

# PATHWAYS TO FARMING LLWYBRAU AT FFERMIO

*Developing and mentoring new horticultural food producers*

**January - December 2024**



## **Introduction**

The aim of the Pathways programme is to increase and strengthen the local food economy by mentoring new horticultural food producers. Growing food for your community can be incredibly rewarding and enjoyable and we aim to support you on your journey!

If you're passionate about growing food and already have some experience with growing and want to grow food to sell, this programme is for you!

The course is free to participants but you will need to be able to financially support yourself for the course duration.

## **About the programme:**

Taught units will be delivered by our Trainer, Mentor and grower, Emma Maxwell from [Ash & Elm Horticulture](#). We will guide you through the process of growing crops for sale and comprises classroom and practical sessions as well as study visits to farms and market gardens. The taught elements will be blended learning – some in person, some by zoom, mostly on Wednesday mornings. This will be combined with some visits to market gardens and some practical training.

### Land opportunities!

We have a limited number of plots to offer (approx. 80m<sup>2</sup> each) at our training field near Machynlleth for you to grow crops for sale over the 2024 growing season. We will mentor you on which crops to grow, planning, harvesting and selling. This is a great opportunity to grow alongside others and contribute to the local food economy. Alternatively, if you have suitable growing land yourself, we can mentor you to produce crops on your own land.

#### You will learn about;

- Agroecological growing methods
- Soil and plant health
- plant science & propagation, crop planning
- Tools and equipment
- Developing a business plan
- Food safety, packaging and labelling
- Accessing markets & sales methods
- Diversification
- And much more!

#### You will gain skills in;

- Practical growing
- Strimming
- Growing food for sale
- Selling your produce





Armed with the knowledge, you will develop your ideas and plan your crops for the season.

### Programme outline



- **Classroom sessions (CAT)** in person or online. During this time you will gain the background knowledge to develop your business idea and business plan.
- **Practical group sessions** at the field in Pantperthog. Supported by our tutor, working at our practical grow site, tuition and guidance on practical growing. A valuable time to connect with other growers, share skills and ideas.
- **Study visits to market gardens/CSAs.** These are fantastic opportunities to see how others grow and learn and gain ideas from other experienced growers.
- **Mentoring** tailored to help you develop your ideas with help and support and advice to find markets to sell into



Aerial view of our training field in 2023

### Who the programme is intended for:

#### Essential:

- A passion for sustainable food production
- The intention to grow food to sell
- A desire to work outdoors & enjoy having your hands in the soil
- Time for you to attend the planned sessions, including the classroom sessions, practical sessions, as some home study and time to grow and sell your produce

#### Desirable:

- Previous experience of growing crops
- An idea of what you would like to grow to sell (*it doesn't have to be a fully formed idea, we can also help you develop your idea during the programme*)

## How much time will I need?

To give you an idea you'll need roughly **Winter/Spring – ½ - 1 day / week and Summer/Autumn - 1 ½ --2½ days a week**. The more you put in, the more you will get out!

	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer																																				
<p><b>Classroom sessions (Provisional timings)</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>In person</th> <th>Where</th> <th>Timings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17.1.23</td> <td>In person - all</td> <td>CAT, Machynlleth</td> <td>10-3.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24.1.23</td> <td>Zoom</td> <td>Online</td> <td>9.30-12.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31.1.23</td> <td>Zoom</td> <td>Online</td> <td>9.30-12.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>07.2.23</td> <td>Zoom</td> <td>Online</td> <td>9.30-12.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14.2.23</td> <td>Zoom</td> <td>Online</td> <td>9.30-12.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17.2.23</td> <td>Zoom</td> <td>Online</td> <td>9.30-12.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21.2.23</td> <td>In person -all</td> <td>CAT, Mach TBC</td> <td>9.30-1.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6.2.23</td> <td>In person - all</td> <td>Ash/elm, Llanidloes</td> <td>10-3.30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	In person	Where	Timings	17.1.23	In person - all	CAT, Machynlleth	10-3.30	24.1.23	Zoom	Online	9.30-12.30	31.1.23	Zoom	Online	9.30-12.30	07.2.23	Zoom	Online	9.30-12.30	14.2.23	Zoom	Online	9.30-12.30	17.2.23	Zoom	Online	9.30-12.30	21.2.23	In person -all	CAT, Mach TBC	9.30-1.30	6.2.23	In person - all	Ash/elm, Llanidloes	10-3.30		✓	✓	
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<p><b>Practical group work sessions at our training field for plot holders (Pantperthog) (½ day / month)</b></p>		✓	✓	✓																																				
<p><b>Raising, tending &amp; selling crops</b></p>			✓	✓																																				
<p><b>Practical horticulture training at Cae Felin, Llanidloes (3-4 sessions over the season)</b></p>			✓	✓																																				
<p><b>Farm visits - Various (3-4 over the season)</b></p>			✓	✓																																				
<p><b>Market garden placements (Optional) (½ day / week for 3 months)</b></p>			✓	✓																																				

**For an informal chat:** Contact Claire - [claire@ecodyfi.cymru](mailto:claire@ecodyfi.cymru)

**When you're ready to apply:** Complete our application form [here](#)

**Application deadline:** 9am Monday 8th January 2024

**Programme start date:** Wednesday 17th January 2024

**Programme Duration:** 11 months – 17th January – 31<sup>st</sup> November 2024

