

THE MAGAZINE FOR FARMING & FORESTRY IN WALES

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Demonstration Sites

Improving suckler herd and
beef enterprise performance

Reducing second quality eggs

Sensor technology aids in
providing financial savings



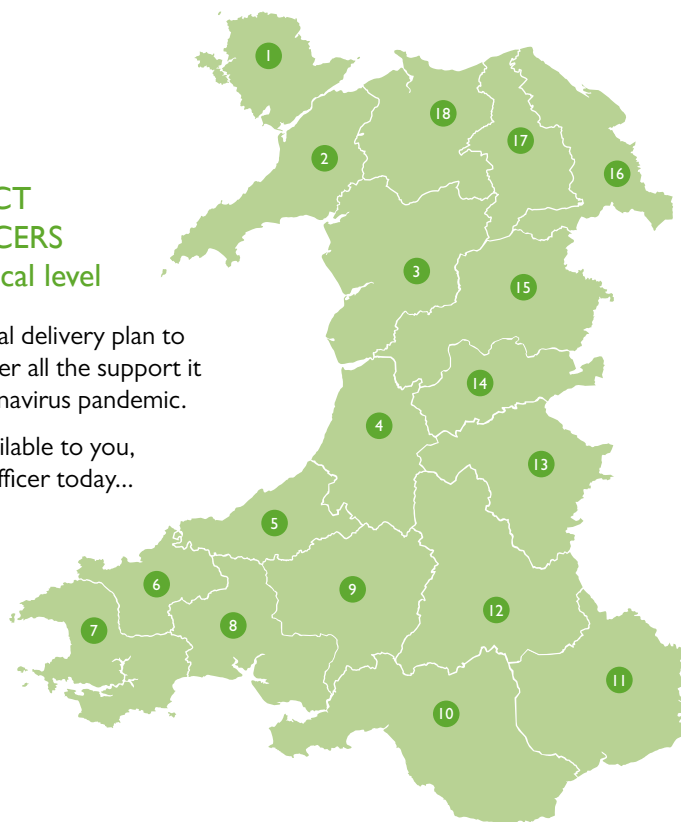
ISSUE 27 - May/June 2020 | www.gov.wales/farmingconnect

FARMING CONNECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

...providing support at a local level

Farming Connect has put in place a digital delivery plan to 'stay connected' with the industry and offer all the support it can continue to provide during the coronavirus pandemic.

For information on the services available to you, contact your local Development Officer today...



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Demonstration Site Project

Demonstration Site: Bryn, Cardigan, Ceredigion

Technical Officer: Gwawr Hughes

Project Title: Improving suckler herd and beef enterprise performance: a whole system approach

Introduction to project:

Bryn farm runs 75 suckler cows, mainly Salers, which are crossed with a Charolais bull to produce store cattle. A Hereford bull is also used to produce herd replacements. Cows calve during a 10-week block from 1 February onwards. Currently, store cattle are sold at local markets, however, demonstration farmer Huw is now exploring the feasibility of finishing cattle by 18 months of age off grass, and intensively, as bull beef.

With the ever-increasing uncertainty in the beef market, it is imperative that suckler herds are focusing on methods of improving herd performance, efficiency and profitability. This project aims to improve suckler herd efficiency by monitoring and benchmarking performance throughout the beef enterprise as a whole, therefore, identifying key performance indicators which can be improved to impact on business profitability. The project also aims to explore options for beef finishing, as opposed to selling as store cattle.

Project Objectives:

The key objective of this project is to identify key areas for improvement, by monitoring and benchmarking the following elements of the herd at Bryn:

- Calf growth rates and end-product output
- Cow efficiency
- Fertility
- Management

Key Performance Indicators set:

- Increase number of calves weaned per 100 cows put to the bull from 85% to >90%
- Aim for each cow to produce a calf that is 50% of her own weight by weaning

Project Update:

The project has enlisted the advice of Hefin Richards, a nutritionist, in order to determine the feasibility of introducing a beef finishing system at Bryn, as opposed to selling store cattle. The finishing systems were looked at as an option to:

- Increase output
- Make better use of home-grown grain
- Improve output per hectare
- Increase stocking rates
- Manage TB risk

Liz Genever, an independent cattle and sheep specialist, has also been involved in the project at Bryn. Liz is working alongside demonstration farmer, Huw, to identify key areas for improvement, focusing specifically on: breeding policies, disease risk, labour, nutrition and selling strategies.



Figure 1. Huw and Meinir Jones



Figure 2. Saler Hereford cows at Bryn



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 and foresters with the latest information from scientific research.

Introducing the KE Hub staff:



David Cutress is an IBERS, Aberystwyth University graduate who has recently completed a PhD thesis investigating new drug compounds aimed at targeting the agricultural parasite liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*).

In his previous role as project manager of a precision agriculture research group within IBERS, he was involved in trials looking at movement-based sensors and their potential for providing health alerts for beef and dairy calves and cattle. As a knowledge exchange fellow within the KE Hub, he has been investigating available and future technologies that could play a role in the innovation of the beef sector.

Read on to see a snapshot of just some of the innovations that are, or could be, implemented as this industry moves towards a more economic and sustainable future.

Increasing worldwide demand for beef is being combined with more stress on improving the eating quality of beef and higher welfare of animals. As such, technologies may look to facilitate the **monitoring**, improvement of **product quality** and **reproduction** of beef cattle.

1. MONITORING TECHNOLOGIES

LoRaWAN and **Sigfox** based sensors for movement, proximity to feed and water and GPS can all improve management of animal welfare.

Bolus sensors offer the ability to monitor internal parameters of cattle including rumination level and general health including temperature and pH within the rumen.

Radio frequency identification (RFID) with feed and water stations containing weighing scales are assisting in optimising growth patterns and monitoring health and welfare.

2. PRODUCT QUALITY TECHNOLOGIES

A **beef monitoring system** being developed takes live 3D images of cattle to predict liveweight, growth, carcass weight and characteristics allowing improved production quality and could link to new quality grading systems such as **BeefQ**.

Handheld Near Infrared Reflectance (NIR4 FARM) is being tested on cattle faeces on farm to determine the digestion profile of different feeds, allowing feed rations to be tailored for optimal growth.

3. REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

Future reproductive technologies for improving the beef industry could include; **transgenic cattle** (determining the offspring's gender), **somatic cell nuclear cloning** (producing superior animals) and **stem cell use** (targeting offspring gender).

Heat detection technologies for cattle can improve reproductive success and include systems such as Moocall HEAT and CowManager ear tags which are commercially available heat detection services. These heat sensors often collect other data as well, including location and information about health and disease.

Demonstration Site

Demonstration Site:

Nantglas, Talog, Carmarthenshire

Technical Officer: Gwenan Evans

Project Title:

Improving fertility of a split block calving system

Project Introduction:

There are many factors contributing to good on-farm fertility performance and there is rarely a single solution to improve fertility. Contributing factors range from energy and protein nutrition, cow comfort and lameness to AI technique naming only a few. AHDB estimates that sub-optimal fertility costs £25,000/year in the average performing 100 cow herd, which is equivalent to 3.2p/litre. This is as a result of lost milk production, fewer calves, higher culling rates and higher breeding and animal health costs.

Nantglas is run by Iwan as a split-block seasonal calving herd, with 100 cows calving in the spring and 100 in the autumn, each in 12-week calving blocks. Effectively managing blocks of 24 weeks of calving and 24 weeks of mating takes a lot of Iwan's time and energy. The plan to tighten the calving blocks to a more concentrated 10 weeks each should allow Iwan more time to run the farm and focus on fertility. The aim is to get

the cows back in-calf more efficiently, without increasing empty rates. Iwan is keen to introduce more technology to his management to free up time and would like to introduce heat detection collars as one way of increasing heat detection rate.

Heat detection aids can have a significant role in block-calving herds given the concentrated pressure on heat detection. That said, unless the cows are healthy and express heat well, no amount of technology can help. Kate Bumby, a fertility specialist consultant, will assess the farm management and propose a plan focusing on several different factors that influence fertility performance. By implementing and demonstrating how small changes to several aspects of the farm management can improve fertility, it will showcase some of the solutions and how they can be achieved.

Project Objectives:

The key aim of this project is to make improvements to boost the six-week calving % and six-week in-calf %. Changes will be made to several management practices as there is no single cause of poor fertility. The objective is to tighten the calving block whilst ensuring the empty rate is below 10%.

This will be done by monitoring and benchmarking the following influencing factors at Nantglas:

- Introducing heat detection collars and increasing heat detection rate
- Calving heifers earlier i.e. "front end loading" the calving pattern
- Nutrition
- Cow comfort
- Disease status
- AI protocol

Key Performance Indicators set:

- 90% six-week calved rate - currently 75%
- 78% six-week in-calf rate - currently 70%
- 10% twelve-week not-in-calf rate - currently 14%



Iwan Francis - Nantglas



TIMELINE AND MILESTONES:

- Farm profile outlining current situation and setting goals

November 2019

- Condition scoring and blood sampling cows for a better image of cow health and nutrition

January 2020

- Recording all spring calving details. Data collection and analysis of current fertility rates within both calving blocks

February-April 2020

- Prepare for autumn calving and evaluate management of dry and calving cows
- Make necessary changes for the spring calving herd. Getting cows into calf earlier by improved AI techniques, nutrition and improved cow comfort

Summer 2020

- Record all autumn calving details. Data collection and analysis of current fertility rates within both calving blocks

Autumn 2020

- Review spring 2021 and autumn 2021 calving patterns
- Review changes in 6-week calved rate and 6-week in-calf rate. Analyse any changes and if any other areas to concentrate on

Summer 2021 – Spring 2022

DEMONSTRATION SITE UPDATE

Pantyderi – Soil mapping to enable more precise land management

Dr Delana Davies, Farming Connect - Knowledge Exchange Executive

Making precision farming efficiencies by using variable rate farming techniques relies on having accurate knowledge of soil characteristics across the span of the growing area. It is now possible, using Electrical Conductivity (EC) scanning techniques, to map precisely how different soil properties vary across a field and then to divide the field into management zones on this basis. Strategic soil sampling of these management zones will then create a more detailed picture, which can be used to inform variable rate lime, fertiliser and seed sowing rates. This helps to even up crop yields across the field, provides for more efficient nutrient use and is more environmentally friendly.

40ha of grassland and 60ha of cereal growing land has been mapped at Pantyderi, creating soil management zones within every field. These zones have been analysed for phosphate (P), potassium (K), magnesium (Mg) and pH as well as laser texture to give an absolute value to the soil type. Nutrient management plans have been drawn up for each mapped field which are now being used for variable rate nutrient and lime applications. Maximum use is being made of straw based muck from the beef cattle on the farm for base applications of P and K.

The use of the soil mapping has identified a saving in lime applications on both the grassland and arable area by using variable rate lime spreading (Table 1).

	Grassland		Arable	
Rate	Flat	Variable	Flat	Variable
Lime (tonnes)	182.1	171.3	170.0	146.0
Cost (£)	5,463	5,139	5,100	4,380

Table 1. Savings in lime applications using variable rate lime spreading

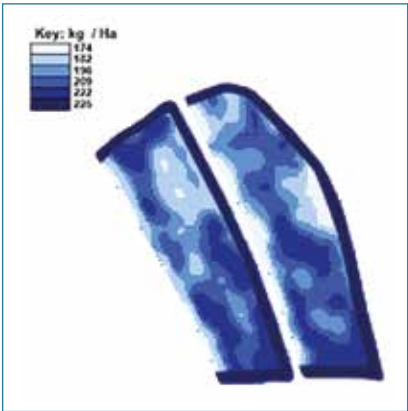


Figure 1. Variable seed rate map for spring barley for two adjacent fields

Using the soil mapping information for growing a crop of spring barley will be featured in a trial using two adjacent fields of the same size and similar soil type variation. One will be managed on a flat rate basis for all inputs and the other on a variable rate basis. This will include variable seed rate sowing where the poorer soil type or problem areas of the field will receive higher seed rates to potentially even out crop yields across the field (Figure 1). Digital maps will be provided to the sowing contractor on a plug-in stick which connects through the tractor's GPS system to inform a variable sowing rate drill. Crop development will be monitored through the growth stages culminating in a comparison of combinable crop yields at harvest.



Reducing vices in a pig unit - the importance of herd health planning to secure health and welfare

Dafydd Owen, Farming Connect - Forestry and Pigs Technical Officer

Since the autumn, Farming Connect have been working closely with Paul and Sam Barcroft-Jones and local vet, Eddie Devlin from Bodrwnsiwn Vets, to reduce vices in their commercial pig unit in Anglesey. Llwyn yr Arth is an indoor farrow-to-finish 210-sow breeding unit that sell around 5,200 reared pigs annually. The pigs are sold at 22-23 weeks old at 75-80kg deadweight.

In June 2019, zinc and copper were excluded from the pigs' diet in preparation for a proposed future ban on these components within pig feeds. Following this, cases of vice-related incidences e.g. tail biting and chewing, increased significantly. Paul and Sam believe that the exclusion of zinc and copper from their feed was causing the increase in cases. As a result, days to slaughter increased by 10-15 days in affected pigs. Antibiotic use also increased drastically as a result.

One of the project objectives was to improve the understanding of the herd's health status. In addition to current herd health planning every calendar quarter, two fattening pigs with vice-related injuries, sickness or behaviour were identified and taken out of the herd. Testing, which included a post mortem by the Welsh Veterinary Science Centre, was completed to identify whether or not any underlying health issues were causing the vices. Test results showed that both pigs suffered from enzootic pneumonia and one had a distended large intestine and mucosal thickening.

In response, zinc was re-introduced into the grower rations. In addition, the piglet vaccine was changed with the aim of reducing lung lesions. All piglets were vaccinated at 7 days as opposed to 14, with the objective of gaining immunity at an earlier age. Since these changes were made, biting is no longer an issue and there has been a significant reduction in antibiotics used to treat vice-related injuries or sickness. However, these are considered short-term answers to the problem, therefore, potential alternatives to replace the zinc in the diet will now be explored.

Demonstration Site

Demonstration Site: Dolygarn, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llandrindod Wells, Powys

Technical Officer: Elan Davies

Project Title: Alternative forage options to improve productivity and reduce environmental impact on an upland farm

Project Introduction:

There is increasing pressure on farm businesses to reduce costs, as well as additional pressure to reduce their impact on the environment. The costs of feeding livestock through winter can be a major expense, therefore, reducing the winter housing period by feeding brassica crops is seen as one effective way of reducing feeding costs for livestock farmers. Climate change is impacting significantly on viable forage options, in particular, the soil loss seen on many farms this winter has been unprecedented. The downside of growing brassica crops is the risk of pollution (run-off) and the loss of production of the area during the early season when grazing is so valuable to a sheep enterprise.

The grazing pressure on in-bye land on an upland/hill farm in the spring is high, and losing access to a productive field at this time because it is with

bare soil following the brassica crop leads to a bottleneck and a cost to the business. A crop that can achieve the finishing of late season lamb which is common in the hills and uplands, coupled with the ability to prevent or reduce soil movement and hold water; plus produce a grazing option for the spring would be a major step forward compared to the traditional stubble turnip style option.

Project Objectives:

This project at Dolygarn aims to investigate alternative wintering crops in comparison to the conventional brassica (stubble turnip or swedes) system to mitigate against the risk of soil and nutrient loss, reduce the impact on water quality and ensure future farm productivity.

The main objective of the project is to demonstrate the benefits of soil anchorage and nutrient retention potential of a grass-based crop as opposed to a winter brassica. The project will also record animal performance and stocking density from using a grass/legume and brassica finishing crop that will also provide spring grazing during the high pressure of stocking rates, a cut of silage over the summer and access into an autumn reseed when grazing pressure has reduced and weather conditions are more favourable.

Key Performance Indicators set:

- Reduce wintering costs
- Reduce soil and nutrient run-off
- Increase quantity and utilisation of grass grown (DM/ha) by 10%
- Improve finishing weights and dates of lamb with improved grazing options



James Powell, Dolygarn



TIMELINE AND MILESTONES:



Reducing second quality eggs at Wern

Cath Price, Farming Connect - Poultry Technical Officer

Farming Connect's poultry demonstration site, Wern farm, has been exploring how, by using sensor technology, second quality eggs can be reduced. The trial monitored the impact eggs experience during transport from the nest box to the packing area.

To measure impact, the CracklessEgg™ device was used. The device, supplied by Lloyd's Animals Feeds, is shaped like an egg and has multiple sensors within it that measures the impact of force (G) an egg experiences during transportation. The device is linked via Bluetooth to a tablet device, producing real-time readings as it travels along the egg belt.

The exercise demonstrated that by using a device to identify high impact areas and then making simple adjustments to these areas to reduce the level of second grade eggs, considerable financial savings can be made. Based on an average graded egg price of approximately 86p per dozen, 1% seconds would equate in monetary value to 0.655p/doz. If each bird lays 26 dozen eggs per cycle, 1% of second grade eggs is equal to 17p per bird. In a 32,000-bird unit, it would mean a saving of £5,449.60. There may also be some additional savings to be made in the form of wages due to time saved grading eggs on-farm as there is less downtime due to less need for clean-up.

Examples of adjustments made during this exercise included tightening belts, reducing conveyor speeds, levelling transfer plates and adding plastic deflectors. By tightening the belt on the first transfer point, the impact on eggs was reduced from approximately 60 (G) to 20 (G). Reducing the belt speed also reduced the impact on eggs from a 50 (G) spike to 20-30 (G).

A high percentage of seconds on the egg grading feedback could be, for example, over 6%. The device is useful to all egg producers but particularly to egg producers experiencing high percentages of second grade eggs from their egg grading feedback.

Please see the full report on our website gov.wales/farmingconnectourfarms



Figure 1 and 2.
CracklessEgg™
at Wern farm

STOPIO'N DDIOGEL SAFE STOP

Cyn gadael y cerbyd neu ganiatáu
i unrhyw un ddod at y peiriant
neu gwblhau gwaith:

Before leaving the vehicle cab or
allowing anyone to approach or
undertake work on the machine:

1. GOSODWCH Y
BRÛC LLAW



1. ENGAGE YOUR
HANDBRAKE

2. RHOWCH Y
RHEOLYDDION
YN NIWTRAL



2. PUT CONTROLS
IN NEUTRAL

3. DIFFODDWCH
YR INJAN



3. SWITCH OFF
YOUR ENGINE

4. TYNNWCH
EICH ALLWEDD
O'R CERBYD



4. REMOVE YOUR
KEY FROM THE
VEHICLE

MAE "STOPIO'N
DDIOGEL"
YN ARBED
BYWYDAU A
BYWOLIAETH



"SAFE STOP"
SAVES LIVES AND
LIVELIHOODS



Welsh dairy farmer's study reveals how Dutch are cutting antibiotic use

Reducing antibiotic use on Welsh dairy farms will rely on good hygiene and biosecurity.

Alec Cowan visited Holland with support from the Farming Connect Management Exchange Programme to inform decisions on how he can cut his own antibiotic use and increase efficiency in his dairy herd at Blaencwmpridd near Llandysul.

Here he found a country where the dairy industry has made huge progress in reducing reliance on antibiotics.

"The key take-home messages were attention to detail, consistency and cleanliness," Mr Cowan reports.

He chose to base his study in Holland because 25% of its dairy farms have robots compared to just 2-3% in the UK.

Tighter restrictions regarding drug use and availability for farmers and vets was also of significant interest, says Mr Cowan, who visited four farms, all with slightly different systems.

He believes there is much that Welsh farmers can learn from how dairy farms in Holland have adapted to government regulation.

It is not only drug use that is restricted in Holland. Its farmers are prohibited from umbilical slurry application - all slurry must be injected as a means of reducing the impact on wildlife.

Schemes have also been introduced to reduce phosphate production, including caps on the size of dairy herds.

"Farms cannot increase their cow numbers beyond the numbers they had in October 2016 without having to pay huge amounts of money. This makes expansion uneconomical," Mr Cowan says.

He is hoping to implement some of the knowledge he gained within his own business, although differences between his farm and those he visited does limit the extent of this.

One point of difference is the topography – Mr Cowan's land is very hilly and, at 64 inches, his annual rainfall average is double that of the farms he visited.

But study has provoked ideas on what he can change.

Although his system is currently fully housed, he says he may now graze cows at some point in the future.

And, to reduce the need for antibiotics, he says he will ensure cleanliness is a priority and that cows are milked immediately before drying off.

"What we can take away with us is that the Dutch are managing with fewer amounts and types of antibiotics and still have healthy, productive cows," he says.

Much is down to the approach of 'prevention is better than cure'.

"There is a huge amount of attention to detail regarding hygiene and biosecurity," says Mr Cowan.

"All the herds I visited were closed herds and used AI, so no disease could be brought onto the farm via stock."

Visitors are provided with their own protective clothing and footwear to reduce the likelihood of disease being transmitted.

Mr Cowan was impressed by calf health but says much of this was due to non-dairy replacements being retained for just a couple of weeks, resulting in fewer calves on farms.

The standard of buildings is good – mostly slats and individual pens which facilitate

cleanliness, and all the farms he visited have automated machines for mixing milk.

"Generally, all the sheds are purpose built with excellent ventilation and automated shutters if the weather deteriorates. This will do a huge amount to prevent disease but has required massive investment by the farmers," says Mr Cowan.

There are no livestock markets in Holland which means there is less mixing of stock.

Vets also play a different role on Dutch dairy farms than they do in Wales.

"Vets have a lot more control of drug use on the farms, for instance, vets dry off and vaccinate the cows," says Mr Cowan.

"It seems they are called out a lot more to examine a sick animal, compared to farmers in the UK dealing with a lot of issues themselves."



Sheep Milking

Managing dairy ewes for cheese production

THE ISSUE:

What factors control the bacteriological profile of sheep's milk?

PROJECT AIM:

To investigate how the following three controllable factors influence the quality of sheep milk for unpasteurised cheese production.

1. Breed of sheep
2. Stage of lactation
3. Selenium diet supplementation

THE GROUP:

Alan Jones, Derwen Gam, Pwllheli; Matt Swarbrick, Fferm Henbant Bach, Caernarfon; Colin Keyse, Ty'n y Clwt Uchaf, Bethesda; Carrie Rimes, Cosyn Cymru, Bethesda.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME: February 2019 – February 2022

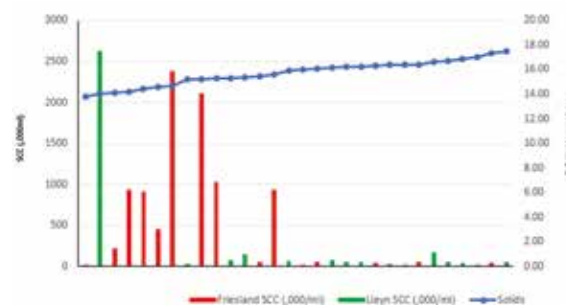
Activity in 2019

- Milk samples were taken from 15 Friesland ewes and 15 Lleyen ewes throughout their lactation to test whether the breed of sheep has an effect on milk quality.
- Another 15 Lleyen ewes were fed selenium with their concentrate feed to test whether it has any positive effect on milk quality and composition.
- Nasal swabs were taken from 30 ewes to test whether there is any correlation between udder and nasal cavity bacterial populations.

Results from 2019

- The majority of ewes with high SCC produce milk with lower total solids.
- This indicates that ewes with chronic sub clinical infection and high SCC will have poorer milk quality which could reduce the yield of cheese produced.
- No correlation was found between nasal and milk bacteriological samples.
- The results of supplementing ewes with selenium is inconclusive after year 1.
- Different bacteria groups were identified which will enable farmers to take the appropriate husbandry actions to improve milk bacteriology.

June 2019 – Total milk solids of each ewe vs somatic cell count (SCC)



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Opportunities to diversify into productive woodlands

Geraint Jones, Farming Connect - Forestry Technical Officer

A budget of £8million has been allocated to the ninth Expression of Interest (EOI) round for Glastir Woodland Creation. The window opened on 16 March 2020 and will close at midnight 12 June 2020. For farmers with marginal land and an eye on the future, now might be the time to examine the business case for tree planting. Productive woodlands can provide an investment opportunity and an additional income stream for the farm business, whilst being a catalyst in developing a major benefit of securing the future of the business for the next generation and beyond.

There are multiple benefits in tree planting on the farm and establishing woodlands in strategic places. These benefits could be the provision of shelter for livestock and will promote added related benefits for animal productivity and crop yields. Regardless of scale, farm woodlands create benefits for biodiversity and provide a source of natural pollinators. Today, carbon emissions are high on the agenda with farmers and foresters, creating new woodlands can contribute to a low carbon economy and help individual businesses lower their carbon footprint. These are the many benefits woodland creation can offer farmers.

For some, woodland creation can be seen as being at the cost of agriculture production. This is not and should not be the case. The ethos of integrating farm woodland into the farming business and looking at the farm as a whole in terms of economic and environmental performance to increase business productivity should be foremost when business planning, which Farming Connect is promoting.

For anybody considering tree planting on the farm, there's much to think about. A key aspect is that forestry can add value to the marginal land and land of lower productivity on the farm. Depending on the landowner's objectives, if it's a productive woodland that's required to yield a commercial return, logistics of access to manage and harvest productive forestry on the hillside is very important. This needs to be planned at the time of planting. Scale is also important when thinking about the economic return from forestry and a productive woodland needs to be of sufficient scale to make sure it's economically viable in the long term. The process of undertaking a more detailed site analysis and identifying indicative costs can be done by forestry agents. It's very important that farmers seek the right advice with their objectives in mind. There is plenty of assistance available and in this round of Glastir Woodland Creation, submitting an EOI must be undertaken by a registered planner who'll complete and submit it on your behalf. Please see <https://gov.wales/glastir-woodland-planners> for details of Glastir woodland planners.

Farming Connect forestry technical officers and development officers can also assist with any enquiries.

UK demand for timber is set to triple by 2050 and currently we are importing 75% of our timber. Woodland creation and sustainable timber production therefore are key commitments both in terms of the supply chain and climate change targets. To quote the proverb, "the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago – the next best time is now".

Veterinary Medicines – Setting your records straight

Every farmer or animal keeper is required under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 to keep an accurate record of all medicines administered to their animals. This is particularly important for food producing animals, where you must record specific details including:

- ✓ The name of the veterinary surgeon
- ✓ The name and batch number of the product used
- ✓ The date of administration of the product
- ✓ The amount of product administered
- ✓ The clear ID of the animal/animals treated
- ✓ The withdrawal period.

It is your duty to record the disposal of any veterinary medicine product that is not used, ensuring the date of disposal, quantity of product and how that product was disposed of.

You should not rely on the veterinary surgeon administering the product to update and record the usage. It is your responsibility to check the details, and update and maintain your records where details are missing. These records must be kept for five years, following the administration or disposal of the product, regardless of whether the animal is still in your ownership, or has since been slaughtered.

There are also strict controls around the use of medicated feed and where veterinary medicine products are added to feed, daily records must be kept of the product used, and quantities added.

Only approved medicine products should be given to your livestock as prescribed by your veterinarian. Use of certain medicine products, including those with extended or prolonged withdrawal periods, will mean that an animal that receives it, cannot enter the food chain. You should discuss the products used with your private veterinarian, and ensure you understand the implications of the products you administer.



Further guidance on the use of veterinary medicines and their recording requirements can be found at:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/veterinary-medicines-guidance-notes-vmgns

Farming Connect Training Course:
Safe Use of Vet and Med
 The skills funding application window is currently open until 17:00 Friday, 26 June 2020.
gov.wales/farmingconnectskillsandtraining

Article provided by the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer

Want or need to get your cv noticed?

Setting out your skills and experience for a cv or completing a job application form can be daunting. Some of us think we have too much to say, while others, especially those just starting out in the world of work, believe they don't have enough!

Farming Connect has produced online bilingual guidance for producing a 'stand out' cv – one that will get noticed – for all the right reasons – by a prospective employer! Or in fact anyone else who needs to be impressed by you and your credentials!

The guidance gives suggestions on where to start; formatting; what to include; ordering and has lots of helpful 'top tips'. It includes a typical farm worker's cv as well as a blank template you can adapt as required.

Two young agriculture students from Newtown College, part of the Neath Port Talbot Group of Colleges, were asked to update their own cvs, based on the guidance.

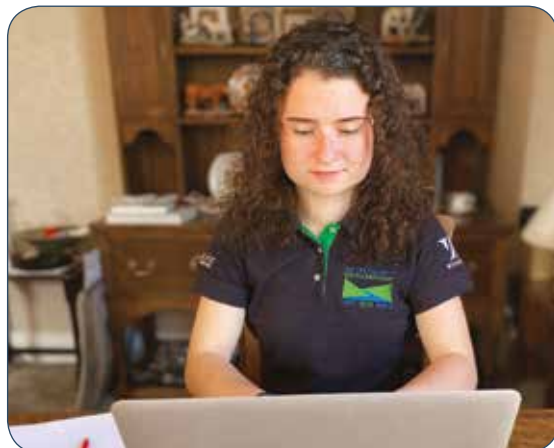


Figure 1. Elin Orrells following the guidance from Farming Connect to complete her cv.

Elin Orrells (18) whose family farm at Abermule in Montgomeryshire said that at

first, she found completing the new cv quite daunting and time-consuming. But having gone through the process, she's delighted with the result and says her former 'basic and boring' cv has disappeared forever!

"After reading the Farming Connect online guidance, I realised that if I didn't put more time and effort into my cv, it wasn't in any way going to reflect my individual skills, characteristics and experience.

"Setting out what you've actually learned or achieved seems vain, but if you don't, you are leaving out what could be the most relevant information."

"By focusing on the outcomes of what I had achieved and learned through working on the farm, from taking on key roles within my local YFC and county branch and through work experience, I already have a lot of skills which I hope prospective employers will be looking for and value.



Figure 2. Nia Powell strengthens her cv with support from Farming Connect.

Nia Powell, also a student at Newtown College and 17, lives at home on the family

beef and sheep farm in Abbey Cwm Hir near Llandrindod Wells.

Nia says that her first cv, produced while she was still at school was 'flowery – full of boxes and colourful graphics' but admitted it was thin on useful content. Having taken on board the Farming Connect guidance, she is delighted with her new, more professional approach, which she hopes will impress any potential employers and get her that all-important interview or follow-up!

"It's so tempting to go with the most basic format, listing what you've done and when but if you do that, nobody is going to appreciate what particular skills you can bring to the job you are applying for.

"Seeing how well laid out and informative my new cv is has given me more confidence in my own abilities and skills.

"I think any employer would feel they know what I'm capable of and could make an informed decision on how I would fit in to their workplace."



Sue Lloyd-Jones is Head of School, Catering, Hospitality and Agriculture at Newtown College. Sue says there is no 'one size fits all' approach to producing a good cv and advises thorough research.

"Farming Connect's approach gives comprehensive guidance and tips which encourage you to focus on transferable skills which could benefit a potential employer.

"This is a very useful tool which can be adapted for many levels of working.

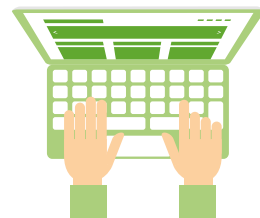
"It will take a bit longer, but it should inspire you to look beyond the 'easy option' cv versions and hopefully help you achieve your personal goals."

To access the Farming Connect cv guidance and templates visit the 'Skills and Training' page at www.gov.wales/farmingconnect



Weekly Webinars

Join us and industry experts for a wide range of topical webinars aimed at providing useful support and information to you during this uncertain time. To join a webinar, contact Delyth Evans on delythevans@menterabusnes.co.uk or visit our events page on our website.



When	Topic	Content	Speaker
21/05/20 20:15	Trace elements	This EIP Wales project involved twelve farms who have been trying to improve their nutritional planning in breeding ewes, investigating the individual flock needs for trace elements whilst trying to balance this against other likely causes of poor performance.	Joseph Angell, Milfeddygon y Wern Veterinary Surgeons
21/05/20 12:30	Dynamic Machine Testing	Checking the relationship between cow and milking machine. (Dairy related webinar)	Tom Greenham, Advance Milking
26/05/20 20:00	Time to reseed?	Part 1 - Performance of existing sward and improvement options	Charlie Morgan, GrassMaster
28/05/20 20:15	Precision grazing at Erw Fawr	Focus on how to increase yields from grazed grass with a herd of AYR calving Holsteins based at dairy demonstration site Erw Fawr in Anglesey.	Sarah Morgan, Precision Grazing
28/05/20 12:30	Liner Choice	How to find the right milking liner for your herd. (Dairy related webinar)	Tom Greenham, Advance Milking
02/06/20 20:00	Time to reseed?	Part 2 - Over sowing options: Do's and don'ts	Charlie Morgan, GrassMaster
04/06/20 20:15	Improving fertility of a split block calving system at Nantglas demonstration site	- What is an achievable tight calving pattern? - Planning and goal setting - Improving submission rates	Kate Burnby, Stock Plus+ Positive Farm Advice
09/06/20 20:00	Key characteristics of the top third businesses	What is the difference between the top third performers and other businesses? (All Sectors)	TBC



Co-design for a Sustainable Farming Scheme for Wales

Do you want to help shape the new scheme that will replace the current Basic Payment Scheme?

To register and start the process of being involved in the development of a Sustainable Farming Scheme for Wales that works for both yourself and Welsh Government, you will need to follow the link below by 30 May 2020.

For further information and to download and complete the survey, visit menterabusnes.cymru/sfs

If you need support with completing the survey, please call **01970 636 297**



Llywodraeth Cymru
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