

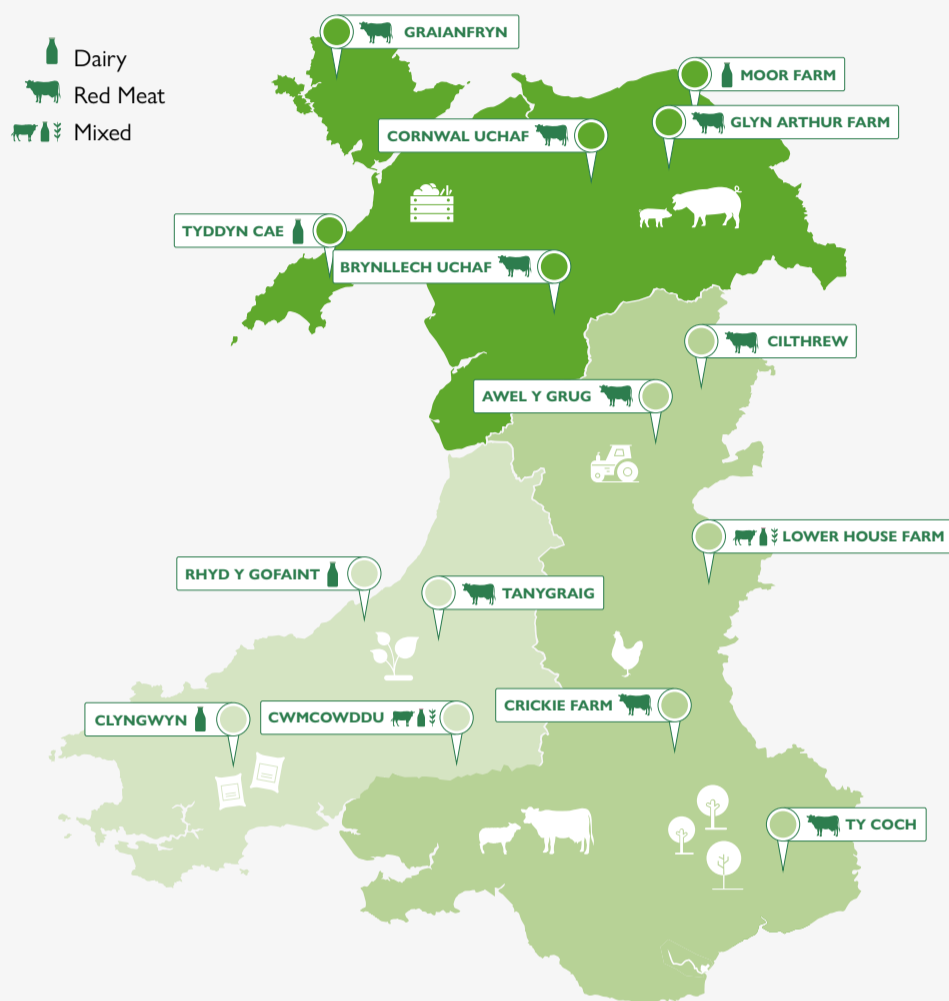


Sustainable Land Management

Our Farms

Fifteen demonstration farms recruited for the Our Farms network were introduced at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show. All on-farm projects will align with the SLM outcomes.

▶ Find out more about the farms forming the network in the [network introduction video](#).



Welsh Sheep Genetics Programme



A total of 107 flocks have been recruited to the Welsh Sheep Genetics Programme during this period. The objective of the programme is to improve the performance of participating flocks, leading to increased gains both financially and environmentally, achieved by improving production efficiency.

The programme's objectives directly align with the following SLM outcomes, whilst also contributing to other outcomes indirectly:

- › High animal health and welfare
- › Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- › Resource efficient

Participating flocks are currently in the process of completing Breeding Action Plans which will focus on identifying areas for improvement within flock performance. An example could include reducing the days to slaughter, which would contribute towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as lambs would be on-farm for a shorter period of time. The completion of these plans for each individual flock will also identify areas for improvement within animal health and welfare which may impact genetic progress. Participants are also taking part in KT activity which relate to the SLM outcomes outlined above. An example of this would be a webinar held on the 28th June 2023 focusing on introducing the routine use of genomic breeding values which also aligns with the Net Zero All Wales Plan 2021-25 objectives for agriculture.

Advisory Service



The framework consists of 16 categories with over 350 Advisors and Vets have been approved to deliver. The service will provide expert, independent, confidential and bespoke advice to Welsh farmers and growers and one of the main aims will be to support transition effectively into the new Sustainable Farming Scheme.

Business Planning

8

Business Supported

Technical – Grassland & Crop Management

23

Business Supported

Technical Livestock

4

Business Supported

Try Out Fund



First application window for the new **Farming Connect Try Out Fund** was launched, providing farms with an opportunity to apply for funding to bring their ideas relevant to the SLM outcomes to life.

Agrisgôp



3 Agrisgôp groups established during this period:

Pig producer group

Butchers and restaurateurs in Pembrokeshire are unable to source local pork and with most of the pork being imported from lower standards of welfare and rearing practices. This Agrisgôp group is looking at options on how to produce and supply an all year round market for good quality local raised free range pork. They are looking at the profitability and viability of setting up a business group made up of small niche pig producers to supply this local market.

Wagyu beef supply

This group brings together dairy farmers, calf rearers and growers/finishers who are looking to make most of the large demand for specialist high quality wagyu beef. The group aim to develop a resilient supply of quality beef by breeding Wagyu sired calves and then supplying finishers within the group who have either local outlets or a supermarket requirement for the product.

Red meat efficiency

The group is exploring options that can reduce the cost of feeding beef and sheep. They are looking into growing and managing alternative crops and pastures, and improving breeding to benefit both the environment and farm business.

Discussion Groups



64 Discussion Groups recruited made up of 750 Businesses

The groups will be looking at various topics and themes



Arable
2



Dairy
18



Red Meat
40



Poultry
2



Diversification
2

Mentoring



137 mentoring sessions

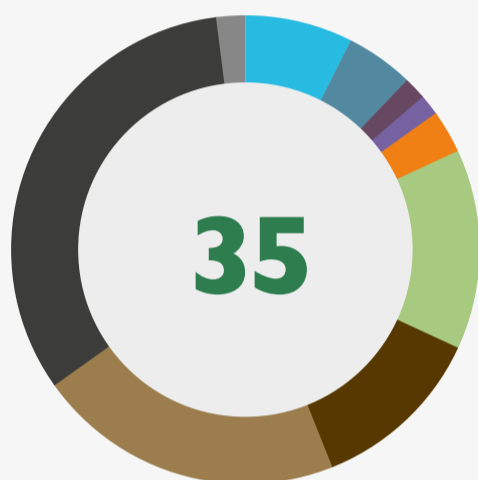
Extracts from mentoring diaries include:

“Discussion about on farm experience and bringing people to the site. Mentee wishes to enhance the experience of guests in their holiday accommodation.”

“We discussed the history of the farm up to date, farming and business challenges faced and overcome and the current transition the farming system from traditional commodity production to regenerative and direct selling.”

“Lots of discussions around the control of pollution regulations and how to comply with the new rules. Discussed slurry storage, muck storage and stocking densities”

Events and Communication



- 5 Agrisgôp
- 3 Business assessments
- 1 Case study
- 1 Clinic
- 2 Family succession meeting facilitated
- 9 Press releases
- 8 Shows and exhibitions
- 14 Strategic awareness
- 22 Surgeries
- 1 Technical publication

All articles, videos, technical publications, articles and podcasts are published on the [Farming Connect website](#).

Ear to the Ground

Episode 80:
Jim Elizondo Real Wealth Ranching ‘Can we maximise farm profit whilst also enhancing the environment?’

Episode 81:
Dairy’s ethical future.

Episode 83:
A conversation with Dr Iwan Owen – Forty years of lecturing grassland management at Aberystwyth University.

Case study

Performance recording is accelerating genetic progress and output in a Welsh hill flock, with gains being made at the top end filtering through the entire flock of pedigree and commercial animals

“If we wanted to get to the very top, I didn’t want to have to pump an animal with feed, I decided that performance recording was a more genuine way to achieve that and commercially the most viable, and that probably is the case.

“Although our rams are not making thousands and thousands like some do in the traditional sales, we have a solid average and with the fixed pricing structure we’re not selling any rams below the cost of production.”

