

RAG Status

■ Red: Behind with target ■ Amber: Nearly achieved target ■ Green: Target on track



Knowledge Exchange (KE) Hub ■

Key outputs during the quarter:

3 Technical articles published:

USE OF MEMBRANE FILTRATION TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION

IMPROVING SLURRY MANAGEMENT: USING SEPARATION TECHNOLOGY

BIODEGRADABLE PLASTICS FOR AGRICULTURE

1 Factsheet produced:

RAM HEALTH

European Innovation Partnership ■



EIP Wales Project Target 2022 **45**

Projects at Application Stage **22**

Projects Approved **18**



New projects approved during this period:

Tackling Scab – a farmer led approach

In this three-year project a group of farmers within the Talybont area in North Ceredigion will investigate how working together, rather than a single farm effort, can improve the success rate of scab treatment. The project aims to increase the effectiveness of scab treatment by using existing scab diagnosis and treatment techniques in a coordinated way across all farms involved.

Where have ewe moo-ved to?

With the aim of farming smarter, not harder, a group of six farmers across Wales are investigating how using tracking technology can help problems such as difficulties in gathering, grazing management and an increased chance of theft. GPS collar will be placed around a percentage of two cattle herds and four sheep flocks for two grazing seasons.

Click [here](#) to learn more about our approved projects.



Updates on current projects:

Reducing antibiotic use on sheep farms at lambing time

Following the 2018 lambing season, the group from Anglesey found that addressing the management and nutrition of ewes is key to producing healthy lambs that receive plenty of colostrum which, in turn, leads to less antibiotic usage.

Click [here](#) or the [TV screen](#) below to hear group member Gareth Thomas, Tregynrig Farm, talk about his experience and involvement in the project so far.

Next steps:

- The group are preparing for their second lambing season in the project
- Silage samples have been taken from all 7 farms
- Feed rations are now being formulated for each flock



Genomic testing of dairy heifers

To date, genomic results on 410 heifers have been analysed across 8 farms and a cut-off point of + £200 PLI has been used for breeding replacements into the herd. 42% percent of heifers were wrongly placed above £200 PLI using their parental averages and therefore would have been bred for replacements when their genomic results actually state that they're below £200 PLI and should not be bred for replacements.

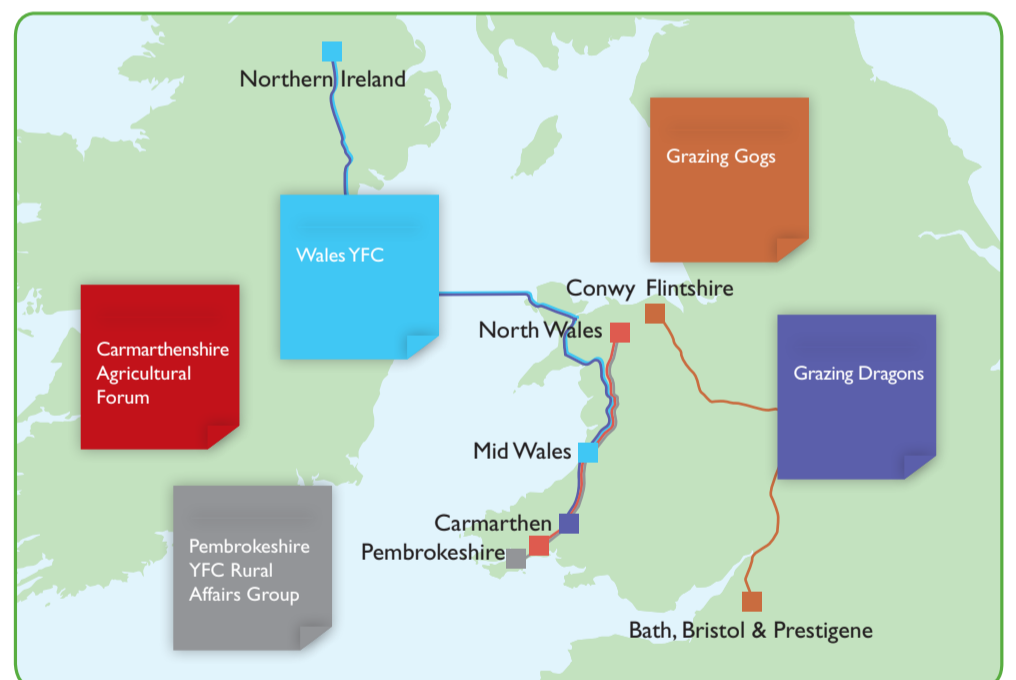
At the other end, 39% of heifers were below £200 PLI based on their parental average, and would have been put to beef semen, when their genomic results state that they should have actually been used to breed replacements.

These results show that genomic testing is a vital tool for dairy farmers in order to correctly select heifers to breed from, and to increase the genetic improvement within the herd.



Above: The group of farmers from north Wales who are working on the Genomics EIP project

Study Visits ■



6 study visits took place during this period

In October **Wales YFC** visited Northern Ireland. The aim of the visit was to give members a chance to see some of Ireland's most successful farms and bring back ideas to implement at home.

The **Carmarthenshire Agricultural Forum** also visited Northern Ireland in October to gain an insight into how farms in Northern Ireland are run and how they compare to the systems back in Wales.

In October the **Grazing Gogs** discussion group travelled to the South West of England to gain an insight into how dairy farms can grow and diversify over generations.

The **Grazing Dragons** discussion group travelled to North Wales during October to visit five progressive dairy farms, all running grass based spring calving systems, with the aim of gaining an understanding of the structure of each business.

In November, the **Pembrokeshire YFC Rural Affairs Group** travelled to North Wales to expand their agricultural knowledge within the dairy sector including grassland, diversification and genetics.

