

Farming with Nature

2018 Interim report

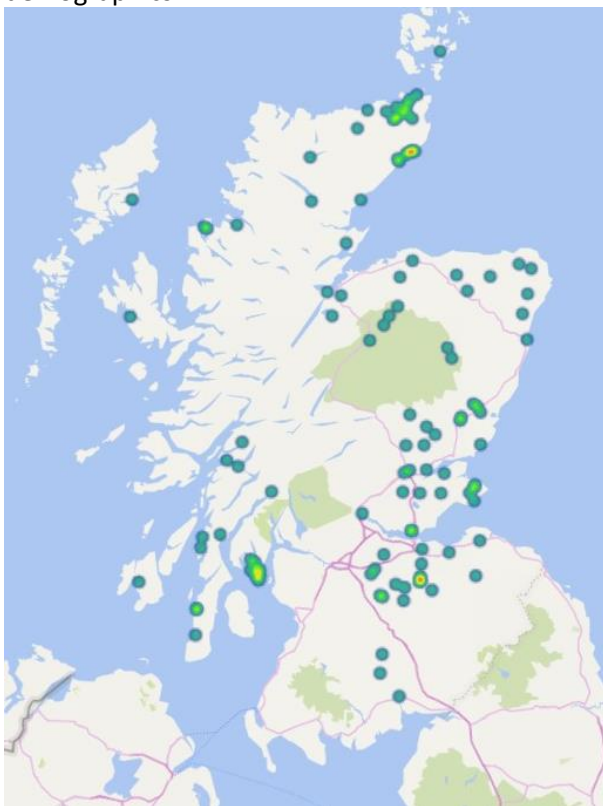


Farming with Nature

Is a three-year knowledge exchange programme in the early-mid stages, which aims to encourage more farmers to generate on-farm and wider ecological benefits through exploration and adoption of innovative farming methods. The knowledge transfer takes the form of a series of events: on farm demonstrations, evening meetings, walk and talk events, year-long investigations, signposting, and the production of supporting resources.

Reach

As of July 2018, FWN has hosted 16 events throughout Scotland, attracting 340 attendees from all over the country. The attendee population broadly matches with national farming demographics.



Heat map of event attendee postcodes

Attendee satisfaction

FWN has attracted 341 unique event attendees, with 6% of attendees attending multiple events in

the programme. Attendees give the usefulness of information at FWN events a high rating (93%), and **88% of attendees pledge to adopt a land management technique they learned at the event on their own holding.**

"I enjoy the events as it helps to relate things on the ground, its useful to see the actual benefits"

Participant testimony

Future Farming Scotland

FWN is less than half way through its timeline. However its sister programme, Future Farming Scotland, is in the final months of its three year cycle. These programmes share goals and approaches, and we expect FWN to mirror the performance of FFS. 13% of FWN attendees have also attended FFS events.

A 2018 evaluation of FFS tested how many people who pledged change during the event went on to implement change. 55% of surveyed attendees went onto make a land management change, with soil event attendees being the highest (72%) and woodland event attendees being the lowest (24%). 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. The majority of interviewees reported that FFS allowed them to develop relationships with other farmers across Scotland who generally have different enterprise types to themselves.



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