



# Protect & Enhance The Farm Ecosystem

Soil health | Mixed farming | Benefits of using rare and native breeds | Managing and creating in-field and semi-natural habitats | Lowering the risk of diffuse pollution (water quality) | Efficient water use (including harvesting and storage) | Natural flood management

## Demonstration network



Best Practice Showcase Farm events

27

attendees

20%

of Our Farms habitat assessment completed

Key words: Soil health, earthworms, dung beetles, habitats

## Mentoring



170 hours of mentoring have taken place



- Lowering the risk of diffuse pollution (water quality) **34.9%**
- Soil health **18.6%**
- Managing and creating in-field and semi-natural habitats **18.6%**
- Mixed farming **14%**
- Natural flood management **7%**
- Benefits of using rare and native breeds **4.7%**
- Efficient water use (including harvesting and storage) **2.3%**

Extracts from mentoring diaries include:

- “Discussed liming and herbal leys, dry weather impacts and small grants.”
- “Discussed the pros and cons of hedgerow coppicing.”
- “Discussed small grant schemes, red squirrel areas, habitat creation and future farm support schemes.”

## Discussion Groups



21 meetings delivering:



17 meetings delivering against Soil Health



2 meetings against Managing and creating in-field and semi-natural habitats



8 meetings against Mixed Farming

Key words: Soil health, grass management, reduce inputs, weather, challenges, targeting, measure and management, infrastructure, soil structure and species biodiversity.

## Agri Academy



Destination: Floating Farm, Rotterdam, Netherlands



Key learning areas:  
Clean and dirty water separation

“Discussed liming and herbal leys, dry weather impacts and small grants.”

## Agrisgôp



6 Agrisgôp meetings have taken place



- Benefits of using rare and native breeds **28.6%**
- Mixed farming **28.6%**
- Soil health **14.3%**
- Natural flood management **14.3%**
- Lowering the risk of diffuse pollution (water quality) **14.3%**

Groups that met during this period focussed on:

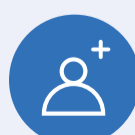
A group of farmers within the Teifi catchment are eager to implement changes aimed at improving the water quality of the river. Possible changes may include the creation of ponds, planting buffer strips, planting trees, fencing off river banks.

Exploring options that reduce the cost of feeding beef and sheep.

## Masterclasses



6 Control of Agriculture Pollution (CoAP) masterclass focusing on lowering the risk of diffuse pollution.



130 attendees

## Skills & Training



**21** 21 new courses have now been added to Farming Connect's training programme.

With wildflower meadows now integrated into many farming systems, there is the option of a one or two day on-site course to help participants develop an understanding of the basic ecology of these and how to maximise the diversity inherent within these natural systems.

Courses include: Soil health, Managing and creating in field and semi-natural habitats, Lowering the risk of diffuse pollution (water quality)

Completed courses include: Safe Use of Sheep Dip

## Advisory Service



### Soil health



27 NMP delivered

### Managing and creating in-field and semi-natural Habitats

**1**

Agri environmental advice delivered

### Water Quality, efficient use of water (in line with the regs)

**62**

Delivered

## Horticulture



Horticulture activity in this quarter focused around the SLM outcomes of Resilient and Productive and Resilient Ecosystems.

Outline of bespoke horticulture training and one to one Business Support:



### Welsh fruit tree grower uses power of nature to control pests.

Coppicing smaller diameter younger trees to produce a woodchip mulch rich in minerals and enzymes is providing a sustainable source of fertility and organic matter for young fruit trees at a Welsh nursery.

Tom Adams is self-sufficient in his own pest controls, growing cultivated and wild flowers to create a diverse insect population including bees, ladybirds, lacewings, butterflies and hoverflies.

"We are mowing less and less to allow more growth to attract those insects," Tom explained.

## eLearning



	9 Courses on offer	2 Completions	2 Businesses Supported
Soil health	<b>10</b>	-	-
Mixed farming	<b>2</b>	-	-
Managing and creating in field and seminatural habitats	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Lowering the risk of diffuse pollution (water quality)	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Claimed courses include: Farming for Pollinators and Reducing Agri-Pollution

