

THE MAGAZINE FOR FARMING & FORESTRY IN WALES

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Demonstration Network

Comparing different methods of
trace elements supplementation

Connectivity in Wales

Getting the most out of
your internet connectivity



Focus Site: Pentre Farm, Llansoy, Usk

Technical Officer: Elan Davies

Project Title: Comparing different methods of trace elements supplementation for improved store lamb growth

Project Introduction:

Growing lambs often need trace element deficiencies corrected with supplements, but knowing which to use and when can be confusing. This project investigated a commonly asked question; what is the most appropriate and cost-effective way to supplement trace elements in growing lambs?

Project aims and objectives:

- Assess the effectiveness of three different modes of supplementing lambs with trace elements (2 different boluses vs drench) by monitoring and comparing lambs' daily liveweight gain (DLWG).
- Provide good evidence for making informed decisions when advising farmers on how to prevent trace element deficiency through supplementation.
- Improve long-term lamb welfare and economic growth by preventing trace element deficiencies.

What was done?

150 store-bought lambs were split into three groups of 50 (using a random number generator). The three groups received the following treatments:

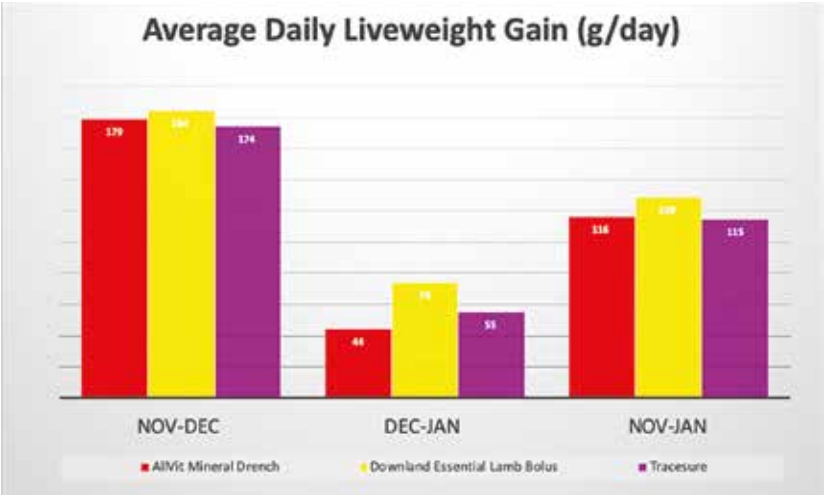
- Group 1 received a monthly commercially available oral trace element supplement.
- Group 2 received a Downland Essential lamb bolus.
- Group 3 received a Carrs Billington Ovi-trace lamb bolus.

Blood samples were taken from five lambs from each group to test their copper (Cu), cobalt (Co) and selenium (Se) levels at the beginning, middle and at the end of the trial to see if their trace element levels had increased/maintained in line with what is claimed by the products. Liveweights from all lambs in the three groups were monitored fortnightly, and compared at the end of the trial.

Project conclusions

- All forms of supplementation improved blood vitamin B12 (cobalt) levels.
- Although no statistically significant differences were identified between the lambs' DLWG, the group that received the Downland Essential bolus performed consistently better than the other 2 groups of lambs throughout the duration of the trial.
- All systems and farms are different – always speak to your vet prior to supplementation.
- Monitor the progress of what you do and assess its impact on lamb performance.

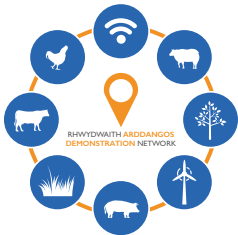
The table below shows the average daily liveweight gain (g/day) of each treatment group in the first and second part of the project. The final sets of bars are the averages across the whole project. Interestingly, the growth rates reduced significantly in the second part of the trial (although there were no apparent trace element deficiencies). We would presume this was due to the drop in grass quality (as this was a particularly wet winter).



The table below shows which supplementation method was most cost effective. When looking at this table, it's important to remember that monthly drenching is more labour intensive than bolusing.

	AllVit Mineral Drench	Downland Essential Lamb Bolus	Tracesure
Technology	Absorption	Erosion (2)	Leaching (1)
Price/lamb for entire project	7.2p	53p	85p
Overall DLWG (g/d)	116	129	115
Deaths	1	4	2

For more information on this project, and to read the full project report; please visit the Farming Connect website: gov.wales/farmingconnectourfarms



The importance of creating and managing buffer zones to watercourses.

Geraint Jones, Forestry Technical Officer, Farming Connect

Buffer strips including riverbanks and adjacent corridors to rivers and streams can be a key factor in conserving, protecting and enhancing the water environment.

The buffer strip acts as a shield and a barrier that functions to intercept, capture and retain nutrients and sediment in polluted runoff from agricultural activities on adjacent land. The degree of effectiveness depends on the structure, species composition and extent and width of a buffer zone. However, there can be conflict where productive farmland is perceived to be lost, but in retrospect, decisions should be based on site specific issues and characteristics e.g. loss of land due to extreme erosion events when the river is in spate.

A well-planned buffer area can restore and bolster the river bank by utilising the binding of plant roots with soil, acting as a protective structure, providing stability to prevent erosion and protect farmland. Bare soil can make the bank vulnerable to erosion when in flood. The effect of water dynamics transporting debris will direct the energy of the water to create a sandblasting effect on the bank edge. The result being the loss of soil and bank stability, which translates to a loss of capital value of land. Establishing diverse vegetation including trees will create a carpet to cushion and weaken the energy produced in dynamics of the watercourse and protect bank stability.

There is strong evidence that buffer strips incorporating individual trees and woodland combined with the high infiltration rates of woodland soils, helps to reduce sediment delivery to watercourses. Studies at Pont Bren in Powys found that infiltration rates were up to 60 times higher within young native woodland shelterbelts compared to grazed pasture. The results can be very effective at reducing the carriage of a range of diffuse pollutants, including faecal indicator organisms. Specifically targeting areas along mid-slope or downslope field edges, by establishing woodland buffers, can be particularly effective in slowing down runoff and intercepting sediment and nutrients transported within overland flow during high rainfall events. Also detrimental, livestock access to watercourses can instigate pollution issues whilst severely increasing vulnerability of the bank to erosion events. Therefore, fencing a watercourse off from livestock access whilst providing drinking bays will alleviate and cure such problems. Establishing a fence line along the buffer strip will provide a clear definition for improved efficient in-field spreading of organic and inorganic material to avoid nutrients entering the watercourse.

Habitat creation and increased biodiversity can benefit from the establishment of buffer areas which provide connectivity by linking fragmented and isolated habitats whilst also providing habitat and food for pollinators and aquatic species such as fish and invertebrates. Improving the water environment could increase fish populations and provide alternative opportunities for revenue, such as locations where fishing rights are owned, greatly enhancing the fishing experience for anglers.

River banks and related habitats on-farm are often overlooked as more marginal and less productive, but often these areas are full of natural capital. Responsible and sustainable management of these landscape features can be hugely beneficial for farmers, with scope to improve soil health, sequester carbon and provide the farm with a buffer against the natural

processes relating to water flow. The benefits that buffer strips provide are far-reaching and can improve, conserve and enhance the environmental and economic performance of the farm.



Figure 1 and 2. Riverbank erosion - livestock access resulting in bare soil and erosion issues when river is in spate. Tree roots become exposed and trees become unstable but it can also pose a danger to animal welfare.



Figure 3. Results a year later on the same riverbank location following a coppicing and tree planting regime and fencing off the riverbank to deter access. This buffer strip has a rich carpet of vegetation to cushion against erosion and provides a fantastic habitat for biodiversity.

Please visit the Farming Connect website for details of support available to the forestry sector gov.wales/farmingconnect



Pasture performance on multiple dairy and livestock farms the length and breadth of Wales have been measured and monitored as often as once a week during the autumn period as a Farming Connect initiative aimed to inform better grazing management on Welsh farms.

Forty-three farmers have been recruited to keep track of grass growth on their farms for the Welsh Pasture Project. All farms have been selected from Farming Connect's Prosper from Pasture programme.

The 17 dairy farms and 26 beef and sheep farms, selected to give an even representation of land and system types, are located across Wales to form an accurate picture of the grass growing potential in all regions.

Dairy farms have measured and monitored their grass growth weekly and the beef and sheep farms fortnightly over the last few months and we have released a series of management notes to assist farmers in managing one of their most important assets.

Here's an overview of the recent average daily grass growth rate figures across our eight regions since 15 September.

Welsh Pasture Project regional map



Date results gathered	Average daily growth rates for dairy	Average daily growth rates for beef and sheep
15/09/20	62kg DM/ha	43kg DM/ha
30/09/20	36kg DM/ha	32kg DM/ha
13/10/20	37kg DM/ha	23kg DM/ha
27/10/20	21kg DM/ha	16 kg DM/ha

One of the objectives of the Welsh Pasture Project is to help understand the impact of weather and grass management on pasture production.

The initiative will also allow decision making resources for grazing management to be developed.

For a comprehensive set of data and the latest management advice please visit - <https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/land/grass/welsh-pasture-project>

Multi-targeted strategy reduces carbon footprint and maximises profits

Jeff Wheeler, a third generation dairy farmer from Efail Wen in Pembrokeshire has in recent years increased profitability and sustainability, while also significantly reducing the farm's carbon footprint.

"Many farmers think these goals are incompatible, but they all complement each other," says Jeff.

Thanks to specialist mentoring advice and subsidised training from Farming Connect, Jeff and his wife Sarah, a retired vet, have made significant progress at their 230 acre holding. They are now offsetting carbon emissions from the farm through a combination of active woodland management, animal health planning and a significantly improved grazing management strategy.

"It's a multi-targeted approach which is getting fantastic results while also protecting the environment,"

The farm includes a 40 acre broadleaf woodland site of mainly oak, ash and beech. Untouched for decades, Farming Connect woodland mentor Neil Stoddard has helped Jeff transform this previously deteriorating asset into a flourishing woodland which now earns far more than its keep, with profits tax-free. The remedial works undertaken will have long-lasting benefits, particularly for the cows who walk along improved, well-kept tracks, reducing the risk of lameness and other ailments associated with stock traversing through poor habitat.

It's over six years since Jeff and Sarah replaced the family's pedigree Holstein herd with 150 crossbred cows which now produce approximately one million litres of high quality milk a year, sold for cheese-making to First Milk.

"Crossbreds produce a hardier cow which tend to be smaller and healthier which means they are out for a longer grazing season; they produce less mess and methane and generally need less antibiotics than many other breeds."

Jeff and Sarah have also undertaken numerous subsidised Farming Connect training courses including foot trimming, cattle lameness, animal husbandry and grazing management.

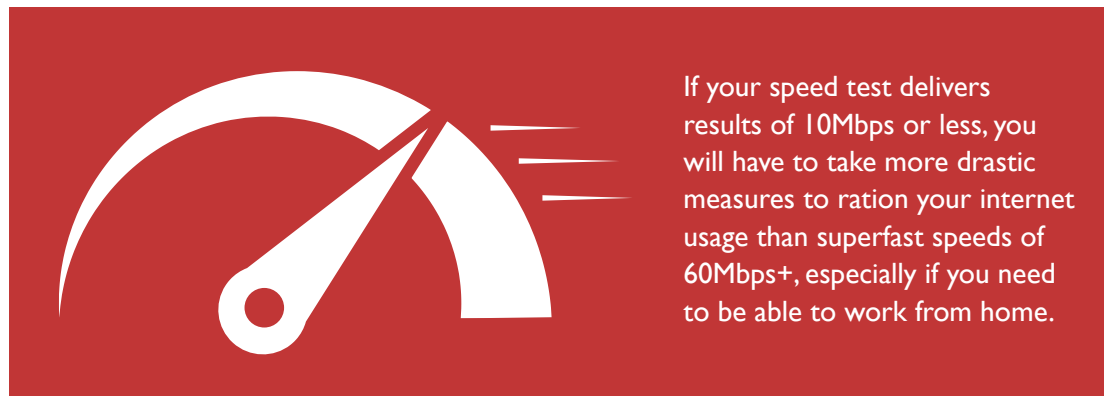
For the full story on how Jeff and Sarah have transformed their dairy farm business, visit www.gov.wales/farmingconnect

CONNECTIVITY IN WALES

With many of us now spending more of our time at home, the speed and reliability of your internet connection is more important than ever. There are a range of ways to ensure you are getting the most from your internet connectivity.

Some quick tips to try....

- ✓ Reset your router by turning the router, set top boxes and laptop Wi-Fi receivers off, wait for approximately 30 seconds, and then turn them back on again.
- ✓ Moving your router nearer to your telephone socket and removing any extension cords or secondary telephone socket it may be connected to can help improve your connection.
- ✓ Running a speed test will give you a much clearer idea of how much bandwidth you have in your home and what the limitations of your home broadband might be.



Running regular speed tests can also give you a clearer idea of the times of day when your broadband is performing at its best and worst. This will allow you to schedule bandwidth-heavy tasks, such as video calls and HD streaming, for when you have the best broadband speed. For the most accurate results, use a cable to connect your computer to your router. If you need to test wirelessly, position yourself as close to your router as possible. Make sure that nothing else is using your internet connection or running on your computer, while performing the test. Simply type 'internet speed test' into your search engine it should allow you to test it. This should only take a few seconds.

What are my other options?

Check if you already have access to a fibre broadband service. Superfast Cymru programme with Openreach rolled out superfast broadband access to most homes and businesses in Wales. You may already be able to get faster broadband. There are other suppliers that have broadband networks in Wales. Check directly with broadband providers or through price comparison websites.

Check future roll-out plans. Openreach is delivering more fibre broadband to homes and businesses using a mixture of public and private funding. This will cover some but not all of the remaining premises without access to fast, reliable broadband. Private companies are also expanding their networks so check directly with broadband providers to see if you may be part of their future plans.

Access Broadband Cymru is a Welsh Government funded scheme that provides grants to fund (or part-fund) the installation costs of new broadband connections for homes and businesses in Wales. The amount of funding available depends on the speed of your new connection. For eligibility criteria and scheme conditions see <https://gov.wales/go-superfast/boost-your-broadband>

If you are part of a rural community, support may be available from the UK Government to connect to gigabit capable broadband. Those with speeds of less than 30Mbps may be eligible for additional funding from the Welsh Government towards these costs in the form of Rural Gigabit Connectivity Vouchers. <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/Wales/>

It might also be worth contacting your local council, parish council or community group to see whether there are community broadband projects under way or planned in your area. Under these schemes, community groups have partnered with broadband networks to roll out superfast services, primarily to rural areas not currently serviced by mainstream providers.

4G broadband is an internet service that uses 4G as opposed to a telephone or fibre line. The 4G broadband providers are: EE, Three UK, o2 and Vodafone. There are also "Mobile Virtual Operators" which work over the network infrastructure provided by the four main mobile network operators above.

FURTHER SUPPORT AVAILABLE THROUGH FARMING CONNECT

→ **ICT Programme** visit gov.wales/farmingconnectskillsandtraining or contact Farming Connect on 08456 000 813.

→ Despite the current restrictions surrounding face-to-face training, our fully funded computer training is now available online, digitally or over the phone for eligible farm and forestry businesses registered with Farming Connect.

For further information or to register your interest visit www.gov.wales/farmingconnect or contact the Farming Connect Service Centre on 08456 000 813.

→ **Webinar:** 'Would 4G broadband work for you?' Join Farming Connect and Peter Williams, Welsh Government to learn what 4G broadband is and to receive information on the grant available for this technology. Available to watch on the Farming Connect website now.

→ **Factsheet:** 4G Broadband Options. Available on the Farming Connect website.



RHAGORI AR BORI
PROSPER FROM PASTURE

Improving the future of pasture-based livestock systems

Paddock grazing helps Welsh sheep farm prosper from pasture

A young farmer who was inspired to change his grazing management with knowledge gained at two Farming Connect initiatives is finishing lambs earlier and at heavier weights on a diet of grass and red clover only.

Bleddyn Davies, who runs a flock of 880 ewes and ewe lambs with his parents, John and Audrey, has improved grass utilisation and quality by grazing mobs in two-hectare (ha) paddocks.

He had the confidence to switch from set stocking to paddock grazing after attending the Farming Connect Master Grass workshops and gaining a place on the Farming Connect Prosper from Pasture programme.

Both are designed to help farmers become better grassland managers.

A new application window for Prosper from Pasture runs from **October 26 to November 26**. To be eligible to apply, applicants must have a recent Nutrient Management Plan and if they need assistance with this, they are advised to contact their local Farming Connect development officer.

Bleddyn urges farmers to apply. "Take advantage of this programme and other initiatives available through Farming Connect, for us it has made our business stronger."

In 2020, as a direct result of paddock grazing and improving grassland management, the Davies family sold 100 more lambs pre-weaning compared to the previous year, and at heavier weights too.

The fields at Blaenglowon Fawr, Llandysul are large – some are 9-12ha – and when they were set-stocked there was often a grass shortage prior to housing.

They are now sub-divided with three-strand electric fencing.

Each field is grazed by a mob of 230 ewes and their lambs three to four weeks after lambing – they are initially set-stocked at turnout, a system which is also used at tupping.

Grass covers average 2,200–2,300kgDM/ha at turnout; they are rested for 120 days over the winter with sheep not entering the paddocks they grazed pre-lambing until May.

Bleddyn has worked out that grazing each paddock for three to four days works best for his system, balancing production without the stress of moving sheep every day; swards are grazed to 1,500–1,600kgDM/ha.

By mob grazing small areas he is growing more grass and better quality swards.

"The grass regrowth is excellent, it is more like silage aftermath," he says.

"Because the grass doesn't get damaged or over-grazed as it does with set-stocking it comes back stronger and the lambs finish well on it."

It is even reducing worm burdens with fewer treatments now given.

The changes made to grassland management have resulted in fertiliser use being cut by two thirds – an average of 15 tonnes (t) had been applied across the 121ha holding during the growing season usually but 5t is now used.

Lambs would previously have been creep-fed in September, to push them for sale, but red clover now does that job.

By mid-August, 210 lambs from the Welsh and Welsh x Aberfield flock had been sold to Dunbia on the Taste the Difference scheme at an average of 96 days to slaughter and an average deadweight of 18.3kg.

The performance of the farm this year has given Bleddyn confidence that the system can work in different weather conditions – even during the dry spell in May, the grass supply was sufficient.

"The paddocks were getting a break and grass supply managed to stay ahead of them."

Pregnant ewes now stay at grass until 10 days before lambing - previously it was three to four weeks.

"Paddock grazing has made me realise that some of the costs we had before were not a necessity, it has showed me the true value of grass."

The Prosper from Pasture on-farm meetings, technical input from Precision Grazing and the sharing of ideas with other group members have helped to inform Bleddyn's decision making.

He received one-on-one advice from Rhys Williams, a consultant at Precision Grazing.

"Bleddyn identified the potential gains that rotational grazing could bring to his business," says Rhys.

"He sought advice, was confident enough to make significant management changes and is now reaping the rewards."

The application window will be open between - 26/10/2020 - 26/11/2020
Make the most of the opportunity! www.gov.wales/farmingconnect

BIRCH SYRUP – Tapping into a new Welsh food product

Maple syrup, the sweet condiment that can go on your cereal, on meat, and in your coffee is synonymous with Canada and North America. Birch syrup however is a product that the majority of us are unfamiliar with and is considered to be one of the rarest gourmet food products in the world. Birch syrup contains half the level of sugar of maple syrup but is higher in potassium, calcium and magnesium. It is produced on a very small scale in Alaska and Canada and can sell at up to five times the price of maple syrup. It has a very unique flavour, often described as being slightly salty with notes of currants and berries.

This EIP Wales project, taking place across four sites, will be the first in Wales to focus on birch sap production. Birch is the third most common broadleaf tree species in Wales covering an estimated 2,000 ha of the Welsh Government Forest Estate (NRW) and 11,000 ha of private woodland, much of which is on farms. With birch being a highly under-utilised resource in Wales typically used for firewood, birch syrup could provide an excellent opportunity to make better use of this common tree species.

The key barrier for commercial birch sap production is that it is highly perishable and only has a shelf life of 24 hours at 5°C. The sap needs to be preserved by increasing the concentration of sap several



A stand of well established birch trees



times over to turn it into a syrup soon after tapping to make it more stable for storage and transportation. Removing this barrier to market during harvesting would allow foresters and farmers to consider birch syrup as a viable diversification option.

During this two year project a minimum of 600 litres of sap will be extracted from a total of 60 trees across the four sites. Three different treatment methods will be compared for their effectiveness of turning sap into concentrate at different scales of production. Different methods of reducing the birch water might be more suitable for smaller or larger scale of production, and for where electricity or security is lacking. The project will investigate three different techniques.

- **Outdoor wood stove:** The sap is boiled down in evaporating pans to a sugar concentration of below 20%.
- **Reverse osmosis:** The sap is pushed through a vacuum pump and micro-porous osmosis filters which brings the sap down to around 15% sugar concentration.
- **Urn:** An electric thermostatically controlled urn heats the syrup and reduces it to a sugar concentration of below 20%.

These methods will be compared on:

- Capital set-up costs
- Preservation time to produce concentrate from sap
- Logistics
- Operating costs – in particular fuel costs
- Product quality e.g. total sugar content, colour and taste



A birch tree being tapped. The sap run takes place over 3-4 weeks in spring starting in late February and ending in early April with each tree being tapped once per season. Only well established trees with a diameter at breast height greater than 20 cm are suitable for tapping. A spile is inserted into the tree about 4 cm deep and between 30 and 80 cm from the ground and angled slightly downwards. The spile is then connected to a collection bottle via a tube and remains there between 10 - 20 days with the sap being emptied daily for preservation. A single tree can produce between 1-2 litres of sap per day. To produce 1 litre of syrup, 100 litres of sap is required!

This project will hopefully raise the awareness about this rare product and how it can provide enterprise opportunities at a range of scales. By increasing our understanding of the tapping process and preservation techniques this project should provide a strong basis for anyone who wishes to start producing birch syrup, to either sell themselves or to sell on to the gourmet food sector. Why not make birch syrup synonymous with Wales?

Further information can be found on the Farming Connect website.

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/business/european-innovation-partnership-eip-wales/approved-eip-wales-projects/comparing-site>



Farming Connect's fully funded 'sheep lameness' workshops will help farmers tackle this painful issue

Lameness in sheep costs UK farmers around £28million every year, but farmers in Wales can acquire the knowledge they need to tackle the issue before it affects either the welfare of their flock or their bank balance.

Farming Connect has announced a new 'sheep lameness' workshop as part of its popular fully funded Animal Health & Welfare training programme. Delivered throughout Wales by approved participating veterinary practices, workshops lasting around three hours will be delivered face-to-face while adhering to the latest Covid-19 guidance, or can be attended online via a 1.5 hour webinar.

Rebecca Summons, Farming Connect's Animal Health & Welfare and E-learning manager advises all sheep farmers to participate in these short, but information-packed tutorials.

"Attending one of these sector-specific workshops will ensure you learn how to prevent, control and treat sheep lameness within your flock.

"Almost two thirds of antibiotic use in sheep is thought to be used to tackle lameness - a statistic that the

Welsh Government is determined to reduce as part of its animal health and welfare framework objectives," said Ms Summons.

Each course will offer guidance on issues such as biosecurity and biocontainment measures; provide advice on drawing up a lameness-specific health plan and explain how to deal with both the infectious causes of lameness such as scald, foot rot and CODD as well as non-infectious causes.

Farmers can boost their animal health knowledge further by accessing Farming Connect's e-learning interactives, which includes a number of animal health related modules that will complement the workshops, covering topics including anthelmintic resistance; seasonal reproduction rates in ewes; sheep scab and trace elements in sheep.

Records of all training and e-learning will be uploaded to each participant's Storfa Sgiliau online professional development record.

For more information on the dates and times of upcoming workshops, visit - www.gov.wales/farmingconnectskillsandtraining

**WALES
FARM SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP**



HSE Farm Safety

Handling livestock

Every year, many of the deaths on farms happen because farmers become complacent and do not take precautions to make sure they are protected against livestock.

When you are working with livestock think about what increases the risks

1. **Select and use well designed handling facilities in the yard, buildings and field. Keep them maintained.**
2. **Never enter an enclosure with a loose bull or when an unrestrained cow is with a calf.**
3. **Wherever possible separate livestock from the public and select fields without rights of way when cattle have calves at foot.**

NEVER ASSUME ANIMALS ARE GOING TO DO WHAT YOU EXPECT THEM TO DO

www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture



@farmsafetywales



Diogelwch Fferm Cymru - Farm Safety Wales

The Farming Connect Knowledge Exchange Hub

The Farming Connect Knowledge Exchange Hub (KE Hub) is based at IBERS, Aberystwyth University. Our colleagues there are playing an important role in providing farmers with the latest information from scientific research.



Dr Cate Williams from the Knowledge Exchange Hub talks about how different pig housing systems can influence greenhouse gas emissions

Pigs produce significantly fewer emissions than ruminants, but the number of individual animals and the intensity of the system means that greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) are still significant. In pig rearing, the majority of GHGs stem from manure - its handling, storage and utilisation. Carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4) and most significantly, nitrous oxide (N_2O) via ammonia (NH_3), arise from pig manure.

HOUSING AND MITIGATION

Slatted floors with slurry pits underneath are commonly used for rearing pigs, although in Wales deep littering is also popular in smaller scale, less intensive systems. But, when put to the test, deep littered pigs produced 20% more GHGs than those kept on a slatted floor. NH_3 and N_2O emissions as well as water vapour almost doubled in deep littered pigs, with CH_4 and CO_2 remaining similar. This is because deep litter provides more favourable conditions for microbes that produce N_2O . Additionally, regular removal of slurry can reduce emissions (by up to 40%), as the pool of microbes producing GHGs is removed along with the waste.

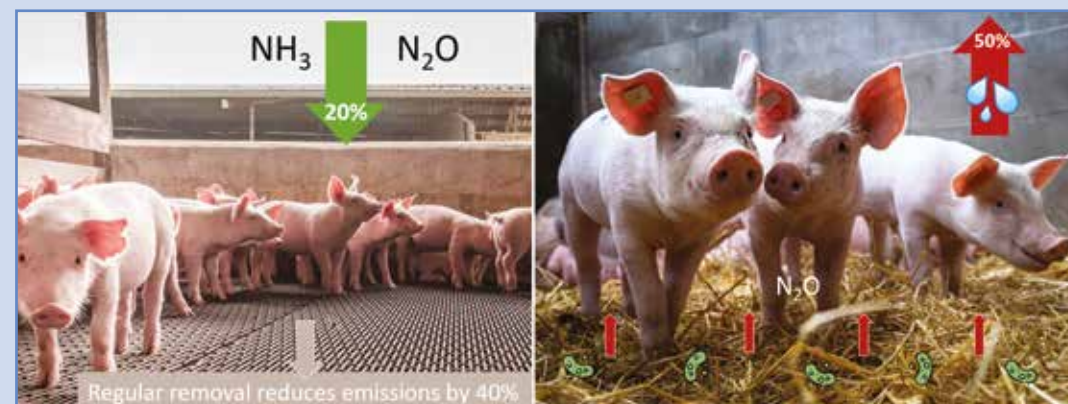
STORAGE

Manure releases GHGs at every stage in its lifecycle. To reduce emissions during storage, sealed or covered vessels are recommended and/or treatment with acid to lower the pH and form ammonium instead of ammonia. Ammonium does not evaporate and cannot be used in the formation of N_2O , but it does improve the value of the manure as a fertiliser through increased N.

SPREADING

Pig manure is also well suited to anaerobic digestion (AD). AD offers the opportunity to produce biogas, a renewable energy source and when co-digested with other compounds (e.g. dairy slurry or food waste) generates a highly concentrated and valuable bio-fertiliser. The downside to this fertiliser is its volatility which means alternative spreading methods should be employed, such as shallow injection or trailing shoe. These methods minimise the risk of gaseous emissions, leaching and run off whilst ensuring the land receives high quality, bio-available nutrients. This may reduce reliance on bought in/mineral fertilisers whilst the biogas resulting from AD can be sold back to the grid, if not utilised on site.

When feed production is excluded, manure accounts for 89% of GHGs arising from pig production, meaning that this area also has the greatest potential for mitigation. With some adaptation and innovation there is potential to make good, sustainable use of pig manure and to reduce emissions arising from housing units.



We live in a digital age!

The most progressive farm and forestry businesses are tapping into its benefits – but only if they have the right Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) skills!

Whatever your skill level, computer training could help you...

- ...manage your business more efficiently
- ...reduce your paperwork
- ...save you time and money

One-to-one tutoring for those with basic ICT skills

- Up to two fully funded two-hour telephone or digital assistance from specialist IT tutors
- Training tailored to your requirements focusing on any problems or gaps in your knowledge

You can learn how to:

- Access useful websites relevant to your business
- Utilise any software packages you have purchased
- Resolve any IT related issues on your own personal device (e.g. PC, laptop, tablet, mobile phone)

To access fully funded ICT training contact Farming Connect or, visit gov.wales/farmingconnectskillsandtraining



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...the secure, Continuous Professional Development (CPD) recording tool for personal development

Storfa Sgiliau... the unique, online professional development tool which records **all** your achievements, training and knowledge transfer activities in your personal, online account.

Professional development is about acquiring new knowledge and skills. Without it, your business may not operate at peak performance levels or reach its potential.

Provided you are registered with Farming Connect and have set up your own BOSS account via Sign on Cymru, Storfa Sgiliau will give you instant access to...

- 📖 a downloadable or digital report setting out all your skills, training and relevant academic/professional achievements/certificates/diplomas etc
- 🏆 evidence of training undertaken for Farm Assurance Schemes and supply chain organisations
- 📄 the guidance and facts you may need to produce an up to date 'stand out' cv

All Farming Connect training and knowledge transfer activities/certificates will be uploaded for you. Add any additional information yourself under 'My Space'.

To find out how to access, store and update all your Storfa Sgiliau personal development records, visit gov.wales/farmingconnectstorfsgiliau

Help is available if you need further guidance, contact...

- ✓ your local Farming Connect development officer
- ✓ your selected training provider
- ✓ the Farming Connect Service Centre



YouTube



Did you miss a Farming Connect webinar a Demo Farm Live event or our recent Guide to Grazing Management videos and would like to catch up?

All of our webinars, podcasts and videos are available for you on our YouTube channel for you to watch at a time that suits you.

Search for 'Cyswllt Ffermio | Farming Connect' on YouTube

We have covered a whole range of topics and feature some industry experts!

- Grass and grazing management • Soil and nutrient management planning • Diversification
- Women in agriculture • Farming and the environment • Health and safety on farm

Gwylwch, tanysgrifiwch, rhannwch
Cyswllt Ffermio ar YouTube



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Farming Connect on YouTube



EAR TO THE GROUND PODCAST

Launched in September 2019, this is the first farming podcast of its kind to be available in both Welsh and English. Aimed at sharing advice, support and inspiration to the farming community of Wales.

Latest episode:

Episode 28 -

Managing upland pasture for economic and environmental benefits