



Land

Our Farms



Welsh Soil Project

- Soil sampling took place on **15** farms
- 1080** soil samples collected
- Soil Organic Matter and Soil Carbon Stock calculated across different field types, hedgerows and soil depths (from 0-50 cm).
- Further **25** farms will be sampled in February 2024

Masterclasses



24 Masterclasses delivered included Master Herbal, Opportunities and benefits of trees on farms and Control of Agricultural Pollution

438 attendees

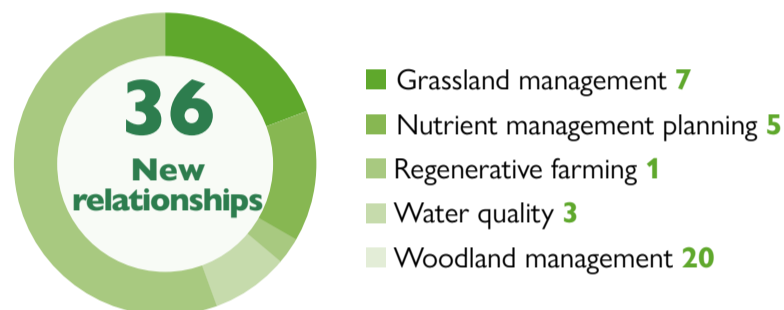
Quotes from feedback forms:
 "Very informative", "Valuable evening", "Complex subject dealt with well", "Excellent masterclass", "Helpful", "Provided clarity."

Mentoring



- 37** Individuals have accessed mentoring
- 142.8** hours of mentoring
- 55** mentoring sessions
- 14%** of all mentoring sessions have been related to this theme during this period

Individuals are requesting mentoring on the following topics:



Extracts from mentoring diaries include:

"We discussed nitrogen fertiliser application techniques as well as cow and young stock grazing infrastructure."

Discussion Groups



48 discussion group meetings completed

296 attendees **111** hours of knowledge transfer

Discussion Topics:
 Grazing Plans | Building soil health | Importance of grass measuring | Feed budgeting | Extending the grazing season

Agrigôp



4 Agrigôp meetings have taken place

23 attendees **10** hours

One group is exploring the possibility of planting Elderberry trees and possibly other berry crops as agroforestry systems on their farms.

Knowledge Exchange Hub

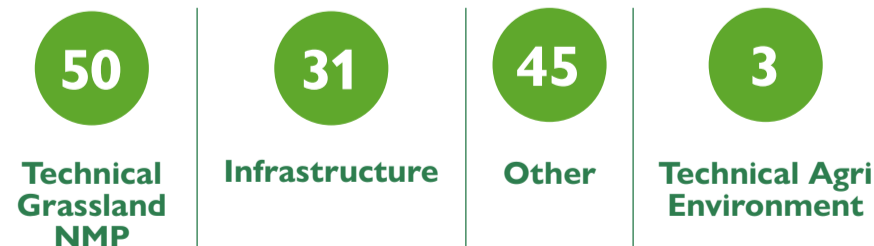


1 Literature review focusing on the role of red clover in delivering against the SLM outcomes

Advisory Service



Instances of advice delivered:



Strategic Awareness Events



11 Events **90** attendees

Customer Feedback:

"Very pleased, explained things very well and it was a privilege to have him on the farm. Looking forward to doing more work with him in the future"

"Very informative and helpful would be good if we could have a follow up in 12 months to advise if what we have put in place/ altered is going the right way."

Accredited Training



31 individuals completed a training course in this period



27 businesses were supported



369 hours of training were delivered

Themes	Individual supported	Percentage
Land	31	36%
Business & Livestock	54	64%

41 courses available on BOSS

Popular courses included:

Course	Individuals Supported
Rough Terrain Telescopic Lift Truck	6
Level 2 Award in Rodent Management	5
Sit-Astride ATV's including loads & trailed equipment	5

Feedback from Individual Supported:
 "The course was really useful and I found it very informative" (Tractor Driving Course)
 "The course has helped me to confidently deal with managing and improving woodlands." (Felling Trees Over 380mm).

E-learning



63 individuals completed e-learning modules

40 businesses were supported

Themes	Individual supported	Percentage
Land	63	19%
Business & Livestock	277	81%

Popular courses included:

Course	Individuals Supported
Pesticide Safety	30
Composted Farmyard Manure	4
Weed Control	3

32 modules are now available on BOSS
 New modules that have been developed in the period:
 • Introduction to Sustainable Farming

Podcast



All articles, videos, technical publications, and podcasts are published on the Farming Connect website.



Episode 83:

A conversation with Dr Iwan Owen – Forty years of lecturing grassland management at Aberystwyth University.



Episode 88:

Woodland management and adding value to timber at Fron Haul, Abergele.

Clinics



284

Soils clinics completed

Feedback:
 "Interesting to see what our soil quality was, and the recommendations on what to implement following the sample results."

Horticulture



5 Horticulture events supported 44 individuals from 31 different businesses

Events included: Orchard Management, Organic conversion and Horticulture tourism.

Following these events – **100% of attendees** stated they had learnt something new. **72% of attendees** intend to change their growing practices following the training.

Feedback:
 "Brilliant day, very informative and well organised" (Seiont a Flagship Welsh horticulture business – Business efficiencies, challenges and opportunities)
 "An informative day that could have benefitted more growers" (Horticulture tourism an opportunity for Wales).



14 horticulture business support sessions delivered to 22 individuals from 14 businesses and Plant health, soil health and water use have featured in a majority of sessions

Feedback:
 "Our business has switched to peat free growing media and we have been experiencing challenges. The horticulture business support sessions have encouraged us to implement measuring techniques to measure the electrical conductivity in the compost. The advice will save us thousands and thousands of pounds in crop losses."

