

THE MAGAZINE FOR FARMING & FORESTRY IN WALES

FARMING connect



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Demonstration Sites

Introducing new projects on
our Demonstration Sites

FEC Monitoring of Ewes

Outcomes of Farming Connect's
Parasite Management Project (PMP)



ISSUE 25 - January/February 2020 | www.gov.wales/farmingconnect

Two new projects underway at Farming Connect Dairy Demonstration Sites

Work on two projects are already well underway at two of Farming Connect's new Dairy Demonstration Sites launched in September.

Demonstration Site: ERW FAWR
- Ceredig Evans and family

Technical Officer: Rhys Davies

Project Title:
Increasing utilisation from grazed grass and milk from forage on an all-year-round (AYR) dairy system

Introduction to project:

One key aspect that the Evanses want to improve at Erw Fawr is the total yield from forage and grazed grass from their 250-strong all-year-round calving (AYR) Holstein herd. Located within one of Wales' best grass growing areas, cows at Erw Fawr are perfectly situated to utilise this plentiful supply. In the past, Ceredig has run two groups of cows split into high and low yielders around an established paddock system. However, buffer feeding restricted grass intakes and often left higher residuals than the desired 1,500kgDM/ha. With daily paddock allocation being done purely on 'gut' instinct and operated by a team of staff with varied experience in managing cows at grass, there is a big opportunity to improve the assessment, interpretation and utilisation of the grass available.

Project Objectives:

The focus of the project during the autumn of 2019 has been to map the infrastructure and input the grazing platform on AgriNet grass management software. A platometer has been used by farm

staff up to the end of November to ensure the last round of grazing by the low yielders allows for a spring wedge ready to turn out again early in March. High yielding cows up to 150 days in-milk will be housed all year round, ensuring valuable and quality grass silage and maize can be utilised efficiently into milk. Likewise, only quality grazing and concentrate in the parlour will be offered to cows scanned in-calf from March until November. Using baseline studies prepared by Kite Consulting, it is hoped that even in an AYR Holstein herd, increasing yield from grazed grass can be demonstrated through relatively easy practical tweaks in management, grazing behaviour and grass measurement.

Key Performance Indicators set:

- Increase yield from home-grown forage
- Increase utilisation of grazed grass



Fig 1. Farm infrastructure mapped by Precision Grazing

Dairy technical officers Rhys Davies and Simon Pitt have begun facilitating work at Erw Fawr in Holyhead, Anglesey and Mount Joy Farm in Treffgarne, Pembrokeshire.

The purpose of both projects is to demonstrate new approaches and technology to practical farm situations with measurable improvements within key performance indicators (KPI's).

Demonstration Site: MOUNT JOY FARM
- William Hannah and family

Technical Officer: Simon Pitt

Project Title:
Selecting better replacements within a spring calving grass-based herd

Introduction to project:

Breeding better cows within spring block calving herds has its challenges as many herds are either only part milk recorded or don't record at all. Fertility is the main driver for selection to ensure that as many cows and heifers as possible calve within nine weeks. This has led to genetic progress for production and health traits being driven solely from the sire's side. Highlighting superior individuals and groups of females to breed for continuous genetic improvement is key to ensuring optimum Kilogrammes of Milk Solids are produced per cow, without forgetting her need to calve every spring.

Project Objectives:

A project at William Hannah's 300-cow herd of NZ type Friesians will focus on genotyping an entire crop of in-calf heifers to select the individuals to keep and those to sell as surplus. In the past, selection has been based on appearance and calving date, but by using the Herd Genetic Report, heifers will be ranked with increased reliability on

the Spring Calving Index (£SCI) which is the UK's bespoke index for spring block herds. The project intends to demonstrate that genetic merit, which is an AHDB optimal system KPI, will show an increase for average herd £SCI at the end of the three-year project. Another aspect of the work at Mount Joy will focus on ranking cows and milking heifers on efficiency, using the yardstick of Kilogrammes of Milk Solids produced per Kilogramme of Liveweight (kgMS/kgLW) which will be done by weighing cows at 100 days in-milk and using completed 305-day lactation records for a total Fat and Protein kg. Again, targeting sexed semen on these cows will ensure female offspring from efficient and fertile animals are kept in the herd.

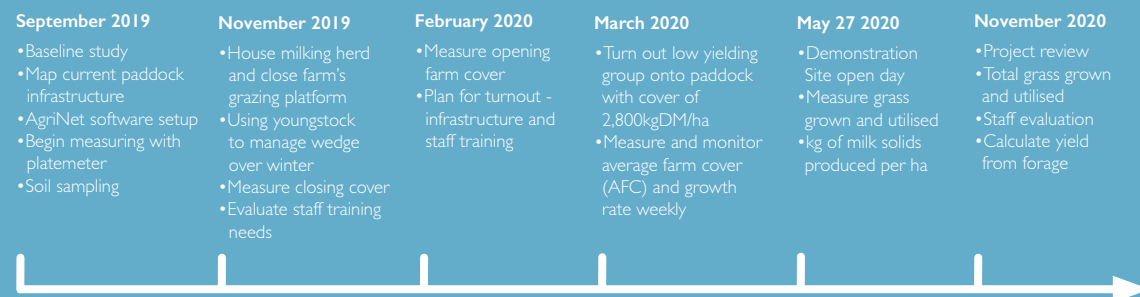
Key Performance Indicators set:

- £SCI Herd genetic gain
- kgMS/kgLW

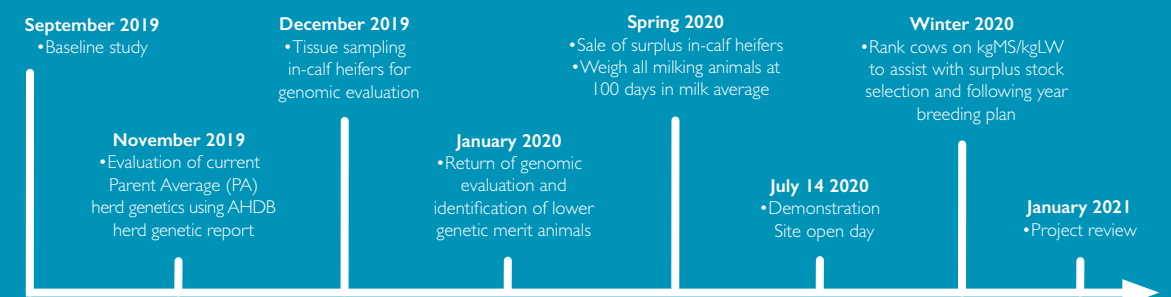


Fig 1. William Hannah, Mount Joy

TIMELINE AND MILESTONES:



TIMELINE AND MILESTONES:



Farming Connect Red Meat Demonstration Sites looking to reduce inputs and increase output

Gwion Parry, one of our red meat technical officers, has been working with his Demonstration Site farmers to establish projects that will strive to improve the efficiency of their business.

Demonstration Site: BODWI, Mynytho, Pwllheli

Technical Officer: Gwion Parry

Project Title:

Reviewing the bull beef enterprise

Introduction to project:

Bodwi currently runs a bull beef finishing enterprise from their pedigree Stabiliser suckler herd. The farm currently finishes half of the male calves at home on purchased concentrates, and the other half is finished on contract at a feed lot in Selby, Yorkshire.

With feed and beef prices fluctuating significantly in recent years, it is fundamental that beef farmers assess the efficiency of their business, and identify potential avenues for reducing production costs.

This project will be focusing on reducing the cost of production of the yearling bull beef enterprise by looking into sourcing a higher percentage of the diet from home-grown crops, whilst still taking advantage of the genetic merits of the animals. We will record the cost of growing certain crops as well as the effect on the change to the farm's stocking rate and management over the next three years.

Project Objectives:

The main objective of the project is to maintain the feed conversion efficiency of the bull beef enterprise and reduce the costs of the system. All inputs will

be revised, and producing home-grown feed will be trialled by growing arable crops with the aim of reducing purchased concentrates.

Key Performance Indicators set:

- Source the majority of protein and energy required to produce bull beef from home-grown crops
- Reducing purchased concentrates



Bodwi is a lowland beef and sheep holding which has been run by the Griffith family for four generations; they are looking to identify potential avenues that will reduce their cost of production. Whilst at Halghton Hall, Bangor-on-Dee, the aim is to increase ewe lamb conception rates.



Demonstration Site: HALGHTON HALL, Bangor-on-Dee, Wrexham

Technical Officer: Gwion Parry

Project Title:

Optimising ewe lamb conception rates

Introduction to project:

Limitations in ewe lamb size, liveweight and especially age are likely to restrict the extent to which ewe lambs are used for breeding. The fertility and prolificacy rates of ewe lambs are lower than those of adult ewes. This is because they have lower ovulation rates and higher embryo mortality. Halghton Hall lamb ewe lambs in order to improve flock efficiency. This project aims to discover the optimum conception weight and condition for an ewe lamb, as well as identify key elements in management which could be adjusted to increase conception rates.

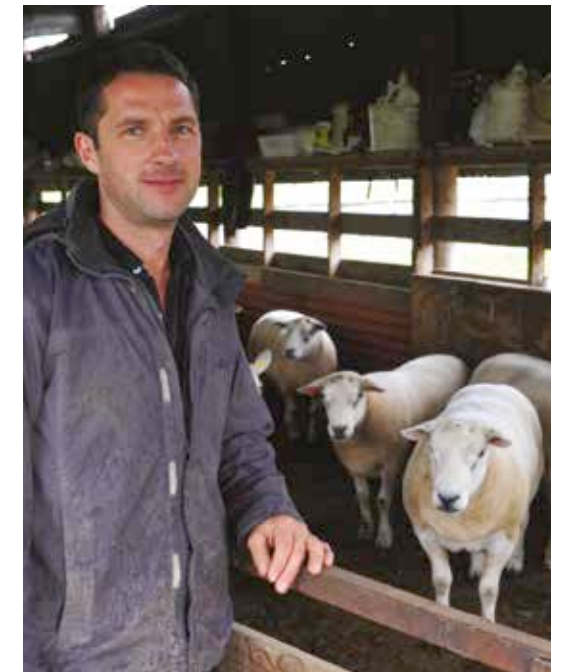
Project Objectives:

The key objective of this project is to discover the optimum conception weight and condition for an ewe lamb at Halghton Hall. The baseline study carried out for the site established that the current ewe lamb conception rate lies at 60%. However, by identifying the key management strategies which can impact conception rates in ewe lambs and

improve these, the aim is to increase conception rates to >85% within three years.

Key Performance Indicators set:

- Increase ewe lamb conception rates from 60% to >85% within three years of project start



David Lewis - Halghton Hall

TIMELINE AND MILESTONES:

YEAR 1

We will use the first year as a benchmark in order to gain KPI's and areas where we can improve the current system.

YEAR 2

We will introduce home-grown barley to the finishing diet and calculate the financial effect that it will have on the cost of production and also the negative effect it will have on reduction of the stocking rate in order to free up land for growing barley.

YEAR 3

We will look closely at the data gathered over the last two years and incorporate the knowledge gained into the management strategy at Bodwi. This may be an increase in home-grown crops, growing different crops to supply protein to the diet, or even tackling any health issues which may be flagged up during the first two years of the project.



TIMELINE AND MILESTONES:

August 2019

KPIs set by Kate Phillips, and start of data collection.

Scanning of the ewe lambs

Lambing time

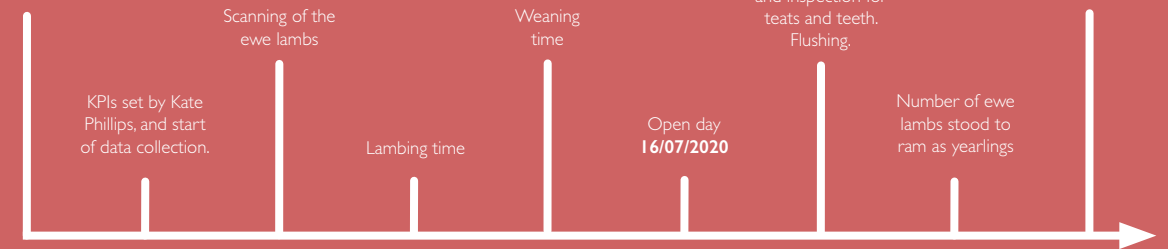
Weaning time

Open day 16/07/2020

Pre-tupping BCS and inspection for teats and teeth. Flushing.

Number of ewe lambs stood to ram as yearlings

January 2021



FEC Monitoring of Ewes

The role of Faecal Egg Counting (FEC), other than for lambs in the grazing season, is often overlooked. In this technical article we outline how FEC is also a valuable tool in adding precision to the treatment of ewes around lambing time based on the outcomes of Farming Connect's Parasite Management Project (PMP).

KEY MESSAGES

- Worm ewes at the right time to help reduce pasture contamination – use FEC
- Don't worm all the ewes – leave at least 10%
- Ensure you use an effective wormer



BACKGROUND

For most farmers, spring is the only time when worming adult sheep can be justified. Due to the nutritional strain on ewes during late pregnancy / early lactation and the stress of parturition, the ewes' normally strong immune system can be compromised. Any worms that the ewes have harboured over the winter as inhibited stages of worms, or new infections picked up from overwintered larvae on pasture, may well flourish under these conditions. This is what is referred to as the peri-parturient or spring rise. If this is the case, then these ewes can be a major source of contamination of pastures where we expect lambs to perform well off grass later in that season. Therefore, worming them at lambing can be justified and if managed correctly, can help reduce pasture contamination.

What is the current policy around spring worming?

Farmers on the PMP had a varied policy on worming ewes around this period. Some would worm mid-winter or before lambing, some would worm just after lambing (for indoor lambing systems) and some would

leave worming until 4 to 6 weeks post lambing to coincide with ewe crutching and ear-marking time. So, who's right?

These are the questions that we need to consider:

1. When does this contamination occur? When does the spring rise peak? How does this relate to late and early lambing flocks?
2. Do all ewes cause pasture contamination – do we need to worm all ewes?
 - a. Do all ewes suffer the same amount of stress?
 - b. Were the pastures that ewes were grazing on during the previous autumn/winter carrying a significant worm population they may harbour as inhibited worms over the winter?
 - c. Are fields grazed on in spring carrying a parasite challenge that overwintered on the pasture?
3. Treating ewes can increase the risk of wormer resistance development, as it is at a point where the majority of a farm's worm population is likely to be inside the ewes.

Recommended actions:

- **Do not** treat all your ewes. Use FEC to decide if some management groups can be left untreated.
- As a minimum, select if possible 10% of each group to leave untreated; these ewes should be under the least pressure i.e. older ewes and have a good body condition score.
- Do not use the same anthelmintic group year on year.
- Avoid using long acting wormers (Moxidectin) if turning to low risk fields and late in the spring rise (e.g. post lambing/turnout).
- Timing - use FEC to help determine when or if needed.

When to test for FEC?

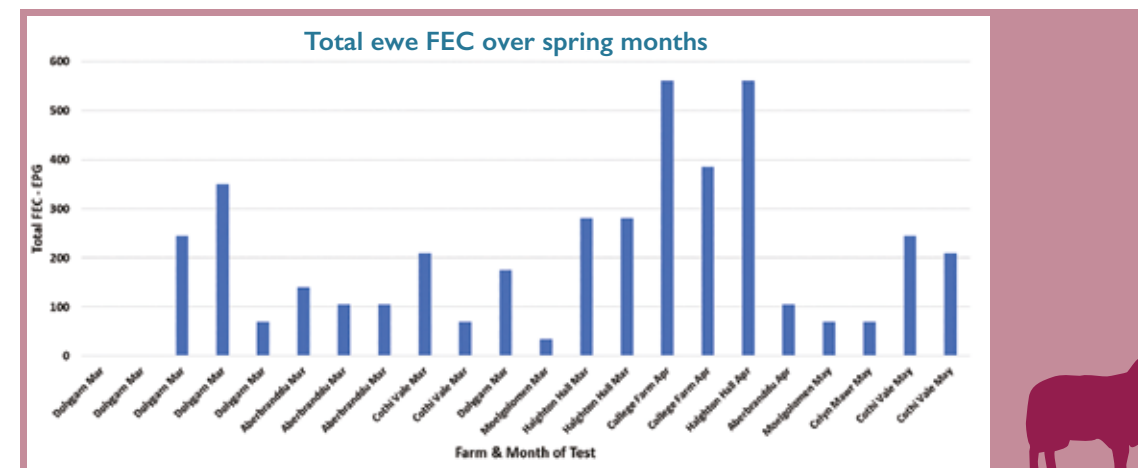
- Start testing either at housing or 3/4 weeks pre lambing (e.g. with clostridial vaccination).
- If FEC count is low, test again at lambing

(FECs can increase even if they are housed). Decide if turnout dose needed (indoor lambing flocks only).

- **Test all groups** separately; ewes with multiples and thinner / younger ewes are at more risk of an increased worm burden.
- The ewe's full immunity to worms should return 8 to 10 weeks post lambing. **Continue to monitor your ewes** up to this point and treat if necessary.
- Avoid treating more than once during the spring rise if possible.

Observed outcomes:

The graph below shows the variation between ewe FECs on the PMP farms during the spring of 2019. It's easy to assume that one group and/or farm will be very much like another; and the graph shows that isn't the case. This resulted in different outcomes/findings for each farm.



For more information on Farming Connect's Parasite Management Project (PMP), please see the full report and case studies at <https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/our-farms-projects/ffocws/parasite-management-project>. Technical article prepared on behalf of Farming Connect by Techion UK.

Nutritional value of wholecrop no match for good quality grass silage, trial shows

Introducing wholecrop into the annual reseeding cycle can provide a cheap top-up of protein in cattle diets and protect emerging leys from weeds, but its nutritional value is no match for good quality grass silage, a Farming Connect trial has shown.

The Davies family under sowed a 3.7 hectare (ha) reseed of grass and clover with spring barley at 300-acre Cothi Vale at Crugybar, Carmarthenshire.

They had grown a smaller acreage of wholecrop within their Glastir contract but were keen to learn more about its cost and feed value as an economic alternative to grass silage by growing it on a bigger scale.

Working with Farming Connect as a focus site project, the seed was planted on one block of land on 14 April and the crop harvested at the end of July.

The wholecrop acted as a good nursery crop for the reseed, but its nutritional quality was inferior to haylage produced on the farm; crude

protein and dry matter analysed at 5.5% and 47% compared to 6.7% and 66% in the haylage.

Independent silage consultant Dr Dave Davies said that whilst wholecrop makes a positive contribution to an emerging grass sward, its high proportion of stem has a negative influence on nutritional quality.

He warns against focusing on crop yield over nutritional quality, suggesting that the yield of meat and milk produced after the crop has been consumed must be the priority.

"By looking at crop yield, we are in danger of having the mindset of an agronomist, not a nutritionist," he told farmers attending a Farming Connect open day at Cothi Vale.

"If we looked at the yield of ME (metabolisable energy), it would give us a much better target."

As the DM of wholecrop increases, its ME value falls; Dr Davies, therefore, advises harvesting the crop before the seed head emerges, contrary to popular thinking.

"If you are going to bale it, always cut it at 30% DM; if it is too mature, the seed will pass undigested through the animal," he said.

"The energy content is improved if it is cut before the seed head appears, and it also means that there is a chance you will get a second crop of barley also. If you can't cut it, graze it instead; it can have a protein value of 17%."

Glyn Davies, who farms with his father, Douglas, said the wholecrop would provide an important feed for dry cows in his 45-head suckler herd as this class of cattle need fibrous silage, but he would not be feeding it to his growing cattle.

According to Dr Davies, producing good quality grass silage is a better option for livestock and dairy farmers.

"You can eliminate concentrates if you can make a silage that has an 11.5ME or higher," he said.

An important element of the Farming Connect project was to calculate the cost of producing wholecrop compared to the cost of producing grass silage.

Based on the National Association of Agricultural Contractors' 2018 costs, the total cost of producing the crop at Cothi Vale, including machinery and inputs, was £786.72/ha compared to £195/ha for producing haylage from permanent pasture.

But, as a tool for reseeding, under sowing with wholecrop could have benefits, said Sarah Hughes, Farming Connect red meat technical officer for south west Wales.

"If the field was planted as a grass and clover reseed only, the total costs would have been £678.22/ha compared to the £786.72/ha for under sowing due to its potential weed control benefits," she said.

"It is difficult and expensive to control broad-leaf weeds successfully where clover is present, but in this case, the spring barley acted as a weed suppressant for the emerging ley as it produces a dense crop which shades out broad-leaved weeds."





New pig producers advised to invest in genetics that guarantee performance

Pig production could be a profitable diversification for Welsh livestock farmers looking to grow their business, but success in this sector relies on a combination of efficiency, attention to detail and expertise.

Market demand, a stable price and improving performance are painting a positive picture for pig production, according to industry specialist Mick Sloyan.

He has been meeting farmers across Wales during a series of joint Farming Connect and Menter Moch Cymru events aimed at farmers contemplating pork production.

Menter Moch Cymru is funded by the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

There are just 25,000 pigs in the Welsh national herd - down from 300,000

in 1972; with a population of three million people in Wales, there is good potential for supply opportunities.

"I think there are opportunities in pig production, but it is a very technical business, so to make a success of it, attention to detail is really important," Mr Sloyan told farmers attending an event in Llandissilio, Pembrokeshire.

An efficient supply chain is important too; producers need a secure supply of feed and veterinary support.

It is important too to be aware of price variations; feed costs can vary considerably and, as feed accounts for 70% of costs, profitability is closely linked to the price of inputs.

Investment levels can be very high, or modest, depending on the system; the level of returns is directly linked to risk.

The capital investment cost in contract finishing is relatively low and there is demand from rearers requiring finishing facilities.

This is an option for a farmer seeking a lower risk option, but returns are also lower, Mr Sloyan pointed out. Contract finishing opportunities in Wales can also be difficult to find and at present are very much determined by location and accessibility.

"The price paid by rearers is fixed, so if the market for pig meat rises, the price stays the same; but that is also the case if the price falls."

A farrow to finishing system has the highest investment cost and requires proximity to an abattoir and the producer must secure a buyer.

Buying in weaners to finish requires less investment, but the availability and cost variation of weaners must be considered.

"Another option is to join a marketing group who will source weaners and market on your behalf," said Mr Sloyan.

Direct meat selling can offer good returns, but seasonality in demand can be an issue, as can finding a market for the entire carcass.

"There are good margins to be made in direct supply but you need to be aware of the nature of demand, and there won't be the same level of demand for all parts of the carcass," said Mr Sloyan.

One farmer who has made the leap into pig production three years ago is Luke Starkey, who runs a herd of 140 Large White/Landrace cross sows at Talfan, near Whitland.

Addressing farmers at the event in Llandissilio, he advised new producers to invest as much as their budget would allow in genetics.

"Invest in the pigs that will give you performance; for my business model, I use hybrid pigs that are designed to grow fast and lean," Mr Starkey recommended.

He initially established a Welsh Pig herd but is phasing out that breed because of efficiency challenges. "We are getting growth rates of over 1kg a day from the Large White/Landrace sows crossed with a hybrid boar

once they get to finishing stage; we were only getting 600g from the Welsh Pig from the same amount of feed."

High levels of back fat in the Welsh Pig at higher weights was also an issue. "We are graded on weight and measurement of back fat, making the Welsh Pig completely unsuitable for commercial production," said Mr Starkey.

He had been running an outdoor system but recently invested in a new indoor sow unit.

"This is much better suited to the climate and ground conditions in this area," he said.

"It will give us a lot more control over management and performance. I expect our sow performance to increase dramatically."

Subsidised advice for registered farmers contemplating pig diversification are available through Farming Connect.

Dafydd Owen, Pig Technical Officer at Farming Connect, said the service provides expert, independent, confidential and bespoke advice.

"It can provide farmers with a business plan or a diversification plan to assess the feasibility of the proposal," he said.

For more information on the relevant support services such as training, e-learning and mentoring, visit the Farming Connect website.

Furthermore, farmers interested in entering the pig sector or those that are already established pig keepers can access a range of support programmes from the Menter Moch Cymru project, including; training courses, access to specialist resources and materials, and marketing and promotional support.

Visit www.mentermochcymru.co.uk and www.gov.wales/farmingconnect for more information.



Pictured (from left to right) at the pig diversification event: Dafydd Owen, Pig Technical Officer, Farming Connect; Mick Sloyan, pig industry expert; Elin Jones, Menter Moch Cymru; Luke Starkey, farmer and Ken Stebbings, Menter Moch Cymru.



THE FIGHT AGAINST WEEDS IS HEATING UP - electrophysical dock control EIP Wales project

Docks can significantly reduce grazing or silage quality as they only have 65% of the feed value of grass. This, along with their ability to quickly take over fields, makes them a very troublesome weed for grassland farmers.

Two dairy farmers near Raglan, Monmouthshire, are trialling a new and unique method of controlling docks which uses electricity as its secret ingredient. The group are working with staff at Rootwave who have developed a range of electrical weeders designed to destroy weeds by sending a high voltage current through the plant.

In this two-year project, two fields have been split into trial plots to compare the effectiveness of electrical treatment (using a hand-held lance) against normal herbicide application. The results from the first growing season (Figure 1 and 2) show electrical treatment has been effective at killing the docks, however, it was found that repeated treatments are needed to be as effective as herbicide.



The Rootwave Pro machine uses a petrol generator and hand-held lance with a long (~20m) cable.

Water being evaporated in the plant tissue. Each dock plant in a plot was touched with the charged lance for approximately 5-10 seconds before moving on to the next plant.



Fig 1.

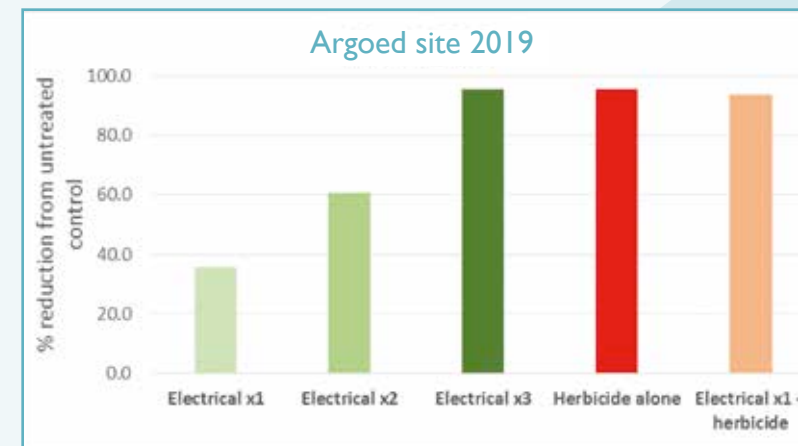
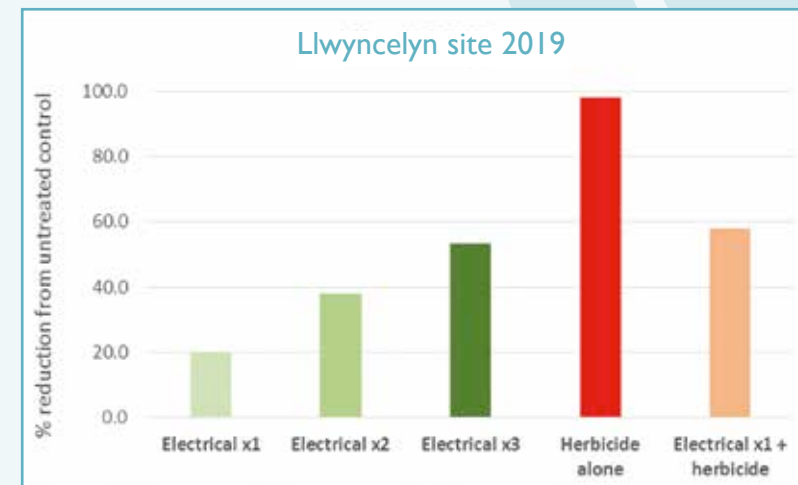


Fig 2.



So far, the project has shown that the technology works, and as trials continue in 2020, adjustments will be made to the timings of treatments and more data will be collected.

“This unique method of dock control has great potential for both organic and conventional farmers. The technology is scalable, and larger tractor based electrical weeders could be used in a variety of different farm situations,” says Will John, ADAS, the Innovation Broker for the project.

It is still early days for this technology, and as with anything new, developments will lead to greater effectiveness and a reduction in price. Electrical weeding could provide an alternative option for future weed control in conventional, as well as organic, farming.

Develop your skills, develop your business – skills application window open NOW

Throughout Wales, the most progressive farm and forestry businesses are tapping into Farming Connect training. Provided you are registered with Farming Connect, you can choose from **80** different face-to-face courses, all subsidised by up to **80%** and delivered throughout Wales by our network of approved training providers.

**The current funding application window is now open
until 17:00 Friday 28 February 2020.**

If you are registering as an individual for the first time or your existing account needs updating, please contact Farming Connect before 17:00 Monday, 24 February 2020.

Business related courses - 27 available for selection including:

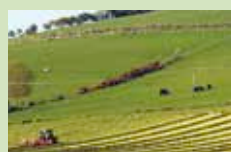
Bookkeeping, VAT and 'Making Tax Digital' (MTD)
Planning a diversification or new enterprise
Agricultural Health and Safety – preparing for an inspection
Level 2 Award in food safety in catering, manufacturing or retail

Livestock related courses - 19 available for selection including:

Machine sheep shearing
Calf Management, Health and Housing
'Poultry passport' related courses
Introduction to Worm Control and Faecal Egg Counting for Sheep Producers

Land related courses - 34 available for selection including:

Assessing and Improving Grassland Management
Safe use and application of slurry
BASIS foundation in agronomy
'Machinery and equipment' related courses



Registered individuals wanting to apply for subsidised training during the current application window will need to complete an online Personal Development Plan (PDP) before applying for funding.

For further information on the PDP and application processes, a list of all Farming Connect training courses and approved training providers, visit www.gov.wales/farmingconnect or call Farming Connect on **08456 000 813**. Alternatively, speak to your selected training provider or local Farming Connect development officer.

SAFEGUARD YOUR LIVESTOCK FROM ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

If antibiotics are unnecessarily or inappropriately used to treat an animal, you could be increasing the risk of antibiotic resistance and reduce the effectiveness of treatment.

Eligible farmers can attend a fully-funded animal health workshop to:

- Learn how the interaction between people, animals and the environment impacts on the spread of AMR (antimicrobial resistance)
- Find out what practical measures you can take to reduce antibiotic use, while minimising the risk of infection and the consequences for your business
- Know how to effectively record the use of different antibiotics and discuss ways to improve health, disease management and biosecurity with your own vet



For a list of participating veterinary practices and workshop dates/locations, visit www.gov.wales/farmingconnect

Fully-funded IT training ...need a helping hand?



For further information, visit
www.gov.wales/farmingconnect
or call the Farming Connect Service
Centre on **08456 000 813**.

FOR COMPLETE BEGINNERS:

A six-week training course, provided via a two-hour session per week, designed to give you basic IT skills you can use within your business. Delivered throughout Wales at a level and pace to suit everyone.

ONE-TO-ONE TUTORING:

Up to two fully-funded two-hour home visits from specialist IT tutors. Training tailored to your requirements, focusing on any problems or gaps in your knowledge.

WORKSHOPS:

Learn how to integrate the latest IT technology into your business, including farm management apps; using drones; creating a website; using social media for your business and online security.

Simple changes can make big differences!



Carmarthenshire farmer Gwen Price (24), whose parents have a beef and sheep farm in Llangadog, has always successfully combined both the business and practical side of farming, and she is currently also working towards an online Master's degree in agriculture. Now she's added yet another string to her bow, as Farming Connect's development officer for Breconshire, a post she's taken on for 12 months.

Last year, Gwen rented land near the family holding, where she now keeps her own flock of 185 Suffolk and Speckled Face ewes. Selected as a participant in the Welsh Government's Young People into Agriculture Scheme, she has a five-year business plan for her new business and is on course to achieve the KPIs set out in the plan and expand the venture.

Earlier this year, Gwen was announced winner in the 'under 40s' category in Lantra Wales' Learner of the Year awards. Gwen says completing three Farming Connect business improvement training courses gave her one of those 'lightbulb' moments, when she realised that she could utilise her new skills to set up another new business, providing agricultural services for other farmers.

"I've always enjoyed handling all the farm accounts and record-keeping, but the Farming Connect training very quickly introduced me to speedier, more efficient ways of tackling the ever-increasing amount of paperwork all farmers deal with.

"The courses on 'Financial recording and VAT' and 'Understanding and using your accounts' introduced me to a far more straightforward way of processing and recording data, so that



Gwen Price (centre) at the Lantra Wales awards ceremony

almost immediately, I was able not only to save myself a significant amount of time but also reduce our accountancy bills by dealing with more work myself quickly and more efficiently."

"The 'Planning your business for the future' course was also a huge eye opener and I soon realised that implementing very simple changes can make huge differences!"

"Saving so much time has enabled me to take on my new role with Farming Connect, without compromising any other areas of the farm, the new agricultural services business or my studies."

Last year Gwen won a place on the Farming Connect Agri Academy Business & Innovation programme, an experience she credits with having a huge impact on both her business and career plans.

"I had my second major 'lightbulb' moment during one of the Agri Academy mentoring sessions, and realised that the combination of my new business skills and a job with a flexible

working pattern would enable me to get the right work and life balance.

"My new role with Farming Connect will give me a perfect opportunity to promote all the services on offer, and I can share at first-hand how I've benefited from the Farming Connect business training courses and from my Agri Academy experience - both proved life-changing for me!"

NB The application window for Agri Academy 2020 is open now and will close at **11.59pm** on **Tuesday, 31 March**. See page 18 or visit www.gov.wales/farmingconnect for further information.





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2020

We are now accepting applications
for Agri Academy programmes!

Apply before **31 March 2020**

Business & Innovation Programme

Junior Programme

A joint collaboration with Wales YFC



More information is available on our website:
www.gov.wales/farmingconnect



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'Farming for the future' ROADSHOW

Join us at one of these events for further information on the substantial level of services and support available to you

- **Future proof** your business
- **Access** fully or part funded business and technical support
- **Start** the Farm Business Grant (FBG) application process

IMPORTANT: Eligibility for the Farm Business Grant requires a partner in the business to attend one 'Farming for the Future' event organised by Farming Connect. The individual attending must be registered as a business partner with Farming Connect and Welsh Government Rural Payments Wales.

DATE	LOCATION
03/03/2020	Glasdir, Llanrwst, Conwy LL26 0DF
05/03/2020	Penglais School, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3AW
10/03/2020	The Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot, Neath Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

Doors open for each event for **mandatory** signing in at **19:00**.

The events will close at **21:30**.

Booking in advance is **mandatory** for these events.

The business applying must be registered with Farming Connect prior to a member of the business booking a place in advance of attending a Farming Connect Farming for the Future event.



For further information on these events, please visit www.gov.wales/farmingconnect or contact us by phoning **08456 000 813** or email farmingconnect@menterabusnes.co.uk



Farming Connect Demonstration Network Events

The Farming Connect Demonstration Network will continue to host on-farm events during 2020. This is your chance to visit our Demonstration Network Sites, located throughout Wales, selected in order to share with the wider industry examples of best practice, innovation and new technologies.

SAVE THE DATE! Take a look at some options in your region during 2020.

Event Title	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Focus on Feet: Improving mobility in the dairy herd	11:00 - 15:00 24/03/2020	Graig Olway, Llangeview, Usk, Monmouthshire NP15 1NB	Gwenan Evans 07985 379 819 gwenan.evans@menterabusnes.co.uk
Bull Beef Finishing: Can growing arable crops reduce the cost of production?	23/04/2020	Tyddyn Gwyn, Llangian, Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 7LP	Gwion Parry 07960 261 226 gwion.parry@menterabusnes.co.uk
Alternative forage options to improve profitability and reduce environmental impacts on an upland farm	14:00 - 17:00 12/05/2020	Dolygarn, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 6YL	Elan Davies 07985 379 890 elan.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
Increasing milk yields from forage and grazing in an all-year-around (AYR) system	10:30 - 14:30 27/05/2020	Erw Fawr, Llanyngenedl, Holyhead, Anglesey LL65 3HQ	Rhys Davies rhys.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
Improving suckler herd and beef enterprise performance	14:00 - 17:00 01/06/2020	Bryn Farm, Cardigan, Ceredigion SA43 1PL	Llifon Davies 07399 849 148 llifon.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
Can new technology aid in monitoring and management of calf health?	04/06/2020	Pentre Farm, Pentrecelyn, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 2HE	Gwion Parry 07960 261 226 gwion.parry@menterabusnes.co.uk

Event Title	Date/Time	Location	Contact
Focus on fertility, and milk from forage	17/06/2020	Nantglas, Talog, Camarthen, SA33 6NS	Gwenan Evans 07985 379 819 gwenan.evans@menterabusnes.co.uk
Can new technology and data measurement improve layer productivity?	14:30 - 17:30 17/06/2020	Y Wern, Foel, Welshpool, Powys SY21 0NY	Service Centre 08456 000 813 farmingconnect@menterabusnes.co.uk
Soil mapping to enable more precise land management	14:00 - 17:00 02/07/2020	Pantyderi, Blaenffos, Boncath, Pembrokeshire SA37 0JB	Delana Davies 07811 261 628 delana.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
Selecting for efficient genetics in a spring calving herd	10:30 - 14:30 14/07/2020	Mount Joy Farm, Treffgarne, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA62 5PJ	Simon Pitt 07939 177 935 simon.pitt@menterabusnes.co.uk
Ewe Lambs: How to increase conception and rearing rates	16/07/2020	Halghton Hall, Bangor-on-Dee, Wrexham LL13 0BN	Gwion Parry 07960 261 226 gwion.parry@menterabusnes.co.uk
Suckler cow fertility: Can new LoRaWAN technology improve efficiency and health monitoring?	29/07/2020	Moelogan Fawr, Carmel, Llanrwst, Conwy LL26 0NY	Gwion Parry 07960 261 226 gwion.parry@menterabusnes.co.uk
Improving home-grown feed value from clovers	14:00 - 17:00 30/07/2020	Cefngwilyg Fawr, The Gorn, Llanidloes, Powys SY18 6LA	Elan Davies 07985 379 890 elan.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
Managing the change: Sucklers to dairy beef	14:00 - 17:00 12/08/2020	Cefn Llan, Llangammarch Wells, Powys LD4 4AA	Elan Davies 07985 379 890 elan.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
Improving soil and livestock management to improve soil carbon capture and reduce farm carbon footprint	14:00 - 17:00 13/08/2020	Hendre Ifan Goch, Glynogwr, Blackmill, Bridgend CF35 6EN	Elan Davies 07985 379 890 elan.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
Improving productivity and efficiency from grass and improving suckler herd fertility	14:00 - 17:00 14/08/2020	Rhiwaedog Farm, Rhos-y-Gwaliau, Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7EU	Gwawr Llewelyn Hughes gwawr.hughes@menterabusnes.co.uk
Maximising flock output	18/08/2020	Pendre, Llanfihangel y Creuddyn, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 4LB	Llifon Davies 07399 849 148 llifon.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
Sheep health and performance and grassland management	14:00 - 17:00 20/08/2020	Glanmynys, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire SA20 0EU	Llifon Davies 07399 849 148 llifon.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk

More information is available on our website: www.gov.wales/farmingconnect

Events Timetable

Making Tax Digital - The Options	
12/02/20 18:00-20:00	TyGlyn, Ciliau Aeron, Lampeter, Ceredigion SA48 8DD
Service Centre - 08456 000 813 farmingconnect@menterabusnes.co.uk	

Lambing Losses Part 2: Post-lambing losses from birth to weaning	
12/02/20 11:30-14:30	Eagles Hotel, Llanrwst, Conwy LL26 0LG
Milfeddygon Wern Vets: 01824 703 066	

Making Tax Digital - The Options	
13/02/20 18:00-20:00	The Plough Inn, Rhosmaen, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6NP
Service Centre - 08456 000 813 farmingconnect@menterabusnes.co.uk	

Lambing Losses Part 2: Post-lambing losses from birth to weaning	
13/02/20 11:30-14:30	The Black Lion, Swan Square, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Abergele LL22 8RY
Milfeddygon Wern Vets: 01824 703 066	

Reducing Lameness in Dairy Cattle Workshop	
13/02/20 18:30-21:30	The Cottage Inn, Pentrefelin, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6SD
Milfeddygon Prostock Vets: 01267 233 266	

Social Media Workshop	
17/02/20 14:00-16:00	Nant-y-Ffin Hotel, Llandissilio, Clynderwen, Pembrokeshire SA66 7SU
Service Centre - 08456 000 813 farmingconnect@menterabusnes.co.uk	

AHDB/NFU Cymru/Farming Connect 'Farming through challenge and change'	
18/02/20 10:30-14:00	Vale Resort, Hensol, Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, CF72 8JY
Dr Delana Davies - 07811 261 628	

Reducing Lameness in Dairy Cattle Workshop	
20/02/20 18:30-21:30	The Whitehall Inn, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire SA20 0PU
Milfeddygon Prostock Vets: 01267 233 266	

Creating a website	
24/02/20 14:00-16:00	Glanyrafon Arms, Llandysul, Ceredigion SA44 4ER
Service Centre - 08456 000 813 farmingconnect@menterabusnes.co.uk	

How could diversifying into tourism benefit your business?	
24/02/20 19:30-21:30	M-Sbarc, Gaerwen, Anglesey LL60 6AG
25/02/20 19:30-21:30	Castle Hotel, Llandovery SA20 0AP
26/02/20 19:30-21:30	Elephant & Castle Hotel, Newtown SY16 2BQ
Service Centre - 08456 000 813 farmingconnect@menterabusnes.co.uk	

Bovine TB	
25/02/20 19:30-22:30	Llanarth Village Hall, Groesonen Road, Llanarth, Monmouthshire NP15 2AU
Milfeddygon Prostock Vets: 01267 233 266	

Reducing Mastitis in Dairy Cattle	
26/02/20 11:30-14:30	Brookhouse Mill, Denbigh, Denbighshire LL16 4RD
Milfeddygon Wern Vets: 01824 703 066	

Making Tax Digital - The Options	
26/02/20 18:00 - 20:00	Lantra, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3SY
Service Centre - 08456 000 813 farmingconnect@menterabusnes.co.uk	

Marketing and Diversification Surgery	
04/03/20 09:00-17:00	Builth Wells
Delyth Jones - 01970 600 174 delyth.mair.jones@menterabusnes.co.uk	

Lambing Losses Part 2: Post-lambing losses from birth to weaning	
05/03/20 18:30-21:30	The Cottage Inn, Pentrefelin, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6SD
Milfeddygon Prostock Vets: 01267 233 266	

Reducing Mastitis in Dairy Cattle	
18/03/20 19:30-22:30	The Cross Inn, Clarbeston Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA63 4UL
Oak Veterinary Group: 01437 731 327	