

DEMONSTRATION NETWORK DASHBOARD

December 2016 – February 2017

RAG Score

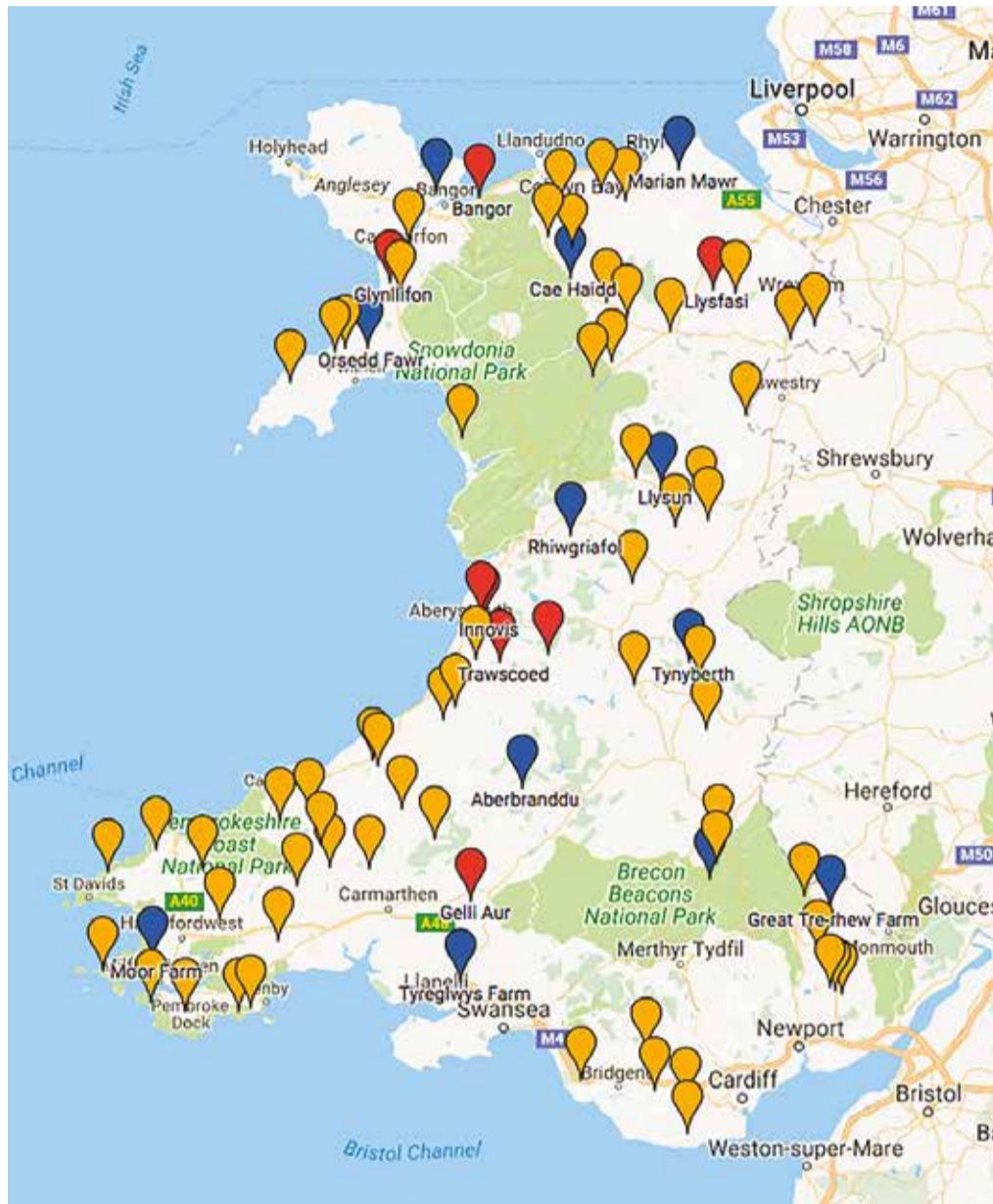
■ Red ■ Amber ■ Green

Green	Projects and events are on target
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Demonstration Site Network

Innovation site	8
Demonstration site	12
Focus site (Running Total)	63

Map



■ = Innovation Sites ■ = Demonstration Sites ■ = Focus Sites

Events held on the Demonstration site Network

Year 2 – 1 October 2016 – 28 February 2017

Description	Total Events (Annual Target)	Total Events (Undertaken)
Innovation site events	30	8
Demonstration site events	36	34
Focus site events	54	30

1163 participants have attended Demonstration Network events.

Industry feedback:

98% RATED THE EVENTS AS EXCELLENT

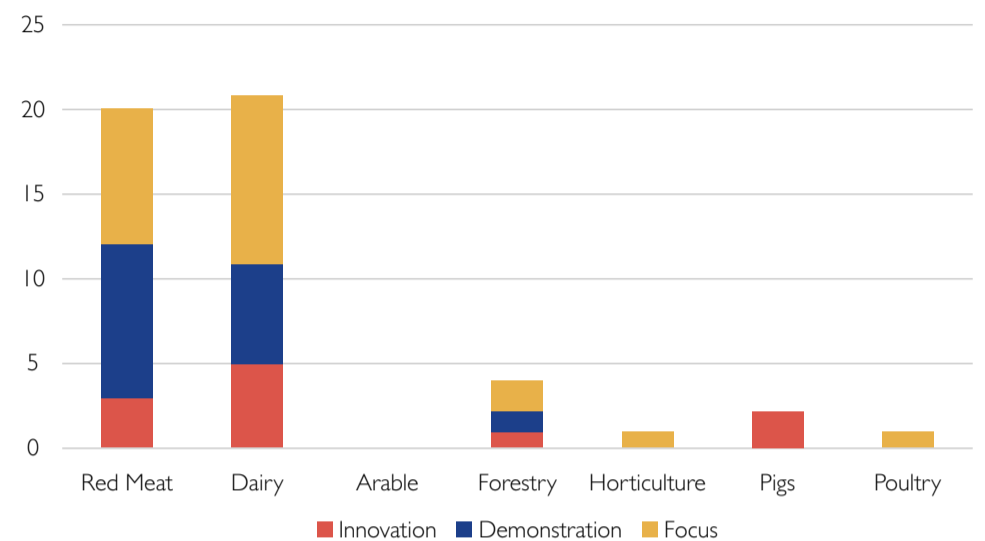
98% LEARNED SOMETHING NEW

87% INTEND TO CHANGE THEIR PRACTICES FOLLOWING THE EVENT



Number of projects delivering during this period

1 October 2016 – 28 February 2017



Some projects have been allocated to more than one sector: For example, *Welsh Pasture Project Grass* is undertaken on beef, sheep and dairy farms.

On Farm Projects

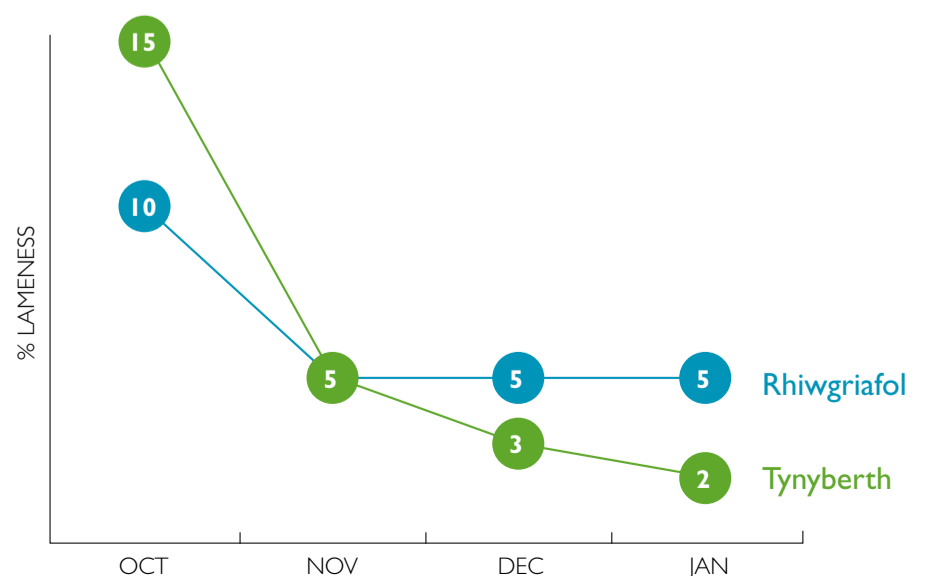
LIFE WITHOUT LAMENESS

Working with the FAI (Food Animal Initiative) Farming Connect have implemented the *'Life without lameness'* project on 5 sites across the demonstration network. The project aims to reduce and ultimately eliminate sheep lameness on these sites and demonstrate an effective way of how to achieve this to other sheep farmers. Significant progress has already been made by applying the 5 point principles, which are:

1. Early treatment
2. Avoiding build-up of disease
3. Vaccination
4. Culling
5. Quarantining new stock

PROGRESS TO DATE

	Scanning Results	Ewe Body Condition score 1-5
RHIWGRIAFOL	Increase by 10%	Increase by 0.5
TYNYBERTH	Increase by 15%	Increase by 0.5



EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA



Working with Dai Grove-White of Liverpool University and Sara Pedersen from Farm Dynamics Ltd a Farming Connect project has identified that a cost of £46.50 per affected calf could be avoided by improving the calf's nutrition and environment.

Early detection and treatment of pneumonia is a fundamental part of the health plan at Llindir due to its damaging impact on calf health and performance as well as production costs. Project work at Llindir has shown that for each calf that is treated for pneumonia a 0.2kg/day reduction in DLWG is observed resulting in a costly expense when it's estimated that 20% of the calves are treated.

PNEUMONIA COST

0.2 Kg/ day reduction in growth per affected calf

Lost weight gain (110 days on farm) = 22Kg @ £2/Kg = **£44 per calf**

Cost of treatment per calf **£1.50 - £3.00**

Cost of treatment per calf **£1.50 - £3.00**

20% incidence (of 1400 calves) = **280 calves**

Total annual cost at Llindir = **280x46.50 = £13020**
Plus deaths and weight loss from "missed cases"

DYNAMIC PARLOUR TESTING

Focus Site Project

£30,345 saved annually by calibrating the milking parlour, additional improvements in parlour routines included:

- Cluster position – uniform udder milking
- Reduced over milking – reduced teat damage
- Milk let down speed – reduced milking times
- Post dip teat coverage from 60% to 80% – improved hygiene

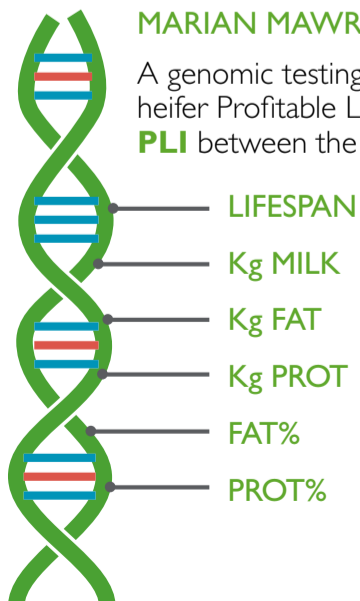


MASTITIS MANAGEMENT

Significant reduction in the use of antibiotics and a saving of **£55,000** on farm by implementing the AHDB Dairy *Dairy Mastitis Control Plan* on a Farming Connect Focus Site.

MARIAN MAWR

A genomic testing project demonstrated a large range in the heifer Profitable Lifetime Index (PLI) with a difference of **£235 PLI** between the highest and lowest indexing calf.



TYREGLWYS

Improving heat detection

A saving of **£27,000** has been achieved on the dairy demonstration farm Tyreglwys, by reducing the days to conception by 34-days. Improvement was achieved through better heat detection, pregnancy rate and conception rate, avoiding the average costs of £5 for each day the cow is not in calf.



Tyreglwys Fertility KPI

	Heat detection rate		Pregnancy rate		Conception rate	
	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current
Holstein	48%	62%	10%	20%	20%	31%
Ayrshire	46%	61%	12%	20%	26%	33%

ABERBRANDDU

Lamb finishing options

Lambs grazing the new ley outperformed 4 other finishing options on a Demonstration Site project at Aberbranddu, Pumsaint that aimed to evaluate 5 different methods of lamb finishing.

In terms of margin per lamb:

- New ley £7.92per lamb, old lay £5.16
- In door creep fed £3.24
- Old ley with creep £1.76
- Forage rape did not establish sufficiently to compare

MAKING THE MOST OF WOOD



At Skirrid Farm, Llanddewi Skirrid, near Abergavenny, 300 tonnes of timber has been felled from a 0.65 hectare conifer block. Alongside Sitka Spruce from the shelterbelt, some Larch and Oak from the farm were also felled, with the aim of creating valuable products for the farm business from a currently unused resource.

COMMUNICATING THE RESULTS

Communicating the results of work undertaken on the demonstration network is vital. Farming Connect use various ways to ensure maximum uptake of the knowledge gained in undertaking projects, including:

- **Articles** 58 have been produced – all articles are on the website and, depending on the content, some are shared with the Farmers Guardian, Farmers Weekly, NSA and the Farming Unions.
- **Blogs and Vlogs** to provide site updates – 40 have been prepared that have received over 3,000 hits
- **Social media**
- **YouTube channel**

