

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.



Since its launch **141 individuals** have expressed an interest in the Venture initiative.

There are currently **123 active participants**.

74 are new entrants seeking an opportunity while **49 are established farmers** or landowners providing an opportunity.



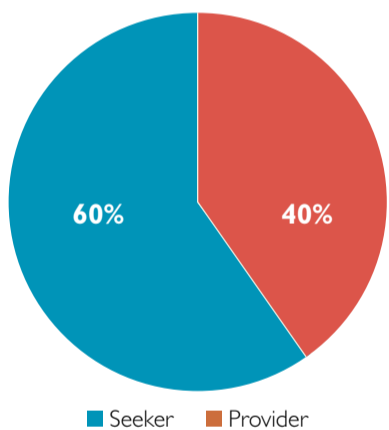
RAG Score

■ Red ■ Amber ■ Green

Green

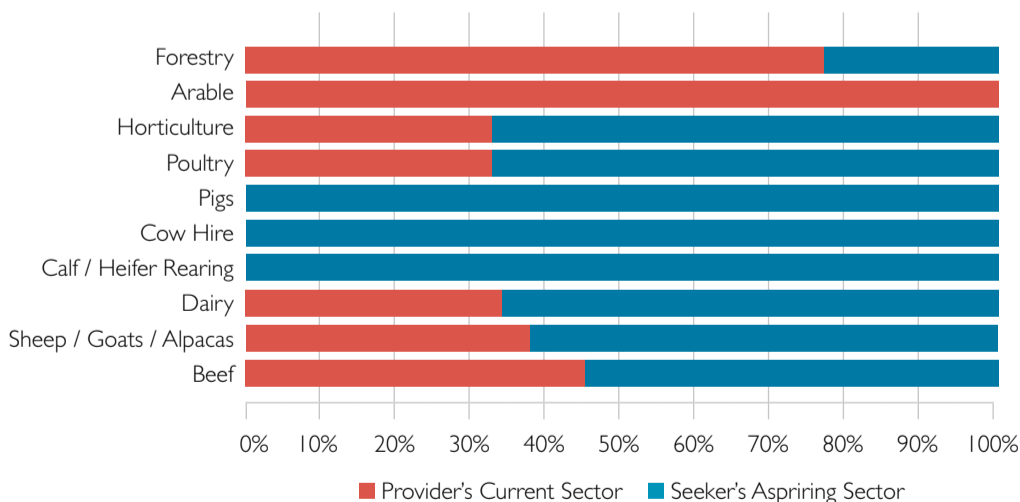
Project and events are on target

Ratio of Seekers and Providers

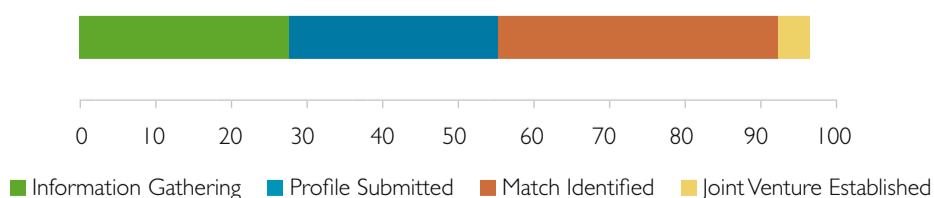


25 matches have been made

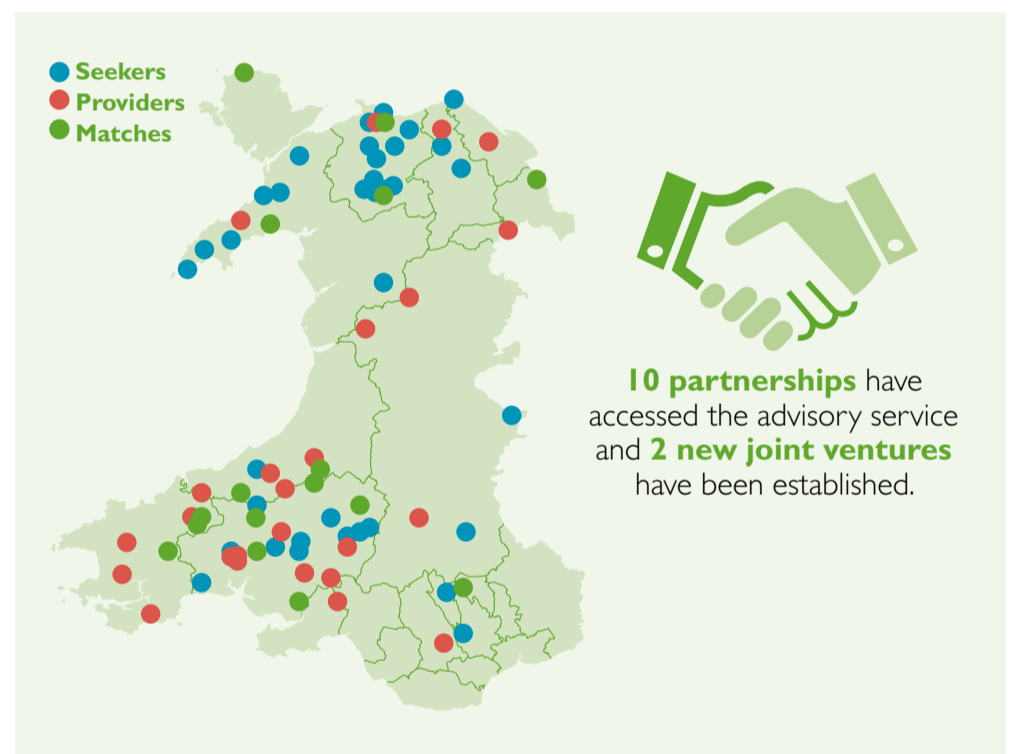
38% of participants have identified a business partner



Status



Their next step will be to apply for the Farming Connect Advisory Service which provides up to €3000 of fully funded advice to agree on a business structure and form a plan for their new group enterprise.



Case Study

The first joint venture to be established via Farming Connect's Venture programme was a sheep enterprise in North Wales. The land owner owns a significant amount on land in the area and was keen to establish a farming venture involving young entrants. With Farming Connect support, they hired a business consultant and a solicitor to develop a system which would mutually benefit all parties. Three individuals are involved in the venture with the farm manager having a 45% share in the business, while a 5% share is held by a young shepherd. The land owner retains a 50% share in the business. The parties have set up a Joint Venture Limited Company as the business structure for the new venture. The flock of 2400 will be lambing from 1st April 2017 onwards. If the venture succeeds, the landowner's long term business objective is to duplicate the venture on other parcels of land, providing further opportunities for the next generation.