

DEMONSTRATION NETWORK DASHBOARD

September – November 2018

RAG Score

■ Red ■ Amber ■ Green

Green

Projects and events are on target

Demonstration Network

Innovation sites	8
Demonstration sites	12
Focus sites (Running Total)	114

Demonstration Site Network Events

1 September – 30 November 2018

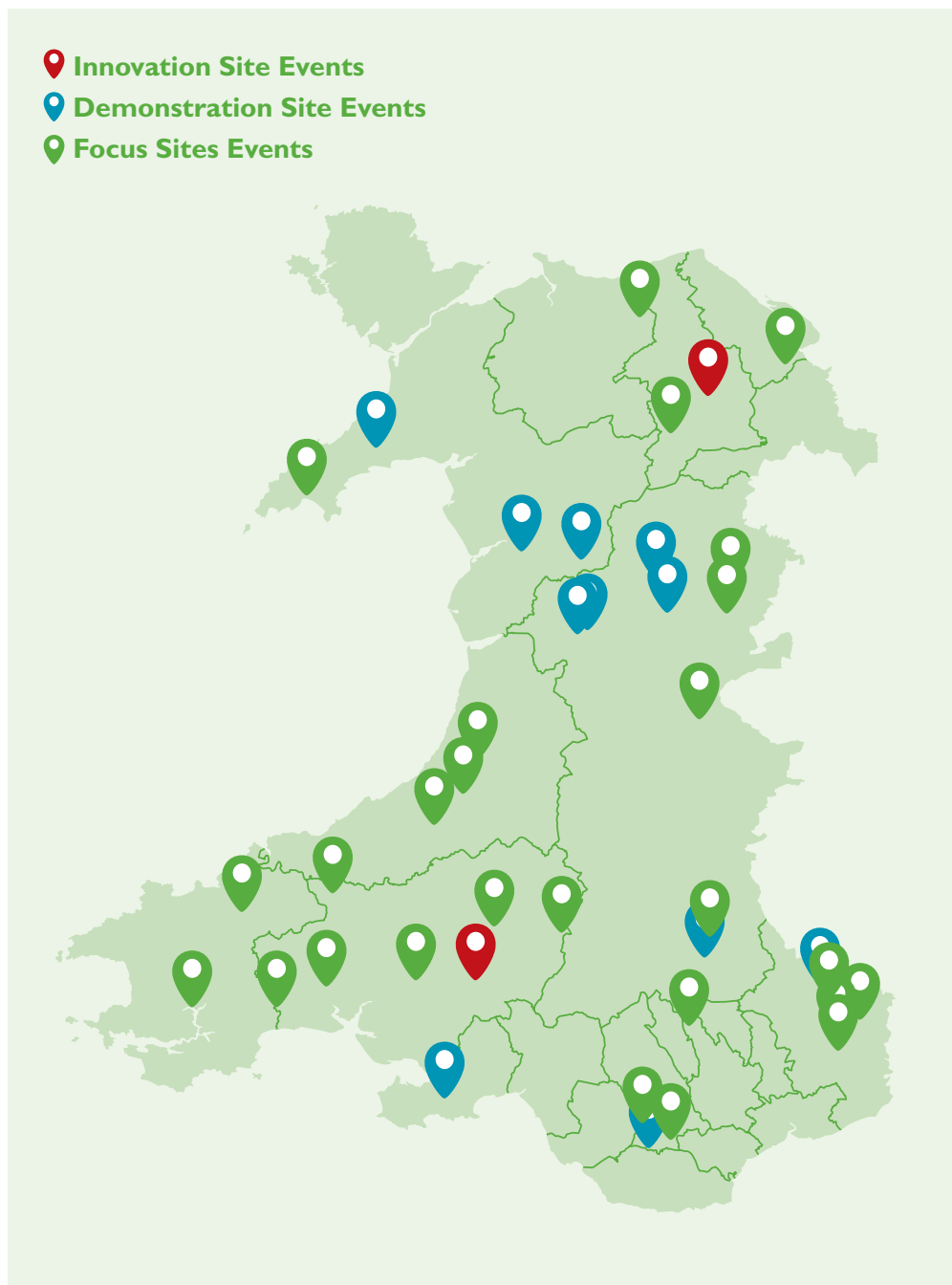
Description	Total Events (Annual Target)	Total Events held during this period
Innovation Site events	32	3
Demonstration Site events	36	13
Focus Site events	54	26

1039

ATTENDEES AT DEMONSTRATION NETWORK EVENTS



The map below demonstrates the events held across Wales linked to the demonstration site network:



Click [here](#) to learn more about projects and events on our demonstration network.

On Farm Projects

Focus on Soil Fertility

At Llysun demonstration site, the results of a detailed soil analysis have been used to make changes in management practices on the farm. The advice given by independent agronomist Mark Tripney was to test soil for calcium, boron and sodium as well as the usual analysis of pH, phosphorus, potassium and magnesium. The results showed a boron deficiency which affects the way calcium is transported to the grass plant. A boronated fertiliser was applied at 0.75kg/ha, raising levels from low to normal.

Soils at Llysun have an average pH of 5.9 which is restricting their ability to achieve the target yield of 10tDM/ha. Lime is applied annually to 20% of the farm to bring the pH levels closer to 6.5. Research shows that for every £100 spent on lime, there is a benefit of £700 through improved grass growth.



Focus on Reducing Agricultural Pollution

Shordley Hall focus site hosted an event to address the specific pollution incidents that are occurring in the Pulford Brook catchment. After discussing the current SSAFO and NVZ regulations, Keith Owen from ADAS was then able to provide practical advice on measures that can be taken on farms to reduce pollution incidences. These recommended measures included;

- Effective diversion and separation of clean and dirty water
- Improving soil structure to reduce the likelihood of soil run-off
- Calculating slurry volumes to ensure proactive approaches to managing it successfully
- Nutrient management planning



Focus on Fodder Beet

An event was held with Marc Jones, who farms 500 acres at Trefnant Hall on the Powis Estate. Marc is driving output on a forage-based fodder beet system, which has the potential to achieve more than 20 tonnes of DM/ha. The Beef cattle graze the fodder beet from the end of October, achieving average daily liveweight gains of 1kg/animal. In an average year, a net profit of £300/animal can be achieved but this summer's exceptionally dry conditions has reduced this by £100/animal. 20ha is grown each year to keep 300 yearling cattle for five months and also 600 sheep for two months. The cattle consume 3kg DM of silage per day and around 9 kg DM of fodder beet. From a dry matter perspective, fodder beet is the cheapest crop to grow, costing three to four times less than silage.



Focus on Suckler Herd Fertility

The synchronisation project which focused on the potential benefits of synchronising cattle to gain a tighter calving pattern and increased liveweight has now drawn to a close at Fferam Gyd, a Farming Connect focus site near Llanbabo, Anglesey. Pregnancy scanning results showed that 77% of the 55 cows included in the group were in-calf after the first service, which exceeded the original target of 60%.

The synchronised group calved within 12 days, with 14 cows calving within a 12 hour period. Although this was labour intensive and required plenty of shed space, this method was preferred in comparison to natural service, which meant the calving period continued for longer. Calves were sold at 7-8 months old, weighing on average 31kg/calf heavier compared to last year's crop which averaged at £820 for both heifers and steers.



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:** 19 have been produced
- **Blogs and Vlogs** to provide site updates – 6 have been prepared
- **Social media**
Facebook posts: 10
Twitter posts: 9
- **Videos** 2
- **Web Page Hits**
Innovation Site: english 247, welsh 41
Demonstration Site: english 586, welsh 85
Focus Site: english 1,173, welsh 214



Some key highlights on our Website and Social Media platforms recently...

Facebook 08/11/2018

Fodder beet drives output on Powys farmer's forage-based system

A Welsh beef producer is maximising output per hectare (ha) by grazing cattle on fodder beet. Marc Jones, who farms 500 acres at Trefnant Hall on the Powis Estate with his parents, David and Jane, is driving output on a forage-based system; fodder beet, which has the potential to achieve more than 20 tonnes of dry matter (DM)/ha, is central to this...

Read more... <http://bit.ly/2PhhnIH>



People Reached: 5,465 Video views: 1,573 Engagements: 53

Facebook 12/09/2018

Establishing feed availability key to early decision making on Welsh farms

A Welsh livestock farmer has eased potential feed shortages with a policy of regularly measuring grass growth and analysing the figures with farm software to make informed decisions.

Read more... <http://bit.ly/2QpKc9m>



People Reached: 3,113 Engagements: 1,341

