

THE MAGAZINE FOR FARMING & FORESTRY IN WALES

FARMING connect



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08456 000 813

Meet our Mentors

17 new mentors have been added to the framework

Master Grass

Grazing for profit - Update from our Beef & Sheep Event



Students and staff at Coleg Glynllifon have been busy using the new technograzing equipment and fencing that has been recently installed to manage 30 beef suckler cows and calves along with a flock of 275 ewes with 400 of this year's lambs on a 20-ha intensive rotational grazing platform. To help manage the stock as they move through individual cells and lanes of permanent and semi-permanent fencing, grass is measured weekly with a plate meter and interpreted using the Beef and Sheep function on Agrinet. Glynllifon's grass growth information can be seen on the Welsh Pasture Project website which allows farmers from across Wales to gauge grass growth in their area.

As with most farms, grass growth at Glynllifon was very slow at the turn of spring and in the last week of April it was only growing 17KgDM/Ha/Day and within a short space of a month this flew up to 103.9 KgDM/Ha/Day. Ewes are turned into target covers of 2400KgDM/Ha and moved to a fresh cell when they've grazed down to around 1300-1400KgDM/Ha. Stocking rate per Ha is currently running at 2244 KgLW/Ha on an average pasture cover of 2296KgDM/Ha for the techno platform.

Attendees of the recent Farming Connect Master Grass workshop were given the opportunity to use some of the excellent teaching facilities and an opportunity to see the technosystem at work to gain further in-depth knowledge on efficient grassland utilisation and increasing the KgLW produced per Ha using Wales' cheapest and most abundant feed source.



RHODRI OWEN
Farm Manager, Glynllifon
Farming Connect Innovation Site

New training courses introduced to provide businesses with the right skills

New courses have been introduced to the Lifelong Learning and Development Programme approved course list, most of which are **subsidised by up to 80%**. These courses have been introduced by Farming Connect to offer more to individuals wanting to develop or learn new skills.

These new courses will be available to apply for during the next funding Application Window which opens on **Monday the 1st of October 2018** for 4 weeks and include:

- Advanced Cattle Foot Trimming
- Planning diversification or a new enterprise on farm
- Brushcutters and Trimmers
- Mastering Medicines

Before you submit a funding application you must complete a Personal Development Plan (PDP). If you require any support completing the PDP please check out the website for future PDP events that will be coming up in October 2018.



Always speak to your local Training Provider to discuss your training needs and to ensure that you are applying for the correct course. The full list of courses and contact details for all Training Providers can be found on the website.

E-learning

If you don't have time to complete face to face training, try out some free e-learning courses. Course topics range from Dairy Herd Nutrition, Beef Herd Fertility, Seasonal Reproduction in Ewes, Quarantine Units, Using Recommended Grass Lists, Farm Finance and Health and Safety.

Courses only take around half an hour to complete and contain a quiz at the end to test how much you have learnt.

In order to access your PDP, e-learning courses, funding application form and CPD record you must be registered with Farming Connect, receive your BOSS confirmation email from the Service Centre and sign into the Business Wales BOSS website.

For more information please see the website
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/face-face-training>





MEISTR AR BORFA CYMRU
PORI AM ELW
WALES MASTER GRASS
GRAZING FOR PROFIT

Master Grass - Grazing for profit - *Beef and Sheep*

RHYS DAVIES – Farming Connect Dairy Technical Officer

Twenty leading beef and sheep farmers from across Wales recently attended a three-day intensive Master Grass workshop at our Innovation site, Coleg Glynllifon, to further develop their rotational grazing strategies for herds and flocks. The key workshop theme was on growing more grass and utilising more of it through careful management of livestock on grass whilst adhering to the 3 golden rules of good rotational grazing management.

1. Grass grows Grass
2. Moving stock on time
3. Rest

The workshop was split into three sections with day one delivered by Charlie Morgan who explained the importance of soil quality and its management whilst also interpreting the attendee's swards and their soil analysis. Later that evening a farm visit was kindly hosted by the Parry family at nearby Orsedd Fawr where a Farming Connect Demonstration site project highlighted the benefits of rotational grazing on total Kg LW produced per hectare under an organic beef system.

James Daniels from Precision Grazing led the discussion on day two and three, where the intensive cell grazing system and its

infrastructure were demonstrated using the newly installed 18 Ha technograzing platform on the college farm.

Adequate voltage and being well earthed, with a good water supply is key for any successfully managed system. During the evening session, Farming Connect Mentor Richard Rogers from Anglesey discussed how he manages his dairy beef bulls along with costings on a managed rotational grazing system. The final day's focus was on measuring and interpreting grass growth data and the resulting management decisions needed to ensure quality pasture was always in front of growing and lactating animals. There was also an opportunity to calibrate and use plate meters to help visually assess grass covers on each lane, knowing the availability of grass in Kg DM/ Ha is vital for the sensible allocation of grazing for stock.

The workshop closed with each attendee challenged as to how they would further improve their current systems and to become Master Grass ambassadors to the rest of the Welsh red meat industry on low cost, grass-based production systems in the ever-uncertain landscape of a post Brexit beef and sheep sector.

Attendees assessing soil type, compaction and predominant species on their own swards



Learning the useful skill of handling a live electric fence to aid moving stock



Different plate meter types and use



A Master Grass event for beef and sheep farmers will take place on **29th and 30th August** at Innovis.

Visit our website
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/wales-master-grass>
for more information and to apply.



SAVING LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

30 people were killed within the agricultural, forestry or fishery sectors in the UK from April 2016 to March 2017.

Those were the startling facts shared during the 'Saving Lives and Livelihood' events held by Farming Connect in conjunction with the Wales Farm Safety Partnership.

On average 9 farmers are killed on farms in the UK per 100,000 workforces compared to 2 workers within the construction industry.

Attendees saw the practical sessions brought from the farmyard to Glynllifon and Gelli Aur. Farmers commented on how useful the sessions had been; attendees were grouped and moved around different safety workstations to learn more.

Safe handling of livestock and reducing risk was demonstrated using a cattle crush at one of the workshop stations. Another station provided information on how to operate an ATV or quad bike safely, by using your own

body weight to adjust and counter balance steep hills and rocky terrain. Attendees were also provided with details on the correct protective clothing, including helmets that must be worn by all.

Farm machinery and a tractor was used at the third safety station to demonstrate how to stay safe whilst working the machinery and handling chemicals whilst spraying on the farm.

"We were delighted by the response from farmers across Wales," explains Sara Jenkins, Development Manager for Farming Connect. "We're pleased to be working with the WFSP to realise the partnership's aim of reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries that occur on farms in Wales each year."

In-line with the WFSP key focus area for summer and autumn 2018, there will be an increased emphasis on keeping children safe and working at heights at these events:

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
28/08/18	Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells	13:00 – 16:00
29/08/18	Rhuthin Livestock Centre, Ruthin	13:00 – 16:00
24/10/18	IBERS, Aberystwyth University, Plas Gogerddan	13:00 – 16:00
w/c 22nd October	Abergavenny	13:00 – 16:00

Individuals registered with Farming Connect can access:

- Up to 22.5 hours of mentoring from a Health and Safety Mentor
- Access to a Health and Safety e-learning module
- Up to 80% funding towards a range of accredited training courses

For further details, or to attend a 'Saving Lives and Livelihood' event, visit: www.gov.wales/farmingconnect or contact 08456 000 813.



Antibiotic awareness - Antimicrobial Use (AMU) Calculator
Imogen Ward - Farming Connect Dairy Technical Officer

The O'Neill report highlights the need to reduce antibiotic use due to increased antibiotic resistance concerns. There is a need to benchmark antibiotic use but whilst focus is often directed at the pork and poultry sectors, there is an industry wide ambition in Wales for the dairy sector to act responsibly with antimicrobial use.

The UK has committed to reduce antibiotic use in farming to meet a national average target of 50mg/kg by 2018, in line with the recommendations of the O'Neill report. From this, the Antibiotic Project at Goldslands, a Farming Connect Focus Site farmed by Abby Reader and family, was developed to ensure responsible use of antibiotics and improve health and welfare.

Farming Connect worked with the farm vets to list all antibiotics purchased from 2012 to 2018, this was then inputted into the Nottingham University and AHDB antibiotic usage calculator which converts the medicine used into measurements of antimicrobial use, mg/Population Correction Unit – PCU, Defined Daily Dose – DDD and use of highest priority critically important antimicrobials - CIAs.

Additionally, a number of farms from local discussion groups have had their antimicrobial use for years 2016-2017 analysed in the same way. Groups will be brought together to review their individual reports and be provided with support to benchmark and consider alternatives to using antibiotics.

Following a session with James Bevan, (University of Nottingham and QMMS Ltd) Professor in cattle health and production, and her farm vet, a number of areas were highlighted. Overall the farm antibiotic usage over the last year was 10.89 mg/PCU, well below the recommended amount. Additionally, use of critically important antimicrobials reduced from 0.3 mg/PCU in 2015-16 to 0.1 mg/PCU during January 17 - December 17. Although this is low, there are still areas to improve such as more effective and efficient use of antibiotics when treating mastitis cases and lameness.

For any further information on antibiotic usage please contact your own farm vet. Farming Connect have upcoming events to discuss the project. Contact **Imogen Ward** on 07985 379 819.

PROSIECTSLYRI PROJECT

Is there a breakthrough
on the horizon?

Prosiectslryri Project is delighted to invite the agricultural industry to Coleg Sir Gar, Gelli Aur a Farming Connect Innovation Site on the 31st August 2018 to an Open Day highlighting the start of the evaluation of our innovative slurry de-watering process.



Having gained funding through the Welsh Government's Rural Communities Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund and Welsh Government, we have been busy with our project partners Power & Water in planning, designing, building and commissioning the plant at the College Farm.

By the end of August, we will be in a position to share the initial findings with all stakeholders and provide guests with an opportunity to see the process in operation. There has been unprecedented interest and expectation in our project and the potential it has to change the way the industry manages slurry on farms. The project will apply innovative and proven concept technology to reduce air and water pollution by reducing the overall volume of slurry by up to 80%. A de-watering and purification system is used to filter slurry, transforming the water to a suitable quality for recycling or discharging to a clean watercourse. The system will also utilise nutrients from the slurry to produce good quality fertiliser that can be easily stored and used at appropriate times of the year. This development process will considerably reduce storage of slurry on farms as well as handling costs.

The Open Day will also highlight good nutrient management practice with traditional slurry management systems and we will have presentations from industry experts as well as representation from NRW, Welsh Water, Farming Connect, AHDB and the Farming Unions available to assist with all nutrient management questions.

Woodland management planning - What is the value of trees to the farm business?

Geraint Jones, Farming Connect Forestry Technical Officer

Forestry has been a forgotten asset on farms. In recent years, demand for timber has increased resulting in significant price increases with fuelwood requirements for biomass systems being a primary factor. This, together with a better understanding of the value of tree multi benefits to the farm business has put trees and farm woodlands into a new context.

Woodlands are an integral component in the farm landscape. Provided they are properly planned and sustainably managed, the planting of trees and woodlands provide multi benefits that will improve the environmental and business performance of the farm holding. Woodlands located in strategic places providing robust shelter can significantly improve the local microclimate for crops and livestock resulting in maximising production and reducing farm costs. Managing varied types of woodland to meet different objectives has a predominant influence over the techniques used to manage the woodlands.

Undermanaged woodlands on farms very often contain poor quality timber with many thinking that their woodlands are unproductive. In reality, the quality and quantity of timber produced will strongly depend on the level of management and intervention. Many other factors can also contribute to farm woodland performance such as soil types, elevation, exposure, and planting the right tree in the right place. Improved farm wood management and development can lead to improved woodland condition. This could provide opportunities to diversify the business, improve and enhance the farm landscape and often the capital value of the farm.

A woodland management plan can identify certain aspects to focus on and provide a clear directive to meet those objectives as well as help identify the pros and cons of implementing a programme of works and relate and convey those objectives in actual economic outputs.

For further information on accessing a **woodland management plan** through Farming Connect, contact us on **08456 000 813**

Evaluating soil mapping options

Making precision farming efficiencies by using variable rate nutrient application relies on having an accurate representation of soil nutrient knowledge across the span of the growing area. Historically, soil sampling involved taking one representative sample in a W pattern across a field, or more recently, grid sampling fields according to GPS points.

It is now possible using Electrical Conductivity (EC) scanning techniques to map precisely how different soil properties vary across a field, and then to divide the field into management zones on the basis of varying soil types. Strategic soil sampling of these management zones will then yield variable nutrient data which can be used to inform variable rate fertiliser applications. This helps to even up crop yields across the field, provides for more efficient nutrient use and is more environmentally friendly.

A Focus Site project at Dudwell Farm looked at two fields where soil samples were taken according to the following guidelines:

1. A field average sample taken in the standard W format across the field
2. Manual creation of soil zones by the farmer using knowledge of field soil variation and old map boundaries and taking zone average samples
3. Two different EC soil scanning companies carried out EC testing to determine the soil zones electronically and then sampled the different zones
4. Grid sampling of the field by splitting into hectare blocks and samples taken from within each grid zone

Results

1. An important observation regarding soil nutrient analyses was that the two companies used slightly different scales which could lead to misleading comparisons and conclusions if the scale was not checked.
2. Manual creation of soil zones by the farmer roughly corresponded with the EC created soil zones but did not provide as much detail on differences across the fields.
3. Applying a blanket application rate of fertiliser according to the field average would lead to fertiliser being wasted in some parts and not enough applied in others.
4. The farmer created zones where nutrients were tested by both companies showed very similar confirming standardisation of results between laboratories.

Financial impact

The cost of the scanning, sampling and testing services from company A and B amounted to £15-£25 per hectare.

The knowledge gained allows the implementation of different management options:

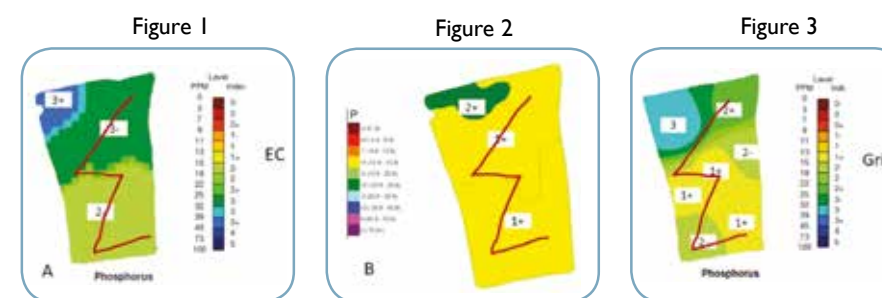
- A more informed discussion between the farmer and the agronomist taking into account a number of factors including soil type, cropping and desired index level in that field regarding the amount of fertiliser to be applied
- In many cases fertiliser is not saved but redistributed to other parts of the field to be used more efficiently by the crop.
- Once target nutrient indices have been achieved then a maintenance rate can be applied across the field.
- Off take maps - farmers with yield monitors on combines can use the approach of replacing the nutrients

taken off to grow the crop in line with RB209 values and then applying those nutrients regardless of the soil sample results. Combining the off-take yield maps together with the soil sample maps generates the most comprehensive nutrient application maps available.

Environmental impact

Adjusting fertiliser application across the field by applying the fertiliser where it is needed by the crop helps ensure that leaching of nutrients is kept to a minimum. Over applying fertiliser where the crop is not able to utilise the nutrients will result in run off and eutrophication of water courses.

Detailed Sampling



Soil phosphorus maps generated by company A and B where field average is index 1

Figure 1: Company A showing EC scanning zones generated

Figure 2: Company B showing EC scanning zones generated

Figure 3: Company A grid sampling to generate zones

Poultry Manure Management

The poultry industry in Wales has expanded significantly in recent years and as a result, poultry manure is more widely available. It is rich in nitrogen, phosphate, potash and many trace elements (*sodium, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, calcium*) and can improve the physical and biological properties of the soil.



USES

- ✓ As fresh manure applied to grassland or arable land
- ✓ Used for electricity production producing ash which can be used as a phosphate and potash rich fertiliser e.g. fibrophos
- ✓ As biochar which can be applied to bean and maize crops as fertiliser
- ✓ As a compost

Composting poultry manure creates a product which is a predictable and reliable source of nitrogen and phosphate which remains as available to the crop as it was when fresh. When combined with other feedstocks e.g. woodchippings, straw and grass clippings it becomes a very good soil improver with better carbon:phosphate and carbon:nitrogen ratio's and good organic matter content. An *added benefit* is the removal of pathogens e.g. botulism due to the high temperatures needed during the composting process.

POULTRY MANURE ON FARM

How good a fertiliser is it?

Compared to farm yard manure at the same dry matter (25% DM), poultry manure has almost double the total nitrogen, three times the phosphate, similar potash, and double the sulphur and magnesium content (*RB209; Section 2, Organic materials pp 15-18*). In general broiler litter can be around 60% DM and layer manure around 30% DM: composition does vary so getting the manure analysed will make nutrient management planning much more effective.



The *availability* of these nutrients to the crop however depends on soil type, rainfall and the time of the year when they are applied. Typically 30% of the nitrogen, if surface applied (*compared to 10% or less for FYM*) is crop available and around 60% of the phosphate and 90% of the potash is crop available (*RB209; Section 2 Organic materials pp 15-18*).

Because poultry manure is so high in available nitrogen there is a restriction on how much can be spread in nitrate vulnerable zones – **check the details** on how much organic manure you can use.

On any farm it is wise to check the soil phosphate, potash and magnesium indexes and draw up a nutrient management plan when considering the use of poultry manure as these indexes will be quick to rise under regular applications to the land. Spreading location and time of application should be carefully considered to minimise any risk of nutrient leaching to watercourses or via run-off. Equipment such as spreaders should be checked to ensure that the manure is evenly spread.

Regulations governing poultry manure mean that it has to pass standards and have approval from the Animal and Plant Health Agency before being sold. Farmers may freely spread it on their own land or supply other farmers without charge providing it does not contain dead birds, large quantities of feathers and cracked eggs which all pose a risk of spreading botulism.

www.gov.wales/farmingconnect



Pasture for pollinators

The dwindling population of wild bees and other pollinators in the UK poses a serious threat to the UK food industry. Bees play a huge role in UK agriculture by pollinating the many vegetables and fruits we eat on a daily basis, as well as some of the food our livestock depend on.

Six dairy farmers who are members of the Calon Wen Milk Co-operative are aiming to boost pollinator numbers on their farms through a 3-year project. More intensive farming and an increase in monocultural grass leys has unfortunately led to habitat loss for UK pollinator species. While there is a great deal of information on enhancing pollinators the majority of these studies have focused on arable or horticultural systems. Little attention has been given to how different farm management options in grass-based livestock farming, which is heavily dominant in Wales, can benefit pollinator populations.

A range of grassland management options will be explored on the six farms located throughout Wales:

Specialised seed mixtures (Herbal Dual Purpose Four Year Ley from Cotswold Seeds): including bird's-foot trefoil, clovers (red, white, sweet and alsike), yarrow, and other species which enhance pollinator populations.

Uncut field strips. Farmers will sow 2 seed mixes, one of which will include the 'new' mix formulated at the project's inception in partnership with a seed company. Trial plots



will be surveyed prior to first cut in late May, then again in June and July.

Late grazed flower rich/semi improved pastures. Potential sites will be identified in year one and base line data collected. The impact of delaying grazing and/or deferring grazing until the following year will be assessed in terms of pollinator populations.

The farmers, together with representatives from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and RSPB are hoping to see that simple changes to grassland management without sacrificing farm productivity and profitability can go hand in hand with bee conservation.

Innovation Broker: Tony Little (ADAS)

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.

17 new mentors have been added to the framework

The mentoring programme is targeted at farmers and foresters of every age and business status, including;

- new entrants
- businesses considering significant strategic change in direction (*diversification, added value, expansion, new enterprises*)
- individuals looking to exit the industry

The service can also be just as valuable for individuals looking for a second opinion, sounding board and support with day to day business.

Our Mentors have 'been there, done that' and can develop relationships 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. They are trained to listen to you, challenge you and expand your viewpoints which in turn may help you find new ways to approach different situations and deal with change.

Visit our website to select your mentors and access the Mentor Directory to read the full profiles of over 60 mentors.

Come and "Meet a Mentor" on our stand at the Royal Welsh Show every day from 2:00 - 3:00.

OUR NEW MENTORS ARE;



KERI DAVIES

- **Sectors:** Beef, Sheep, Arable, Diversification & Renewable Energy
- **Specialisms:** Tourism, Holiday Accommodation, Renewables, EID, Grassland Management, Benchmarking, Succession & Agricultural Contracting
- **Top tip for business success:** "Start with your soils. Every business needs to stand on firm foundations. Make sure all your diversification enterprises are built on the ability to borrow on profitable farm accounts."



ANDY MENZIES

- **Sectors:** Goats & Diversification
- **Specialisms:** Goat breeding, Goat meat production & Developing goat meat products
- **Top tip for business success:** "Always do your homework before you commit to a new venture or enterprise – think through every element of the field to plate process."



JOHN DAVIES

- **Sectors:** Beef & Renewable Energy
- **Specialisms:** Calf rearing, Benchmarking, EID, Solar & Biomass



BRIAN REES

- **Sectors:** Health & Safety, Sheep & Poultry
- **Specialisms:** Farm H&S training and guidance, Organising H&S awareness days & Diversification
- **Top tip for business success:** *"Always make sure that everyone working on your farm is trained or competent to do the job."*



CARYS WYN EDWARDS

- **Sectors:** Beekeeping & Diversification
- **Specialisms:** Starting a bee enterprise, pollination & growing plants for bees
- **Top tip for business success:** *"You will always learn something new from bees, so stay open to new ways of working."*



CHRIS HUGHES

- **Sectors:** Health & Safety
- **Specialisms:** Forestry & Woodland, Renewable Energy, Rural Enterprise & Training
- **Top tip for business success:** *"Only carry out a task if you have the competence to carry it out in a safe and effective manner. In other words, have the knowledge, understanding, ability, training and experience to see the job through safely."*



DELYTH PARRY

- **Sectors:** Agricultural Banking
- **Specialisms:** Succession, Financial Planning, Benchmarking & Business
- **Top tip for business success:** *"There is no such thing as an average farm or an average farmer."*



GARETH DAVIES

- **Sectors:** Beef, Sheep & Diversification
- **Specialisms:** Succession, Holiday Accommodation, Tourism, Personal Development & Benchmarking
- **Top tip for business success:** *"Be positive and look for solutions not problems."*



GLYN DAVIES

- **Sectors:** Health & Safety, Sheep & Agricultural Contracting
- **Specialisms:** H&S training and awareness
- **Top tip for business success:** *"Always consider your surroundings before carrying out any work and take steps to remove or reduce the risks of any particular hazards."*



ILLTUD DUNSFORD

- **Sectors:** Pigs, Sheep Beef & Poultry
- **Specialisms:** Diversification, Charcuterie, Meat processing, Food manufacturing, Retail, Marketing & Biotech
- **Top tip for business success:** *"When it comes to selling to wholesalers or retailers, understanding consumer culture is key."*



IOAN ROBERTS

- **Sectors:** Beef
- **Specialisms:** Native cattle breed, Genetics, Animal Health, Animal Husbandry & Nutrition
- **Top tip for business success:** *"When you're rearing stock, always aim to use the best genetics available within your own breed."*



ALAN PARRY JONES

- **Sectors:** Beef, Sheep, Diversification & Succession
- **Specialisms:** Sheep milking & Organic beef & lamb production



LOWRI REES-ROBERTS

- **Sectors:** Health & Safety, Beef, Sheep & Diversification (hydro scheme)
- **Specialisms:** Health & Safety
- **Top tip for business success:** *"All farmers should be aiming to reduce the risk of injuries and ill health on their farm by identifying the causes, eliminating hazards and controlling risks."*



MARK DAVIES

- **Sectors:** Joint Ventures, Poultry & Renewables
- **Specialisms:** Developing people and profitable businesses
- **Top tip for business success:** *"Pay attention to the details."*



RHYS EDWARDS

- **Sectors:** Sheep, Diversification, Tourism & Renewable Energy
- **Specialisms:** High productivity sheep, Holiday Accommodation, Benchmarking & EID



LILWEN JOYNSON

- **Sectors:** Any sector
- **Specialisms:** Personal Development & Performance Coaching
- **Top tip for business success:** *"Sign up for mentoring to look at your outcomes in details and have someone there to keep your business on track."*



MALCOLM THOMAS

- **Sectors:** Turkeys, Arable, Beef & Sheep
- **Specialisms:** Rearing, processing & selling turkeys, Grazing management, Nutrient Management Planning, Direct sales & Marketing
- **Top tip for business success:** *"Always balance as much advice from experts as you can access with what you learn through your own experience."*



Agri Academy Class of 2018 has been announced!

It was a difficult task to select just 12 candidates for each programme - the Business & Innovation programme, Rural Leadership programme and the Junior programme.

This year's candidates for the Rural Leadership programme included a range of ambitious professionals working in rural Wales including a doctor, solicitor, professor in economics and counsellor, all committed to tackling rural issues in their local areas. Professor Wynne Jones OBE FRAgS, who chaired the Agri Academy selection panel said that the programme is clearly still gaining momentum and was impressed that despite already achieving many of their career goals, people are recognising Agri Academy as an opportunity to progress even further.

TABITHA ANTHONY - Junior Programme



Tabitha Anthony is a farmer's daughter brought up on the family hill farm near Bridgend. Driven by a keen interest in both politics and agriculture, she's intent on gaining as much work experience as she can alongside her academic studies. Her work placements to date have included a stint with a Welsh Assembly Member, an accountancy practice and she also helps out at an artisan ice cream business.

Tabitha enjoys home farming duties, especially during lambing and is a keen member of her local YFC. She is currently focused on her GCSEs, her goal is to study Politics, Psychology and Economics at a Russell Group University.

"I'm very much looking forward to being part of the Agri Academy and believe it will help me further my experience in the industry and business world which will prove invaluable as I strive towards my end goal of a career in politics."

ANNIE JAMES - Rural Leadership Programme



Young wife and mum Annie James grew up on a dairy farm in Devon. After graduating from Aberystwyth University, she worked in partnership with her parents before becoming a herd manager in Devon. Today, she works in partnership with her husband and father at a dairy farm they purchased in Carmarthenshire. Annie is responsible for the animal health aspect of a large dairy herd and works closely with the partners, vets and milking staff.

Annie has always been involved with the voluntary sector in particular working with young people. She hopes that being part of the Agri Academy will help further her ambitions to stand up for issues she believes are critical to the industry in Wales today, particular as the industry faces Brexit and its implications for rural communities.

"I also have real concerns about the lack of mobility in the industry for both young people who can't access land and finance and the older generation who need to retire with dignity."

GARETH WILLIAMS - Business & Innovation Programme



Gareth's progress in farming has been impressive. After completing a HND in 'Agriculture' at Aberystwyth University, he spent some time working as a herdsman and travelling Australia. Gareth became a partner in a dairy joint venture for 7 years, before taking on a tenancy for a 330 acres holding in 2014. Today he milks 280 of his own dairy cows and manages 170 followers near Abergele.

Gareth is looking forward to the next 5 years. As well as ensuring the farm continues on a sound financial footing, he is exploring various models of how he could further grow and considering other investments that would generate a strong cashflow.

"I look forward to meeting business owners who have started with nothing and learning from them how they've survived the downs, and used the ups to forge ahead."

The selected candidates will soon be embarking on an intensive programme of mentoring, support and training from some of the industry's most successful figureheads and personalities. To find out more about the 36 selected, visit the Farming Connect website where you can read their full profiles.

'Farming for the future' ROADSHOW

Join us at one of these events for further information on the substantial level of services and support available to you

- **Future proof** your business ahead of Brexit
- **Access** fully or part funded business and technical support
- **Start** the Farm Business Grant (FBG) application process

IMPORTANT: Eligibility for the Farm Business Grant requires a partner in the business to attend one 'Farming for the Future' event organised by Farming Connect. The individual attending must be registered as a business partner with Farming Connect and Welsh Government Rural Payment Wales.

DATE	LOCATION
21/08/2018	Glasdir, Plas yn Dre, Llanrwst, Conwy, LL26 0DF
23/08/2018	Stradey Park Hotel, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, SA15 4HA

If you wish to access the Farm Business Grant (FBG), this will be your **LAST OPPORTUNITY** to attend a Farming For The Future event which is a mandatory requirement to express an interest in the scheme.

Doors open for each event for **mandatory** signing in at **7pm**.

The events will close at **9.30pm**.

Booking in advance is **mandatory** for these events.



For further information on these events please visit www.gov.wales/farmingconnect or contact us by phoning **08456 000 813** or email farmingconnect@menterabusnes.co.uk

Welsh Government Consultation – Brexit and our land Open meetings with Welsh Government staff

DATE	VENUE
17/09/2018	Llanfyllin High School, Llanfyllin, Powys, SY22 5BJ
25/09/2018	University of Wales Trinity St David, Lampeter Campus, College Street, Ceredigion, SA48 7ED
26/09/2018	King Henry VIII Comprehensive School, Old Hereford Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 6EP
27/09/2018	Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3SY
04/10/2018	Withybush Showground, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4BW
08/10/2018	Liberty Stadium, Plasmarl, Swansea, SA1 2FA
09/10/2018	Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ffordd y Wyddgrug, Rhuthun, Denbighshire, LL15 1EG
10/10/2018	Ysgol David Hughes, Ffordd Pentraeth, Porthaethwy, Anglesey, LL59 5SS
Woodland/Forestry themed	
11/10/2018	Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3SY

7:30 - 9.30pm

Booking in advance is **mandatory** for these events.



For further information on these events please visit www.gov.wales/farmingconnect or contact us by phoning **08456 000 813** or email farmingconnect@menterabusnes.co.uk

Events Timetable

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	CONTACT
02/08/18 11:00-14:30	Great Reseeding	Moor Farm, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3EE	Abigail James 07399 970 988 abigail.james@menterabusnes.co.uk
07/08/18 09:00-17:00	Marketing and Diversification Surgery	Welshpool <i>Location to be confirmed</i>	Helen Lewis 01970 631 425 helen.lewis@menterabusnes.co.uk
08/08/18 09:00-17:00	Marketing and Diversification Surgery	Llandysul <i>Location to be confirmed</i>	Helen Lewis 01970 631 425 helen.lewis@menterabusnes.co.uk
28/08/18 13:00-16:00	'Saving Lives and Livelihoods' - an event in conjunction with the Wales Farm Safety Partnership	Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells. LD2 3SY	Farming Connect 08456 000 813
29/08/18 13:00-16:00	'Saving Lives and Livelihoods' - an event in conjunction with the Wales Farm Safety Partnership	Rhuthin Livestock Market, Parc Glastir, Rhuthin, LL15 1PB	Farming Connect 08456 000 813
21/08/18 09:00-17:00	Succession Surgery	Welshpool <i>Location to be confirmed</i>	Helen Lewis 01970 631 425 helen.lewis@menterabusnes.co.uk
31/08/18 10:00-16:30	Prosiect Slyri Project	Gelli Aur, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA32 8LR	Abigail James 07399 970 988 abigail.james@menterabusnes.co.uk
05/09/18 16:00-19:00	Managing soils for improved performance	Llysun, Llanerfyl, Welshpool, SY21 0EL	Lisa Roberts 07399 849148 lisa.roberts@menterabusnes.co.uk
11/09/18 17:30-22:00	Optimising livestock performance through grass	Rhiwgriafol, Talywern, Machynlleth, SY20 8NY	Lisa Roberts 07399 849148 lisa.roberts@menterabusnes.co.uk
04/09/18 09:00-17:00	IT Surgery	Carmarthen <i>Location to be confirmed</i>	Helen Lewis 01970 631 425 helen.lewis@menterabusnes.co.uk
06/09/18 09:00-17:00	IT Surgery	Haverfordwest <i>Location to be confirmed</i>	Helen Lewis 01970 631 425 helen.lewis@menterabusnes.co.uk
07/09/18 09:00-17:00	Planning Surgery	Carmarthen <i>Location to be confirmed</i>	Helen Lewis 01970 631 425 helen.lewis@menterabusnes.co.uk
11/09/18 09:00-17:00	Marketing and Diversification Surgery	Bangor <i>Location to be confirmed</i>	Helen Lewis 01970 631 425 helen.lewis@menterabusnes.co.uk
18/09/18 09:00-17:00	Marketing and Diversification Surgery	Monmouthshire <i>Location to be confirmed</i>	Helen Lewis 01970 631 425 helen.lewis@menterabusnes.co.uk
20/09/18 09:00-17:00	Succession Surgery	St Asaph <i>Location to be confirmed</i>	Helen Lewis 01970 631 425 helen.lewis@menterabusnes.co.uk
20/09/18 09:00-17:00	Planning Surgery	Llanrwst <i>Location to be confirmed</i>	Helen Lewis 01970 631 425 helen.lewis@menterabusnes.co.uk