



Resilient and Productive

Our Farms



33 projects across the [Our Farms Network](#) focusing on:

- › Benchmarking › Business planning
- › Lowering external inputs › Biosecurity
- › Diversification to horticulture

Masterclasses



191 attendees across 16 Masterclasses including:

- Business Bootcamp
- How lenders view accounts
- Master Herbal
- Dairy beef enterprises to consider

Feedback:

"Very good structure to the day, good amount of time for questions, practical session and nice to meet the people in the group."

Discussion Groups



SFS Categories	No of Meetings	Hours of KT	Individuals Supported
Resilient & Productive	110	258	756
Benchmarking & Business Planning	79	185	527
Lowering external inputs	84	192	581
Converting to organic / regenerative farming	4	10.5	21
Diversification	9	26	62
Joint Ventures	6	16	33
Biosecurity	21	48	170

EXAMPLES:

- Benchmarking and KPI Review
- Business Reviews and goal setting
- Personal Development
- Biosecurity
- Grazing Management
- Planning for diversification, Strategy and Succession
- Nutrition

Strategic Awareness Events



16 Events 262 Attendees

Example of events during this period were:

- Feeding the modern dairy cow with 2023 silage – how to get more for less
- Animal Health - Importance of Nutrition in Sheep

Surgeries



182 Surgeries have been completed

Topics included - Diversification, Planning, Business

Feedback: "This was an excellent service, they explained more about planning and how that relates to our farming operations in one hour than I've learned in my life thus far. We now have a much more clear plan moving forward."

Start to Farm & Succession



327

Seekers

76

Providers

Support packages accessed	Completed
Business Assessments	8
Family Succession Meetings	16
Business Planning	2
Legal Advice	1

Joint Venture Opportunities

Developing Profile

2

Opportunity Published

7

Matches

20

Mentoring



196.6 hours of mentoring have taken place

- Benchmarking and business planning
- Converting to organic/regenerative farming
- Diversification (including into horticulture) & adding value
- Joint ventures, succession planning & new entrants
- Horticulture start-up and development

Extracts from mentoring diaries include:

1. Focused on equality and diversity with farm visits, how to promote women in agriculture and getting disabled people on farm and also monitoring social impact of the diversification project of farm based educational programmes.
2. We tried to gain more clarity on profit margins. Consider making a physical list of pros and cons of his suckler herd. Mentee to collect data on calvings, age at sale, feed costs etc.
3. Discussed different VAT programmes such as Xero, QuickBooks as well as spreadsheets.

Agrisgôp



21 Agrisgôp meetings have taken place

- Benchmarking & business planning
- Lowering external inputs to maximise profits and benefit the environment
- Converting to organic/regenerative farming
- Diversification (including into horticulture) & adding value
- Joint ventures, succession planning & new entrants
- Horticulture start-up and development
- Biosecurity (livestock and arable)

Groups that met during this period focussed on -

A group of dairy farmers with milk vending machines are sharing experiences/challenges and working together to develop their enterprises to make them more sustainable after experiencing a drop in sales.

Addressing cattle mobility through the sharing of knowledge, ideas and, most importantly, practical changes that can be implemented on-farm to address lameness challenges.

Exploring the possibility of planting Elderberry trees and possibly other berry crops as agroforestry systems on their farms.

Accredited Training



	Courses on Offer	Individuals Supported	Hours of Training	Grant Funding
Total	22	10	81	£2,360

10 businesses were supported.

Courses included: Marketing your business, Level 3 Award in Food Safety in Catering, Manufacturing or Retail, Planning a diversification or new enterprise on a farm

Feedback from attendee:

"I intend to change the way I think about social media and create marketing campaigns and strategies before posting online."

Clinics

479 Clinics were completed

Topics included -



Soils



Water

Feedback from attendees:

"Thank you. Very helpful to have the soil analysis and looking to improve my ground management in terms of fertiliser etc."

E-Learning

53 unique individuals from 52 businesses were supported



Courses completed included:

E-Learning: Mandatory Unit: Fundamentals to a Successful Business
E-Learning: Planning and Finance

New Course Available on BOSS:

E-Learning: Energy Efficiency on Cereal Farms
E-learning: Sustainable Farming - Overview of Resilience and Production
E-learning: Introduction to Sustainable Farming

Welsh Sheep Genetics Programme



Knowledge Transfer Activity

'Introduction to Performance Recording' workshops - 40 individuals attended to learn how improved sheep genetics leads to more efficient and productive flock.

'The importance of ewe nutrition, pre and post-lambing' webinar - 27 individuals attended a webinar with sheep specialist Kate Phillips, focusing on meeting the dietary requirements of ewes in the build up to lambing, and afterwards.

Feedback from attendees:

"A very informative webinar, which I found very useful at the exact right time."

WSGP Study Tour to Scotland - 34 individuals participating in the Welsh Sheep Genetics Programme attended a two-day Study Tour to Scotland. The objective was to exchange knowledge by visiting three sheep farmers who were pushing boundaries by harnessing innovation and adopting alternative farming practices within their livestock systems.

Feedback from attendees:

"Great trip organised by the Farming Connect WSGP with some very impressive farming systems visited. Learned a lot about the importance of data collection in order to improve and enhance genetic traits within the flock. Few ideas to come away with and a great group of people to network with to share ideas."

Animal Health and Welfare



Biosecurity (livestock and arable)

519

Individuals Supported

1557

Training Hours Delivered

37

Workshops Delivered

382 unique individuals from 288 businesses were supported

Workshops Topics Delivered Included: Parasite Control in Cattle Part 2 - Liver Fluke, Protozoa & Ectoparasites, Sheep Parasite Control Part 2: Sheep Scab, Lice and Liver Fluke Feeding the Flock for Optimal Performance, Sheep Lameness

Feedback from attendees:

"Excellent presentation - very informative. Good examples discussed - given opportunity to ask questions and discussion around topics."

"Very good talk. Informative and interesting. Good for inexperienced and experienced livestock keepers. Good location. Friendly and approachable staff."

Horticulture



7

Horticulture events

47

Individuals supported

34

Different businesses

Events included: Considering growing field scale vegetables, Practical measures to reduce overwintered nursery stock losses, The way to organic conversion

Feedback: "Good event - profited from being here, very interesting and great delivery on owners journey" - Considering growing field scale veg. Nov 23

"Nice easily understood lecture, I have learned a lot, Diolch! Definitely some helpful advice" - Practical measures to reduce overwintered nursery stock losses. Dec 23



HORTICULTURAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

20 Horticultural business support sessions supported 18 individuals from 17 different businesses.

5 Welsh veg into schools - supply chain network sessions have taken place with a working group of 7 individuals from 5 businesses.

Aim to develop a co-hort of growers to increase the volume of Welsh veg into the public procurement system. Enabling growers to understand the necessary standards required to do so.

Advisory



Instances of advice delivered:



Business Planning 27



Livestock 1



Agri-environment advice 3



Animal Health Advice 53



Grassland Management 181

Farmers Quote

"Excellent advice, easy to talk to adviser, been a massive asset to the business" - business advice.

