

## “Inspiring Farmers to Safeguard Soils”

### Newsletter 2

**Welcome** to the second newsletter of the PROSOILplus project. In this newsletter we give you a roundup of the Participatory Research Farm activity.

The focus for PROSOILplus activity is on the six Participatory Research Farms around Wales.



The overall aim of the project is to safeguard soil and optimise nutrient use efficiency from soil on livestock farms. This is being done by carrying out on farm activities according to the objective of these 5 themes:

1. *Managing & protecting landscapes*
2. *Conserving & enhancing biodiversity*
3. *Managing soil to conserve carbon & reduce erosion*
4. *Support co-operation for technology changes*
5. *Improving water surface run-off & managing water to help reduce flood risk*

At **Penygelli** we have started to look at ways of establishing fodder beet for sheep grazing by min-till techniques



At **Gelli Fach**, the activity this year is focusing on multi-species leys established by either conventional cultivation or over-sowing methods



**Lan Farm** is new to the project this year; we are looking at the benefits of red clover, lucerne and ryegrass in monocultures and mixtures



At **Orchard View**, we have been exploring the benefits of chicory and plantain for sheep grazing



At **Bank Farm** a number of cover crops were established by direct drilling either as monocultures or mixtures



At **Rhual Dairy** we have begun looking at the benefits of sowing grass into maize during the summer and autumn.

In addition to these activities, we have small plots on each farm looking at the benefit and influence of lime on soil chemical and physical properties which we have been monitoring. More about this in the next newsletter!

We hope you have enjoyed reading this second newsletter and we look forward to giving you a roundup of IBERS Research activity in our next newsletter. You will find more information on our website [www.prosoil.wales](http://www.prosoil.wales). If you have any queries, please email Jan Newman at [jln@aber.ac.uk](mailto:jln@aber.ac.uk)