



Added Value of Networking

Success Story

Success Story title *Wales Rural Network Farm Diversification Workshop*

Theme *Network communications and Knowledge exchange;*

NRN *Wales Rural Network* Coordinator *Wales Rural Network*

Partners *Powys LAG*

Period *23rd February 2012* Resources *£955*

Geo-location *'Quackers' Farm Diversification Enterprise, Newbridge on Wye, Powys, Wales*

Beneficiaries *Axis 3 Welsh Partnerships and Axis 4 LAGs, representatives of Axes 1 schemes, Farming Union representatives*

Background

Following a previous 'themed' Farm Diversification event held in March 2011, delegates requested a follow-up event to enable them to consider examples of good practice and jointly discuss what had worked and perhaps more importantly, what had not worked and how hurdles to success might be overcome.

To better achieve this, the Wales Rural Network worked in conjunction with Powys LAG to provide a comprehensive programme to cover all requirements. WRN undertook all logistical elements of the planning process, with Powys LAG Chairing the event on the day, as the meeting venue, itself a Farm Diversification project, was in their area.

Main activities

From the outset it was decided that the Workshop would commence and end with some very brief presentations including one which highlighted a specific Farm Diversification project but the main focus was always to be on group discussion based on a range of specific topics submitted in advance by the delegates themselves.

Having been sent the discussion topics some two weeks in advance of the Workshop, delegates were split into two groups to discuss the key issues in sessions before and after lunch. At the end of the day everybody came together for a feedback session which highlighted the main outcomes and queries which had emerged throughout the day.

Main results/benefits

The main benefits resulting from the Workshop have focused on the opportunity it created for greater networking and discussion between delegates from all areas of Wales. Having discussed the problems each had overcome along with the successes that had been achieved, links were forged which would provide for ongoing discussion long after the actual Workshop had ended.





Contribution of the NSU

It was agreed during the initial discussion that the Wales Rural Network would undertake all the logistical work involved in the actual organisation of this Workshop, this included:

- Identification of appropriate attendees and distribution of diary markers etc
- identification of and subsequent liaison with appropriate speakers,
- liaison with venue
- collation of the delegate list and list of 'discussion topics'
- drafting schedule for the day
- payment of all costs associated with the organisation and running of the event itself

Contribution of the partners

Powys LAG was responsible for the actual running of the event on the day.

Success factors

- Over 30 delegates attended the event from all over Wales
- Enthusiastic and knowledgeable discussion took place within the two groups
- Very positive feedback at the end of the Workshop which included requests that future events be organised and run in a similar fashion
- Improved networking established between Partnerships and LAGs following , and as a direct result of, the Workshop

Additional information

Feedback from the Group Discussion sessions will shortly be loaded on to the Wales Rural Network's website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingandcountryside/ruraldevelopment/walesruralnetwork/?lang=en>

