

THE MAGAZINE FOR FARMING & FORESTRY IN WALES

# FARMING connect



**FARMING**  
connect  
cyswllt  
**FFERMIO**

**08456 000 813**

## Profitable pastoral farming

How New Zealand farmers  
have adapted their systems.

## RWAS 2017

Farming Connects' presence  
at the Royal Welsh show.



Cwmfa Amaswyddol Ewrop ar  
syfwr Datblygu Gwledig  
Ewrop yn Bledyddol i'rwyd Antares Gwledig  
European Agricultural Fund for  
Rural Development  
Europe Investing in Rural Areas



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

ISSUE 9 - May/June 2017 | [www.gov.wales/farmingconnect](http://www.gov.wales/farmingconnect)





Richard Tudor and Helen Roderick, Newton Farm, Brecon  
Farming Connect Demonstration Site

In September we held our first demonstration farm open meeting, where we disseminated the results of a project focusing on food waste digestate as a viable alternative to artificial fertiliser. This year, for the first time, we outwintered 85 cattle on fodder beet crops between November and April. The conditions were ideal and the cows and in-calf heifers went into the calving period at the ideal condition score. Since then, weaned heifers were moved from the fodder beet to grass and are growing very well. They will shortly be weighed and selected for this year's breeding programme, which will include synchronised Artificial Insemination. The use of AI alongside breeding bulls has led to a much tighter calving pattern this Spring and has enabled us to introduce preferential maternal genetics, considered essential during a period where we are building our self-replacing herd. On the 5th May, this year's crop of fodder beet was drilled, using the Robus variety. We continue to use this variety as it has a good above ground bulb size which is ideal for grazing in-situ.

The main flock of ewes were scanned and shorn during December, and housed on self-feed silage. They lambed from 20th February onwards and we have

drawn the first lambs for sale on 8th May at weights ranging between 40-46kg liveweight. We've been pleased with the growth rates of the lambs, which were selected from groups which are grass fed only. This year Tudor, our middle son, lambed the ewe lambs outside for the first time during the Easter holidays. Thankfully, the weather conditions were perfect for outdoor lambing.

From the soil sampling results (*done by Farming Connect*), we have applied 280 tonnes of lime to address the pH levels of the tested fields. Recently sown spring cereals, fodder beet and grass seeds are all now eager for rain as it has been an extremely dry Spring. Swedes will shortly be planted to feed ewe lamb replacements through the winter.

Following an advisory visit from Ian Pritchard from Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), we continue to weigh young cattle on a regular basis to monitor growth rates. One of the key areas we are focusing on this year as a demonstration farm is the health status of our cattle herd. By working closely with our local vet and SRUC we have significantly improved our cattle health plan.

*Richard is one of our Farming Connect Mentors.*

## Future proofing a beef unit - embracing technology to deal with an uncertain future

With beef finishers facing increasing commodity prices and a volatile future market price, one of the key aspects that will affect the profitability of a business will be its production costs. At Rhug Estate, farm manager Gareth Jones, working alongside Emyr Owen, North Wales Technical Red Meat Officer plan to re-assess the current beef finishing enterprise. The key driver for conducting this project is to ensure that the business is in a positive financial position looking ahead to the future. In addition to this, Gareth has expressed an interest in utilising EID technology to produce KPI's to aid in monitoring performance and planning the marketing of the cattle.

The task of collecting data from the last two full production years has now begun. This initial work is an essential step in identifying areas where the enterprise needs to focus on. Once this work is completed, data capture and setting of new KPI targets can be implemented. For this process to be as easy and accurate as possible, Gareth Jones has decided to invest in EID equipment. Cattle handling facilities are already in place at Rhug, therefore this aspect of the project will look at the most cost effective EID solution for the enterprise. We will look to call upon the expertise that Meilir Jones, Gop Farm (*currently a mentor for Farming Connect*) has to help advise Gareth in how to utilise the technology, and to put a return on investment (ROI) figure which will be of interest to many other beef finishers.

Another area which will be assessed is nutrition. Rhug currently grows oats, triticale and red clover silage to form the basis of their winter finishing diet. This currently works well as an organic cropping rotation, and to produce high quality forage and bedding. Options of alternative feeds will be considered, but being organic certified could make this difficult.



## TESTING – the key for the perfect soil

Between 2014 and 2017, a total of 4,848 soil samples were taken across Wales as part of the Farming Connect programme. The soil samples were analysed for pH, phosphorous (P), potassium (K) and magnesium (Mg). Samples were taken from various soil types and production systems under a range of cover crops.

It was discovered that on average, Welsh soils have a pH of 5.80, a P index value of 2, K index value of 2- and an Mg index value of 3.

In reviewing the data, it is appreciated that only underperforming land would be submitted for testing in order to take any remedial action. The results show that 70% of the soils tested were below pH 6, which is the minimum value for the ideal pH range in mineral soil.

Soil acidity varies across the data and can depend on factors such as rainfall and nitrogen fertiliser usage. Acidity could potentially be influenced by other factors, such as the atmospheric deposition of pollutants including nitrogen.



The data collected appears to indicate that Welsh soils have good soil P and K levels, however this tends to vary across the landscape. On average, soil K is at the right level for grazing, but should be higher for silage production.

Magnesium seems to be less of a problem, as 82% of the soils were at the acceptable level - between index 2 and 3. The potential for hypomagnesaemia (staggers) across Welsh grazing land is potentially low, as only 1% of the land tested had soil with Mg levels less than index 2, and only 8% of grazing land was above 2+ on the K index.

This report highlights the importance of regular soil testing. The advisory service can be used for nutrient management plans which includes subsidised soil analysis. Please contact your local Development officer for more information.

## Moving from indoor to outdoor lambing: getting the basics right

A successful move from an indoor to an outdoor lambing system has seen the potential of the sheep flock at Penwern increase dramatically. Having identified a need to increase ewe numbers to better match grassland production, Rhun Fychan who farms between Lampeter and Aberaeron in West Wales, felt that the move to an outdoor lambing flock would allow for expansion without increasing labour requirements. Making better use of the ability to grow good quality grass was also seen as a way to reduce production costs without compromising on output.

Working with Mid Wales Red Meat Technical Officer, Catherine Nakielny, Rhun established that a dual approach focusing on both flock health and ewe nutrition was required to get the most out of the ewes and maximise the number of lambs reared. Independent vet Kate Hovers worked with Rhun in the run up to lambing to identify any underlying health issues.

Fortunately no significant concerns were identified, but working with Kate allowed topics such as parasite control and lameness to be tackled in plenty of time ahead of lambing.

Lameness had previously been an issue on the farm, and over the previous autumn Rhun implemented the 5-point lameness plan. With a combination of vaccination, culling and prompt treatment of affected animals, Rhun has seen a reduction in lameness cases and improved health.

Nutrition was also a key focus during the project. Ewes were housed in late pregnancy before turnout onto grass and blood samples were taken in order to ensure that the diet fed was adequate

(metabolic blood profiling). Doing so allowed first and second cut silages to be targeted to the most appropriate group of sheep based on the silage analysis and results of the blood sampling.

From turnout onwards, grass was the only source of nutrition so the Farming Connect project also provided advice and support from rotational grazing expert James Daniels. A plan was implemented for turnout dates and fields were allocated in advance to the various groups of single, twin and triplet bearing ewes.

Lambing began on the 1st of April and weekly grass height measures ensured that all ewes received sufficient dry matter intakes to meet with daily energy and protein requirements. Early results from the project have already identified that for the farming system at Penwern, outdoor lambing can lead to the same level of output despite reduction in labour requirements and feed costs.

Under 10% of lambs were lost from scanning to 1 month of age. Rhun plans on continuing a proactive approach to flock health planning and grassland management to ensure the flock maximises its potential whilst also minimising production costs.





Drought-resistant annual clovers, grown under Farming Connect project conditions in Wales, have performed well and enabled the grower to reduce winter feed costs and artificial fertiliser inputs.



The nitrogen-fixing properties of Balansa and Berseem clovers have improved soil fertility at Llyn Rhys, a Farming Connect Focus Site near Wrexham. The clovers are also effective weed suppressants.

Annual clovers are high yielding and drought tolerant. They provide organic matter to weak soils, aiding water retention and nutrient availability.

Pearce Hughes, who runs a flock of 1,250 ewes, planted a six-acre trial plot of Balansa – an annual clover native to north-eastern Mediterranean regions.

The seed, a variety called 'Fixation' which was bred in America for extra cold tolerance, was sown with Italian ryegrass at the beginning of June 2016. 5kg of Balansa (2kg/acre) and 22kg of Italian ryegrass (9kg/acre) was sown per hectare. Unlike some forages, Balansa performs well at a pH of 5.7- to 5.8.

At sowing, a 5:24:24 fertiliser was applied at 246kg/ha followed by 123kg/ha of urea four weeks later.

The crop was cut on August 10th 2016, yielding 33 bales at 630kg/bale – the equivalent of four tonnes per hectare. Silage analysis results determined a crude protein value of 14.5%, 11.5MJ/kg metabolisable energy, a D-value of 72 and 46% dry matter (DM).

In comparison, haylage harvested at Llyn Rhys achieved a crude protein of 11.7%, 11.6 MJ/kg ME and 81.9% DM. The silage from the Balansa crop was fed to twin and triplet-bearing ewes during the pre-lambing period. Feeding this higher quality forage meant a delay of two weeks before concentrates were fed, resulting in an estimated saving of £1.68 per head.

The Berseem was well established by the Spring and grew at an average rate of 31kgDM/ha/day from March 20th onwards. Fertiliser wasn't applied last autumn and only a single dressing of 23:4:13 fertiliser at a rate of 187kg/ha (75kg/acre) was applied in early April.

## Arloesedd mewn amaethyddiaeth a choedwigaeth Innovation in agriculture and forestry



### Ian Beecher-Jones Precision Farming Coach and Consultant

Ian will be available at the Royal Welsh Show to discuss and provide advice on your planned mechanisation investment decisions, including GPS and Farm Business Grant scheme options.

Individual slots must be pre-booked with Delana Davies:  
07811 261628 - [delana.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk](mailto:delana.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk)



For location details, please see the RWAS map on page 12.



## Protecting property - vehicles and livestock

Farmers across Wales are being urged to scrutinise their farms for potential security weaknesses to deter criminals from targeting their property. Simple changes, ranging from padlocks with the highest security rating to a £20 trailer lock, can stop farms becoming a victim of crime.

Trawscoed, a Farming Connect Innovation Site near Aberystwyth, recently hosted a farm security event with speakers including police officers and online security experts.

Arfon Griffiths, of Dyfed Alarms, demonstrated how simple it was to cut through a standard padlock. *"Small locks aren't going to protect anything therefore don't skimp on the security rating of a lock,"* said Mr Griffiths.



Most locks have security ratings ranging from 1-15 – the higher the number, the more effective the security. Locks with number combinations are as effective as locks with keys, but once the combination has been shared, it's important to change it.

The farm office is also a target for thieves, with cyber crooks taking advantage of relatively weak online security measures to defraud farmers. Hackers can use automated software to crack passwords by scanning social media

and other sites. Specialists recommended that a password should be a combination of letters or numbers that can't be guessed by an automated process or a person. A Welsh password can also be an alternative as it can be more challenging for criminals.

The biggest threat to a farm business comes from within the farm. This threat occurs when family members or staff click on unwanted or unexpected emails which can infect computers with viruses. To avoid this problem, Matthew Howells, of Dyfed Powys Police suggested that farmers should have a dedicated computer solely for the farm business.

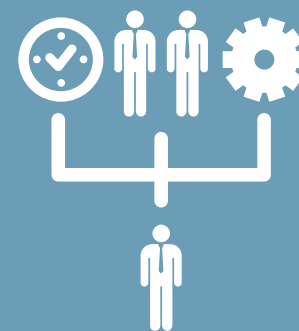
Mr Howells also mentioned that there is an increasing risk to farms that run diversification businesses, such as a campsites.

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*"There is a security risk to the business if it uses the same wi-fi network offered to guests, it is important that farmers are fully aware of all potential risks"*

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Inspector Matthew Howells, signposted farmers to the 'Get Safe Online' and 'Action Fraud' websites for further advice.



## Staff Management - *attracting and retaining reliable staff*

*Farmers who invest time in motivating and training staff are more likely to retain their workforce.*

Farm workers are often highly skilled and experienced but still find work-related training and development opportunities highly motivational.

With appropriate training, employees can be empowered to take more ownership of their work, farmers were told at a series of joint Farming Connect and AHDB Dairy meetings facilitated by Jamie McCoy, South Wales Dairy Technical Officer at Farming Connect.

According to Heather Wildman, of Saviour Associates, if an employer is willing to invest in training staff feel valued. *"It is telling them you want them to be part of the business long term and you want them to enjoy their work and feel fulfilled knowing they are doing a good job."*

*"Employees value the consideration that is given to improving their skill set and farmers get better equipped employees."*

*"You wouldn't run a feeder wagon and not maintain it so equally you cannot expect your staff to perform if you don't invest in them with training, time and social events,"*

*Detailing procedures and protocols in a staff handbook allows staff to work independently, however establishing the right culture*

*within the business is important too.*

*"Fun seems to have been bred out of business, just because folk are having a laugh it doesn't mean they are not working and doing a good job,"* said Mrs Wildman.

Regular meetings are important, either formal or informal. There must be clear and continuous communication, either one to one or in groups. *"I don't believe there is a textbook way to communicate, it is whatever works for the business,"* said Mrs Wildman.

Farmers must be fair and consistent in their relationships with staff. The key personality traits of a good employer are the ability to think positively, to be honest and to delegate. *"Communicate, inspire and align the team. Mentor and give praise,"* advised Mrs Wildman.

The dynamics can change when a new employee joins the business but ensuring that they spend time working with all staff members makes integration easier and quicker. Heather Wildman is also working with Demonstration Site farmer Aled at Marian Mawr in implementing Leadership and management best practice.

Training courses for the business improvement category run through the Farming Connect Skills Development Programme, are subsidised by up to 80%.



# Synchronization of a suckler herd for better performance

Artificial Insemination is a tool that provides an affordable way for farmers to access superior genetics.

Utilising methods of oestrus synchronisation to increase profits will be the key focus at Fferam Gyd, a Farming Connect focus site located on Anglesey.

Working with Emyr Owen, North Wales Technical Red Meat Officer, farmer Llŷr Hughes, aims to implement an oestrus synchronisation programme for 50 commercial Limousin suckler cows with the aim of producing more kilograms of beef per hectare.

This will be achieved by accessing high genetic merit semen with established growth traits and calving ease figures.

To ensure a fair comparison is achieved, a control group of 30 commercial Limousin cattle will run with the farm's stock bull at the same time as the synchronisation programme begins.

Various data will be captured during the project, including: body condition scores prior to mating, health and fertility, associated costs, conception rates and pregnancy diagnosis. Further data will be captured during the 2018 calving period.



# Principles of Profitable Pastoral Farming

Many farmers in Wales have compared the decision to leave the European Union with the decision made by New Zealand to remove subsidised payments with immediate effect in 1984.

Although there may or may not be similar changes facing Welsh farmers in the future, there are many lessons which could be adopted from how farmers in New Zealand have adapted their farming systems in the years following the loss of subsidised payments.

Valuing the pasture they grew and focusing on the true profitability of the enterprise were regarded as key priorities following the change. As New Zealand farmers soon discovered, there is no cheaper feed option than home grown pasture. The uncertainty of future market prices, prompts farmers to focus on areas within their control.

Murray Rohloff, a sheep specialist from New Zealand, will be visiting Wales in June. According to Mr Rohloff there are principles of profitable pastoral farming which can be adopted to improve business efficiency and profitability.

Improving and managing pasture quality during the late spring and summer periods will promote lamb growth as the days to slaughter is regarded as having the greatest impact on the profitability of sheep flocks. Rotational grazing can induce pasture to grow up to 80% more dry matter than set stocking systems.

Increasing lambing percentages, controlling parasites and increasing longevity in both ewes and rams are also key factors to consider.

All meetings with Murray Rohloff will be looking at principles of pastoral farming with the aim of improving performance of the sheep flock.

DATE	START TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday 14/06/17	4.00pm – 6.00pm	Llysun, Llanerfyl, Welshpool SY21 0EL
Saturday 17/06/17	4.00pm – 6.00pm	Rhiwgriafol, Talywern, Machynlleth SY20 8NY
Monday 19/06/17	6.30pm – 8.30pm	Bribwll, Llanfyrnach, Pembrokeshire SA35 0DA
Tuesday 20/06/17	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Mynachdy, Ynysybwl, Rhondda Cynon Taf CF37 3PP

For more information on [The Welsh Pasture Project](#) call us on **07985 379880** or visit [www.gov.wales/farmingconnect](http://www.gov.wales/farmingconnect).

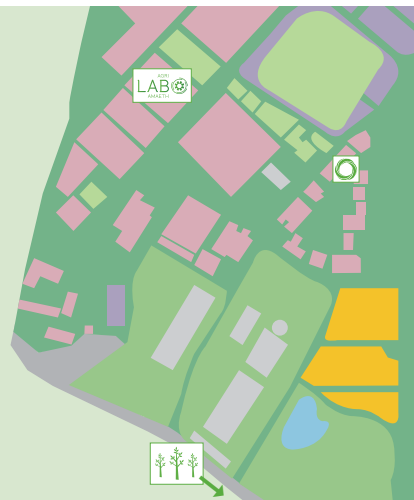




## Cyswllt Ffermio yn Sioe Frenhinol Cymru 2017 Farming Connect at the Royal Welsh Show 2017



### ALLWEDD / KEY



Maes Sioe  
Frenhinol Cymru  
Royal Welsh  
Showground

### Gwnewch siwr eich bod yn ymweld â Cyswllt Ffermio yn Sioe Frenhinol Cymru

**ADEILAD LANTRA** – Cyfle i chi siarad gyda staff Cyswllt Ffermio a dysgu am y gwasanaethau sydd ar gael.

**YRADRAN GOEDWIGAETH** – Os ydych chi'n goedwigwr, ffermwr a/neu yn meddu ar goetir, dewch draw i gwrdd â'r tîm a dysgu am y lluo o fuddiannau a chyfleoedd o fewn y diwydiant.

**LAB AMAETH** – Arddangosfa o arloesedd ym myd Amaeth a Choedwigaeth gall drawsnewid y ffordd yr ydych yn gweithio yn y dyfodol.

**COFIWCH** – Er mwyn cael mynediad llawn i wasanaethau Cyswllt Ffermio mae angen i bob busnes gofrestru, dewch draw i gofrestru neu ailgofrestru eich busnes ar faes y sioe yn adeilad Lantra.

### Make sure you visit Farming Connect at the Royal Welsh Show

**LANTRA BUILDING** – A chance for you to speak to Farming Connect staff and learn about the services on offer.

**FORESTRY SECTION** – Foresters, farmers and/or woodland owners here's your chance to meet the team and learn about the numerous benefits and opportunities within the industry.

**AGRI LAB** – An exhibition of Farm and Forestry innovations that could transform the way you work in the future.

**REMEMBER** – To access the full range of services offered by Farming Connect every business must be registered, call by to register or re-register your business at the Lantra building on the showground.

[www.llyw.cymru/cyswlltffermio](http://www.llyw.cymru/cyswlltffermio)  
[www.gov.wales/farmingconnect](http://www.gov.wales/farmingconnect)

FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/farmingconnect](https://facebook.com/farmingconnect)  
TWITTER: @FarmingConnect



## Farm Safety Awareness – *Be alert, be aware, be SAFE*

Agriculture is regarded as one of the most dangerous industries to work in, with 29 fatalities recorded in 2016 alone in England, Wales and Scotland, according to the latest figures by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

*The most common cause of on-farm accidents is farm transport, closely followed by livestock, which is currently on the rise in Wales.*

According to Brian Rees, Chairman of the Wales Farm Safety Partnership Charter, farmers should be more alert and aware of the potential risks to safety when handling cattle, particularly during the calving period.

*"Although farmers tend to be more wary of their animals during the calving period, they seem to still be too trusting towards newly calved cows," said Mr Rees.*

*"This has led to an increase in livestock-associated accidents in Wales, cattle in particular."*



Nowadays, cattle aren't managed using the traditional methods used years ago, meaning that they're less used to direct human interaction on a daily basis.

*"These days, cattle are mainly fed by machinery and are checked out in the field by a quad bike, whereas decades ago they were fed by hand and a farmer would walk around them making them more docile and easier to handle," said Mr Rees.*

However, farm transport remains to be the most common cause of farm accidents, which includes tractors, quad bikes and telehandlers. The 'Safe Stop' campaign was launched in 2013 by the Farm Safety Partnership to promote the importance of applying the handbrake correctly on farm transport.

*"People automatically apply the handbrake when stopping a car, therefore it is critically important that the same procedure is followed when stopping farm transport", stressed Mr Rees, who also provides Farm Safety Awareness training as a part of his daily work.*

Mr Rees suggested that farmers should take time to walk around their farm to spot potential hazards which may prove a risk to safety, and act on them before it's too late.

*"It's so important that farmers are constantly aware of safety when they're carrying out their daily activities. Health and safety must always be made a priority which ever job you're doing, take the time to fully assess the situation - this may save your life".*



## Time to dig out your passport!

The application window is currently open for our Management Exchange Programme. We are looking for focused and ambitious farmers or foresters who are keen to broaden their horizons by taking part in an exchange visit to other European member states and/or hosting a foreign exchange farmer or forester on your holding. If selected, your visit could be fully-funded up to a maximum of £4,000.

*"This is a fantastic opportunity to learn about new or improved ways of working in the farm or forestry sectors in Europe, to find out about different approaches to business management and to broaden your knowledge, technical ability and management expertise,"* says Einir Davies, Development & Mentoring Manager at Farming Connect.

*"The aim of the programme is to enable both parties to identify opportunities, both personal and business development, and to learn new and innovative or advanced best practice methods which they can implement at home and share with the wider industry in Wales,"* said Miss Davies.

The window for applications is open between **1 June to 1 July 2017**.

For more detailed information on the benefits of this programme, terms & conditions, eligibility criteria and to download application forms, please visit [www.gov.wales/farmingconnect](http://www.gov.wales/farmingconnect)



## Inspiring the next generation of rural leaders and entrepreneurs – 40 successful candidates selected for Agri Academy 2017



Building on the success of the Agri Academy, Farming Connect's highly acclaimed personal development programme, 40 candidates have been selected to take part this year.

The Agri Academy comprises of three distinct programmes; the Business and Innovation programme, the Rural Leadership programme which is a joint collaboration with the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, and the Junior programme, a joint collaboration with Wales YFC, which is open to young people aged between 16 and 19 years. Professor Wynne Jones OBE, chairman of the Agri Academy selection panel, said that he and his co-judges agreed that the calibre of applications was again exceptionally high, and it was a hard task to 'select the best of the best' from 65 applications.

*"As always, we were looking for candidates able to demonstrate ambition, commitment and a keen sense of focus but above all, we selected people who we feel have the potential to contribute most to the future of the agricultural industry and rural communities in Wales."*



**MEGAN MCNAMARA**, a part-time nurse who recently ventured into the production and direct marketing of Boer goat meat near Clarboston Road in Pembrokeshire is delighted to have been selected for the Business & Innovation programme.

Megan hopes the Agri Academy will give her the skills and confidence needed to achieve her ambitious plans for business expansion, doubling her herd to 200 breeding goats over the next 18 months.



Successful for the Rural Leadership programme was beef & sheep farmer **GARETH DAVIES** from Howey near Llandrindod Wells. Gareth is eager to start developing ideas

and to network with like-minded people within the industry. He hopes that the Agri Academy will provide a platform where his voice can be heard and give him the skills and confidence to inspire others.



**GUTO HUWS**, an agriculture student at Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor, Glynllifon was one of the successful applicants for the Junior programme. Guto

shares his time between his studies and helping his father on their family farm near Trawsfynydd. With his sights on studying Agriculture at university he believes Junior Agri Academy will support his application as it has for previous alumni. Guto is eager to gain as much experience as possible before applying his new found knowledge to the family farm.

To read more about each successful candidate and how they hope to benefit from the Agri Academy visit [www.gov.wales/farmingconnect](http://www.gov.wales/farmingconnect)



# Mentoring Programme

In industries outside of agriculture, using a mentor as a sounding board to share ideas, seek guidance and support is routine practice. Our fully funded Mentoring Programme, launched just over 12 months ago is encouraging farmers and foresters to do the same. To date over 60 individuals have chosen a mentor and is reaping the benefits of peer to peer learning and sharing knowledge to drive their business forward.

Eight new farmers have recently joined our team increasing the network to a total of 48 mentors. They come equipped with a variety of experiences from renewable energy through to wine making. Our Mentors have 'been there, done that' and will develop a partnership with you based on mutual trust and respect. They will be able to share their knowledge, experience, and impartial views to help you identify your goals and fulfil your potential. It's an opportunity to develop communication skills, to listen, learn and expand your viewpoints which in turn may help you find new ways to approach new situations and deal with challenges.

To view the full Mentor Directory visit [www.gov.wales/farmingconnect](http://www.gov.wales/farmingconnect)

## The new mentors are:



### Abi Reader

**Location:** Glamorgan

**Key sector(s):** Dairy

**Key specialism(s) or interest(s):** KPIs for dairy herd, consumer relations



### Robb Merchant

**Location:** Monmouthshire

**Key sector(s):** Viticulture

**Key specialism(s) or interest(s):** Wine production, diversification on small scale farms



### Eilir Evans

**Location:** Ceredigion

**Key sector(s):** Dairy

**Key specialism(s) or interest(s):** Grassland management, financial budgeting, joint ventures



### Sion Ifans

**Location:** Meirionnydd

**Key sector(s):** Beef, Sheep

**Key specialism(s) or interest(s):** Monitoring and flock improvement using EID equipment, Benchmarking



### James Raw

**Location:** Ceredigion

**Key sector(s):** Beef, Sheep, Forestry, Arable

**Key specialism(s) or interest(s):** Renewable energy (Hydro), tourism, building design



### Teifi Davies

**Location:** Ceredigion

**Key sector(s):** Beef, Dairy, Poultry, Horticulture, Food and Drink

**Key specialism(s) or interest(s):** Farm diversification, farm gate retail



### Jenny Davies

**Location:** Ceredigion

**Key sector(s):** Beef, Dairy, Poultry, Horticulture, Food and Drink

**Key specialism(s) or interest(s):** Farm diversification, farm gate retail, trading standards and environmental health requirements



### Tony Davies

**Location:** Radnor

**Key sector(s):** Sheep, Forestry, Renewable Energy, Holiday Accommodation

**Key specialism(s) or interest(s):** Renewable Energy (Solar PV), upland farming, environmental schemes, direct selling



## Looking for a route into farming?

## There are over 4,000 acres being offered to new entrants through the Venture programme

Many assume that joint venture agreements always refer to a contract farming or share farming agreement. It is also often considered more relevant to the dairy industry. However, the Venture programme is currently facilitating 26 potential joint venture matches, 65% of which are in fact Beef and Sheep enterprises.

We have also found that a variety of models can be developed over time to give the new entrant more independence. This makes it a flexible option for any business to adopt and means that it can be specifically tailored to your situation and requirements at any given time.

Venture is designed to help match farmers and landowners who are looking to step back from the industry with new entrants looking for a way into farming. It guides people on both sides through the key steps required to find a potential business partner. An integrated package of training, mentoring, specialist advice and business support equips participants with the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to help them achieve their goals.

If you think a joint venture may be a suitable option for you, if you are beginning to think about taking a step back or want to provide an opportunity for a new entrant to begin farming get in touch with us. In the first instance, we are here to help you decide whether it is a suitable option and to reassure you of the process. You don't need to worry about committing to anything just yet.

Alternatively, if you are a new entrant, looking to enter the industry, register with Venture today to find out if any of the opportunities on offer, totalling 4,000 acres of land could be your route into farming.

**08456 000 813**



# Events Timetable

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	CONTACT
14/06/17 14:00-16:00	Worm control and benefits of using EID	Tyn y pant, Manafon, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8BJ	<b>Menna Williams</b> 07399 600146 menna.williams@menterabusnes.co.uk
15/06/17	Is your Farming Business Secure?	Cae Haidd, Nebo, Llanrwst, Conwy, LL26 0TF	<b>Gethin Davies</b> 07772 694941 gethin.prys.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
15/06/17 16:00-18:30	Lambing at grass - <i>making the most of spring grazing</i>	Penwern, Cilcennin, Lampeter; Ceredigion, SA48 8RT	<b>Catherine Nakielny</b> 07985 379890 catherine.nakielny@menterabusnes.co.uk
20/06/17 19:30-21:30	Trade In The Global Marketplace	The Eagles Hotel, Llanrwst, LL26 0LG	
20/06/17 12:30-15:00	Genomics in the dairy herd	Cardigan Rugby Club, Gwbert Road, Ceredigion, SA43 1PH	<b>Jamie McCoy</b> 07985 379819 jamie.mccoy@menterabusnes.co.uk
20/06/17 19:30-21:30	Genomics in the dairy herd	Lampeter Rugby Club, North Road, Ceredigion, SA48 7JA	<b>Jamie McCoy</b> 07985 379819 jamie.mccoy@menterabusnes.co.uk
22/06/17 12:00-15:00	Maximising the economic value of pollinators, dung beetles & other beneficial invertebrates in pastoral agriculture	Pant Glas farm, Llanboidy, Whitland, Carmarthenshire, SA34 0EX	<b>Jamie McCoy</b> 07985 379819 jamie.mccoy@menterabusnes.co.uk
27/06/17 19:30-21:30	Trade In The Global Marketplace	Brecon Livestock Market, Brecon, LD3 8EX	
28/06/17 11:00-15:00	Opportunities to plant trees & access the woodland carbon code to increase farm income	Tynyberth, Abbeycwmhir, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6PU	<b>Geraint Jones</b> 07398 178698 geraint.jones@menterabusnes.co.uk
01/07/17	Monmouthshire Show	Monmouthshire Showground, Monmouth, NP25 4LG	
06/07/17 18:30-21:00	Hop growing and marketing and novel growing opportunities	Bubbleton Farm Shop, Penally, Tenby, Pembrokeshire SA70 7RY	<b>Delana Davies</b> 07811 261628 delana.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
24/07/17 - 27/07/17	Royal Welsh Show	Royal Welsh Show, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3SY	
25&26/ 07/17 10.00-16.00	Planned mechanisation investment decisions with Ian Beecher-Jones	Royal Welsh Show, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3SY	<b>Delana Davies</b> 07811 261628 delana.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
02/08/17	Cardigan County Show	Briscwm Field, Briscwm Field, Pembrokeshire, SA43 1DR	
09/08/17	Vale of Glamorgan Show	Fonmon Castle Grounds, Fonmon, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3ZN	
11/08/17	Lampeter Agricultural Society Show	Pontfaen Fields, Lampeter; Ceredigion	
15-16 /08/17	Anglesey Agricultural Show	Tŷ Glyn Williams, The Showground, Gwalchmai, Holyhead, Anglesey, LL65 4RW	
15-17 /08/17	Pembrokeshire Show	Haverfordwest, SA62 4BW	
17/08/17	Denbigh and Flint Show	1 Cross Street, Holywell, Flintshire, CH8 7LP	
23/08/17	Meirioneth County Show	Cader Rd, Land Leaf, Dolgellau LL40 1SG	
24/08/17	Muck and Soil Event Show	Coleg Sir Gar, Gelli Aur Campus Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA32 8NJ	