

Operational Groups awarded EIP Stage 2 Funding

Operational Group	Project Aims	Lead Applicant
ARCZero	At the start and finish of the project the Operational Group will produce detailed whole farm carbon balance sheets for their six farms which represent a range of farm types in Northern Ireland. They will use this information to develop and test a model which will empower farmers to identify opportunities and develop practical solutions to accelerate their farms towards being net carbon zero.	John Gilliland
Ruminant High Health Group	The Operational Group will develop a data hub to bring together a range of information already available but not collated (for example: animal birth/death, animal movement, laboratory results and medicine use data). This will be used to populate on-farm risk assessments using a digital platform to allow the assessment of infection risks, review medicine use and develop bespoke health plans. The project will provide online dashboards displaying information back to the farmer allowing the benchmarking of animal health measures.	Animal Health & Welfare NI
Water Innovation Network	This Operational Group will develop innovative and integrated solutions which deliver environmental benefits through rivers, and financial benefits to farmers, by using digital technology and nature-based production solutions that protect the water environment whilst maintaining and improving productivity and profitability of the farm business.	Ballinderry Rivers Trust

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Area Regional Control Group	This Operational Group aim to control the spread of the pig disease, Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), in the Cookstown Area through improved biosecurity, a coordinated vaccination programme and enhanced monitoring. PRRS is a viral disease of pigs characterised by two overlapping clinical presentations – reproductive impairment or failure in breeding animals, and respiratory disease in pigs of any age	Pig Regen
Anthelmintic TST Group	This Operational Group will seek to reduce anthelmintic resistance (AR) by determining the feasibility and practicality of implementing targeted selective treatment (TST) of helminths (worms) on Northern Ireland commercial farms. Group members will design, utilise and evaluate relevant targeted TST strategies to better understand the feasibility of widespread use on farms.	AgriSearch
Multi-species Swards for Beef & Sheep	This Operational Group will investigate the feasibility and practicality of incorporating multi-species swards on Northern Ireland commercial beef and sheep farms. It is designed to increase the knowledge of multi-species sward establishment, management in different geographical areas of Northern Ireland, as well as determine their impact on animal performance, enterprise profitability and the wider environment.	AgriSearch
Leatherjacket Mitigation Strategies Group	This Operational Group will test integrated pest management (IPM) strategies to control leatherjackets to below economically damaging levels on grassland farms. To do this they will consider how leatherjacket populations respond to sward age, grazing strategies, soil conditions, weather conditions, biotic factors etc. and investigate how various agronomical activities impact on these populations. They will also consider the feasibility of linking these IPM strategies to a weather-based prediction service.	AgriSearch