:15:21.519,0:15:26.800
it was a new herd, all heifers. We

0:15:24.639,0:15:29.040
would love to get more milk so

0:15:26.800,0:15:31.440
we got extra 80 cows on top of that as

0:15:29.040,0:15:34.320
well so that's given us an insight for

0:15:31.440,0:15:36.160
next season that we can grow

0:15:34.320,0:15:38.240
plenty of grass. We're increasing

0:15:36.160,0:15:40.320
numbers at the moment.

0:15:38.240,0:15:42.399
We calved 300 last year so we're going up

0:15:40.320,0:15:44.720
to 350 this year

0:15:42.399,0:15:46.000
and hopefully maybe we'll chuck a

0:15:44.720,0:15:48.560
little bit more in there

0:15:46.000,0:15:50.800
to utilise all this grass that we

0:15:48.560,0:15:52.720
can grow on the farm.

0:15:50.800,0:15:54.720
And I guess having the data, having the

0:15:52.720,0:15:55.279
software available to tell you exactly

0:15:54.720,0:15:57.120
where

0:15:55.279,0:15:58.639
your grazing wedge is and how each

0:15:57.120,0:16:00.000
paddock and field is performing, that

0:15:58.639,0:16:01.440
gives you the confidence

0:16:00.000,0:16:02.959
to say that you can increase your

0:16:01.440,0:16:04.959
stocking numbers because you've

0:16:02.959,0:16:07.600
got that grass to support them.

0:16:04.959,0:16:08.160

Exactly that's the key.

0:16:07.600,0:16:10.639

0:16:08.160,0:16:12.639
If you've got the data and you can

0:16:10.639,0:16:15.040
utilise then you can see,

0:16:12.639,0:16:16.800
right next season I can maybe carry an

0:16:15.040,0:16:18.959
extra 30 cows

0:16:16.800,0:16:19.839
and then you can alter the farm and

0:16:18.959,0:16:22.399
produce

0:16:19.839,0:16:23.279
cheap milk from cheap forage which is

0:16:22.399,0:16:26.720
grass.

0:16:23.279,0:16:29.040
It's so valuable as well to produce

0:16:26.720,0:16:30.160
good quality milk and because we've

0:16:29.040,0:16:32.399

0:16:30.160,0:16:33.920
got predominantly Jersey herd or

0:16:32.399,0:16:36.240
Jersey crosses,

0:16:33.920,0:16:38.160
we've used a lot of

0:16:36.240,0:16:39.839
Jersey semen this year to

0:16:38.160,0:16:41.279
get a smaller cow. Because there's a

0:16:39.839,0:16:43.759
quite an incline and

0:16:41.279,0:16:46.000
a fair bit of walking for the cows

0:16:43.759,0:16:49.519
we're trying to breed the smaller cow

0:16:46.000,0:16:51.839
which produce high solids

0:16:49.519,0:16:52.560
which is ideal for where we sell our

0:16:51.839,0:16:55.600
milk.

0:16:52.560,0:16:56.560
Sarah, if I can turn to you

0:16:55.600,0:16:58.079
quickly now,

0:16:56.560,0:16:59.680
what are the key figures you get out of

0:16:58.079,0:17:01.040
measuring grass? What's the

0:16:59.680,0:17:01.920
things you're looking for when you're

0:17:01.040,0:17:03.759
trying to

0:17:01.920,0:17:05.760
assess the performance of the

0:17:03.759,0:17:07.760
grassland management?

0:17:05.760,0:17:09.679
There's probably four key

0:17:07.760,0:17:11.919
figures that we get.

0:17:09.679,0:17:14.240
Average farm cover, which is the supply

0:17:11.919,0:17:17.199
of grass on farm. This is measured in

0:17:14.240,0:17:18.880
kilograms of dry matter per hectare.

0:17:17.199,0:17:20.079
An average farm cover is good for

0:17:18.880,0:17:21.439
measuring and you can get

0:17:20.079,0:17:23.679
different targets for different times of

0:17:21.439,0:17:25.679
year. So for example

0:17:23.679,0:17:28.000
Tomos do you know your closing farm

0:17:25.679,0:17:30.720
cover target?

0:17:28.000,0:17:32.000
I think if I can remember the top of my

0:17:30.720,0:17:34.000
head I've done a couple weeks ago it's

0:17:32.000,0:17:36.000
about 2,250 kg/DM/ha.

0:17:34.000,0:17:37.840
Throughout the year, Tomos

0:17:36.000,0:17:40.160
will have different targets for

0:17:37.840,0:17:41.760
opening his farm in spring and

0:17:40.160,0:17:43.440
then on magic day

0:17:41.760,0:17:45.760
and then throughout the summer so he'll

0:17:43.440,0:17:47.280
know where his farm needs to be

0:17:45.760,0:17:48.720
and then he can compare it to other

0:17:47.280,0:17:50.080
farmers like he was looking at Rhys

0:17:48.720,0:17:52.400
Williams's Agrinet

0:17:50.080,0:17:53.520
and see if he's on track.It's a very

0:17:52.400,0:17:56.240
comparable

0:17:53.520,0:17:58.160
figure to discuss between farms. Then

0:17:56.240,0:18:00.720

another one is growth rates.

0:17:58.160,0:18:02.720
This is displayed on the

0:18:00.720,0:18:04.640
Pasture Project map. We've averaged

0:18:02.720,0:18:07.280
the growth rates for each region.

0:18:04.640,0:18:09.039
For dairy farms and beef and sheep farms

0:18:07.280,0:18:10.640
growth rates it's an automatic

0:18:09.039,0:18:12.320
indication really

0:18:10.640,0:18:14.559
to see if you're heading into a surplus

0:18:12.320,0:18:16.320
or deficit on farm. Once you've been

0:18:14.559,0:18:16.960
measuring for a while you can get an idea of

0:18:16.320,0:18:19.200
how much

0:18:16.960,0:18:20.559
grass is expected to grow based on

0:18:19.200,0:18:22.000
the weather or

0:18:20.559,0:18:24.320
your type of management or just the

0:18:22.000,0:18:25.679
nature of the field. Then

0:18:24.320,0:18:27.679
once you've got this, you know you can

0:18:25.679,0:18:28.160
benchmark your fields between one

0:18:27.679,0:18:30.240
another.

0:18:28.160,0:18:32.160
If one's growing 20 a week and

0:18:30.240,0:18:33.760
another's growing 60 you know

0:18:32.160,0:18:35.760
why is that or you can either just

0:18:33.760,0:18:38.960
benchmark against different farms

0:18:35.760,0:18:41.840
for example within the project.

0:18:38.960,0:18:42.240
Then there's also demand on farm

0:18:41.840,0:18:45.200
which

0:18:42.240,0:18:46.559
we can enter into Agrinet. You can put

0:18:45.200,0:18:49.280
your animal number,

0:18:46.559,0:18:51.039
their weight and their demand in which is

0:18:49.280,0:18:53.360
their intake from grass

0:18:51.039,0:18:54.400
and then this gives a total demand per

0:18:53.360,0:18:57.280
hectare

0:18:54.400,0:18:58.799
which is automatically worked out on

0:18:57.280,0:19:00.960
Agrinet. This is something we can

0:18:58.799,0:19:03.360
directly compare to growth.

0:19:00.960,0:19:04.720
So you know if your grass growth rate

0:19:03.360,0:19:07.440
one week is 60

0:19:04.720,0:19:09.600
and your demand's only at 40 then you've

0:19:07.440,0:19:11.120
got a surplus of grass on farm that week

0:19:09.600,0:19:13.440
and it's likely that your average farm

0:19:11.120,0:19:15.600
cover is going to increase.

0:19:13.440,0:19:17.520
There's some really key bits of

0:19:15.600,0:19:18.960
data that once you start measuring and

0:19:17.520,0:19:20.400
getting used to using

0:19:18.960,0:19:22.400
they become really essential for your

0:19:20.400,0:19:24.480
farming system.

0:19:22.400,0:19:25.919
And I guess the major variable in all

0:19:24.480,0:19:27.760
this is the weather isn't it.

0:19:25.919,0:19:29.919
How does the software adjust its

0:19:27.760,0:19:31.760
predictions depending on the weather

0:19:29.919,0:19:35.760
conditions because it can be very

0:19:31.760,0:19:35.760
different from locality to locality?

0:19:36.240,0:19:39.919
So weather-wise it's kind of

0:19:38.720,0:19:42.640
because you're putting in your

0:19:39.919,0:19:44.640
own data, you're putting in your

0:19:42.640,0:19:46.080
farm cover measurements each week

0:19:44.640,0:19:47.840
then that really takes account of the

0:19:46.080,0:19:48.640
weather on just on your own farm

0:19:47.840,0:19:50.720
system.

0:19:48.640,0:19:52.320

Agrinet then is just processing the

0:19:50.720,0:19:54.080
data that you put in.

0:19:52.320,0:19:55.760
Unless you've got a

0:19:54.080,0:19:56.400
weather station on farm you can put in

0:19:55.760,0:19:58.880
your

0:19:56.400,0:19:59.840
soil moisture and rainfall each

0:19:58.880,0:20:01.600
week

0:19:59.840,0:20:02.960
but that doesn't actually affect the end

0:20:01.600,0:20:06.640
results, it's just

0:20:02.960,0:20:08.640
based on your farm. And how important

0:20:06.640,0:20:11.039
has benchmarking been for you Tomos,

0:20:08.640,0:20:12.400
comparing your performance with other

0:20:11.039,0:20:15.039
similar farms

0:20:12.400,0:20:16.559
across Wales? It's been

0:20:15.039,0:20:19.360
really good

0:20:16.559,0:20:21.280
because it's a new farm.

0:20:19.360,0:20:22.720
It'll take a couple of years to get

0:20:21.280,0:20:24.720
up to speed but

0:20:22.720,0:20:26.159
fair play to the farm she's reacted well.

0:20:24.720,0:20:29.520
We've been reseeding a lot,

0:20:26.159,0:20:31.919
we've fed the soil well.

0:20:29.520,0:20:32.720
We've got enough slurry now to pump

0:20:31.919,0:20:36.080
out

0:20:32.720,0:20:38.480
throughout the summer to help P and K

0:20:36.080,0:20:40.640
and we haven't used that much

0:20:38.480,0:20:42.799
nitrogen this year because

0:20:40.640,0:20:44.480
of the way the farm's grown.

0:20:42.799,0:20:46.000
We've missed a couple rounds and we've

0:20:44.480,0:20:48.400
still been in a

0:20:46.000,0:20:49.919
good situation. I don't think

0:20:48.400,0:20:51.200
I've been in a deficit throughout the

0:20:49.919,0:20:54.320
summer.

0:20:51.200,0:20:55.440
I haven't fed much

0:20:54.320,0:20:58.720
meal since

0:20:55.440,0:20:59.919
or since mid-august because we

0:20:58.720,0:21:02.559
had enough

0:20:59.919,0:21:05.120
grass on the platform and which has

0:21:02.559,0:21:07.600
helped us to produce cheap milk.

0:21:05.120,0:21:09.200
But benchmarking against other

0:21:07.600,0:21:11.679
farms is good.

0:21:09.200,0:21:13.039
Our farm is quite similar to

0:21:11.679,0:21:16.080
Sam Carey's in Bala so

0:21:13.039,0:21:19.440
I take a lot of notes of what he's doing

0:21:16.080,0:21:21.760
and which way he goes around stuff.

0:21:19.440,0:21:23.120
It helps me a lot because I'm not

0:21:21.760,0:21:25.360
new but

0:21:23.120,0:21:27.360
I'm still learning a lot. It's good to

0:21:25.360,0:21:30.240
to follow someone like him

0:21:27.360,0:21:31.919
and benchmark what he

0:21:30.240,0:21:34.080
does and see if I can do something

0:21:31.919,0:21:35.520
similar and grow more grass every year.

0:21:34.080,0:21:36.880

0:21:35.520,0:21:38.880
Yes and I think that's a good mindset

0:21:36.880,0:21:41.600
because we never stop learning do we.

0:21:38.880,0:21:43.440
And Sarah, what would you say to

0:21:41.600,0:21:45.600
farmers in Wales who are

0:21:43.440,0:21:47.120
currently set stocking and possibly not

0:21:45.600,0:21:47.679
maximising the use of the grass on their

0:21:47.120,0:21:50.720

farm?

0:21:47.679,0:21:51.440
What advice would you give them?

0:21:50.720,0:21:52.640

0:21:51.440,0:21:54.640
Firstly, you need to have an

0:21:52.640,0:21:55.280
understanding of the value of the grass

0:21:54.640,0:21:57.280
on the farm.

0:21:55.280,0:21:59.120
Quality can easily outweigh

0:21:57.280,0:22:00.720
bought-in concentrate and

0:21:59.120,0:22:02.720
the trick to managing grass is keeping

0:22:00.720,0:22:04.960
its high quality and having enough of it.

0:22:02.720,0:22:05.919
I know part of the Pasture Project,

0:22:04.960,0:22:07.919
we've got 16

0:22:05.919,0:22:09.840
farms actually, measuring the pasture

0:22:07.919,0:22:11.280
quality on farm, and Tomos is actually

0:22:09.840,0:22:14.480
one of them. I think

0:22:11.280,0:22:15.919
his last quality sample

0:22:14.480,0:22:18.720
Tomos was

0:22:15.919,0:22:19.440
very high in ME and protein. Yes it was.

0:22:18.720,0:22:22.080

0:22:19.440,0:22:23.919
I've deferred a field

0:22:22.080,0:22:26.960
since I've closed it up since

0:22:23.919,0:22:28.480
start of September to winter so my

0:22:26.960,0:22:31.440
in-calf heifers are on it.

0:22:28.480,0:22:33.120
I've got about 10 days left of that

0:22:31.440,0:22:34.159
and then I'm on to kale but it's worked out

0:22:33.120,0:22:36.240
really well.

0:22:34.159,0:22:37.919
Heifers love it. They've got a bit of

0:22:36.240,0:22:40.480
silage as well with that.

0:22:37.919,0:22:42.559
It was

0:22:40.480,0:22:45.440
a good way of wintering it because straw

0:22:42.559,0:22:47.280
has been so expensive. We've tried to

0:22:45.440,0:22:49.440
cut the amount of straw bales and kept

0:22:47.280,0:22:52.840
them out. I've just brought a couple

0:22:49.440,0:22:55.520
of the smaller ones in this week and

0:22:52.840,0:22:56.960
getting the quality of the grass

0:22:55.520,0:22:58.559
gives you an insight of what you've got

0:22:56.960,0:23:00.480
on the ground and

0:22:58.559,0:23:01.600
what qualities you've got to feed the

0:23:00.480,0:23:04.240
cows.

0:23:01.600,0:23:06.400
Yes definitely and I think a lot of the

0:23:04.240,0:23:08.159
difficulty with beef and sheep farms is

0:23:06.400,0:23:10.240
you've got so many different groups.

0:23:08.159,0:23:12.960
You might have your lambs, your

0:23:10.240,0:23:14.480
weaned calves, your dry cows and

0:23:12.960,0:23:16.640
it makes it really hard to manage.

0:23:14.480,0:23:17.919
I'd almost recommend if you

0:23:16.640,0:23:20.080
had one

0:23:17.919,0:23:22.000
maybe good performing

0:23:20.080,0:23:24.320
field and one stock class so

0:23:22.000,0:23:26.000
say you're growing lambs and just

0:23:24.320,0:23:26.880
start rotationally grazing on that and

0:23:26.000,0:23:28.480
see how it goes

0:23:26.880,0:23:30.400
and start measuring, maybe even measure

0:23:28.480,0:23:30.799
on one field just to get to grips with

0:23:30.400,0:23:33.120
it

0:23:30.799,0:23:33.919
so you can understand the value.

0:23:33.120,0:23:37.039
Then,

0:23:33.919,0:23:38.720
make it onto a larger scale on your farm.

0:23:37.039,0:23:41.840

What's the plans for next year's

0:23:38.720,0:23:44.240
Project Sarah?

0:23:41.840,0:23:45.039
Next year we're hoping to start

0:23:44.240,0:23:48.480
off the project

0:23:45.039,0:23:49.600
in spring 2021 and increase the

0:23:48.480,0:23:51.760
number of farmers to

0:23:49.600,0:23:53.679
50. We'll increase the beef and sheep

0:23:51.760,0:23:56.480
numbers slightly.

0:23:53.679,0:23:58.000
Hopefully by starting

0:23:56.480,0:24:00.400
from spring we'll have

0:23:58.000,0:24:02.240
data for the whole growing season

0:24:00.400,0:24:04.240
and hopefully we'll

0:24:02.240,0:24:06.000
maybe be able to get onto farm and get

0:24:04.240,0:24:08.159
some case studies from the farmers

0:24:06.000,0:24:11.279
depending on Covid but

0:24:08.159,0:24:12.480
just really keep encouraging

0:24:11.279,0:24:14.559
farmers in Wales to

0:24:12.480,0:24:17.440
measure pasture and get more

0:24:14.559,0:24:19.279
confident with measuring pasture as well.

0:24:17.440,0:24:20.880
And of course managing your grass over

0:24:19.279,0:24:21.360
the autumn and winter's key for the

0:24:20.880,0:24:23.120
spring.

0:24:21.360,0:24:24.880
What's your management tips going into

0:24:23.120,0:24:26.799
next spring?

0:24:24.880,0:24:28.559
Now's the time you

0:24:26.799,0:24:30.880
need to save any grass that you have

0:24:28.559,0:24:33.279
left on your farm for spring. It's worth

0:24:30.880,0:24:34.480
a lot more in spring than it is now so

0:24:33.279,0:24:36.320

0:24:34.480,0:24:37.919
as soon as we start getting

0:24:36.320,0:24:40.640
stock turned out as well

0:24:37.919,0:24:41.200
this incentivises the growth of grass.

0:24:40.640,0:24:42.799

0:24:41.200,0:24:44.080
It's almost like when you're cutting the

0:24:42.799,0:24:44.720
lawn for the first time with the lawn

0:24:44.080,0:24:46.000
mower

0:24:44.720,0:24:47.919
you'll cut it once and then you'll have

0:24:46.000,0:24:50.159
to keep cutting it all year.

0:24:47.919,0:24:51.760
You know you need to get out and

0:24:50.159,0:24:54.080
graze if you can.

0:24:51.760,0:24:55.200
You know if the weather conditions allow,

0:24:54.080,0:24:57.279

0:24:55.200,0:24:58.799
don't be afraid to

0:24:57.279,0:24:59.120
cut concentrate in your system if you

0:24:58.799,0:25:02.159
have

0:24:59.120,0:25:03.840
sufficient quantity of quality grass.

0:25:02.159,0:25:05.919
Like we said before about

0:25:03.840,0:25:07.840
the pasture quality samples,

0:25:05.919,0:25:09.600
if you're worried about your ewes getting

0:25:07.840,0:25:10.559
enough high quality feed just

0:25:09.600,0:25:12.000
go and

0:25:10.559,0:25:13.919
take a sample of grass and send it off

0:25:12.000,0:25:15.520
to the labs and just see

0:25:13.919,0:25:16.880
what the ME and protein is and see if

0:25:15.520,0:25:18.880
it's good enough with you

0:25:16.880,0:25:20.799
which I'm sure is because spring grass

0:25:18.880,0:25:23.360
is generally better than anything that

0:25:20.799,0:25:26.640
you can buy in the bag.

0:25:23.360,0:25:29.120

And Tomos, as we draw this podcast to a

0:25:26.640,0:25:31.279
close what would you say to beef, sheep

0:25:29.120,0:25:33.039
and dairy farmers who are looking into

0:25:31.279,0:25:35.200
starting measuring grass on their farms,

0:25:33.039,0:25:37.600
what would your advice be to them?

0:25:35.200,0:25:39.360
Go for it, it's just such a

0:25:37.600,0:25:41.919
handy tool.

0:25:39.360,0:25:43.120
You can save so much money on

0:25:41.919,0:25:45.760
concentrate and

0:25:43.120,0:25:47.520
get the same ME out of grass if you

0:25:45.760,0:25:51.919
manage it well,

0:25:47.520,0:25:55.440
look after it and know exactly how to

0:25:51.919,0:25:57.600
to manage it. Farming Connect is

0:25:55.440,0:25:59.440
really good at this and there's a lot of

0:25:57.600,0:26:02.880
projects going on

0:25:59.440,0:26:04.159
like the Prosper from Pasture and stuff

0:26:02.880,0:26:06.400
like that and

0:26:04.159,0:26:07.200
a business like Precision Grazing get

0:26:06.400,0:26:08.799
them involved,

0:26:07.200,0:26:11.520
they'll put you on the right

0:26:08.799,0:26:13.840
track and

0:26:11.520,0:26:14.640
just measure and make use of the

0:26:13.840,0:26:18.559
data and

0:26:14.640,0:26:20.320
you'll be flying.

0:26:18.559,0:26:22.720
And Sarah, what about you? What's your

0:26:20.320,0:26:24.799
last word of advice?

0:26:22.720,0:26:26.240
Similar to Tomos really. You just

0:26:24.799,0:26:28.559
need to get going.

0:26:26.240,0:26:30.000
Give it a go and as soon as

0:26:28.559,0:26:31.840
you start doing it, as

0:26:30.000,0:26:33.039
as we said before, it

0:26:31.840,0:26:34.559
becomes addictive.

0:26:33.039,0:26:37.520
When I went to New Zealand I had

0:26:34.559,0:26:39.279
no idea what measuring grass was, why

0:26:37.520,0:26:41.279
people was measuring grass.

0:26:39.279,0:26:42.799
They're flying these numbers around,

0:26:41.279,0:26:44.240
we'd walk into a field and

0:26:42.799,0:26:45.039
because we had to eyeball everything

0:26:44.240,0:26:46.960
there

0:26:45.039,0:26:48.559
they'd be saying these numbers out loud

0:26:46.960,0:26:49.520
and I was just like 'it's

0:26:48.559,0:26:51.120
2,000 kg/DM/ha'

0:26:49.520,0:26:52.960
what does that mean?

0:26:51.120,0:26:54.320
As soon as you start

0:26:52.960,0:26:56.559
getting used to the numbers

0:26:54.320,0:26:58.720
and going out and making a

0:26:56.559,0:27:01.360
start then

0:26:58.720,0:27:01.919
it becomes clear. And it's just

0:27:01.360,0:27:04.880

0:27:01.919,0:27:07.200
get out and make a start.

0:27:04.880,0:27:09.360
You picked it up so quickly and

0:27:07.200,0:27:11.520
anyone can do it, it's not rocket

0:27:09.360,0:27:13.120
science. There's plate meters and there's

0:27:11.520,0:27:13.919
other different ways of measuring grass

0:27:13.120,0:27:15.279
as well.

0:27:13.919,0:27:18.880
It's just the

0:27:15.279,0:27:20.399
confidence to get into it and get going.

0:27:18.880,0:27:21.919
It's all about having the confidence to

0:27:20.399,0:27:24.000

do it and also making the most of the

0:27:21.919,0:27:24.720
support that's available as well to help

0:27:24.000,0:27:26.720
farmers

0:27:24.720,0:27:27.840
through that journey.

0:27:26.720,0:27:29.840
The future of farming

0:27:27.840,0:27:31.919
is under increasing pressures which will mean that

0:27:29.840,0:27:33.279
we'll all have to focus on

0:27:31.919,0:27:34.960
efficiency and making the most

0:27:33.279,0:27:36.720
of some of our natural resources and our

0:27:34.960,0:27:38.399
grass-growing abilities is clearly one of

0:27:36.720,0:27:41.360
our major advantages

0:27:38.399,0:27:42.960
as Welsh farmers. Well Sarah and Tomos,

0:27:41.360,0:27:44.320
thank you ever so much for joining us on

0:27:42.960,0:27:45.440
Ear to the Ground. It's been brilliant

0:27:44.320,0:27:49.679
having you

0:27:45.440,0:27:51.279
on. Thank you very much. Thank you

0:27:49.679,0:27:53.120
and there we are, we've reached the end

0:27:51.279,0:27:56.320
of episode number 32

0:27:53.120,0:27:57.840
our last episode for 2020. On behalf of

0:27:56.320,0:27:59.760
the team at Farming Connect

0:27:57.840,0:28:01.520
I'd like to thank you for tuning in and

0:27:59.760,0:28:04.240
supporting our podcast.

0:28:01.520,0:28:05.039
2020 has been a challenging year on many

0:28:04.240,0:28:07.760
fronts

0:28:05.039,0:28:09.200
but we look forward to 2021 with hope

0:28:07.760,0:28:10.799
and enthusiasm.

0:28:09.200,0:28:12.640
We've got some very exciting content

0:28:10.799,0:28:13.600
planned for next year and I hope you

0:28:12.640,0:28:15.039
will join us again.

0:28:13.600,0:28:16.960
In the meantime, have a wonderful

0:28:15.039,0:28:19.200
Christmas and best wishes for the new

0:28:16.960,0:28:19.200
year.

0:28:21.700,0:28:30.830
[Music]

0:28:28.840,0:28:39.389
[Music]

0:28:30.830,0:28:39.389
[Music]

0:28:40.320,0:28:42.399
[Music]