



Reduce on farm emissions and maximise carbon sequestration

Energy efficiency and producing renewable energy | Animal Health Improvement Cycle | Making use of genetic improvement | Managing and restoring peatland | Incorporating trees (including agroforestry) | Woodland management | Hedgerow management cycle

Demonstration network



1

Best Practice Showcase Farm event: Variable milking frequency, opportunity for sustainable labour inputs on dairy farm

Key words: Energy efficiency

Agrisgôp



7 Agrisgôp meetings have taken place



- Animal health improvement cycle **50%**
- Energy efficiency and producing renewable energy **25%**
- Incorporating trees (including agroforestry) **12.5%**
- Making use of genetic improvement **12.5%**

Groups that met during this period focussed on:

The Lameness Action Groups address cattle mobility through the sharing of knowledge, ideas and practical changes that can be implemented on farm.

A group of farmers within the Teifi catchment are eager to implement changes aimed at improving the water quality of the river. Possible changes may include the creation of ponds, planting buffer strips, planting trees, fencing off river banks.

Exploring options that reduce the cost of feeding beef and sheep.

Discussion Groups



23 meetings delivering against reducing on farm emissions and maximise Carbon sequestration.



18 meetings delivering against Animal Health Improvement Cycle



14 meetings delivering against genetic improvement



3 meetings delivering against Energy efficiency

Examples:

Dairy production KPI's such as age of first calving, mastitis, lameness and calf mortality.

Dairy nutrition, how to plan the best ration, importance of forage sampling and reducing purchased protein.

Beef system performance factors including: Fertility, Reducing Input Costs and Animal Health.

Sheep bio-security / quarantine policy.

Mentoring



77.5 hours of mentoring have taken place



- Hedgerow management cycle **36.1%**
- Woodland management **34%**
- Incorporating trees (including agroforestry) **24.7%**
- Animal health improvement cycle **4.1%**

Extracts from mentoring diaries include:

“Discussed the pros and cons of hedgerow coppicing.”

“Discussions on small grants, soil management, liming, woodland creation schemes.”

“Farm visit, tour of farm focussing on woodland and woodland management. Discussed better woodland for Wales, Glastir woodland creation, restoration and small grants.”

Advisory Service



Being more efficient with energy use/costs:

Business Plan Advice



7 Businesses supported

Animal Health Plans



4 Businesses supported

Habitat and biodiversity management advice



1 Businesses supported

Welsh Sheep Genetics Programme



During this period, participants have been involved in a range of knowledge transfer activities where the underpinning focus is on reducing on-farm emissions by improving efficiency.

| | Number of events | Businesses in attendance |
|--|------------------|--------------------------|
| Breeding for worm resistance (Webinar) | 1 | 27 |
| Selecting rams based on EBVs (Webinar) | 1 | 24 |
| Marketing your rams (Digital workshop) | 1 | 17 |
| Improving flock health (On-farm) | 3 | 25 |

Sampling procedures have also been underway during this period, including backfat scanning 2023 born lambs to formulate genomic breeding values. Formulating GEBVs for each lamb will identify the predicted high performing animals, and will aid farmers to make justified decisions when selecting ewe lambs to retain for future breeding, as well as any potential ram lambs which could be sold as rams in the following year.

Bryn Hughes and Sarah Carr have only been farming the 541hectare holding towering above the Mawddach estuary since March this year, having relocated from Monmouthshire where they ran a commercial lowland flock. The environment of the two farms could not be more different but the couple believe that genetics holds the key to developing a flock that is well adapted to conditions at Sylfaen.

“In a hill farm situation, we can’t necessarily change the conditions to suit the sheep, so we decided to focus on producing an animal that is better equipped to succeed in this environment, particularly in terms of resilience to disease,” explains Sarah

The full article can be found the [Farming Connect website](#):

A performance-recording project across 107 flocks in Wales has set out with the ambition of improving the efficiency of Welsh sheep flocks. We visit one of the farms involved in the new Farming Connect Welsh Sheep Genetics Programme.

Skills & Training



| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 19 | 89 | 4 | 4 |
| Courses on offer | Approved applications | Completed | Businesses Supported (completed) |

Completed courses include: First Aid for Feet, Artificial Insemination, Sheep Lameness, Colostrum & Calves

eLearning



| | 55 Courses on offer | 30 Completions | 23 Businesses Supported |
|--|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Animal Health Improvement Cycle | 35 | 20 | 15 |
| Making use of genetic improvement | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Energy efficiency and producing renewable energy | 11 | 5 | 3 |
| Incorporating trees (including agroforestry) | 2 | — | — |
| Incorporating trees (including agroforestry) | 3 | — | — |

Claimed courses include: Colostrum & Calves, Sheep Lameness

Animal Health and Welfare Workshops



| | Workshops offered | Attendees | Businesses Supported |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Animal Health Improvement Cycle | 19 | 258 | 169 |

Workshops included:
Improving Post Weaning Lamb Performance

Key areas which can help optimise dairy cow fertility will be covered in a new Lantra-accredited workshop module, and will be added to the Farming Connect animal health and welfare training programme.

[Dairy cow fertility added to Farming Connect animal health training workshops](#)

