



Ein cyf/Our ref: OAQ(5)0030ERA

Darren Millar AM

27

September 2016

Dear Darren

Following Plenary on 14 September I said I would write to you about the work we are doing with Coleg Llysfasi around precision agriculture.

Coleg Llysfasi, one of the 8 Innovation sites in the first tier of the Farming Connect Demonstration Network, is using DNA technology as part of a project seeking to address the issue of lamb losses in outdoor lambing systems. The technology is being used to determine the parentage of the lambs and in future, as the technology develops, other 'markers' will be included covering muscling and growth, prolificacy and recessive diseases. We expect this project will introduce the wider farming community to this innovative technology and provide them with the knowledge and confidence to look at their own flocks in much more detail, down to the level of the genetic potential of each animal.

Working with the Innovation Sites allows Farming Connect to directly access current research as well as interact with the students within these Higher Education establishments. This facilitates Farming Connects engagement with the farmers of the future who are being educated now on new and up-coming technologies that will shape the future of farming in Wales.

The Knowledge Exchange Hub funded through the Farming Connect programme produces regular technical articles on a host of topics that will be of interest to farmers and foresters in Wales. For example, a technical article on the sensors available to dairy farmers has recently been published and future work will include articles on precision farming in other sectors.

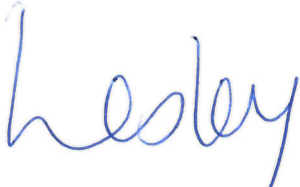
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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Information on the projects being run by other sites across the Demonstration Network is available at <https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/demonstration-network>



Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs