

THE MAGAZINE FOR FARMERS & GROWERS IN WALES

FARMING connect

**Developing a new strategy for skills, development
and training for agricultural workers in Wales**

Our Farms Network

Say hello to the farms forming our
new Our Farms Network!



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

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gov.wales/farmingconnect



FARMING
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Farming Connect: OUR FARMS NETWORK

Say hello to the new farms forming the Farming Connect Our Farms Network!

The network includes 15 farms across Wales who will run trials and projects focusing on innovation and new technologies to help them and other Welsh farms reach net zero by 2050, and to build both resilience and sustainability amid a changing climate.

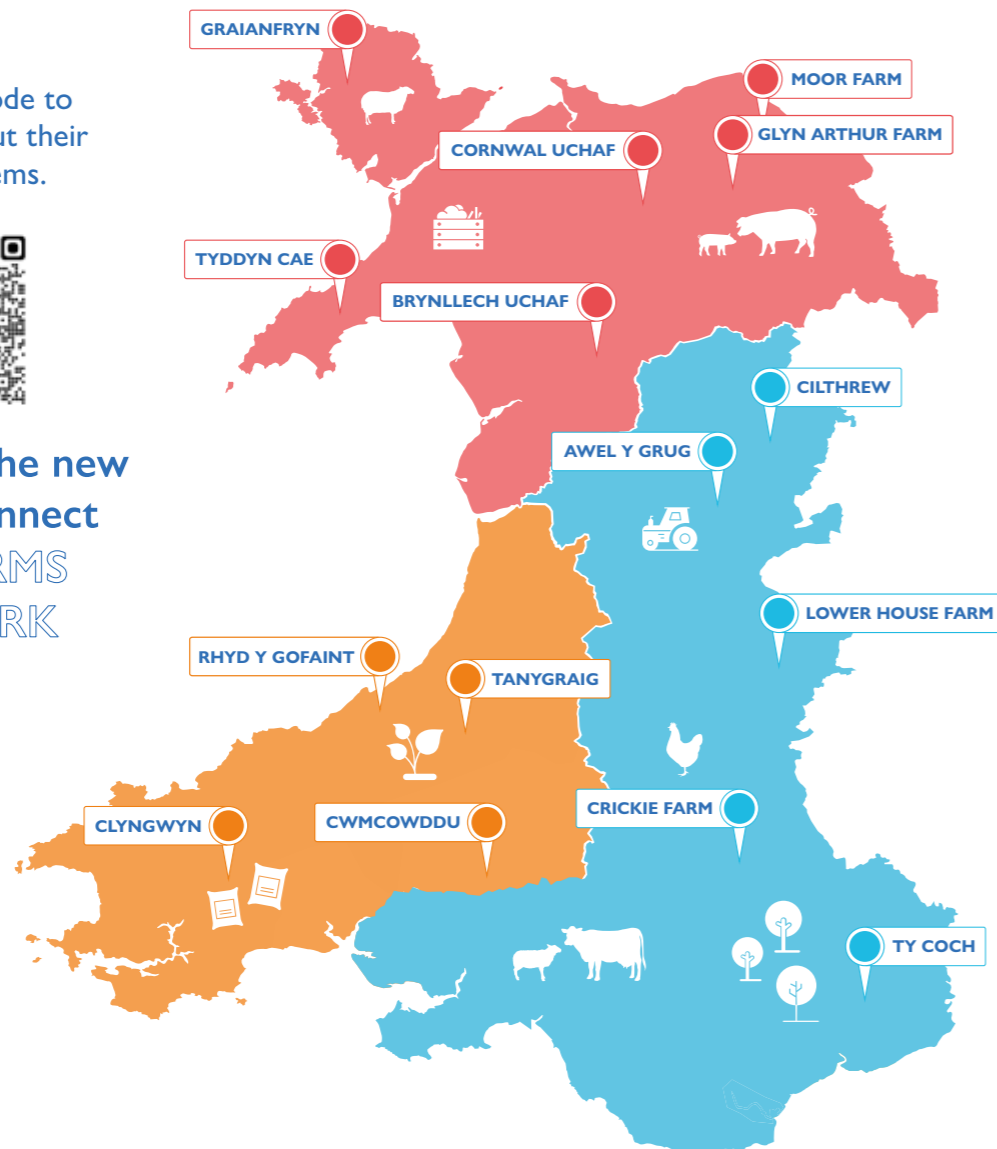
Following the launch of the Our Farms Network at the Royal Welsh Agricultural show, here is your chance to get to know the Welsh farmers who will open their doors to you over the next two years to share best practice and new ideas on the back of on-farm projects and trials results.

Stay tuned to follow their journey and for details of the projects they will be starting soon.

Use the QR code to learn more about their farming systems.



Say hello to the new
Farming Connect
OUR FARMS
NETWORK



AWEL Y GRUG

What made you decide to become a farmer?

I have always had an interest in machinery and welding. My passion about farming has grown stronger since being given more responsibilities and having more of a say in the running of the business. Seeing things working when we make changes and improvements gives me satisfaction.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

Sheep dog - Lad

What is your favourite time of year and why?

Lambing time, even though things can go wrong... and they do, at the end of the day it is the most important time of the year for us and once it's over the sense of achievement is very satisfying.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

If you have an issue on-farm, admit you have a problem, seek advice and act on it.

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- ⊙ Cutting input costs
- ⊙ Maximise daily liveweight gain (DLWG)
- ⊙ Improve ewe efficiency by looking at replacements and biosecurity

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

The goal, as I'm sure it is with most farmers, is to be able to continue producing high quality food, without relying on subsidies. I would like to see higher quality stock on the farm to achieve a better margin per ewe.

EIN FFERMYDD
OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Welshpool, South
Montgomeryshire



FARMER(S):
Chris & Glyn Davies



FARM:
Sector: Red Meat
Farm size (ha): 139
Livestock numbers:
800 ewes, 100 ewe lambs,
30 suckler cows, 1 bull.



EIN FFERMYDD
OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Llansantffraid, North
Montgomeryshire



FARMER(S):
Marc, Wynn &
Bethan Griffiths



FARM:
Sector: Red Meat
Farm size (ha): 120
Livestock numbers:
520 ewes and 110 cattle



CILTHREW

What made you decide to become a farmer?

I was lucky to be born into farming and after going away to university and going on placement to an agricultural sales company, I made up my mind that I wanted to be a farmer.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

Sheepdogs, they are worth 10 people when you are gathering, especially in places you can't get the gator to, and they allow you to work sheep by yourself.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

May, lambing is done, cattle are out, crops are growing, and grass should be flying.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

"Control what you can control and don't worry about the rest. Do what you can in situations and the rest will work itself out" - Doug Avery

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

Evolved to be more efficient, being better at what we do and to have a diversified income stream.



CLYNGWYN

What made you decide to become a farmer?

Both our families have been farming for generations, I think we were born into it!

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

My plate meter. I measure all the grazing fields at least weekly during the grazing season. It's essential to keep enough good grass in front of the cows.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

Spring. I love when the new calves are born, every day is like Christmas! The day the cows go out is the best day of the year.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

Every farm is different. What works somewhere else might not work for you.

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- ⦿ Is once a day (OAD) milking a viable option to reduce workload and improve quality of life?
- ⦿ What improvements can we make to increase our milk from forage?
- ⦿ Can we improve the fertility of the dairy herd?

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

Still milking in a simple system, that we can manage ourselves, with plenty of time off!



EIN FFERMYDD
OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Clynderwen,
Pembrokeshire



FARMER(S):
Jeff, Sarah, Enfys and
Medi Wheeler



FARM:
Sector: Dairy
Farm size (ha): 105
Livestock numbers: 150
crossbred dairy cows and
60 youngstock heifers

EIN FFERMYDD OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Aberaeron,
North Ceredigion



FARMER(S):
Deryl and Francis Jones



FARM:

Sector: Dairy and sheep
Farm size (ha): 100
Livestock numbers:
120 dairy cattle, 300 sheep
and 65 youngstock heifers



RHYD Y GOFAIN T

What made you decide to become a farmer?

Having been brought up on an active working farm, I have always had an interest in farming which led me to further my studies at Aberystwyth University. After graduating, I returned home and over the last 24 years I have worked alongside my parents to increase the area farmed which has allowed stocking numbers to rise.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

Telehandler.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

Spring! New life, new grass and the cycle starts again.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

Be grateful when your problems are outside the front door.

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- Maximise grass production
- How renewables and management changes can lower our carbon footprint
- Improve heifer management to maximise the number of heifers holding to sexed semen and calving down at 24 months.

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

Infrastructure improvement plans completed and we have consolidated on the investments we have made.



GLYN ARTHUR FARM

What made you decide to become a farmer?

I have followed my dad around the farm and helped in the pens with the sheep from as young as I can remember. I have always been interested in the farm and after following my dad's wise words after leaving school to try something different because the farm would always be here, I did but was always drawn back to the farm whenever I could. I have been back on the farm for the last 15 years helping out as much as possible while working off the farm but have only started farming full time with my dad over the last 5/6 years.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

The sheepdogs.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

That's difficult to answer. All the seasons have good bits and bad bits. As long as the sheep are doing what they should be then I'm happy.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

As long as you've tried your best that's all you can do.

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- Homoeopathy & assessing mineral status of the ewes to support animal health and wellbeing
- Improving nutritional value of homegrown forage to reduce reliance on bought in feed
- Exploring different grazing management systems to see if permanent pastures can be regenerated without inputs.

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

I would like to see the farm in a strong enough position to weather whatever storms might be on the horizon from environmental to financial. Being fortunate enough to have had family on the farm since the 1700's I want to make sure that the farm is in a secure enough position for the generation after me to keep it going.

EIN FFERMYDD OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Llandyrnog,
Denbigh



FARMER(S):
Robert Williams and
Sarah Hammond



FARM:

Sector: Red Meat
Farm size (ha): 160
Livestock numbers:
650 ewes and
200 ewe lambs



EIN FFERMYDD OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Lampeter,
South Ceredigion



FARMER(S):
David, Eryl and
Daniel Evans



FARM:
Farm Size (ha): 121
Stock numbers: 350 ewes
and 45 suckler cows
Sector: Red Meat



TANYGRAIG

What made you decide to become a farmer?

Having been raised on the family farm, it is a way of life for me. I have always had a keen interest in the farm and to progressively farm.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

The CCTV system we have in place on the farm. It has transformed lambing and calving for us. Being able to watch a cow calving on camera and seeing that a calf has sucked makes it a fantastic tool.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

The time of year where we apply fertiliser to silage fields, I know then that summer is on its way!

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

My grandfather said- the land is honest. If you look after the land, the land will look after you.

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- ⦿ Reducing costs without reducing output
- ⦿ The use of technology to help futureproof the business
- ⦿ Reduce days to slaughter whilst also improving soil carbon levels on farm

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

Having continuously improved and expanded the business.



LOWER HOUSE FARM

What made you decide to become a farmer?

I grew up on the family's smallholding and worked on various local farms before studying a degree in Agriculture at Aberystwyth University.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

The egg packing machine! If the packing machine is not working, packing the eggs of 32,000 hens must be done by hand.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

My favourite time of year is the end of lambing – longer days, better weather, and the hope that this year will be better than the last.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

Do not let little weeds become big weeds.

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- ⦿ Reducing input costs
- ⦿ Growing protein crops (e.g., peas and beans) to reduce the need to buy in protein and reduce the carbon footprint of the farm
- ⦿ Better use of chicken manure

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

I would like to see a sustainable business offering opportunities to both my children to develop and expand if they chose, whilst providing them with a realistic income.



EIN FFERMYDD OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Llandrindod Wells,
Radnorshire



FARMER(S):
Robert and Jessica Lyon



FARM:
Sector: Mixed
Farm size (ha):
93 owned, 48 rented
Livestock numbers: 32,000
hens, 150 heifers, 600 ewes

EIN FFERMYDD OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Llanuwchllyn,
Meirionnydd



FARMER(S):

Rhodri and Claire Jones



FARM:

Sector: Red Meat
Farm size (ha): 263
Livestock numbers:
35 cattle and young
stock and 700 ewes



BRYNLLECH UCHAF

What made you decide to become a farmer?

Helping dad in the early days and nothing else has changed my mind!

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

Family, rain, dogs and patience.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

The autumn, the sheep's breeding cycle starts and then the spring to see the process becoming apparent.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

Don't change to follow fashion; change if it suits you and improve what you are trying to do.

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- ☉ Cattle health and performance
- ☉ Reduce expenditure and dependence on bought in forage
- ☉ Find a pasture/mix pasture that suits the system, the land and the climate

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

Profitable, sustainable and productive



CORNWAL UCHAF

What made you decide to become a farmer?

Farming follows on naturally after my parents to an extent, and a special way of life.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

Health is certainly the most important thing for me on the farm - many farmers work hard all day every day and don't give time to look after their physical and mental health.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

Spring, I love this time when the grass is growing and the lambs running around the fields if the weather is favourable of course.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

Farming to live and not living to farm. We need to work in order to have something to share with others. We sometimes need to sit down and think about where our business is going in the future.

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- ☉ Improve the grazing system by using red clover or herbal leys and use fertiliser more effectively by using technology and maps to do this.
- ☉ Improve the fertility of the cattle
- ☉ To reduce the level of lameness in the flock.

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

I would like to be here still farming and focusing on producing food for a growing world population. We would like to see our son Gwion follow us to farm here like his great grandfather did, who came here at the age of 16 to farm 100 years ago.

EIN FFERMYDD OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Gwytherin,
Conwy



FARMER(S):

Dylan, Gwenda
and Gwion Roberts



FARM:

Sector: Beef and Sheep
Farm size (ha): 152
Livestock numbers:
40 suckler cows,
12 heifers and 500 sheep.



EIN FFERMYDD
OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Holywell,
Flint



FARMER(S):
David, Heulwen
and Rhys Davies



FARM:

Sector: Dairy

Farm size (ha): 45ha plus
40ha rented

Livestock numbers:
100 spring calving cows and
80 young stock heifers



MOOR FARM

What made you decide to become a farmer?

The opportunity to work with quality cattle.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

Agrinet software programme and recently the collar system to identify bulling heifers and genomic testing on the young livestock.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

Spring, to see heifers in milk out grazing and fulfilling their genetic potential.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

'Grass grows grass'

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- ⦿ Soil and forage for extreme weather conditions
- ⦿ How can artificial intelligence (AI) be of positive use
- ⦿ Increase outputs without increasing inputs

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

Ensuring that we continue to meet the demands and increasingly high standards of our milk buyer and to do more with less, with our resources.



TYDDYN CAE

What made you decide to become a farmer?

Growing up on a farm and in an area where the agricultural community is strong and being lucky to have the opportunity to come back home to join the family's farming business.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

We have focused on creating a system that is convenient, by including the use of technology in the milking parlour and an 'automatic scrapers' system that reduces day-to-day work for me and the team, which is essential for the success of the farm.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

September is the best time of the year for me, when the herd calves on "standing hay", we have been lucky that September and the end of winter have been favourable in terms of the weather over the last few years and has enabled us to have an easy calving period as a team - hopefully this will continue into the future.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

To take every opportunity that comes by. You need to make the most of every opportunity and take advantage of them if they are the right ones for you of course.

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- ⦿ Improve the use of crops which have been home grown with a reduction in nitrogen (N) use
- ⦿ To review antibiotic usage
- ⦿ Making the most of grass and options for periods of drought

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

I hope to be able to develop the herd's productivity, by keeping costs as low as possible, especially fertilisers and bought in feed.

EIN FFERMYDD
OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Pwllheli,
Gwynedd



FARMER:
Ifan Ifans



FARM:

Sector: Dairy

Farm size (ha): 90 ha
grazing platform and 100
ha of external land for
silage and crops and
young / dry stock

Livestock numbers: 390
autumn calving cows



EIN FFERMYDD OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Llangadog, North
Carmarthenshire



FARMER(S):
Sian, Aled and
Rhodri Davies



FARM:
Sector: Mixed
Farm size (ha): 142
Livestock numbers:
120 dairy cattle, 32,00
chickens, 500 sheep



CWMCOWDDU

What made you decide to become a farmer?

We were brought up on a farm so have been interested in farming from a young age. Being able to go to Gelli Aur for an afternoon while at school made us realise that we wanted to be full time farmers.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

The milking parlour - we milk twice a day, which is very efficient, so it allows us to do other things on and off the farm.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

The time after lambing, where the day gets longer and there is more time in the day.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

Take every opportunity that comes your way and don't be afraid to make mistakes along the way. That is why we have taken the opportunity to be a demonstration farm!

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- ⦿ Better use of chicken manure to reduce the fertiliser that is bought in
- ⦿ Improve the nutrition and fertility of the dairy herd
- ⦿ Increase forage and to make it more 'tolerant' to drought

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

A prosperous, efficient business that makes the most of the nutrients on the farm. We hope to improve the performance of the herd and increase it gradually over the next few years. We also hope to improve our grazing system and reduce days to slaughter for lambs.



CRICKIE FARM

What made you decide to become a farmer?

I was born and raised on the family farm and it is a way of life for me. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to come home to farm.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

Quad, dog and my wife, Dyddanwy. They are all are a big help to me on the farm.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

My favourite time is the spring time when the animals go out to the fields.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

If you think you should do something, do it. Do what's right for you and take small bits of advice from different people.

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- ⦿ Feed efficiency
- ⦿ Daily Liveweight gains
- ⦿ Strive to improve the business for the future

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

I would like to see the farm as a sustainable, profitable business with reduced inputs.

EIN FFERMYDD OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Llangorse,
Brecon



FARMER(S):
Roger and
Dyddanwy Pugh



FARM:
Sector: Red Meat
Farm size (ha): 94
Livestock numbers: 55
sucklers with calves, 300
ewes and 80 hogs



EIN FFERMYDD
OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Llanfachraeth,
Anglesey



FARMER:
Gerallt Jones



FARM:
Sector: Red Meat
Farm size (ha): 119
Livestock numbers:
500 sheep 280 cattle



GRAIANFRYN

What made you decide to become a farmer?

I was born and raised on the farm. I decided not to farm and go out to work first. After working for a few different companies and gaining a lot of experience, I decided it was time to come home to farm and be my own boss.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

The mobile phone, a small but terribly useful device to keep a record of the animals.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

Without a doubt, my favourite time of the year is the spring when the stock are turned out and when everywhere looks 'beautiful' and green. I love seeing the pleasure the animals have going out to pasture.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

Early bird catches the worm.

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- ☉ Calf health during pre-and post-weaning
- ☉ Cattle nutrition throughout their life
- ☉ Increase forage grown on the farm

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

A thriving and expanding business. The main focus at the moment is that the farm supports a living for me and the family.



TY COCH

What made you decide to become a farmer?

It is in the blood and it is a way of life for me.

What is the biggest change you encountered during your years farming?

The increase in farm sizes and declining labour on farm. This makes it difficult for young people to come into the industry.

What couldn't you go without on the farm?

The dog.

What is your favourite time of year and why?

Spring/Summer - the days are longer and the livestock are turned out from the sheds.

What's the most useful bit of advice you've ever been given?

You have always got to have something to get up for in the morning.

What are the key areas you wish to focus on as an Our Farms Network farmer?

- ☉ Improving business resilience and profitability in the long term

Where would you like to see the farm business in 5 - 10 years?

Twice the size! A resilient and profitable business.

EIN FFERMYDD
OUR FARMS



LOCATION:
Usk,
Monmouthshire



FARMER(S):
Nigel Bowyer and family



FARM:
Sector: Red Meat
Size of farm: 80 ha
Stock numbers:
270 sheep + 70 beef cattle



Take advantage of up to 90% subsidised support towards

ANIMAL HEALTH ADVICE AND TESTING

GWASANAETH
CYNGHORI
ADVISORY
SERVICE

Farming Connect can support animal health advice and testing with your local vet.

Farmers and vets must receive approval from Farming Connect before starting work.

Limited funding available.

A health plan tailored to each business may include:

- › A review of routine veterinary treatments
- › Livestock disease profile
- › Benchmark and identify areas for improvement
- › Advice on improving the health status of all the animals on the farm
- › Biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of introducing or spreading disease
- › Animal welfare
- › Sampling and testing animals to investigate a possible disorder on the farm

For more information contact your local Development Officer, or call the service centre.

 03456 000 813

 gov.wales/farmingconnect



‘PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE’



ARLOES AC
ARALLGYFERIO
CYMRU

INNOVATION AND
DIVERSIFICATION
WALES

21/09/2023

10:00 - 17:00

Maes Sioe Frenhinol Cymru / Royal Welsh Showground
Llanelwedd LD2 3SY



Archebwch eich tocyn am ddim
Book your free ticket

New HORTICULTURE Support Service Underway

GARDDWRIAETH
HORTICULTURE

April 2023 saw the launch of Farming Connect's newest service – Growing for Growth – the Farming Connect Horticulture Support Service.

This new addition complements the service offerings within the full Farming Connect Programme.

Farming Connect can now provide a strong pillar of support to tackle horticultural issues, challenges and opportunities. Our key priorities are to support the industry to increase horticulture crop production by 25%, encourage the industry to adhere to sustainable practices, support the development of supply chain and promote viable diversification activities. This will increase diversity in the agriculture sector in Wales and present opportunities for business development and growth.

By taking a whole supply chain approach and building close relationships with all within the sector, the Farming Connect Horticulture Support Service is uniquely positioned to both respond to immediate needs and provide leadership to equip businesses with the knowledge and skills for green and inclusive growth.

Registered Farming Connect businesses and individuals can access an extensive list of provisions aimed at assisting commercial growers (looking to develop or expand an existing enterprise), new start-ups and sustainable diversification projects.

THE OFFER INCLUDES:

- **FULLY FUNDED** horticulture business support (>12 hours) in areas such as production efficiency, packaging, water use, plant health, crop selection, growing mediums, etc.
- Opportunity to join a crop or sector specific network with relevant training/learning opportunities.
- Onsite grower training workshops delivered by specialist advisors.
- Specialist study visits both within and outside Wales showcasing exemplar horticultural enterprises.
- A chance to join a cluster to explore procurement opportunities and routes to market.
- The chance to feed into sector specific policy development and feedback.

The Farming Connect Horticulture Support Service hit the ground running with several study visits over the first few months covering a matrix of topical horticulture issues: Soil Management for Vineyards, Evolution of a UK herb farm, Promoting and Distributing Welsh Vegetables and Going Peat Free.

With much more on offer in the coming months, keep an eye on the Farming Connect website



First things first...

Farming Connect's new mandatory e-learning courses will give you a great head-start before practical training.

From September 2023 onwards, all Farming Connect learners will be required to complete fully funded mandatory e-learning courses ahead of applying for more than half of the programme's subsidised accredited training courses.

With almost 80 accredited training courses currently available, broadly categorised under 'business', 'livestock' and 'land', by the autumn 48 of these will require completion of a mandatory e-learning course first.

"Learning the basics through relevant e-learning will be an essential pre-requirement before any registered individual can apply for selected accredited training," said Becky Summons who manages Farming Connect's animal health and welfare and e-learning service.

Topics where this will apply include health & safety, business, pesticide safety, cattle

lameness and herd fertility.

"Undertaking a short but relevant e-learning module before they undertake practical face-to-face training will give learners confidence and a beneficial head-start, so that they have the relevant basic knowledge and information they need beforehand," said Ms. Summons.

With **6,775** e-learning courses completed by registered individuals since 2015, it's clear that online learning is a popular and important part of Farming Connect's training provision. Learners study at a time and pace that suits them, enabling them to increase their skill set in an accessible and flexible way. Most courses take around 20 minutes to complete, with a short quiz at the end of each one providing reassurance that the key information has been learned.

SGILIAU A
HYFFORDDIANT
SKILLS AND
TRAINING

STORFA SGILIAU...

your personal online record-keeping tool

- ✓ Certificates for all completed Farming Connect e-learning courses and accredited training courses uploaded for you
- ✓ Instant access to all your skills, qualifications and achievements in one secure place
- ✓ Evidence your skills for farm assurance schemes, supply chain partners or to update your CV

For further information on all Farming Connect training options or for guidance on the application process, visit www.gov.wales/farmingconnect. Alternatively contact the Farming Connect Service Centre on **03456 000 813** or your local development officer.

STORFA
SGILIAU

Developing a new strategy for skills, development and training for agricultural workers in Wales

‘Working in Wales...supporting our agri-workers’ ... land-based skills, training and continual professional development under the spotlight this autumn

On Thursday, 19 October, invited representatives from key rural stakeholder organisations including educational establishments and training providers in Wales, will attend ‘Working in Wales – supporting our agri-workers’, a skills and continuing professional development (CPD) conference, to be held at the Royal Welsh Showground in Llanelwedd.

Hosted by Farming Connect in conjunction with the Agriculture Advisory Panel for Wales, delegates will be asked to consider the existing provision available and what else might need to be put in place to best support the future training, CPD and career prospects of all those wanting to work within the agriculture, horticulture and forestry sectors in Wales in the years ahead.

Findings and recommendations from the conference will be an important first step towards a ‘Call for evidence’ which will be launched at the event on behalf of the Agriculture Advisory Panel for Wales’ sub-committee on skills, development and training. Chair of the sub-committee, Dr

Nerys Llewelyn Jones, a keynote speaker at the event, says that feedback from the conference will help shape the strategy for future training options and career prospects of all agricultural workers in Wales. The event will be organised by Farming Connect, which is delivered by Menter a Busnes and Lantra Wales, on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Invited delegates will include representatives from all key rural stakeholder organisations and training providers including the farming unions, Wales Young Farmers Club, schools, universities, further and higher education establishments as well as Hybu Cig Cymru, the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board and supply chain partners. Keynote speakers and facilitated workshops will address issues including recruitment, training and CPD including the importance of promoting and utilising Storfa Sgiliau, Farming Connect’s secure online tool for recording skills and achievements, in order to attract and retain motivated, competent agricultural workers who will meet the future needs of all land-based businesses in Wales.

“Ours is an ever-changing industry which must be professional, vibrant and able to meet the environmental and economic demands of the future.”

“Our collective responsibility as rural stakeholders is to work collaboratively, to identify gaps in provision and address any obstacles or challenges facing workers as they prepare for a future where innovation and modern technology will play an increasingly significant part.”

“We must engage with potential workers while also acknowledging the important contribution of our current workforce and ensure that we have in place the support and opportunities they all need to help them progress, stay motivated and incentivised to develop their skills and knowledge further,” said Dr Llewelyn Jones.

The programme for the day will include presentations from speakers and facilitated workshops when attendees will discuss and put forward recommendations on issues which impact on the careers and prospects of all farm workers in Wales. Collective findings from both the conference and the skills, development and training sub-committee ‘Call for evidence’, will help influence a new strategy for the sector from 2024 onwards.



“We must work collaboratively, bringing together the key stakeholders and employers who can put in place the appropriate level of support, training and continual professional development opportunities to both attract and keep able, motivated agricultural workers.”

Dr. Nerys Llewelyn Jones, Chair - Agricultural Advisory Panel for Wales

“Hard work, ambition and the opportunity to acquire new skills and knowledge is already making a huge difference to the professionalisation and modernisation of the industry in Wales. Farming Connect’s lifelong learning and development provision supports this critical agenda.”

Kevin Thomas, Director Lantra Wales

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ON FARM DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

1. Children should not be allowed in the farm work place (and for young children they should enjoy outdoor space in a secure fenced area).
2. Any access to the work area by children under 16, for example for education, or knowledge experience, should be planned and fully supervised by an adult not engaged in any work activity.
3. Children under the age of 13 years are specifically prohibited from driving or riding on any agricultural machine.

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