

Activity RAG Status

KE HUB	Green – Technical articles and EIP Literature reviews on target.
EIP	Amber – Establishment of procedures and application process took time but 17 projects have been referred to WG to proceed to full application stage.
AGRI LAB	Green – On target to deliver exhibition at RWAS 2017 based on calendar of activities and events proposed for forthcoming months.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE (KE) HUB

SECTORS:



The KE Hub is designed to improve knowledge of the Technical and Development officers – as well as consultants within Wales, so they are better equipped to provide a provision of a specialist scientific knowledge resource through dissemination of knowledge from academic research through Farming Connect.

- Led by campaigns and events within Farming Connect, which align with Welsh Government Strategic Objectives
- Motivated by research within IBERS and other UK research institutes – being based within IBERS creates a bridge and drives collaboration.
- Advice/Reviewing of Focus, Demonstration and Innovation Site project proposals
- Accessing information on Precision Agriculture and Big Data to inform Demonstration Network projects.

Key outputs:

- 11 concept notes (*ideas and suggestions*) for technical articles and on-farm projects
- Technical articles published;
 - Current factors affecting UK woodlands and forestry industry: Pest species
 - Current factors affecting UK woodlands and forestry industry: Pathogens
 - Nitrate Vulnerable Zones
 - Potential sources of protein for animal feed: Insects
 - Can increasing plant species richness in grassland maintain yield and improve soil carbon storage?
 - The effect of alternative bedding materials on sheep behaviour and welfare
 - Improving lamb survival
- Attendance at Welsh Soils Discussion Group Winter meeting
- Review of project proposals and ideas for Demonstration Network farm projects

Key messages from an example article:

Can increasing plant species richness in grassland maintain yield and improve soil carbon storage?

- Increasing grassland plant species richness can increase farmland biodiversity and offer suitable yield levels for grazing animals or hay production
- Reducing grassland management intensity can limit carbon loss from soil and improve soil structure
- This approach could offer a mechanism to reduce both environmental impact and production cost to the farmer



Potential sources of protein for animal feed: Insects

- There is a need to develop alternative sources of protein for livestock feed as reliance on existing imported sources may expose the UK to future economic and supply chain insecurities.
- Farming insects could limit the land use requirement for animal feed production, freeing up land to grow crops for human consumption.

- As insects can be fed on organic waste material, it may offer a real option for managing a growing waste burden by recycling valuable materials which would otherwise be lost.
- Whilst currently prohibited by EU law, the use of insects for animal feed may soon become possible as evidence for safe usage continues to grow.

EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP

SECTORS:



Gall gweithio'n unigol ei gwneud hi'n anodd i ganfod datrysiadau.
Working in isolation can make finding solutions difficult.

Mae EIP Amaeth Cymru yn cyllido grwpiau o unigolion sydd yn edrych am ddatrysiadau arloesol i sialensiau cyffredin.
EIP Agri Wales funds groups of individuals seeking innovative solutions to similar challenges.

Gellir cysylltu grwpiau ledled Ewrop i rannu syniadau a gwybodaeth ynglŷn â themâu cyffredin.
Throughout Europe, groups can be linked up to share ideas and information on common themes.

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Feedback on ongoing project development	7 project enquiries referred to KE Hub for literature reviews Update from Euro Dairy to forge links with their activity	3 projects submitted to Welsh Government

AGRI LAB

Recent activity;

- Calendar of visits, tours, presentations and exhibitions for farmers and foresters in Wales has been proposed for 2017.
- The Agri Lab will provide a platform to explore 'five areas of technology' already identified by forum members in 2016.
- Collaboration between the RWAS and the Agri Lab forum will showcase new technologies at this year's Royal Welsh Agri Lab exhibition. Initial meeting with Aled Jones RWAS assistant chief executive took place in January.
- Discussions between Harper Adams National Centre for Precision Farming and Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus are underway to develop a working partnership with the Agri Lab Forum.

