

THE MAGAZINE FOR FARMING & FORESTRY IN WALES

FARMING connect



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Agri Academy 2018

Application window
now open!

Sulphur emissions

Will you be applying
sulphur this spring?





RHIDIAN GLYN
Rhiwgriafol, Talywern, Machynlleth
Farming Connect Demonstration Site

An update on the Liver Fluke project

Catherine Nakielny, Farming Connect Red Meat Technical Officer

Farming Connect is working with IBERS, Aberystwyth to help improve habitat detection and to develop grazing plans which avoid high risk habitat at key points during the year.

This project, which started in summer 2017, worked with 5 farms across Wales to better identify:

- Specific locations on the farm where the mud snail can be found
- Whether any mud snails found are infected with liver or rumen fluke
- How the presence of mud snails or fluke species varies over the summer and autumn

The initial stage of the project has fed results back to farmers and helped to identify areas of fields which should be avoided at the high-risk times of year.

INTRODUCTION

Like many others, I'm glad to see the snow slowly disappearing especially after a long and wet autumn and winter.



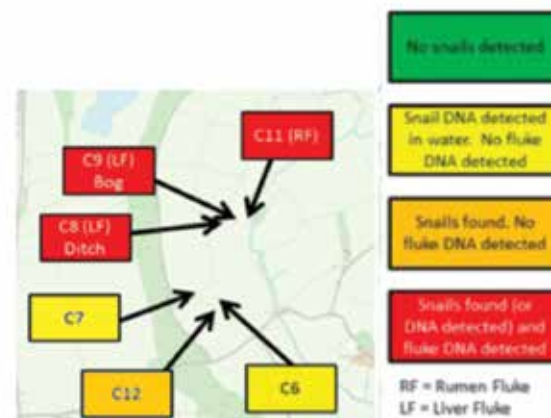
Fortunately this year, the flock of 700 ewes here at Rhiwgriafol have been grazing off farm for the winter before returning home to graze 18 acres of swedes. This has enabled me to reserve grass for the 110 Friesian heifers that we contract rear here. These heifers will be turned out later than scheduled on a strip grazing system from the beginning of April. After mucking out and disinfecting the sheds, 350 twin bearing ewes will be brought in to lamb whilst the remaining ewes lamb in sheltered fields close to the farmyard.

As a Farming Connect demonstration farm, we have been looking into the main factors that influence the profits and efficiency of the business. One of these projects looked at tackling lameness within the flock. Before commencing the project, around 8-10% of the sheep were lame, and it was time to find out the cause for the lameness and how to treat and avoid it. By following the 5 point plan and with the help of our local vet, the number of lame sheep has now fallen to less than 1%, which makes treating sheep much easier as well as increasing flock efficiency.

Looking ahead to 2018, one interesting project we're hoping to trial is transforming 32 acres of the farm from a set stocking system to cell grazing. I hope this will enable me to increase the farm's stocking levels as well as improve grass management.

An Example of the Mapping Results

Liver fluke has a complex life cycle and is reliant on the mud snail *Galba truncatula* to maintain and multiply the parasite. Whilst these snails are seen in areas of wet habitats such as ponds, stream edges and ditches, not all suitable snail habitats on a farm will be inhabited by snails and only a minority of snails will actually be infected by liver fluke.



It has been interesting to note that the mud snails require 'bare' mud to survive and have not been found in the type of habitat typically associated with liver fluke infections i.e. thick rushes. Farming Connect will hold numerous open events in May and June to discuss the findings of this project and to discuss how following veterinary advice late spring/early summer can be a good time to target the treatment of livestock against liver fluke using an appropriate flukicide.

Independent linear assessment and genomic evaluations

Imogen Ward, Farming Connect Dairy Technical Officer

Genomics is the process of identifying the genetic potential of an animal so they can be selected for breeding on the basis of traits they are expected to show. Genomic testing can identify the potential of young animals quickly, helping target specific traits - such as milk yield and feed efficacy. This helps farms to achieve selection goals much quicker than conventional breeding. It will therefore facilitate the swift improvement of dairy cattle for traits of interest to farms and society.

It is also essential to evaluate the genomic linear assessments of cattle to give valuable information on the structural phenotype of the animal. This allows the farmer to breed an animal for example, with the correct stature or chest width or adequate teat length to fit whatever system they operate.

The focus on the majority of female genomic evaluations has been on the overall £GPLI (*Genomic Profitable Lifetime Index*) and less given to the genomic linear type information provided. However, as there is a weighting for £PLI (*Profitable Lifetime Index*) of 7% for udder and 5.5% for foot and leg composite scores. Studies have shown when selection for linear

type traits is associated with production traits, greater economic efficiency can be expected. This occurs mainly through the reduction of production costs; for example, those related with veterinary care and medications as well as increasing the productive life of cows in the herd. Linear traits can effectively contribute to the improvement of milk quality by reducing the incidence of problems related with udder health, locomotor system among others. Additionally, selecting for linear traits can aid the growing demand for good management practices and their influence on productivity and welfare of cows.

Two heifers at Farming Connect Demonstartion farm, Ty'r Eglwys, were recently genomically tested and a linear profile for both heifers was generated through the Holstein UK and AHDB Type Merit evaluation service. We can see that there is a large variation in the overall Type Merit score (3.71 point difference) and in the udder and legs and feet composite scores between the two. Heifer A's linear suggests a taller and slightly narrower heifer with a snugly attached udder with

excellent locomotion. Heifer B's linear below suggests a shorter and wider heifer, carrying condition and being coarse through the bone carrying a weakly attached udder with long teats of wider placement. This linear data feeds into the overall £PLI value of the sires therefore validation through independent linear assessment is crucial for accurate sire information and any future genomic sire evaluations. The two heifers will be among a group that will be classified post calving by a Holstein UK classified

during a joint Holstein South Wales and Farming Connect demonstration event at Ty'r Eglwys during the summer of 2018. Farmers will be given the opportunity to compare the genomic linear scores with the actual linear score of the classifier on the day.

Please contact [Imogen Ward](mailto:imogen.ward@menterabusnes.co.uk) for further information

07985 379 819

imogen.ward@menterabusnes.co.uk



Setting lamb growth targets

Menna Williams, Farming Connect Red Meat Technical Officer

A lamb's performance in early life will be determined by the quality and quantity of the mother's colostrum and milk. Peak milk yield occurs three to four weeks post-lambing, so meeting the energy and protein requirement of ewes at this point is crucial in influencing the total amount of milk produced. A lamb's rumen will develop as they take in solid feeds such as grass and creep, and are likely to be fully functioning by eight weeks. As a result, weighing lambs at eight weeks of age provides a good indication of how well ewes have been lactating, if weighing was delayed until weaning the direct influence of the ewe's maternal ability on early lamb growth rates will be missed.

By weighing at eight weeks of age performance can be monitored and targets can be set. Collecting this sort of data can also provide information to help make better decisions next year, e.g if a high percentage of lambs were underperforming at eight weeks of age maybe you need to look into the ewe's nutrition, body condition score (BCS) or health. Having a plan of action in place for the small lambs at 8 weeks of age will hopefully help reduce the number of smaller lambs still left on the farm. For example, weaning lambs early onto good grazing, introducing creep feeding, or selling lambs as stores.

A fine example of setting targets and acting on data is Catrin Jones, Tirlan, Brechfa an upland farm running 450 Beulah speckled ewes. By routinely BCS ewes, strategic worm control, evaluating nutrition and attention to detail she has managed to increase 8-week weights by 3.4kg.

	2015	2017
8-week weight (kg)	16.4	19.8
Weaning weight (kg)	23.2	27.2
% of lambs below target (15kg @ 8ww)	32	16.6

No two farms are the same and your targets may be different depending on the feeds available to you, the breed of sheep you keep, the level of current grazing infrastructure but you should all have a realistic target.

Target of **20kg** for all lambs at **56 days** (eight weeks).



56 days

Target of **30kg** for all lambs at **90 days** (12 weeks).



90 days

With a **4kg birthweight**, this equates to around **285g per day**.

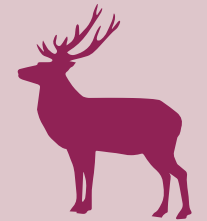
ALTERNATIVE INCOME FOR FARMS VENISON PRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The deer farming industry in the UK is expanding, driven by increased domestic consumption of venison as it's considered a healthy premium red meat option. Retailers are looking to become less reliant on imports making venison an attractive option for farmers.

VENISON FARMING ADVANTAGES

1. Expanding UK industry with strong future growth potential
2. Much lower labour requirement than sheep farming
3. Minimal veterinary/medicine costs



Setting up

1. **Is your farm suitable for deer?** Deer have a strong maternal instinct to hide their calves after birth so areas with cover for calves is desirable.
2. **Your pasture** - Lactating hinds and finishing stock respond well to good quality pasture and will preferentially graze clover and herbs such as chicory and plantain.
3. **Stocking Density** - One hind is broadly equivalent to two crossbred ewes in terms of stocking density so is there enough ground available to make a deer unit viable?
4. **Farming system** - A deer breeding herd has a similar management calendar to a spring calving suckler cow herd.
5. **Breeding Stock** - Source from established deer farms with high health status where possible.

ESTABLISHING COSTS

Yearling Hind	£350 - 500 (productive lifespan approx. 12-14 yrs)
Breeding Stag	£1,500 - £2,500
Fencing	£10/m (1.9m one piece deer net) £6/m topped up stock fence
Handling Facility	£10,000 - 15,000 depending on scale of unit and pen requirements

*information correct at time of publishing (03/2018) Always be aware of the animal health status before purchasing.

Marketing and selling your product

- Where will you slaughter and sell your meat? Find out what the local demand is for the product i.e. private sales, restaurants, butchers
- Decide on your branding, USP's, web design and other routes to market
- Become a member of a producer group with a robust pricing and payment structure
- Farm shops and direct retailing can be rewarding especially for smaller units

For further information contact your local **Development Officer** or contact us on **08456 000 813** or farmingconnect@menterabusnes.co.uk

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Welsh Pasture Project

Preparing for the grazing season ahead

Rhys Davies, Farming Connect Dairy Technical Officer



The busy winter period and routine tasks of feeding, bedding and tending to housed stock can take priority over important planning and decision making regarding the grazing season ahead.

Despite all of this it is important to spend some time planning and preparing for turnout and the first round of grazing to ensure another year of efficient grass utilisation. Weather depending, some early spring calving dairy units will already have cattle out grazing by the end of March. However the key principles are the same whatever system, land and conditions you farm.

Here are some points that all farmers should consider when planning for the year ahead:-

1. Walk the farm prior to turn out

Even if you do not have a measuring tool similar to a platometer or sward stick it is vital that you walk your farm to assess grass cover and conditions underfoot. Field conditions and grass availability may have changed since the last rotation and your closing cover walk. Ideally you should have a wedge of grass ready to go into. A weekly or bi-weekly walk of your fields could be the best grassland management activity you do.

2. Consider soil temperatures

Ensure you apply fertiliser effectively according to RB209 recommendations when soil temperature is a minimum of 5°C with a mild forecast ahead. See the soil temperature map on the Farming Connect website. <https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/information-hub/soil-temperature>

3. Repair grazing infrastructure

Check your water troughs and clean if necessary, check your cow tracks especially main thoroughfares and those that lead to the first few paddocks. Studies have shown that fresh calved cows will be more susceptible to issues like white line disease and solar bruising as the join in the hoof wall weakens during and after calving.

4. Choose a small sacrifice paddock

Letting loose a herd of cows for the first time is as spectacular and uplifting as it is potentially damaging to swards. Allow cows to let off steam in a nearby paddock or field that is not vital to the rotation and be mindful to stock paddocks lighter for the first few grazings to avoid over poaching. Cows can easily graze 5kg of Dry Matter in 3-4 hours and by utilising

on-off grazing and bringing cows back inside on conserved forage, it will help reduce excessive damage to sward and allow the rumen and its microbes some time to adapt from silage to grazed grass.

Make sure you regularly check the **Welsh Pasture Project** website to see how grass is growing in your area and catch a glimpse of key management decisions that are taking place on each of the 14 participating farms.

For further information please contact **Rhys Davies 07985 379 880.**



Good Practice Guidance: Slurry Stores

Keith Owen, ADAS Senior Buildings and Environment Consultant, Wales

The economics of modern farming encourages increasing herd sizes, this in turn requires additional or improved slurry and manure stores. Slurry store construction is subject to the Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (Wales) Regulations 2010, often referred to as SSAFO regulations. These regulations set minimum design and construction standards for slurry stores.

Required improvements to slurry and manure stores can fall into three categories:

1. Increased storage to comply with a minimum 4 months requirement in line with SSAFO regulations, where there is no increase in slurry production.
2. Increased storage to comply with a minimum 5 months requirement, (*under the Nitrate Pollution Prevention (Wales) Regulations 2008*) in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones where there is no increase in slurry production.
3. When a herd size increases or where the quantity of slurry produced is increased beyond the current storage available.

The benefits of a new or improved slurry storage system is to be able to store safely valuable nutrients, reducing the dependency on manmade fertilisers, and to protect the environment. New stores are often larger than existing ones as there are legal requirements for freeboards, which help to protect against risk of catastrophic collapse, or overflow.

THE PLANNING SYSTEM – planning permission

The planning process exists to make sure that proposed development is suitable in terms of land use, scale and impact of development. Slurry stores can be large civil engineering projects which visibly cover large areas, and generate significant volumes of traffic, therefore it is advised that pre-planning application advice is obtained.

MAKING YOUR APPLICATION

It is important that you are clear in your planning application whether you are increasing the amount of slurry produced or improving existing facilities. In all cases the siting of the store is critical.

Practical consideration should be given to issues such as gradients, distances to fields, neighbours, watercourses, ecologically sensitive sites and impact on the landscape. For developments over 200 metres from a neighbouring residential property or protected building,

the need for a lagoon cover or other management intervention to deal with flies and odours is less likely. If the development is within 200 metres, an Odour Management plan may be required and you should contact your local Environmental Health Officer. For designated protected areas, advice is available on the Natural Resources Wales website.

When making an application involving an increase in slurry production it is recommended that a whole farm plan is included in the design and access statement.

The whole farm plan should include:

- The environmental benefits from your scheme e.g. hedge management to reduce visual or nuisance factors.
- How manure and dirty water is to be managed
- The balance between the amount of manure produced and the bank of land available for spreading. Any plan able to show the application of less than 250 kilogrammes of Nitrogen per hectare of organic manure would be evidence of agricultural beneficial and good practice.

Free advice is available

Planning guidance is available on the Planning Portal website
<https://www.planningportal.co.uk/>

Construction industry Ciria Guidance **Livestock manure and silage storage infrastructure for agriculture (C759)**. https://www.ciria.org/Resources/Free_publications/Farms.aspx. This is in two parts Part One gives a background on legislation and the various types of storage systems and Part Two offer specific guidance for store types, bedding systems.

Legal obligations for Slurry storage (SSAFO) The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agriculture Fuel Oil) (Wales) Regulations 2010. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/1493/contents/made> Farming Connect also has a factsheet on the website.

It is important that you seek professional advice for their design and construction. Farming Connect offers an advisory service which could help save significant time and money and future proof your storage requirements. By making improvements to yard areas and water management it may be possible to reduce your storage requirements significantly before making any costly infrastructure changes. For more information, contact **Farming Connect** on **08456 000 813**.

Alternative forage systems for marginal land

Intensification of farming practice has resulted in the decline of species-rich, permanent pasture into fields of one or two grass species. Species-rich grasslands were once common across the UK and supported pastoral agriculture, healthy functioning soil, and diverse flora and fauna.

This spring, three upland farms in the South Wales Valleys will be reseeding 4-5 ha of marginal upland with a multi species ley alongside a conventional ryegrass/white clover ley to compare outputs from the two systems as part of a 3-year EIP project.

Project Design

- Fields will be sprayed with glyphosate to destroy the existing grass before being cultivated.
- 50% of the fields will be sown with a multi species ley containing 5 grass species, 3 legumes and 3 herb species, and 50% will be sown with ryegrass and white clover mix at 14kg/acre.
- An assessment in year 1 will be made on how well the seeds establish and how they outcompete the undesirable weed grasses and broadleaved weeds.
- In year 1, 2 and 3 the project will monitor forage production and quality, stock performance and invertebrate populations in the new leys.



Welsh landscapes vary significantly in soil quality and fertility, therefore understanding the effectiveness of different sward compositions will allow more efficient, targeted approach to sowing grass on marginal land.

If increased floral diversity can also reduce lamb finishing times and/or improve animal health, a true multi-species grassland could offer the potential to manage marginal land in Wales for both production and general biodiversity.

Learn more about EIP Wales

With funding of up to £40,000 available for projects that can run for a maximum of 3 years, EIP Wales is a great opportunity for farmers and foresters to test new technologies, products or techniques and put their ideas into practice.

Email eipwales@menterabusnes.co.uk or go to www.gov.wales/farmingconnect for more information.



Do you want to venture into running your own farm or forestry business someday? Do you want to scale down or take a step back from the industry? Why not consider a joint venture?

Venture is a matchmaking service 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 and help them set up a joint venture.

Summary of Current Opportunities

Location	Size of Holding (hectares)	Sector	Venture Reference Number
Welshpool	152 ha	Beef & Sheep	222
Cardiff	2 – 120 ha	Sheep <i>(but potential for other activities)</i>	259
Newtown	102 ha	Beef & Sheep	229
Carmarthen	40 ha	Sheep	105
Carmarthen	36 ha	Beef & Sheep	244
Llanfyllin	29 ha	Forestry	220
Carmarthen	185 ha	Dairy	121
Haverfordwest	70 ha	Beef & Sheep	112
Haverfordwest	24 ha	Horticulture	87
Welshpool	325 ha	Sheep	124
Aberystwyth	650 ha	Sheep	265
Caernarfon	86 ha	Sheep & Pigs	300
Denbigh	140 ha	Sheep	273
Hay on Wye	60 ha	Horticulture, Beef & Sheep	169
Lampeter	41 ha	Beef <i>(formerly)</i>	177
Wrecsam	202 ha	Dairy	276
St David's	1.2 ha	Horticulture	239
Llangadog	38 ha	Sheep	47

If you are interested in viewing the full profiles for any of the opportunities listed above, join the Venture programme as a Seeker by completing your profile on the Farming Connect website.

You can also enrol this way if you're an Opportunity Provider and wish to advertise your opportunity with our database of Seekers.

www.gov.wales/farmingconnect

OBTAINING A ROUND WOOD TIMBER SUPPLY: Advice for Biomass businesses

Geraint Jones, Farming Connect Forestry Technical Officer

Engagement and discussion of the timber volume needs of heating systems should take place with timber suppliers as early as possible in the planning process. The amount of biomass in terms of M3, specification and the resources available locally should be discussed. Delivery vehicle, notice period and type of contract are details which will help determine the logistical design and layout of the facility e.g. log stacks location, access and yard area.

It's important to manage a steady source of supply and implement quality control that will keep haulage costs down and secure a quality product for your biomass system.

Look to resources available in your area and for opportunities to engage with the following:

- Timber Estates
- Woodland Managers / Agents / consultants / Foresters
- Managing your own woodlands
- Managing neighbouring & privately-owned woodlands
- Local Arboriculture Businesses
- Local farmers and woodland owners
- Forestry companies
- Timber Contractors



Key points to consider:

- Plan logistics and storing of the timber taking into account yard space and hard standing preferably concrete and clear of mud and stone material that could be detrimental to processing performance.
- Check timber loads to make sure that you've ordered what's being delivered.
- Check for any debris clinging to timber and carried in with the load.
- In the planning stage remember to take into account access to the site and infrastructure compatible with increased traffic load.
- Take every opportunity to buy stock when it is available.
- Carry as much stock as you can to compensate for periods when supply is short and to condition the fuel to low moisture content.
- Ensure that the timber has originated from a sustainable source and that the felling is approved and authorised by Natural Resources Wales or Local Authority Planning.

Will you be applying sulphur this spring?

Gethin Prys Davies, Red Meat Technical Officer

As a result of the decline in heavy industry and more stringent pollution control measures, there has been a significant decline in sulphur dioxide emissions since the 1970's. This in turn has had a significant impact on the amount of sulphur deposited on land from the atmosphere, with current levels less than 10% of what they were in 1980. Average deposition across the UK is around 6kg S/ha.

With this in mind, last year Farming Connect demonstration farmer Paul Williams decided to look into the S status of his farm.

“Knowing that sulphur is quite soluble and prone to leaching I thought it would be worthwhile to look into it in some detail, especially with the recent wet winters we have had!”

As part of the farm's NMP, inorganic sulphur has been applied to grazing and silage fields annually for the last 6 years, but as it is not shown on the standard soil test which typically includes pH, P, K and Mg status Paul wanted to get a clearer picture of sulphur levels on his farm. This was done by taking herbage samples from the fields which was then sent away to a laboratory for analysis.

The table below shows the results of the 4 grass fields sampled last year.

Field	N:S Ratio	Sulphur DM
1	13.3 : 1	0.180%
2	9.3 : 1	0.237%
3	8.9 : 1	0.317%
4	10.4 : 1	0.286%

Sulphur deficiency is indicated by a nitrogen:sulphur ratio of 13.1 or above, or sulphur levels of less than 0.25% DM. As the table shows, despite annual sulphur applications, sulphur levels in one field was well below the desired 0.25% DM and another marginally under. As a result of these findings, Paul will be sampling more fields this year and amending his sulphur application policy accordingly.

More information on sulphur can be found within the 'Sulphur for Grass' factsheet available on the Farming Connect website.



24 hours Post Calving

Abby James, Farming Connect Dairy Technical Officer

Transition of dairy cows is often thought of as three weeks before calving with cows returning to the herd 12 hours later but should include three weeks post calving.

Ideally cows should calve within their dry group and moved to the fresh group but space and time can be a barrier to a fresh group being set up and each farm has to have a system that works for them.

A fresh cow protocol based on observation can save time and will lead to a better lactation. This starts with an assessment in the first 24 hours to identify high risk cows which will require further monitoring. A cow which had assistance in calving, twins and/or a retained placenta should immediately be placed on a high-risk list, as should lame cows or cows generally not right or slow moving.



A cow at calving has a natural depression in rumination with cows stopping ruminating an hour before calving and resuming about 3 – 4 hours post-calving depending on management. Increasing the speed of returning to full rumination reduces many post-partum diseases. A cow with poor rumen fill needs further monitoring and it is essential that dry cows, calving cows and fresh cows are kept eating. An assessment of manure consistency and amount should also be made with abnormal cows (*too loose to form a pile*) put on the high-risk list. A detailed milk examination in the parlour should identify mastitis, blood in quarters and udder fill with problem cows put on list.

The high-risk list should receive further checks which include temperature - above 39.4C is considered a fever, skin tent test for dehydration (*stays up for more than 5 seconds*), cold ears for milk fever and ketone levels can be checked with on farm test kits available. Cows with a diagnosis should be treated, a cow without a diagnosis should be re-examined the following day.

(References: *feeding signals*, Jan Hulsen 2014; *A Veterinary Book for Dairy Farmers*, R.W.B Lowey 1999.)

Growth and Efficiency in Finishing Pigs

Jodie Roberts, Pigs and Poultry Technical Officer

There are many factors to consider when deciding the right time to market your pigs. Marketing pigs earlier reduces kilograms sold and keeps overhead costs high but keeping pigs past their optimal weight may not cover the expense of the extra feed or management of the pig. It is therefore crucial when finishing pigs to manage them carefully so that they are marketed at the most appropriate time to generate the best margin for the pig producer.

Management of the pig unit will influence the marketed product at the end of the pig's lifetime. Pig producers should consider how their genetics, diet formulation, building design, environment and disease control can affect the growing pig. Differences in breed, feeding strategies and management will have a major influence when finishing pigs and will impact on the profitability of the pig business.

Join Farming Connect at the RWAS Spring Festival 2018 for an opportunity to increase your pig knowledge.

WHEN?	WHERE?	WHAT?
Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th May	Pig Section, Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd	Demonstrations and one-to-one sessions with experts in the pig industry including renowned pig vet Bob Stevenson.





Have you got what it takes to be a rural leader or agricultural entrepreneur? The search is underway for the Agri Academy Class of 2018!

Regularly quoted by past candidates as 'life changing' this unique programme which takes place over three short, action-packed study periods and overseas visits, gives individuals selected the inspiration, confidence, skills and networks they need to become future rural leaders, professional business people and entrepreneurs.

There are three programmes to choose from.

Rural Leadership Programme - aimed at inspiring and developing a new generation of leaders in rural Wales.

Business and Innovation Programme - aimed at supporting and inspiring the next generation of farming and forestry innovators and entrepreneurs in Wales.

Junior Programme - aimed at supporting young people aged between 16 and 19 years who hope to follow a career in the food, farming and forestry industries.

Here is what some of last year's successful candidates had to say.

GARETH THOMAS, Cemaes Bay, Anglesey (Age: 22)



Business & Innovation 2017

Acknowledging that his Agri Academy experience was 'amazing', an unexpected bonus was finding a new business partner! Gareth and similarly ambitious young farmer Jim Ellis from Pwllheli met on the Academy and have joined forces for a new start-up energy health drinks business.

"I didn't know what to expect, but the Agri-Academy has extended my knowledge of the industry and it's given me tremendous confidence. I've met so many fantastic new people who have encouraged and inspired me".

JOHN GOODWIN, Presteigne (Age: 45)



Business & Innovation 2017

"Personal development is important at every stage of life, and I think it is the combination of a mix of age groups, all from differing backgrounds, and a very well-planned programme of training and activities, which makes this programme so successful".

"We all made lifelong friends, we keep in touch and also plan to set up a new Agrisgôp group."

TELERI FIELDEN, Nant Gwynant (Age: 27)



Rural Leadership 2017

Teleri found the study visit to Brussels particularly inspirational.

"It was empowering to realise that the issues we discuss at home within our farming unions and our young farmers clubs can influence policy decisions in the future."

"We've now had the training and support we need to ensure we speak up for what we believe in. I know we will contribute to intelligent, balanced conversations with each other, our rural communities and with the policy leaders tasked with deciding our future."

GARETH DAVIES, Howey, Llandrindod Wells (Age: 46)



Rural Leadership 2017

"The Agri Academy has given me a new sense of optimism and now I intend to grab every opportunity that comes my way."

Gareth has also realised that any perceptions he had about the Agri Academy being just for young farmers were completely wrong!

"Being part of the Academy has surpassed all my expectations. For the first time, I've taken charge of my own personal development. The friends I've made, the mentoring and the training I've had has given me more than I ever expected"

MORLEY JONES, Sennybridge (Age: 17)



Junior Programme 2017

The last twelve months have been pretty intensive for Morley Jones, but there's no sign of the pace slowing down any time soon! Morley has set his sights on being a vet in rural Wales. In addition to being inspired by the many mentors and farmers he met through the programme, he is particularly grateful to have been offered work experience within the Welsh Government's chief veterinary office this spring.

"Proven work experience is one of the most valuable elements on any CV, so I'm very grateful and looking forward to that. Being part of the Junior Academy has helped me appreciate how important it is to widen your network, to listen to new ideas and voicing your own opinions."

For further information, eligibility criteria, application forms and to read more of what the previous members have to say, visit the Farming Connect website or contact your local Development Officer. Closing date for applications is **Friday 30th March**.

Events Timetable

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	CONTACT
27/03/18 10:30-12:30	Is autumn block calving for me?	Canolfan Hermon, Glogue, Pembrokeshire, SA36 0DT	Abigail James 07399 970 988 abigail.james@menterabusnes.co.uk
04/04/18 11:00-13:30	Feeding a Compact Total Mixed Ration (TMR)	The Elephant and Castle, Newtown, SY16 2BQ	Rhys Davies 07985 379 819 rhys.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
05/04/18 12:00-15:00	Compact Feeding - The benefits if the Danish dairy cow nutrition method	Raglan Market, Raglan, Monmouthshire, NP15 2BH	Imogen Ward 07985 379 819 imogen.ward@menterabusnes.co.uk
20/04/18 11:00-14:00	Improving the public perception of the dairy industry	Tŷ Tanglwyst Farm, Pyle, Bridgend, CF33 4SA	Imogen Ward 07985 379 819 imogen.ward@menterabusnes.co.uk
25/04/18 11:00-13:30	Genomic Testing of heifers to improve productivity and animal health	Shordley Hall, Wrexham, LL12 9RT	Rhys Davies 07985 379 880 rhys.davies@menterabusnes.co.uk
23/04/18 19:30	Muck Management	Royal Oak Hotel, Welshpool, SY21 7DG	Jodie Roberts 07896 996 841 jodie.roberts@menterabusnes.co.uk
30/04/18 19:30	Muck Management	Llandewi Parish Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 6SE	Jodie Roberts 07896 996 841 jodie.roberts@menterabusnes.co.uk
17/05/18 13:00-16:00	Wales Farm Safety Partnership Health and Safety Awareness Event	Glynllifon, Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor, Ffordd Clynnog, Llandwrog LL54 5DU	Farming Connect 08456 000 813
17/05/18 13:00-16:00	Wales Farm Safety Partnership Health and Safety Awareness Event	Gelli Aur, Coleg Sir Gâr, Golden Grove, Carmarthen, SA32 8NJ	Farming Connect 08456 000 813



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WALES MASTER GRASS
GRAZING FOR PROFIT

THE SEARCH IS ON FOR
WALES' GRASSLAND
MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS

Have you got a good understanding of grassland management and keen to develop this further?

Are you eager to learn and to adopt the most up to date grassland management techniques to make the most of the land you manage and increase profit from grass?

Farming Connect are looking for a total of 30 Grassland Management Specialists to attend a 3 day workshop (15 successful applicants per workshop):

16 - 18 April 2018 (Dairy)
Gelli Aur, Carmarthen, SA32 8NJ

21 - 23 May 2018 (Beef & Sheep)
Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor, Glynllifon, LL54 5DU