

Future Farming Scotland

2018 Evaluation

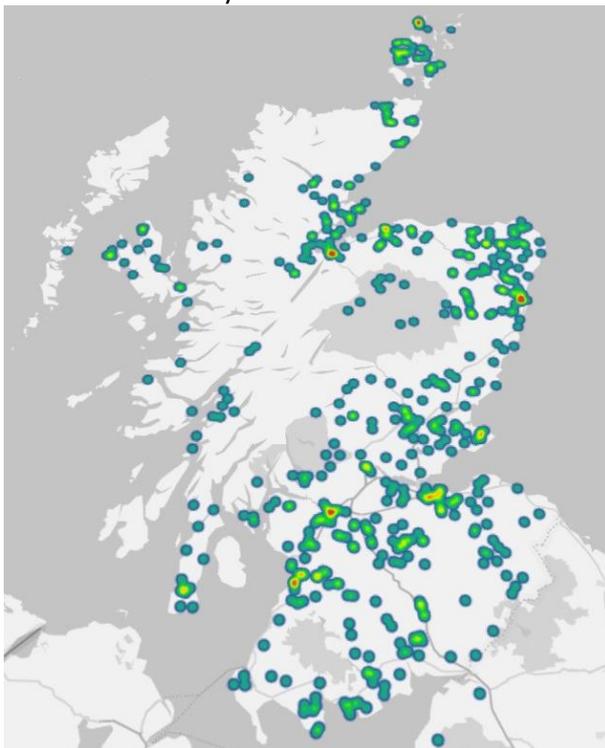


Future Farming Scotland

Is a programme of 58 knowledge exchange events delivered over the past three years throughout Scotland. These are a combination of one-off events and field labs which aim to develop the environmental, economic, and social performance of rural businesses.

Reach

FFS has delivered over a thousand full training days. The events are held throughout Scotland, attracting attendees from all over the country. Land managers in the demographic minority are overrepresented in FFS attendees: 34% are female, 26% are new to farming ($t < 5$ years), and 40% are under 45 years old.



Heat map of event attendee postcodes

Proof of Change

FFS was recently evaluated by Collingwood Environmental Planning. They discovered that a large number of land managers made a change in land management attributable to their

attendance at a FFS event. As expected, the enterprise types with a shorter lead-in time reported the biggest changes.

Who changed management styles due to FFS?

72% of Soil event attendees
67% of Grassland event attendees
35% of Livestock event attendees
24% of Woodland event attendees.

We expected participants to 'test the water' on a small plot of land. However 45% of participants put more than half their land under a new management scheme, and 21% implemented a new regime across their entire holding. Our attendees manage a diversity of holdings, but 30% of these changes affect an area ≥ 30 ha.

Skill Enhancement

Analysis of survey data revealed that participants had changed their attitude most positively towards 'farming and biodiversity', 'farming and climate change' and 'knowledge of other advisory services and support' with 68.1%, 55.9% and 53.4% of respondents respectively answering that they 'feel more positive and more inclined to address this topic on my own farm / holding' following their participation at an FFS event.

25% of people say if FFS didn't exist, they wouldn't have done anything. *"[I would have] muddled along applying artificial fertiliser at great financial cost and inadequate application rate without addressing other health needs of the soil".*

The majority of interviewees reported that FFS allowed them to develop relationships with farmers across Scotland who have different enterprise types to themselves, and many say they would feel comfortable getting in touch with their new contacts spontaneously to discuss a specific query.



Find out more: <https://www.soilassociation.org/>