



llais ffermwyr Cymru

# Y TIR

the voice of Welsh farming

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## NZ deal shows UK Government willingness to sacrifice farming and food security

THE agreement of a trade deal with New Zealand shows a willingness by the UK Government to undermine UK farming and food security in return for negligible benefits to the economy, the FUW has said.

Responding to the announcement on October 20 that a UK-NZ trade deal has been agreed in principle, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "The UK Government's own figures show that the economic benefits for the UK of this deal are microscopic. That's not surprising given the population of New Zealand is lower than that of Scotland.

"The winners in this deal will clearly be New Zealand as it allows them to up their exports of food to the UK, representing a major threat to Welsh and GB farmers as well as to our food security."

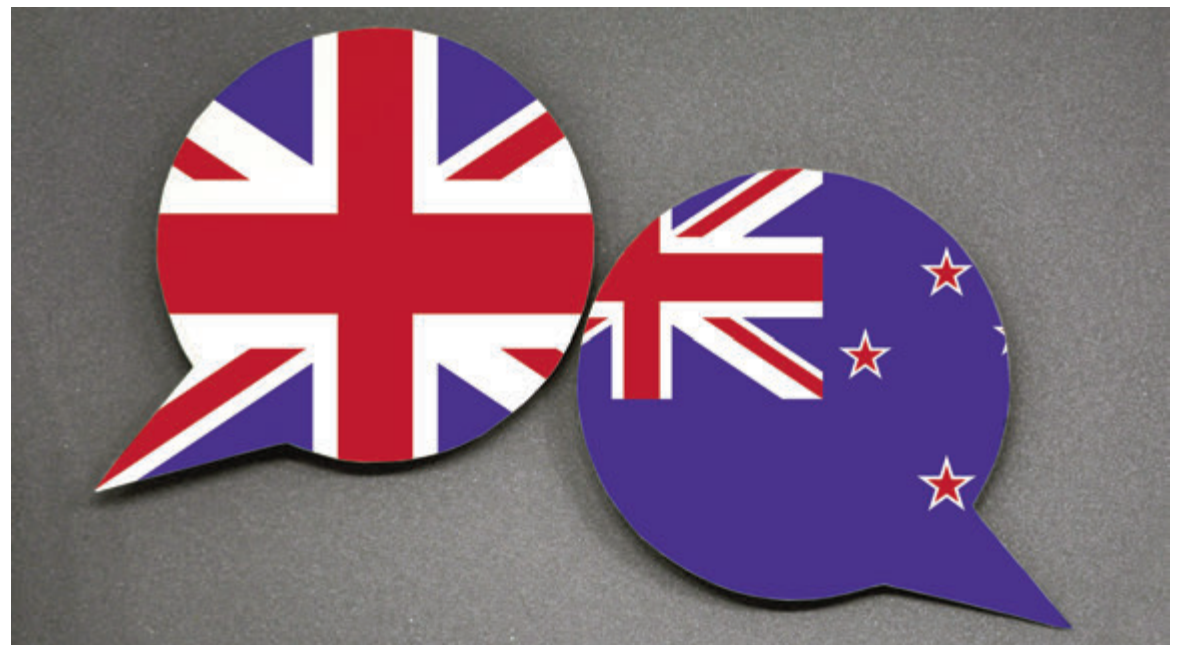
In year 1 the deal would allow a 30% increase in the amount of New Zealand lamb that can be imported to the UK duty free (i.e. without tariffs), with this figure rising to 44% after five years, followed by further increases and ultimately the removal of all limits after 15 years.

Major increases in the amounts of beef, butter and cheese are also included in the deal.

"This deal, coupled with the Australian trade deal announced in June, leaves little doubt that the UK Government is intentionally or carelessly undermining UK agriculture, food production and food security.

"The removal of farm support and increase in red tape and regulations for UK farmers at the same time trade deals are being struck with countries with far lower regulatory standards adds to this impression."

Mr Roberts said the FUW would continue to alert Members of Parliament and Members of the House of Lords of the dangers of the New Zealand and other trade deals, urging them to act in their constituents' and our nations' interests when it comes to decisions in Parliament.



**"This deal, coupled with the Australian trade deal announced in June, leaves little doubt that the UK Government is intentionally or carelessly undermining UK agriculture, food production and food security."**

## Trade relations breakdown must be avoided in NI protocol talks

THE FUW has urged the UK Government to work within the Northern Ireland (NI) protocol and to carefully consider the benefits of the concessions put forward by the European Union - or risk severe adverse impacts for UK businesses from a breakdown in trade relations between the UK and EU.

Following a meeting of the FUW's Presidential Policy Team on October 13, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "During the meeting, members discussed the problems caused by the protocol, the EU's proposals to allay these within the terms of what the UK agreed and signed up to, and the threat for Welsh agriculture and UK businesses of a breakdown in trade relations between the UK and EU.

"It was concluded that the most pragmatic way forward was for the UK to consider the significant improvements put forward by the EU in a positive light, and that Welsh and UK businesses already facing major disruption due to issues such as worker shortages should not be placed at greater risk through the UK seeking to tear up an international agreement on which the ink is barely dry."

Mr Roberts said that attempts by the UK at a wholesale renegotiation of the protocol and its fundamental principles so soon after agreeing it had already brought the UK into disrepute on the international stage and in recent weeks led to stern warnings by US President Joe Biden.

The protocol, negotiated by the UK and EU in 2019 and finalised in December 2020, is designed to avoid the severe repercussions of the creation of an EU-UK hard border on the Island of Ireland by keeping Northern Ireland in the EU Single Market and creating an effective GB-EU customs border in the Irish Sea.

"This means that checks must be carried out on products exported from GB into NI, and we fully acknowledge that these have caused numerous problems for NI businesses importing goods from GB," said Mr Roberts.

The EU responded to the problems and demands by the UK Government by issuing a set of proposals on October 13 it claims could reduce as much as 80 per cent of the GB-NI border checks, and has also offered to change EU regulations that apply to all of its 27 Member States in order to accommodate the proposals.

"Presidential Policy Team members were extremely concerned by the threats and ramping up of rhetoric by the UK Government ahead of the publication of the EU proposals and the degree to which this threatens a breakdown in the trading relationship between the UK and EU.

"This is a relationship upon which tens of thousands of Welsh and UK businesses rely, including farms and food producers," said Mr Roberts.

## FUW UPDATE

# Normality returns, but what about the world of agriculture?

by Guto Bebb, FUW Group Managing Director

IN view of the current figures relating to Covid infections you would be within your rights to question my premise that normality is returning. As I write this (October 21) there were 50,000 new Covid cases yesterday and no fewer than 233 deaths reported in England. This figure is the highest since early March and higher than when we went back into lockdown last year. Should we back mixing as we are?

However, I need to be honest. I am taking a short break in Scotland for the autumn half-term and last week we held our first staff training days for 18 months which indicates that we are slowly getting back to normal despite the risks. Furthermore, we are continuing to relax the rules with regards to being in our offices and on balance, staff seem to be pleased to be back.

In effect, we are all somewhat hypocritical. We can see the figures and point a finger of blame at the decision makers but in our own lives we are increasingly willing to take risks. It is this willingness to behave as if things were normal which allows these worrying numbers in relation to infections, hospitalisations and deaths to be treated as acceptable. And our political masters understand that we are complicit.

This brings me on to the latest trade deal announced on the October 22 - this time with New Zealand. Whilst there are some teething problems with the Australian deal it will, in my opinion, be signed and I do not anticipate any great change compared to the headlines we read when the initial agreement was welcomed so warmly by our Prime Minister.

What is common to both deals is that the economic advantages to the UK economy is negligible. This is not my assessments but that of the UK Government which promises a very small uplift to UK GDP from the Australian deal and an uplift of, wait for it, 0% to UK GDP as a result of the New Zealand agreement. As such, it

is difficult not to see that the real benefit of these deals accrues to the UK Government rather than UK Plc. The aim is not to provide an economic uplift as much as to persuade an increasingly switched-off public that all is well in the exiting new world of Brexit trade deals.

This might be working out well for the Government but there is little doubt that the main beneficiaries of both these trade deals are farmers - they just happen to be farmers in Australia and New Zealand. What we have in these two agreements are significant new opportunities created for farmers down under with little or no corresponding advantages to Welsh farmers.

Can we continue to look at these deals being signed by our Government for the benefit of farmers in other countries and continue to shrug their shoulders as we shrug our shoulders with regards to current Covid infection and death rates? If we are willing to accept what is being done to us then why should the Government change tack? A disinterested public is allowing the official response to Covid to go unchallenged and for all the comments from the FUW I think the calculation in Government is that there will be no price paid for prioritising farmers in other countries over Welsh farmers.



## Making sure that the voice of our farmers is heard

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

THIS last month we've seen many news headlines and political developments that should strike fear into the hearts of the most optimistic person. From worker and fuel shortages to the UK pig industry in crisis, October has been eventful on the political front. While our policy and presidential team have been on the front foot dealing with these issues, we also continued in our awareness raising and lobbying work on climate change, tree planting and carbon trading.

As part of our work on carbon trading, we warned that carbon captured through tree planting risks joining a long list of Welsh natural resources which could be sold to outside companies and individuals seeking to make a profit. These issues were raised with politicians up and down Wales, as well as the Minister and Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Julie James and Lee Waters.

While there are opportunities for farmers in this new market, Wales need only look at the past impacts of

afforestation to see the potential for economic, social and environmental devastation as a result of inappropriate tree planting.

The sale of carbon, if unregulated, risks undermining the ability of farms, Welsh agriculture or Wales as a whole to become carbon neutral - a fact we stressed in particular when we met with Julie James MS. When a piece of farmland is sold and planted with trees it is no longer officially available to the agricultural sector for offsetting emissions and if someone plants trees on Welsh land and sells the carbon outside Wales then on paper this still contributes to statutory targets as it appears in the Welsh Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory - but in reality this kind of double carbon counting merely facilitates carbon production by a non-Welsh business, thereby depriving Welsh businesses of the opportunity to use that carbon to genuinely offset Welsh emissions.

We also know that Welsh Government Glastir

Woodland Creation (GWC) scheme money is increasingly being used to pay for tree planting on Welsh farmland bought by outside investors. This concern was confirmed by a Welsh Government response to a Senedd question by Plaid Cymru agriculture spokesperson Cefin Campbell, which revealed that between GWC application windows 8 (November 2019) and 10 (November 2020) the number of applicants with addresses outside Wales grew from 3% to 8%. It was also revealed that between windows 8 (November 2019) and 9 (March 2020) the proportion of land accepted for the GWC grant following applications from outside Wales rose from 10% to 16%.

This means that the areas of Welsh land planted under GWC by people with addresses from outside Wales are far larger than the areas being planted by people from within Wales. This is rapidly becoming a dangerous 'land-grab' issue and I can reassure members that the FUW continues to raise these concerns with the Welsh Government.

We also discussed our policy on carbon trading with the FUW Presidential Policy Team, which then got its final seal of approval from the Council of the Union at the end of September. The policy which was agreed is as follows:

*'Whilst it is recognised that carbon credits could potentially become important income for some farms in the future, given:*

*a. The sale of carbon credits from Welsh farmland risks undermining the ability of farms, Welsh agriculture or Wales as a whole to become carbon neutral*

*b. The concerning rise in the sale of Welsh farmland to individuals and companies from outside Wales in order to create carbon for sale outside Wales or offset their own footprints*

*c. The fact that in at least some instances such non-Welsh entities and individuals are being funded by Welsh Government to plant such areas*

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*The Welsh Government and Senedd should take urgent action to tackle this issue through some form of control mechanism, and that while carbon quotas may not be the best way forward it is among a range of measures that should be considered in order to prevent growing adverse impacts for Welsh family farms, Welsh communities and Wales as a whole.'*

We have been clear for many years now that the climate and our environment are issues that matter a great deal to the FUW and our members. Without a healthy, vibrant environment and favourable climate conditions, we would struggle to carry out our most fundamental jobs - to produce sustainable, nutritious food. We were therefore also happy to engage with the Senedd Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee as they requested views on what the priorities of the Committee should be for the sixth Senedd term.

In our response we welcomed the fact that the Welsh Government's Climate Change Board is developing a holistic view on decarbonisation in recognition that it needs to take place across Wales' industries, particularly in relation to transport.

The Welsh Government's ambition for a net-zero public sector by 2030 is also most welcome, as is their acceptance that meetings can be held remotely as opposed to in person in Cardiff. Members will know that

we've asked for such flexibility for many years now. Such flexibility has enabled us to reduce our travel costs and emissions and we hope that those arrangements can continue beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, whilst carbon offsetting and tree planting for the purpose of carbon sequestration is generating a great deal of discussion, particularly in the lead up to COP 26 and for the benefit of reaching net zero targets, we would like to see a greater emphasis being placed on those sectors and portions of society with the greatest footprints and for them to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

We also recommended that the Wales Agriculture Bill and associated support schemes should include targeted financial support to aid the improvement of on farm efficiency in economic and environmental performance as an important part of reaching net zero, rather than just focussing on carbon offsetting initiatives such as tree planting.

Above all else, tackling the problem of climate change should sit alongside, and not eclipse the economic interests of the people and communities of Wales. As such and going forward, all of the Welsh Government's Committees should ensure the three pillars of sustainability - economic, environmental, and social - are given equal consideration and respect and are taken forward together by the Welsh Government and Senedd.

Last month also saw us joining farming leaders from Wales. We united to speak with one clear voice on the

Members can rest assured that we are also working hard on a variety of climate change and carbon trading issues, as well as ensuring that the voice of our farmers is heard at all levels

industry's ambition to deliver climate goals alongside the production of climate-friendly food.

Representatives from NFU Cymru, Hybu Cig Cymru, AHDB and Wales YFC, as well as myself, met for a meeting in which we all agreed to work together to ensure Welsh food and farming can make a positive contribution to combating climate change while safeguarding global food security, read the full story on page 9.

The Welsh farming leaders' meeting was one of a series of events being hosted during the Countryside COP 2021 programme, a series of events and activities showcasing the contribution of rural communities ahead of the two-week UN COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. We will be participating in further events and we will keep members informed.

And whilst we are all doing our utmost to combat climate change, look after the environment and produce sustainable, nutritious food, the UK Government is busy selling our industry down the river - again.

The agreement in principle of a trade deal with New Zealand shows a willingness by the UK Government to undermine UK farming and food security in return for negligible benefits to the economy.

We will continue to alert Members of Parliament and Members of the House of Lords of the dangers the New Zealand and other trade deals pose, urging them to act in their constituents' and our nations' interests when it comes to decisions in Parliament.

Furthermore, members can rest assured that we are also working hard on a variety of climate change and carbon trading issues, as well as ensuring that the voice of our farmers is heard at all levels.

*Mae'r golofn yma yn Gymraeg ar wefan UAC - Newyddion - Newyddion Y Tir: "Gwneud yn siŵr bod llais ein ffermwyr yn cael ei glywed," neu o'ch swyddfa sirol leol.*



## Libby joins the FUW as Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer

LIBBY Davies, (pictured right), has recently joined the Policy department as the Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer for the FUW.

Originally from just outside Brecon, she graduated this year from the University of Birmingham with a First Class Honours Degree in Political Science and International Relations. Although she didn't grow up on a farm, farming runs on both sides of her family. In her spare time she is an active member and Secretary of Sennybridge YFC.

In her role, she will be liaising with the Senedd and Westminster on behalf of the Union. This will include a responsibility to discuss issues such as Trade Deals, Climate Change and the new Sustainable Farming Scheme. However, she has a dual role and due to the number of MPs and MS' in the area, she will also be supporting the county staff in Gwent and Glamorgan with their political engagement as the Gwent and Glamorgan Policy Officer.

Libby said: "I am looking forward to combining my knowledge in politics with my love of rural life and agriculture in my work for the FUW. I hope to meet lots of you soon and if you think I can be of assistance in any way, please get in touch."

Email: libby.davies@fuw.org.uk / 07706 311592.



The cards will be sold on the FUW stand at the Winter Fair

Bydd y cardiau ar werth ar stondin UAC yn y Ffair Aef

### FUW Christmas card competition

Look out for the winning Christmas card designs in the next issue!

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### Cystadleuaeth cerdyn Nadolig UAC

Cadwch lygad am y cardiau Nadolig buddugol yn y rhifyn nesaf!

# Money supply chains must work for food supply chains

by Gareth Parry, Senior Policy and Communications Officer



**JUST** seven months ago, the FUW Policy Department responded to the Welsh Government's Agriculture (Wales) White Paper consultation, the latest paper to set out proposals on how agricultural policies will look in Wales from 2025 onwards.

The FUW's response of 42 pages raised members' comments and concerns in response to proposals on the future of national minimum standards i.e. the future of cross compliance for all farmers and landowners, civil sanctions and agricultural support mechanisms along with a number of other policies which, if enacted, will eventually sit within the Welsh Agriculture Act.

While the future of direct farm payments is understandably at the forefront of members' minds, the extent to which the decisions of the new Welsh Government will shape all devolved matters relating to agricultural policy for the next few decades mustn't be underestimated.

Nevertheless, what must also be considered is that a large proportion of the points made in response to the consultation in March were largely unchanged from our response to the 2018 Brexit and our Land Welsh Government consultation and are just as, if not more relevant today as they were then.

The fact that three years have passed since the first consultation and the Welsh Government has three years to finalise and implement a new Agriculture (Wales) Act is a concern, a point we made strongly with Members of the Sennid over recent months.

While it is evident that there remains a great deal of uncertainty, the Welsh Government published its summary of responses to the Agriculture (Wales) White Paper consultation and made an announcement on the timeline for future farm support on September 21:

Year	BPS	Glastir	Others	Legislation & Consultation
2022	BPS continued *Subject to sufficient funding provided by UK Gov*	Glastir Advanced, Commons and Organic contract continued (extension offered via RPW on-line account)	Summer: Second period of Co-Design and stakeholder/ farmer engagement "Launch a range of interventions which will run until the SFS is launched in 2025. These will help prepare farmers for Scheme entry and pilot new processes"	<i>Spring/summer:</i> Agriculture Bill introduced to Senedd Regulatory Impact Assessment published A draft of the SFS published
2023	BPS continued *Subject to sufficient funding provided by UK Gov*	Glastir Advanced, Commons and Organic contract continued	Farming Connect programme continued until March "Range of interventions" (e.g. FBG, Glastir Small Grants)	<i>Spring:</i> *If the Agriculture Bill receives Royal Assent* Consultation on final proposals for SFS and Transition Plan from BPS Further economic analysis published
2024			Begin entering farmers into the new Scheme by undertaking Farm Sustainability Reviews	31 December - Sunset powers expire Outreach programme launched- demo events, workshops & surgeries
2025	January: SFS launches (National Minimums Standards will have been implemented beforehand)			
2026+	Multi year transition from BPS			

The Welsh Government has announced that how they intend to introduce national minimum standards and civil sanctions will be subject to further consultation. However, they also reiterated their view that the United Nations' definition of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) should be used as the overarching principle for future agriculture policy and support:

*'The use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term potential of these resources and the maintenance and enhancement of their environmental benefits'*

The FUW has long maintained that an Agriculture (Wales) Act based entirely on the principle of SLM would fail to ensure that the proposed policy

encompasses the broader objectives of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and therefore risks breaching it.

As such, it is clear that positive outcomes which fall directly within the scope of the Well-being Act, such as jobs, prosperity, language and education, would be inadvertent or coincidental, as opposed to being the result of a policy designed with such objectives clearly in mind.

It is therefore believed that a far broader set of principles which take full account of the Well-being Goals and other Welsh objectives, including the current and future economic challenges and competition faced by farm businesses and rural communities, should form the basis of a future policy framework.

## A Cap in the back pocket?

Furthermore, the FUW continues to be concerned that the Welsh Government continues to refuse to commit to payment capping and other payment adjustments that would maximise the amount of money going to typical family farms and those who make the greatest contribution to rural communities and economies.

The FUW was instrumental in persuading the Welsh Government to introduce a cap at the lowest possible level allowed by EU regulations (€300,000 with reductions in payments over €150,000) when the new Basic Payment regulations came into force in 2015.

The FUW was also successful in persuading the Welsh Government to introduce Redistributive Payments in 2015, a mechanism which is in effect a crude form of taper which reduces payment rates for farms with larger hectares.

However, if coupled with a weakening of the Active Farmer criteria - something which might be thought of as inherent to a 'payments for public goods' scheme - the abandonment of payment capping would exacerbate the degree to which private individuals and large landowning bodies such as environmental charities could take money away from farming families and rural communities (in 2020 the National Trust received £3 million in BPS payments from England's RPA).

The European Commission has proposed that the new Common Agricultural Policy (which will start in 2023) takes further steps towards a fairer distribution of income support in order to better address the income needs of small and medium-sized family farms. They also advocated stricter 'Active Farmer' rules to ensure only genuine farmers who make the greatest contributions to rural economies are supported.

While the Welsh Government's 2018 Brexit and our Land consultation document implied that no payment cap would apply for the proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme, the FUW welcomed the reference in the 2019 Sustainable Farming and our Land consultation to both the capping of payments and the potential for payments to diminish above certain levels.

However, the Union remains concerned that no explicit commitment has been made to either the maintenance or reduction of the current cap on payments, and believes that any future scheme payments should be capped below the current level while taking full account of labour costs and similar factors such as the number of business partners and families/family members supported by a business.

## "...Subject to sufficient funding..."

While the FUW has welcomed Minister Lesley Griffiths' confirmation that the BPS will be extended until 2023, the caveat of "...subject to sufficient funding from the UK Government..." sends alarm bells ringing.

In November last year, the UK Treasury confirmed that Wales would receive around £137 million less in agricultural and rural development funding than had been anticipated given repeated claims that the UK's departure from the EU would not lead to a fall in such funding.

The FUW recently wrote to the Secretary of State for Wales Simon Hart MP noting that the EU's 2021-2027 CAP budget has now been set at €386.6 billion. As such, had the UK remained in the EU and Wales continued to receive the same proportion of this budget, we believe the average annual Welsh allocation of CAP funding would have been £334 million (based on previous allocations and the £0.89/€ exchange rate) in addition to any unspent funds - some £92 million above what was announced by the UK Treasury on November 25 2020.

In light of the UK Treasury's decision last year to adopt a creative interpretation of the manifesto commitment to "...guarantee the current annual budget...", we are naturally concerned that they will adopt the same approach in the current review.

Given this, the FUW urged the Secretary of State to do his utmost to ensure unspent funding is not once again included in the UK Treasury's calculation, as this would add to a reduction in funding that is already some £137 million below what had been anticipated based on commitments.

If you have an email address but are not currently receiving the FUW's member ebulletins and would like to, please contact [gareth.parry@fuw.org.uk](mailto:gareth.parry@fuw.org.uk) / 01970 820820

# Staying safe at this year's Winter Fair

With the Covid pandemic still very much around, the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society have had to make a few changes and put some safety measures in place for this year's Royal Welsh Winter Fair (*see graphic below*). Tickets will need to be purchased in advance and you will need to provide evidence of an NHS Covid Passport or a negative lateral flow test before entry, the Covid Passport lets you share your coronavirus (Covid-19) vaccination records in a secure way. It allows you to prove to others that you have been vaccinated, or that you have had a negative lateral flow test result. Below is a bit more information about the pass and how to get one in digital or paper form.

## How to get an NHS COVID Pass in Wales

Digital COVID Passes must be requested from the NHS UK website. You cannot use the NHS app to get the COVID Pass if you live in Wales.

You must be:

- aged 16 or over
- registered with a GP in Wales

You will need to upload a photo of one of the following:

- passport
- full UK driving licence
- full European driving licence.

## NHS COVID Pass expiry date

A digital NHS COVID pass is valid for 30 days. The barcode will update automatically every time you log into the service. This will extend it by another 30 days.

If your NHS COVID Pass shows a shorter expiry date, it is likely that you have not fully validated your ID.

You will be given an option to fully validate your ID in order to get a Pass with a longer expiry date.

## Request a paper NHS COVID-19 certificate

You should only request a paper COVID Pass if:

- you have had a full course of the COVID-19 vaccine (you should wait 5 days after your final dose before requesting it)
- you are aged 18 or over
- you do not have photographic ID

Call **0300 303 5667** to request a COVID Pass if you are unable to use the digital NHS COVID Pass.

It can take up to 10 working days for a certificate to arrive. No requests can be fast tracked and certificates cannot be collected.

You can call 7 days a week between 9am and 5pm. Calls are typically charged between 2p and 40p per minute and are included in free call packages.

GPs cannot provide letters showing your COVID-19 status.

Further details can be found on: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/get-digital-covid-pass/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/get-digital-covid-pass/)



**VISIT THE FUW STAND AT THE WINTER FAIR**  
29-30 Nov 2021, Royal Welsh Showground

**DEWCH DRAW I STONDIN UAC YN Y FFAIR**  
**AFAF**

29-30 Tachwedd 2021, Maes y Sioe Frenhinol

29 & 30  
November

## Safety Measures at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair



To ensure the safety of our visitors, exhibitors, volunteers and staff we will have the following safety measures in place at the 2021 Winter Fair.

To comply with Track and Trace all tickets must be purchased online in advance of the event.

There will be no facility to purchase tickets on the day.

All attendees **MUST** comply with the law (in Wales) relating to the new COVID Pass as a condition of entry.



All day specific tickets, must be pre-purchased online



Provide evidence of NHS COVID Passport (18 years of age and over)

OR



Provide evidence of negative lateral flow test (18 years of age and over)



Social distancing guidelines will be in place



One way systems to be introduced inside buildings



Face Masks to be worn indoors



Do NOT attend if you feel unwell or have Covid-19 symptoms



Controlled numbers inside buildings at any one time



Extra hand washing facilities and sanitiser stations

### Free Sales Service for FUW Members

If you have anything to sell - big or small - fill in the coupon and for a FREE ADVERTISEMENT send it to:

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or email it to: ytir@fuw.org.uk

Entries must be confined to 25 words and be received by:  
November 22 2021

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Telephone number .....

**PLEASE NOTE: FREE ADVERTISEMENTS ARE FOR FUW MEMBERS ONLY AND NOT FOR COMMERCIAL TRADERS**

Membership number: .....

### AR WERTH / FOR SALE

**DORMAN 66 gal CROP SPRAYER;** £150 +VAT. International 3 furrow plough - £250 +VAT. Both barn stored. Tel: 07779 519112.

**3 OUTBUILDINGS TO RENT;** Fishguard. Tel: 07564 287867.

**GREY FERGIE TRACTOR;** diesel, original - offers. Denbigh area. Tel: 07788 371641 (after 6pm).

**FODDER BEET;** cleaned. Delivered all areas. Tel: 07802 680687 / 01691 777785.

### DA BYW AR WERTH / LIVESTOCK FOR SALE

**HEREFORD x HEIFERS WITH ANGUS CALVES AT HEEL;** Tel: 07817 755795, Pwllheli area.

### YN EISIAU / WANTED

**GOOD FARM WORKING SHEEPDOG;** or starting to work hill farm. Tel: 07365 818314.



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CORNEL CLECS

## Sgwrsio, rhannu profiadau a chefnogi'n gilydd

gan Angharad Evans, Swyddog Cyfathrebu'r Iaith Gymraeg

"MAE wedi bod fel ffair yma!" Sawl gwaith mae'r frawddeg fach yna'n cael ei chlywed?! Mae bywyd pob un ohonom yn brysur, ac mae'n rhaid diolch am hynny. Ond weithiau mae angen cymryd munud neu ddwy i feddwl am ein hunain a gofalu am ein hiechyd meddwl.

Mae Nerth Dy Ben, yn blatfform newydd, i wneud yr union hynny, rhoi cyfle i sgwrsio, i rannu profiadau, ac yn fwy pwysig na dim, cefnogi'n gilydd. Dyma Alaw Owen o Nerth Dy Ben i egluro mwy: "Nôl ym mis Chwefror sefydlwyd Nerth Dy Ben gyda'r bwriad o roi llwyfan i unigolion rannu eu syniadaeth am gryfder meddwl, yn y Gymraeg, ac i sgwrsio am brofiadau ac ymdrechion o gynnal a chadw nerth meddyliol, wrth fyw a gweithio yng nghefn gwlad Cymru.

"I rai pobl, efallai eu bod yn cymryd cryfder meddwl yn gwbl ganiataol, ond i eraill maent yn ffeindio hi'n anoddach i roi sylw i'r cryfderau, yn hytrach na'r gwendidau. Anaml iawn fyddwn ni'n eistedd i lawr ar ddiwedd diwrnod neu wythnos brysur ac yn cydnabod yr hyn yr ydan ni wedi llwyddo i'w gyflawni ar y rhestr 'to do' ynde? A faint ohonom sy'n gwneud y gwrthwyneb a chanolbwyntio ar y pethau sydd eto i'w gwneud, a hyd yn oed yn ychwanegu at y rhestr yn hytrach na dathlu'r hyn sydd eisoes wedi ei gyflawni?"

"Mae Nerth Dy Ben yno i'n hatgoffa, i danlinellu ac i sgwrsio am y pethau dan ni'n eu cyflawni a'u goresgyn yn ddyddiol. Drwy gyfraniadau gan bobol wahanol, dan ni'n creu sgwrs sy'n clodfodi a dathlu ein gallu a'n cryfder i oresgyn heriau bach a mawr bywyd,



ac i'n hannog ni i feddwl am y pethau rydan ni'n gallu eu gwneud i sicrhau bod y meddwl yn iach ac mor gryf ac y gallai fod.

"Mae holl gynnwys y wefan, gyda chyfraniadau gan amaethwyr a phobl cefn gwlad, yn trafod y cryfder meddwl sydd gennym ni fel unigolion. Mae'r straeon hynny yn amrywio o berson i berson, ac un sydd wedi cyfrannu ydy'r ffermwr llaeth Sam Carey, ac mi welwch ei gyfraniad o isod.

"Ein bwriad yw parhau i godi ymwybyddiaeth a sgwrsio am y pwysigrwydd o gynnal meddwl cadarnhaol drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Trwy rannu profiad a meddylfryd pobl o fewn y gymuned wledig, dwi'n gobeithio ei fod yn ffordd o atgoffa'n gilydd o gryfder meddwl bob un ohonom, a'r hyn rydyn ni yn llwyddo ac yn gallu ei gyflawni'n ddyddiol, wrth ddefnyddio'r cryfder hwnnw. Beth sy'n cynnal nerth eich pen chi?"

"Os nad ydych wedi clywed amdanom, mae gennym wefan: [www.nerthdyben.cymru](http://www.nerthdyben.cymru) sy'n cynnwys straeon, fideos, erthyglau, podlediad a chân unigryw sy'n cynrhychioli ac yn cefnogi bwriad Nerth dy Ben."

**This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "Chatting, sharing experiences and supporting each other," or from your local county office.**

## Datblygu Meddylfryd Gadarnhaol

gan Sam Carey

Er mwyn datblygu meddylfryd gadarnhaol, rwy'n credu bod rhai pethau sylfaenol pwysig sef:

- \* Bwyta'n dda
- \* Yfed llai (o alcohol)
- \* Cysgu'n dda
- \* a Lleihau dylanwadau negyddol

Mae'r uchod yn gosod sail gadarn fel y gall rhywun ddatblygu meddylfryd cadarnhaol. I mi, mae fel hyfforddi eich cyhyrau, os ydych chi am gryfhau yna mae'n rhaid i chi ymarfer. Mae fel mynd i'r gampfa - po fwyaf o bwysau rydych chi'n eu codi a'r trymaf ydyn nhw, yna'r cryfa' y byddwch chi. Mae datblygu cryfder meddyliol yn gweithio yn yr un ffordd.

Yr hyn a helpodd fi i ddatblygu meddylfryd cadarnhaol oedd dod yn ymwybodol o fy emosiynau neu fy nheimpladau. Ydyn nhw'n bositif neu'n negyddol? Mae'n bwysig gwybod mai chi sy'n rheoli eich meddyliau, ac yn eu hanfod eich teimpladau hefyd. Os oes meddyliau negyddol yn dod i'ch pen, a allwch chi gael gwared arnynt heb ddal eich gafael ynddynt am gyfnod hir? Os ydy'r meddyliau hyn yn aros gyda chi; byddant yn troi yn deimlad ac yn effeithio ar eich hwyliau.

Yr her yw gallu mynd trwy eich diwrnod heb ddal gafael i unrhyw feddyliau negyddol. Mae'n sgil sy'n gofyn am ymarfer. 'Po fwyaf' byddwch yn ymarfer, po fwyaf' byddwch yn gwella'.

Pan fydda i'n cael meddyliau negyddol, rydw i'n ceisio cael gwared arnynt nhw trwy gael meddyliau cadarnhaol, neu drwy geisio newid fy safbwynt. Rydw i'n gofyn i fi fy hun a alla' i ddehongli'r sefyllfa trwy lens wahanol? Os galla i, yna rwy'n ceisio edrych arno heb emosiwn ac o safbwynt arall.

Os gallwch chi reoli'ch meddyliau, gallwch reoli'ch emosiynau, ac yna mae gennych chi'r gallu i reoli eich profiadau. Rwy'n credu ei bod yn bwysig nodi nad yw meddylfryd cadarnhaol wedi'i etifeddu, mae o wedi'i adeiladu. Pan fydda i'n wynebu problem, rydw i'n hoffi cofio dyfyniad enwog Henry Ford;

*'Nid oes y fath bethau â phroblemau, dim ond cyfleoedd'.*

Y cyfle i wneud pethau'n wahanol!



# Increase productivity and reduce lameness with Hoofsure Endurance – the safe, clinically proven and cost-effective footbath.

## Lameness costs money

Lameness is one of the most common debilitating health concerns for dairy cattle, with roughly 30% experiencing it during their lifetime. It results in poor cow performance and substantial economic losses that can run to more than £80 per case. Often, outbreaks will affect as many as 40% of cows in the herd. Digital dermatitis is one of the major causes and, although there is no method of eradicating this disease, it can be effectively managed to prevent it taking hold. The key is to regularly pass cows through a footbath filled with a quality antibacterial solution that is proven to control digital dermatitis and other infectious lesions.

## Hoofsure Endurance gets on top of the problem

Hoofsure Endurance is an innovative footbath solution that gives farmers effective lameness control without damaging the environment, animal or human health. It's backed by more than 40 clinical trials conducted across three continents, and it has racked up more than 440 million cow passes worldwide. The formulation is designed to be used a minimum of three times a week, or daily for troublesome cases, and allows up to 500 cow passes through a 200-litre footbath.

Unlike traditional copper and formalin treatments, the organic acids, essential oils and wetting agents biodegrade naturally over time making it easy to dispose of at the end of its lifespan.

*“Hoofsure Endurance is the only product I've ever trialled that has performed as well as formalin at preventing new lesions, and I've trialled a lot of products.”*

**Dr Nick Bell – Veterinary Surgeon and Specialist in animal welfare and behaviour management.**

## Foot baths are prevention, which is better than cure

Once an animal is infected with digital dermatitis, she will carry the disease with her for the rest of her life. One way to manage this is through proper footbath use and identifying active lesions for timely treatment. The goal is not to focus solely on treatment but to prevent NEW INFECTIONS by disinfecting feet, ideally every day if not every milking. Cows with active lesions can be identified and promptly treated to reduce the pain and send the lesion in a healing state that does not infect other healthy feet. Foot bathing also appears to help keep infected cows free from infection if done

properly at the right concentration of product. Here are some top tips for best management practices for footbaths, so it lends itself to being less of a chore and more a routine job:

- Use a footbath with adjacent mixing facilities that is long enough for 2-3 feet immersions – ideally around 3m long and 0.6m wide
- Provide a footbath at least every other day and adjust timings based on outcome to achieve a minimum frequency to maintain control
- Use the solution as long as it is effective e.g. 150 to 500 cow passes for a standard 200-litre bath
- Footbath all cow and heifer groups

For the most effective lameness control, it's important to combine a quality footbath solution – such as Hoofsure Endurance – with a well-designed bathing system and regular treatment routine.

*Co-written by Dr Nick J. Bell MA VetMB PhD PG cert Vet. Ed. FHEA DipECAW BM(AWSEL) MRCVS and George Shaw, MPharm MPSNI.*

*\*References available on request. For more information call: 0800 328 4982 or email: info@provita.co.uk*

**NATURALLY BETTER** than formaldehyde and copper



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**MORE COWS PER LITRE!**



**Hoofsure Endurance**

**Increase productivity and reduce lameness with Hoofsure Endurance – the safe, clinically proven and cost-effective footbath:**

- ⚠ **Clinically proven** – Active organic formulation that helps to clean feet and prevent lameness. Up to 44% more effective than copper and formaldehyde.\*
- ⚠ **Safe to use & dispose** - Biodegradable, natural footbath solution that's better for the environment and safer for animal and human health.

- ⚠ **Formaldehyde is carcinogenic**
- ⚠ **Copper is illegal**

\*References available on request

Find out more visit: [www.provita.co.uk](http://www.provita.co.uk)

Call freephone: 0800 3284982 or contact your nearest stockist.



**Provita**  
Animal Health Naturally

# Legal information at your fingertips with rradar and FUW Insurance Services

by Ronan Ball, Business Development Manager, rradar

WE all know that running an agricultural business is challenging at the best of times, but over the past 18 months with the strains of the pandemic, Brexit, changes in regulation, increased fly-tipping and rural crime, not to mention the ongoing health and safety risks, land disputes, diversification issues or problems with supply chain contracts, the agricultural community, farmers and rural organisations have a lot to deal with.

Help is at hand with rradar's legal and advisory services, that are all included under the Rural Protect policy and is available through your local FUW Insurance Services broker, meaning you're never more than a phone call or click away from the legal support you need, whenever you need it.

## Sector Specialists

rradar is specialist litigation and commercial law firm which combines innovative digital tools, professional legal representation, and proactive advisory services to offer Rural Protect Insurance policyholders with a unique service for no extra cost.

We use our legal expertise to advise and help clients proactively manage and deliver business solutions that can reduce their legal risks.

Through our legal and advisory services, rradar's team can answer your questions, strengthen your business processes and assist with the legal and regulatory challenges you might face. We offer support and guidance when you are facing difficult situations as they arise and can help stop an issue escalating into a more complex legal dispute and insurance claim.

With rradar's Legal Advice Line Service, Rural Protect policyholders can contact the team as many times as necessary between 8am - 6pm Monday - Friday and speak to highly experienced solicitors and legal advisors, who have specialist sector knowledge

and expertise to advise on a wide range of Employment/HR, Health & Safety, Commercial and Regulation compliance queries over the phone or by email.

There is no limit to the

number of times you can contact our advisors during our working hours. They are on hand to provide advice and guidance at each step of the way.

Should you require any advice and guidance that falls outside the Legal Advice Line Service, then we can of course provide, where possible, clear and transparent fixed fee quotes for you to agree and before any additional cost work is carried out. These services could include a detailed review of legal documents, the preparation of letters or emails to a third party or the drafting or production of legal documents.

Our proactive approach can provide guidance to improve your processes and procedures and we provide access to online solutions including a comprehensive resource website called rradarstation. This website is resource rich with downloadable risk assessment templates, videos and checklists that will help you identify and mitigate the risks to your business and are available to use in the day-to-day running of your business, each written and verified by rradar's legal teams.

## Health and Safety reports

With the HSE's statistics showing that the agricultural sector is still one of the most dangerous industries to work in, rradar provide an online incident recording platform called rradarreport for recording details of minor, major and near miss incidents in your workplace. As part of the policy there is also a 24/7 crisis line should your business fall victim of a business crime, suffer a serious accident or an emergency occurs that will trigger a regulatory inspection or police check.

rradar's experienced Business Crime and Regulatory team provide legal support and representation as part of the Rural Protect Policy and will advise you on how best to work with investigating authorities such as the Police or the HSE or Environment Agency.

For more information about rradar's services under the Rural Protect Policy please contact your local FUW Insurance Broker, office telephone numbers below, or visit [www.rradar.com](http://www.rradar.com) and subscribe to our newsletter.



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Cowbridge	01446 773108
Abergavenny	01873 859833
Llanrwst	01492 642683
Dolgellau	01341 421290
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Haverfordwest	01437 783969



# Welsh farming leaders join forces on climate change goals

FARMING leaders in Wales have united to speak with one clear voice on the industry's ambition to deliver climate goals alongside the production of climate-friendly food.

Representatives from NFU Cymru, Farmers' Union of Wales, Hybu Cig Cymru, AHDB and Wales YFC met for a meeting in which all five organisations agreed to work together to ensure Welsh food and farming can make a positive contribution to combatting climate change while safeguarding global food security.

## The statement reads:

*Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge facing the world. Through climate-friendly food production, the trees, hedges, grassland and soils that store carbon on Welsh farms together with on-farm energy generation, agriculture in Wales plays a key role in tackling climate change and is uniquely placed to be the solution.*

*We recognise all of us have a part to play and we are stronger when working together. At this pivotal time, Welsh farming leaders have united to demonstrate our shared commitment to maximising the contribution of agriculture to a net zero economy in Wales.*

*Welsh farming is already leading the way on climate action. We recognise that society and the agriculture industry in Wales want to go further and faster and we are agreed on the need to speak with one voice to support the delivery of our common climate goals alongside climate-friendly food production.*

*Welsh farming is a world leader in sustainable food production. We will work together to ensure our sector will combat climate change whilst continuing to play a positive contribution to global food security.*

*With land use so central to meeting the net zero goals of wider society, our partnership offers a sensible and practical voice on the contribution that farming can make to net zero ambitions. Action on climate change should be progressed in a way that is sustainable and fair, that is globally responsible and that safeguards our rural communities, culture and language.*

The Welsh farming leaders' meeting was one of a series of events being hosted during the Countryside COP 2021 programme, a series of events and activities showcasing the contribution of rural communities ahead of the two-week UN COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.



From left, Delyth Lewis-Jones, AHDB; Glyn Roberts, FUW President; Caryl Haf, Wales YFC Chair; John Davies, NFU Cymru President; Catherine Smith, HCC Chair.

Welsh farming is a world leader in sustainable food production. We will work together to ensure our sector will combat climate change whilst continuing to play a positive contribution to global food security

## NVZ regulations will undermine milk production and dairy industry jobs

THE FUW Milk and Dairy Produce Committee has highlighted the impact the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations in their current form will have on profitable farming and milk processing.

The Water Resources 'NVZ' Regulations were passed by the Senedd in March 2021 with the first set of changes being applied from April 1 2021. Nevertheless, the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Senedd Committee is currently in the process of reviewing the regulations following a vote shortly after new Senedd members were elected in May.

Following a meeting of the FUW Milk and Dairy Produce Committee held last month, newly appointed Chairman Dei Davies, (pictured right),

of Moor Farm, Flintshire said: "As a Committee we've welcomed the decision by the Senedd for the regulations to be reviewed and the FUW has submitted its written evidence.

"However, we mustn't forget that the regulations in their current form will severely undermine milk production with implications for milk processing Wales."

The Committee raised concerns that some milk



processors may not have realised how significant these regulations will impact on the throughput of milk and production of other dairy products.

"Notwithstanding current supply chain issues and the consequential inflation of milk production costs, processors must recognise that if these regulations are not revised radically they may find themselves scraping the barrel to maintain current production levels," said Mr Davies.

FUW Policy Officer Elin Jenkins added: "Not only do milk processors support thousands of jobs in Wales, they also underpin our dairy supply chain by processing an estimated half of the milk produced in Wales (1 billion litres)."

The FUW Milk and Dairy Produce Committee suggested

that milk producers should contact their milk collectors if they are in a position to do so urging them to make Senedd Members aware of the implications these regulations will have for dairy processing, local jobs and the economy.

The FUW will continue to engage with the Senedd Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee as it considers how the regulations should be revised.

## Huw joins the FUW's Marketing & Communications team



NOT a farmer, but of farming stock, Huw Evans, (pictured left), now lives in Glan Conwy in the Conwy Valley.

He joins the FUW as Communications Officer after twenty years lecturing Public Relations at Bangor University and for 16 years at Lancashire Business School in the north west of England. He has delivered guest lectures throughout the UK as well as in areas as diverse as Istanbul, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Before moving to academia, Huw, 57, worked at Quadrant

and Cenad Quadrant PR agency in Mold and Caernarfon providing consultancy to clients which included Chevron Oil, Gwynedd Social Services and the now defunct Countryside Council for Wales.

Huw said: "I'm joining the industry at an extremely exciting period. The implications of Brexit and climate change on farming are beginning to bite the general public and the decisions made by the politicians will have far reaching implications for the industry.

"Our job is to make sure most of those decisions favour Welsh farming, or at least ensure that people are informed about the consequences of their actions when they make them."

# Meirionnydd beef and sheep farmer raises industry concerns with Mid and West Wales MS

A MEIRIONNYDD sheep farmer has raised industry concerns with Mid and West Wales Member of the Senedd Jane Dodds. Welcoming the MS to his farm was Robert Wyn Evans, who farms at Sylfaen Farm, Barmouth, Gwynedd.

Sylfaen Farm is situated approximately 2 miles from Barmouth and extends to approximately 1,200 acres, with a further 120 acres farmed at Tudweiliog on the Llyn Peninsula. The vast majority of the land at Sylfaen is mountain and rough grazing, with only 105 acres being improved land, of which approx 55 acres kept for silage.

Robert looks after 1,050 breeding ewes, mainly Welsh Mountain, but also Aberfield X. All lambs are fattened and sold through the live market. A herd of 40 suckler cows are also kept, with the young cattle sold as stores between 18-22 months at Dolgellau market.

The farm has been in the Glastir scheme since 2014 and there is a long history of participation in agri-environment schemes. The farm entered the Tir Cymen scheme in 1993, when Meirionnydd was chosen as a pilot area for the scheme. Thereafter, the farm joined the Tir Gofal scheme until the opportunity came to join Glastir in 2014. Robert is pleased



From left, FUW Meirionnydd County Executive officer Huw Jones, Jane Dodds MS, Robert Wyn Evans and FUW Head of Policy Dr Nick Fenwick.

that confirmation has now been received that this scheme will be extended until the end of 2023.

Speaking after the visit Robert said: "Any proposed support framework for the future must ensure that there is a baseline payment, and an acceptance that farmers need to be supported with more than a narrow definition of environmental payments. We have no chance of keeping the younger generation on the land unless this is clearly established.

"There is so much uncertainty at the moment which makes it impossible to plan for the future, and make sound business strategies. We need more detail about 'Public Goods' activities, and it is important that issues such as language, culture, education and social activities are included."

FUW Meirionnydd County Executive officer Huw Jones added: "I thank both Robert and Jane for their time. The visit provided an opportunity to highlight the importance of future farm

support, and that our farming families have an incredibly important role to play when it comes to keeping rural communities alive, the economy going, maintaining jobs in the industry and also making sure that we have a sustainable agriculture sector."

## Wealth protection should be a key part of your farm and it's financial planning

by Marjha Golding-Evans, Partner & Head of Family, RDP Law

ON October 20, it was our pleasure to host an online seminar in conjunction with FUW, in which I spoke to Members about the ways of protecting their farms from a future separation or divorce.

So what is wealth protection, and how can it protect you, your family and your farm or business? I often hear 'we aren't super-rich' or 'if we ever split, I am sure we'd just agree' as many reasons why the discussions about pre-nups, post-nups and cohabitation agreements get cut short. But in recent years they have rightly crept their way into succession and inheritance planning discussions as a useful tool for couples, and their families, as a way to preserve farms for generations to come.



Let's start with pre-nups and post nups; a pre-nup is entered into before a marriage, and a post-nup afterwards, but their aim is the same - to reduce disputes should a married couple separate, by agreeing in advance what their financial relationship would look like on separation and what would be 'off the table' when splitting their assets. The pre/post-nup, like any legal document, can be as narrow or as wide as the engaged couple wish; it can simply name a specific asset which they agree would never be shared on divorce, like a family farm, land or partnership, or go into even greater detail.

A cohabitation agreement plays a similar role for a couple who live together, giving them the freedom to agree what property rights and responsibilities they do, and do not, intend to share as a result of living together.

Many clients ask me whether a pre/post-nup is legally enforceable; the simple answer is that if certain clear requirements are followed in the process of preparing the document, then on balance the court will uphold what has been agreed, as it shows a clear intention of the two people entering into it. Whilst that is not quite the 'automatically binding' guarantee that some may expect, a well-drafted and professionally handled pre-nup is invaluable.

The elephant in the room is that pre-nups don't do much to tick the 'romantic gesture' box. But the way I ask clients to think about a pre-nup is like travel insurance for the trip of your life; you do it so you and your family are protected if something unexpected or painful happens. Once you overcome any uncomfortableness in raising it, doing so is a small outlay now for peace of mind and financial clarity should the worst happen.

If you need to think about your succession planning, or are yourself getting married, I would encourage Members to take advantage of your FUW benefits in speaking to us for your free advice session. If you missed the event and would like to be emailed a copy of the recording, please contact your local County Executive Officer.

### Marjha's Top Tips;

- Don't write off a pre-nup as 'not for us'. The reality is that if you have an asset, business, farming partnership or possibility of inherited wealth, a pre-nup should be part of your planning. Doing this when the sun is shining is far easier than when the clouds of separation have descended.
- Have the discussion early; the more open you can be, and the more you can agree in advance, will smooth the process and can reduce the legal costs in drafting it.
- Get legal advice as soon as you can; bespoke and tailored advice is key, without the time pressure of an impending wedding. That advice should include wills which mirror what the agreement achieves, and should be part of wider succession and inheritance planning where needed.

*Want to know more? Please get in touch with Partner and Head of Family Marjha Golding-Evans on 01633 413500 or Marjha.Golding-Evans@RDPLaw.co.uk*  
*FUW Members benefit from a free 30 minute advice session with RDP Law, so do get in touch.*

# “Mae gan ffermydd llaeth rôl bwysig i chwarae pan mae'n dod i gynhyrchu bwyd cynaliadwy”



MAE'R ffermwr llaeth o Sir Fôn William Williams, sydd wedi bod yn amaethu un o ffermydd cyngor y sir am fwy na 30 mlynedd, yn dweud mai teuluoedd amaethyddol yw sylfaen ein cymunedau lleol, ac yn hanfodol wrth gynhyrchu bwyd cynaliadwy a hefyd er mwyn lliniaru newid hinsawdd.

Ers yn ifanc mae William wedi gwirioni ar gynhyrchu llaeth, ac yn gofalu am ei fuches odro o 200 yng Nghlwyd Dergo Bach, Llanddeusant, sy'n uned 400 erw o dir rhent ac 80 erw o dir a berchnogir yn breifat. “Cefais fy magu ar fferm laeth ac roedd fy nhad yn arfer godro 6 buwch. Fe'm hysbrydolwyd i gychwyn godro cyn gynted ag y medrwn,” meddai William.

Cychwynnodd William gyda dim ond 25 o wartheg godro, gan ehangu'r fuches wrth i'r cwotâu llaeth

ddirwyn i ben, ond er gwaetha'r cynnydd mewn niferoedd ar ei fferm, mae'n dweud ei bod mor gynaliadwy ag y medr fod. “Rwyf o'r farn bod ein dull ni o ffermio llaeth yn gynaliadwy iawn. Rydym wedi bod yn amaethu yn y ffordd hon ers mwy na 50 mlynedd. Mae gennym ni fwy o wartheg ar ein daliad bellach ond, mae'n bwysig cofio, ar un adeg roedd mwy o ffermydd yn y cyffiniau hyn, tua 10 ohonynt. Roedd gan bawb lefelau stoc is, gyda buches o tua 10-20 buwch. Mae'r ffermydd hynny bellach wedi'u huno yn unedau mwy o faint, felly mae gennym lai o ffermydd, ond yr un nifer o wartheg yn yr ardal, i'r un nifer o erwau.”

Mae William yn bendant bod y newidiadau mewn amaethyddiaeth wedi cael effaith ar y gymuned leol. “All neb wneud bywoliaeth yn godro 20 o wartheg heddiw. Roedd yn rhaid i ni addasu ac mae hyn wedi newid cymunedau. Mae ysgolion wedi cau hefyd. Roedd 4 ysgol leol arfer bod yma, nawr 1 ysgol fawr sydd. Mae'r ffermydd llai o faint wedi mynd, yn debyg iawn i'r ysgolion bach. Mae'n drist mewn gwirionedd ac yn dangos mai ffermydd teuluol sy'n cadw cymunedau lleol yn fyw, yn ogystal â'n diwylliant a'r iaith Gymraeg,” meddai.



Mae William yn ffyddiog wrth sôn am ofalu am dir, bod y pridd yn iach a bod digonedd o borfa'n tyfu. Mae'r teulu'n tyfu india-corn a defnyddir gwrtaith o'r gwartheg a hynny heb ddefnyddio gwrtaith artiffisial. “Mae gennym bridd trwm yma, sy'n wych am dyfu porfa. Fodd bynnag mae hyn yn golygu bod yn rhaid i ni gadw'r gwartheg oddi ar y caeau yn y gaeaf, er mwyn diogelu'r pridd. Felly cedwir y gwartheg dan do dros y gaeaf a rhoddir silwair ac india-corn fel porthiant.

“Mae'r gwartheg yn hanfodol er mwyn rheoli iechyd y pridd a chadw ecosystemau i ffynnu. Mae eu gwrtaith naturiol yn denu pryfed, sy'n cynorthwyo i'w ymddatod, yn gwella'r tir ac ansawdd y pridd gan hefyd fwydo'r ecosystem, o adar i ddraenogod. Mae gennym gydbwysedd da yma rhwng anifeiliaid yn pori ac yn cael eu cadw dan do, sy'n gweithio i'r tir a'r gwartheg.”

Nid yw cadw da byw dan do yn cyfaddawdu eu hiechyd a lles, mae William yn awyddus i'w ddweud. “Mae gan ein gwartheg pob cysur sydd ei angen arnynt. Digon o aer glân, digon o le er mwyn symud o amgylch ac mae gennym fatiau rwbwr 2 fodfedd i'w cadw'n gysurus. Mae gennym system golau awtomatig hefyd, sy'n cynnau am 4 y bore ac yn diffodd am 10 y nos. Ar ddiwrnod tywyll mae hefyd yn cynnau yn ystod y dydd er mwyn i'r gwartheg gael y golau cywir.

“Rydym yn gweithio'n agos iawn gyda'n milfeddyg er mwyn gwneud yn siŵr eu bod yn iach. Wrth ystyried diet y gwartheg dros y gaeaf, rydym yn gweithio gyda maethegydd

sy'n cymryd samplau o'r india-corn a silwair, ac yna'n gwneud gwaith er mwyn gweld beth yw'r cymysgedd gorau i'r gwartheg. Maent yr un mor hapus dros y gaeaf ag y maint dros fisoedd yr haf.”



Mae William yn teimlo braidd yn rhwystredig wrth ystyried nwyon tŷ gwydr a'r effaith mae'r diwydiant llaeth yn ei gael ar yr hinsawdd, oherwydd y diffyg ymwybyddiaeth o'r gwahaniaeth rhwng carbon deuocsid a methan. “Gan amlaf cyfartaledd byd eang a ddefnyddir wrth drin a thrafod allyriadau amaethyddol, sy'n gamarweiniol. Wrth gwrs fod newid hinsawdd yn broblem frys i bob un ohonom. Heb amheuaeth yn fy marn i mae angen lleihau allyriadau nwyon tŷ gwydr ymhob sector, ac mae angen i bob gwlad chwarae ei rhan. Nid plannu coed ar dir lle medrir cynhyrchu bwyd yw'r ateb, oherwydd fydd hynny'n golygu gorfod mewnforio mwy o fwyd, o wledydd nad ydynt yn cadw i'r un safonau sydd gennym ni yma.”

Mae methan yn nwy pwysig yn yr amgylchedd, fodd bynnag mae William yn dadlau bod pwyntio'r bys at amaethyddiaeth yn gwneud rhai rhagdybiaethau cwbl anghywir. “Nid amaethu anifeiliaid sy'n bennaf gyfrifol am greu methan, ac yn gyffredinol mae data yn nodi fod ffermio da byw yn gyfrifol am tua chwarter yr allyriadau. Hefyd, mae carbon deuocsid yn cymryd canrifoedd i ddadfeilio yn yr atmosffer. Mae llosgi tanwydd ffosil hefyd yn ychwanegu i'r stoc nwy. Mae methan fodd bynnag yn nwy llifol sy'n dadfeilio'n gyflym ac, os yw'r cydbwysedd yn iawn, mae'n rhan o gylch sy'n bresennol yn naturiol. Felly mae'n anghywir dweud bod y ddau yn debyg.”

Mae cyfraniad da byw i allyriadau nwyon tŷ gwydr yn y DU yn debyg i ganran allyriadau nwyon tŷ gwydr o wastraff bwyd o gartrefi a busnesau (5%), ac yn llawer iawn is na'r hyn ddaw o drafnidiaeth (27%) neu gyflenwadau ynni (21%). Mae gwartheg a defaid yn y DU ddim ond yn cyfrif am 5.7% o'r allyriadau NET II (isel iawn) ac mae'r ffigwr hwnnw'n lleihau'n barhaus.

Ni ddylid rhoi'r bai am newid hinsawdd ar ffermio yng Nghymru, meddai William. “Yma ar y fferm er enghraifft, rydym nawr yn cynhyrchu mwy o laeth gyda llai o wartheg, felly rydym eisoes yn gweithio tuag at ein nodau sero-net. Bellach mae ein gwartheg yn cynhyrchu mwy o laeth ac mae cyfartaledd ein buches, a oedd arfer bod yn 5 neu 6 mil litr fesul buwch y flwyddyn 30 o flynyddoedd yn ôl, wedi codi i tua 9 mil litr fesul buwch y flwyddyn. Mae llawer iawn o waith wedi'i wneud dros y blynyddoedd i wella geneteg, effeithlonrwydd bwyd, a systemau cynhyrchu ac rwy'n meddwl gall ffermwyr fod yn rhan o'r datrysiad i daclo newid hinsawdd, ac nid y broblem.”

Mae'r teulu'n cymryd ei gyfrifoldeb i ofalu am yr amgylchedd o ddifrif, gan weithio gyda'i brynwr llaeth Glanbia ar archwiliad carbon er mwyn gweld sut allant wella'r hyn a wneir.

“Rydym wedi cynnal archwiliad carbon yma ar y fferm ac rydym yn aros am y canlyniadau wrth Glanbia. Yr hyn sy'n fy nharo i fel problem yw nad oes dull safonol o archwilio ôl troed carbon. Mae angen ffordd safonol o fesur, a gobeithio bydd Llywodraeth y DU a Chymru yn medru dod o hyd i ffordd o'n cynorthwyo â hyn,” meddai William.

Mae ffermwyr yma yng Nghymru eisoes yn gwneud cyfraniad cadarnhaol trwy ddal a storio carbon yn y pridd a'r gwrychoedd, a thrwy dorri allyriadau, ac mae William o'r farn pan mae'n dod i archwiliad carbon, dylid hefyd gymryd rôl porfeydd a gwrychoedd i ystyriaeth wrth gyfrifo storio carbon, yn hytrach na dibynnu'n unig ar brosiectau plannu coed anferth.

“Nid plannu coed ymhob man yw'r ateb i gynyddu storfa carbon a delio gyda newid hinsawdd. Oes, mae gennym ni, fel y rhan fwyaf o ffermydd, dir ymylol y medrwn ei ddefnyddio, a byddwn yn gwneud hynny. Tydi'r holl werthu ffermydd sy'n digwydd ar hyn o bryd, ar gyfer plannu coed, gan ddefnyddio tir cynhyrchiol, tir y gellir cynhyrchu bwyd arno, yn gwneud dim synnwyr.”

Parhau ar dudalen 12

“Yr hyn sydd hyd yn oed yn fwy o bryder yw mai busnesau mawr o’r tu allan i Gymru sy’n prynu’r tir amaethyddol a phlannu coed arno er mwyn gwrthbwyso allyriadau carbon, a hynny heb iddynt newid eu harferion a dod yn fwy amgylcheddol gyfeillgar.”

Meddai William, mae’n rhaid i gynnyrch llaeth barhau yn y gadwyn fwyd, er mwyn diogelwch bwyd a rhesymau maeth. “Nid ydym am weld ein hunain mewn sefyllfa mewn blynyddoedd i ddod lle nad oes gennym ffermwyr llaeth mwyach. Mae’r goblygiadau allai hyn ei gael ar ein diogelwch bwyd yn frawychus. Dylid hefyd ystyried bod ymgyrchoedd sy’n pardduo un grŵp bwyd, p’un ai fod hynny’n llaeth neu’n gig, yn gwneud ychydig iawn o synnwyr. Yr unig beth y mae hyn yn ei wneud yw rhyddhau’r allyrwyr carbon diwydiannol mwyaf o’u cyfrifoldeb.

“Mewn gwirionedd, dylid annog cwsmeriaid i wneud dewisiadau gwybodys ynglŷn â sut a lle mae eu bwyd yn cael ei gynhyrchu. Mae gan gynnyrch llaeth stori dda i’w hadrodd. Fel sector rydym yn gwneud cynnydd o ran yr amgylchedd ac ar yr un pryd rydym yn bwydo poblogaeth sy’n gynyddol dyfu. Mae’r sector llaeth yn un hynod bwysig o ran diogelwch bwyd, yn enwedig oherwydd bod mwy na 6 biliwn o boblogaeth y byd yn bwyta’n cynnyrch a’n cynhwysion.

“Mae ffermwyr llaeth Cymru, y DU a’r byd yn rhan o’r datrysiad cynaliadwy, a medrwn fod yn rhan o systemau bwyd cynaliadwy’r dyfodol.”

**This article is in English on the FUW website - News: “Dairy farms have important role to play when it comes to sustainable food production, says Anglesey dairy farmer.”**



## Young North Wales beef and sheep farming couple embrace food production and conservation



NESTLED in the Snowdonia National Park, a few miles from the historic towns of Beddgelert and Penrhyndeudraeth, is Hafod y Llyn Isaf, a National Trust farm. The 110 acres holding is home to husband and wife team Teleri Fielden and Ned Feeseey, 100 sheep and 20 cattle.

The land here is mostly rush pasture and species rich floodplain meadows, as it’s only 3 meters above sea level. Formerly part of the estuary, before the cob was built in Porthmadog, the soil is sandy and presents the young farming couple with some challenges.

Not from a traditional farming background, Teleri and Ned had to prove themselves to their landlords, the National Trust, to be accepted as the tenant farmers here. Through hard work and determination, the couple have secured a 10 year farm business tenancy. Before moving here, Teleri was farming at Llyndy Isaf at Nantgwynant on a scholarship between the National Trust and the YFC. It was meant to be a one year scholarship to help young farmers get a foot on the ladder but she stayed for 3 years running the 600 acre hill farm, with Welsh mountain sheep and Welsh black cattle and a lot of conservation work.

Teleri said: “Neither me nor Ned grew up on a farm so we had to find either a tenancy, share farming agreement or a council holding and thankfully Hafod y Llyn came up the summer I was leaving Llyndy Isaf as the farm scholar there. We applied for it and went through a long application process and eventually were successful. We both however continue to work off farm as well.”

Having taken the farm over in October 2020, the couple are starting from scratch to build up their livestock. “We’re slowly building up our stock. It has

been an expensive year for buying sheep - everyone has been celebrating the prices, we weren’t so much! So we were very relieved when we were offered to lease sheep from a nearby farmer wanting to help us out. We’re developing a suckler herd and have a real mix of cows. We’re trying to work out which breeds work best for our type of farming system,” explains Teleri.

The farming system is important to Ned and Teleri, with the focus being on conservation whilst producing sustainable, nutritious food. “Conservation grazing is how I got into farming. I’m not the most experienced farmer by a long way or the most skilled, and we don’t have a lot of capital to invest into our system, but most of the farms I have worked on have had an ecological focus. I worked on a research farm in France that was focussed on ecological agriculture. Llyndy was also a National Trust farm and we did a lot of conservation there too,” she says.

The cattle play a crucial role in the land management and conservation aspects here on the farm and the breeds were bought in from other farmers also involved in conservation grazing. “We graze on various ‘SAC’s’ (Special Areas of Conservation) and on a big upland area and within woodlands. We also don’t have any wintering sheds for the cattle so they need to be hardy, calm, easy to gather and able to outwinter. We’ve got belted galloways, herefords, welsh blacks, dexters, shorthorn, shetland, white galloway, white shorthorn - it’s a good mix. We also have Romney and Welsh Mountain sheep,” Teleri explains.

The Conservation grazing done sees a small amount of cattle on a large area to allow regeneration and for trees and shrubs to come through. The animals, Teleri says, are really important to provide a mix of habitats. “The cattle graze certain areas harder than others and leave others.

“It creates a mosaic of habitats in an area, such as open pasture where they’ve grazed and where flowers get the chance to come through, but it still allows succession to happen in other areas. It’s a lot of work, because if you have a small number of cattle in a large area you have to find them. That’s why there is some payment for us to do that in some areas. It’s quite time consuming to search for cattle amongst the brambles but they’re very good at enhancing biodiversity, especially in upland areas that haven’t had cattle on them for a long time,” she says.

The grassland here is species rich and the livestock are part of managing and maintaining the environment. “We use the cattle and sheep to graze at certain times of year and then ensure that the land has a long rest period so that things can flower, get long and for the seedheads to come and then the animals graze it off again.

“We use the animals as conservation tools to improve biodiversity and enhance areas. It keeps that fertility on the ground as well. You can really notice it. Some woodland we graze that hasn’t had animals on it for a very long time and you go there now and there are so many more insects and bugs following the cattle. Their muck is also feeding the soil biota.”

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To further improve the farmland for biodiversity and help combat climate change, the National Park has supplied Ned and Teleri with saplings for hedgerows and extra individual trees along boundaries as well. "This winter Ned is going to try putting in a willow stand/agro forestry into some very rushy pasture. We've got very wet land and they grow so well here. You just take cuttings from them, pop them in the ground and they grow. We'll try that because we have a selenium and copper deficiency here and willow is supposed to be very good at providing that. Ned says we look like we're hippy farming but we've read about how successful it is in New Zealand, so hopefully it will work!" said Teleri.

With the land being part of the former estuary, the farm sees the effect of climate change first hand. "We are a fairly risky farm in terms of climate change as we are only 3 meters above sea level, and we are very reliant on the Internal Drainage District Board. Since they built the cob in Porthmadog, we are artificially dry but the regularity and severity of the floods we experience here has increased.



"We can get a hundred year storm every year now. Last year we had terrible trouble with flooding. I always knew it was a wet area because I have previously worked on some land close to this farm. When we got here we had a baptism of fire. The meadows along the river go under fence height water, about 4 foot. You need to be very quick and move the livestock and then fix the fencing after the flood water has gone. You need to be very aware of the river levels and the tide as well, as it impacts the water levels here.

"That's also why we spend a lot of time and energy on improving the soils here. It's important that we have beef and sheep here as opposed to crops. The soil here always needs to be covered. It would be risky to plough or reseed here. That soil has to be protected. That's why we also give the fields a long rest period and make sure there is a good cover on them before we go into winter.

"If the flood comes in fast, you need to move and get the animals out to safety. We are really on the frontline of climate change."

Whilst the couple are keen conservationists and see the clear benefit of planting trees, they are realistic about what is needed. "This is a very wooded area here and the habitats that are missing are species rich meadows and wildflowers and open wet pastures. It wouldn't be the best idea to fully plant everything around here with trees and take the money on offer for woodland at the moment. What wildlife needs here is open pasture and flowers and seed heads for the birds. That's what we're concentrating on. It fits perfectly with beef and lamb production as well," explains Teleri.

Before Ned and Teleri took over the running of the farm, the ecologist for the National Trust did a survey of the plants and species on the farm - the results were encouraging. "We have some really amazing birds and species like the Kingfisher, otters, and a barn owl here. We also have an osprey and many of the little things too

"Before people judge and make assumptions of what goes on on the farm, come and see what we do. It's very hard to stand here, amongst the flowers and cattle happily chewing the cud and the woodland and think otherwise."

like Whorled Caraway, a rare plant we have a lot of here actually in the wet pastures. Michaelmas daisies are also rare but we have a few of them. It's already a nice mix and we're looking to enhance and improve it," said Teleri.

Conservation and looking after the land play a crucial role here at Hafod y Llyn Isaf, however, Teleri and Ned are also keen to ensure that food production doesn't fall by the wayside. "The cattle are doing a great job with the conservation grazing but at the end of the day, the product I can get back from them in terms of money is from the beef and lamb boxes we do, nothing else.

"People want to buy locally and support something that improves the environment as well. The beef boxes have been really successful and that's very encouraging. We take a bullock to Cig Eryri, the small local family run abattoir and they do the cut and kill and then we label it and distribute them. They go out in 5kg boxes, including mince, burgers, steaks, joints and stewing meats. People buy them locally from the farm or we sometimes use a courier to send them further afield. We do the same for the lamb boxes," Teleri says.

With a background in marketing, Teleri has put her skills to good use and is adding value to their products. "We have small numbers of stock and a small area of land so it makes sense to add value where we could. People sign up to our mailing list on our website, then get an email when we have meat available. The local Facebook groups have been really supportive, like Beddgelert and Llanfrothen, and a lot of the boxes have gone out through those Facebook groups."

Teleri is clear that farming systems like theirs will not suit every farm, because there are many variables and selling direct is a lot of work. "A lot of people have said they want to buy locally. It doesn't work for everyone but with the system we have and the skills we have, it makes sense to use it. If consumers are particularly searching out Welsh because they trust that production system that is positive - whether that's through the supermarket or it comes directly from the farm. A lot of it comes down to trust and knowing where the food is coming from; trusting the people behind the produce.

"What we do here just brings us that one step closer to people. I know my customers and you can ask for feedback, that's really nice. I use social media quite a lot so I've had a lot of boxes ordered from further afield and sent them by courier. People have followed the story through and they want the product at the end. It's nice to produce something that people want, off the habitats we've got here."

The meat boxes sold out quickly, and Teleri thinks that's because they had the ability to show people and tell their story. "Once people understand it and see it, they want to eat it. Why wouldn't you? Especially for

people who enjoy Wales as a tourist destination - it's what you see around you and what we produce. It hasn't come from a very long way away or has lots of components or is heavily processed."

Working long hours and putting all their time and energy into the farm, Teleri gets frustrated with the negative narrative that frequently surrounds the industry. "Before people judge and make assumptions of what goes on on the farm, come and see what we do. It's very hard to stand here, amongst the flowers and cattle happily chewing the cud and the woodland and think otherwise.



"With the product we produce, the beef and lamb, it has a very simple ingredients list: Grass, water and trees and flowers. That's what they eat and if you look at those ingredients and what goes into it and you look at the outputs - habitats and biodiversity, money coming in for the rural economy, nutritious food, a family and local community being kept alive and so on. It's hard to point the finger if they came here to see it all.

"Yes of course, there are lots of things we can do to improve it. I haven't done a carbon footprint calculation yet and I know that our cattle take longer to get fat than others. There are many things we can improve but we have to be more confident in what we already do and shout about it. Ned and I are constantly thinking about how and where we can improve things in terms of productivity and the environment. That's what all our time, energy and money goes into. It's thinking about ways to improve our farm, and you get so obsessed and attached to this piece of land that you want to improve it for future generations and that's what responding to the climate and nature crisis is. Improving the land for the future and farmers are good at that."



*Mae'r erthygl yma ar gael yn Gymraeg ar wefan UAC - Newyddion: "Cwplw ifanc sy'n ffermwyr cig eidion a defaid yng Ngogledd Cymru yn manteisio ar gynhyrchu bwyd a chadwraeth."*

# Summary of FUW Group's Strategic Plan

The vision I had when I was elected President was to create a strategic plan for the Union, with associated financial and operational plans. I believed that this would create firm foundations for a successful future and provide guidance on the vision, principles and values as well as ensuring financial viability.

I am therefore very pleased to be able to share a summary of the Strategic Plan we have developed as a Board of Directors together with the Senior Management Team with you, our members, through the pages of *Y Tir*. I acknowledge that I would have liked to have achieved this sooner, but let's move forward with confidence rather than looking back.

This document is a summary of the current version of the Union's Strategic Plan which provides an overview of key issues and aspirations, including the priorities and objectives that the Board of Directors has set for the next three years.

It does not go into detail about who is going to take different aspects forward and how, but that level of detail will be in the operational plans. The priorities and objectives will drive those plans and provide a solid foundation against which to assess progress.

I would liken the Union to a ship, I believe that we have a good crew on board and an appropriate ship, but if we did not set a clear direction the ship would be drifting in the fog. This Plan will enable us to put our hand on the helm and guide our ship in turbulent or calm waters.

*Glyn Roberts, FUW President*



## Background

The work of developing the Strategic and Business Plans has been taken forward through workshops with the Board of Directors and the Senior Management Team, discussions at relevant meetings and a series of structured one-to-one discussions. We have also developed and refined the plan through email correspondence primarily.

## The Function of the Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan will set the broad strategic direction for the FUW Group for the next three years. It is a high-level document which provides an overview of key issues and aspirations, but does not go into detail about who will take different aspects forward and how. That greater level of detail will be included in the Union's Business Plan and in associated action plans for teams and individuals. The priorities and objectives set for the next three years will drive those plans and provide a firm basis against which it will be possible to assess progress.

Below (section one) is a summary of the issues we face which need to be understood as the context within which we are developing and consulting on this Strategic Plan.

## 1. Financial & Resource Position: Provided for Context

Ref	Initial Points - Finance & Resource Context
1.1	The Covid pandemic has been a challenge for us all but there have been some unanticipated benefits for the FUW Group. The financial performance of FUW Limited (Union Services) has improved through a combination of cost savings such as less postage, stationery and travel costs and also the cancellation of events usually attended by the Union such as agricultural shows, the Royal Welsh and Eisteddfodau. Whilst event costs will return as the pandemic recedes the challenge for the Group is to try and maintain a significant portion of savings made since March 2020. This could be a significant contribution to the challenge of developing a more sustainable cost base and delivering savings on a day-to-day basis. Examples of savings made to date include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More use of electronic documents rather than the traditional printing and postage.</li> <li>- The use of Zoom style meetings for one-to-one engagement and also for policy discussions and County Executive meetings. The savings on time no longer spent travelling is providing significant productivity gains for the policy team and we should aspire to maintain this 'virtual' way of working.</li> <li>- Board meetings conducted virtually have proved effective and have delivered substantial cost and time savings and will continue to do so.</li> </ul>
1.2	FUWIS will continue to use more electronic methods of communication in order to sustain some significant cost savings delivered on postage and stationery costs. FUWIS will also aim to maintain savings made on travel costs as meetings, both internal and external, continue to be held on a virtual basis.
1.3	There is a need for overall salaries within the Union to be capped. However, where re-structuring opportunities arise or flexible working is an option, we can find ourselves with more people in a team even if costs have not increased. This is a key issue in terms of working in a more effective manner. Controlling costs within FUWIS is more challenging due to our success. More business often demands more staff in order to maintain service levels to our customers. However, our aim will always be to keep our cost base as lean as possible.
1.4	As a result of recent Government decisions at Westminster we will also face a significant Corporation Tax increase from April 2023 onwards when Corporation Tax will increase from 19% to 25%. This equates to a 31% increase and will have an impact on our finances. The employer national insurance increase recently announced will also add around £50,000 to our employment costs across the Group even if we employ no additional staff and pay them no more than last year. Taking the above into account it is apparent that without either a significant increase in income from the membership or through the insurance division there will be a necessity to make significant savings within the Union moving forward. This is the background under which we are working as we try to create a sustainable blueprint for the future of the FUW Group.
1.5	Whilst the future tax situation is challenging it should be noted that our subsidiary insurance business (FUWIS) continues to perform very well. Income and sales are both increasing whilst cost remain significantly lower than the situation pre-pandemic. Further limited savings can be made within FUWIS but income growth should be the priority within our subsidiary. As with any business however, there is no single solution to the need for higher profits. We have and we continue to diversify the insurance business but we still need you, our members, to support the FUW through insuring with us if we are competitive. That is all we ask.
1.6	Throughout the pandemic period both the FUW and FUWIS have experimented with new ways of working and managed significant cost savings. Not everything has worked but it's fair to say that in eighteen months we have probably managed five years of operational changes within the two entities that make-up the FUW Group. This high-level strategy, with your input and support, will allow us to prioritise those areas of work which will be seen as essential as we create a Strategic Plan that will be the bedrock of a detailed three-year business plan for the Group.

## 2. Vision, Mission, Strategic Goals and Approach

The Union's vision, its mission and its strategic goals, are as follows:

### Vision

**Thriving Sustainable Family Farms in Wales**

### Mission

**To advance and protect Wales' family farms, both nationally and individually, in order to fulfil the Union vision**

### Strategic Goals

No.	Strategic Goals
1	To promote the interests of those engaged in farming and agriculture in Wales by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilitating the co-operation of farmers and other interested parties with the common aim of protecting and developing the agricultural industry</li> <li>• securing through legislation, public policy and regulations, a public policy environment which will support the aims and aspirations of the Union</li> <li>• opposing legislation, public policy and regulations which will be detrimental to the interests of farmers and agriculture as identified by the Union</li> <li>• to pursue any other lawful ways and means which, in the opinion of the Union, shall be conducive to the attainment of this object</li> </ul>
2	To promote an understanding of the contribution of agriculture to the Welsh economy and environment and the central role of farms in maintaining viable rural communities
3	To be the voice of the farmers of Wales at all levels of Government
4	To represent the farmers of Wales on all bodies and organisations interested in, or concerned with, Welsh agriculture both nationally and internationally
5	To provide services to members in line with the Vision and Mission of the Union
6	To explore and encourage innovative, forward thinking and sustainable farming practices

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Draft Values - for conclusion	
1. Respect / Respected	7. Data Driven
2. Forward thinking / Embracing change	8. Good communications
3. Integrity	9. Professional
4. Teamwork	10. Service focused
5. Friendly and approachable	11. Transparency
6. An employer of choice	12. Proud & aware of our history

The Union values highlighted above seek to encapsulate what the Union stands for, and in many cases has always stood for.

### 3. Priorities and Objectives for 2022 - 2025

The Board has identified four priorities for the next three years with a number of specific objectives under each one. Work is already underway on the objectives highlighted in yellow and the objectives in white are a priority for the next two years. It is envisaged that those in turquoise will be progressed from 2023/24 onwards.

#### Priority 1 Further development of services to members

Ref	Objectives
3.1	To provide an options appraisal to the Board including collaborative working with other organisations to deliver member services in areas such as Agri-Environmental work
3.2	To provide a proposal paper for discussing potential changes to the way in which we serve and support our counties
3.3	To explore the benefits to members and the business viability of developing additional services to our member base. The aim is to provide the Board with an options appraisal and evaluating the degree to which the Union could reasonably aspire to provide a comprehensive service to members based on existing expertise and joint-ventures
3.4	To consider changes to the membership arrangements and payment structure and present a paper with relevant options to the Board
3.5	To provide an overview to the Board of the characteristics of current Union members with the aim of benchmarking this information against available data relating to the overall characteristics of the Welsh agricultural sector
3.6	To develop a structured annual consultation and feedback process for Union staff that complements the process for Union members
3.7	To map the Union's strengths and areas for improvement against major competitor(s) and produce a report to the Board regarding relevant strengths and weakness in the context of our varied services
3.8	To consider the viability of providing tailored services for different areas or counties and produce a report for consideration by the Board
3.9	To develop a structured annual consultation process for Union members regarding the services they think they will need going forward and what they currently get from the Union

#### Priority 2 To enhance and make best use of Union assets

Ref	Objectives
3.2.1	To provide a report to the Board setting out realistic options for the Union Estate going forward looking at the advantages and disadvantages of a number of options open to us as a Group
3.2.2	On the back of 3.2.1 - develop a joint Estates Strategy for the Union and FUWIS
3.2.3	To develop a Group Strategy for the FUW and FUW Insurance Services
3.2.4	To assess the advantages and disadvantages of moving to a position where all Union activities and services are funded mainly or entirely through member subscriptions
3.2.5	To create a flexible organisation able to meet significant, as yet unidentified, risks
3.2.6	To explore the business case for attempting to meaningfully increase the Union's membership base
3.2.7	To provide the two Boards within the Group with regular updates on specific aspects of cross selling of membership products and insurance products
3.2.8	To agree a method for setting Union membership fees in a fair and proportionate manner

#### Priority 3 To further refine Union systems and improve efficiency

Ref	Objectives
3.3.1	To provide quarterly updates on the progress made in improving effectiveness and efficiency
3.3.2	To review current HR systems and processes and report to the Board
3.3.3	To develop aims and an action plan for putting in place written policies procedures and guidelines for key areas of operation
3.3.4	To reflect on the changes in governance made during the past four years and identify what works and what needs to be refined. A particular focus to be placed on evaluating the way the Board operates and how it interacts with stakeholders.
3.3.5	Evaluate alternative delivery methods and delivery points in terms of improved effectiveness and efficiency in providing services to members. The Union and the FUW Group should and will learn from the experience of the past 18 months in areas such as remote working
3.3.6	To develop a coherent action plan for digitisation of all records and documents held by the Group and provide an Action Plan
3.3.7	Develop performance management systems for relevant areas of work that reflect the contributions made by different individuals and teams to the work of the Union. These systems should include KPIs and an associated action plan
3.3.8	To provide a report to the Board that assesses the demands different services, responsibilities and tasks make on the time of front-line officers

#### Priority 4 To further enhance the influence of the Union

Ref	Objectives
3.4.1	To develop a strategy and action plan for enhancing lobbying efforts and facilitating direct lobbying by members and County Branches
3.4.2	To put in place a development programme for Union members, targeted particularly, but not exclusively, at elected County Officials
3.4.3	To agree a process to take forward the Union's potential role in encouraging innovative, forward-thinking and sustainable farming practices

### 4. Current Assessment - Steps Taken to Date

Ref	What we have done and what we need to do
4.1	We are providing this opportunity to discuss the high-level strategic plan and will be encouraging our County Executives to arrange meetings to discuss these high-level priorities. A Board Member will be in attendance at each of these meetings. However, some context is required and in this case it's important to highlight what has been done in addition to what we need to do moving forward.
4.2	The enforced Covid lockdown has shown our IT systems to be robust with staff across the Group performing remarkably well as they adjusted to home working. A significant success of this period was the roll-out of a new IT system which has given our systems more resilience and flexibility whilst also providing a more secure system for the storage of group data. The major overhaul of our IT systems has therefore been concluded and whilst IT never stand still we are in a good place as a business from an IT perspective.
4.3	Out internet-based telephone system is operational across the Group. This system proved invaluable as we moved to home working during the lockdown period and is now delivering significant cost savings for the Group.
4.4	A full, company-wide pay review has been undertaken within FUWIS with more clarity and certainty offered to staff in terms of career progression opportunities. This undertaking has been crucial in view of increased demand for staff which has impacted on recruitment.
4.5	Cross group services / cost centres have been identified which are as follows; Finance / Marketing and communications / IT and systems support - The Marketing and Communications team has been re-organised and is now working as a single unit which includes marketing, communications, Y Tir and translation / Welsh language services. The finance and IT team have been reviewed, some job descriptions / roles changed and a clear cross group remit agreed.
4.6	The Policy Team has been re-structured within a set-number of available hours to be shared amongst the team as prioritised by the Policy Director. The team now has a Senedd / Parliamentary liaison officer who will also be working as a stakeholder engagement officer for Gwent and Glamorgan.



# Plannu coed a masnachu carbon yn cael ei drafod gyda'r Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd

CAFODD UAC sgysia cadarnhaol gyda'r Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd, Julie James AS, gyda'r prif sylw ar blannu coed a phrynu tir Cymru at ddibenion gwrthbwyso carbon gan fusnesau o'r tu allan i Gymru.

Mae UAC wedi derbyn adroddiadau gan aelodau bron yn wythnosol bod ffermydd cyfan neu ddarnau o dir yn cael eu prynu gan unigolion a busnesau o'r tu allan i Gymru at ddibenion plannu coed er mwyn buddsoddi yn y farchnad garbon gynyddol neu wrthbwyso eu hallyriadau eu hunain yn hytrach na cheisio lleihau eu hól troed carbon yn y lle cyntaf.

"Trafodwyd ein pryderon parhaol ynglŷn â'r mater hwn mewn cyfarfod diweddar o Gyngor yr Undeb. Roedd yr aelodau'n teimlo'n gryf y dylai Llywodraeth a Senedd Cymru gymryd camau brys i fynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn trwy ryw fath o fecanwaith rheoli," meddai Llywydd UAC, Glyn Roberts, (*gweler ar y dde*).

Pwysleisiodd Llywydd yr Undeb ymhellach fod gwerthu carbon fel hyn yn peryglu tanseilio gallu ffermydd, amaethyddiaeth Cymru neu Gymru gyfan i ddod yn garbon niwtral.

"Pan fydd darn o dir fferm yn cael ei werthu a'i blannu â choed nid yw bellach ar gael yn swyddogol i'r sector amaethyddol ar gyfer gwrthbwyso allyriadau, ac os bydd rhywun yn plannu coed ar dir Cymru ac yn gwerthu'r carbon y tu allan i Gymru, yna ar bapur mae hyn yn dal i gyfrannu at dargedau statudol fel y mae'n ymddangos yn Rhestr Allyriadau Nwyon Tŷ Gwydr Cymru - ond mewn gwirionedd mae'r math hwn o gyfrif carbon dwbl ond yn hwylyso cynhyrchu carbon gan fusnes y tu allan i Gymru, a thrwy hynny yn amddifadu busnesau Cymru o'r cyfle i ddefnyddio'r carbon hwnnw i wirioneddol wrthbwyso allyriadau Cymru," meddai.

Dywedodd Mr Roberts ei fod yn croesawu cadarnhad y Gweinidog Julie James yn y cyfarfod bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymwybodol o'r mater hwn ac yn edrych i mewn iddo, ac yn rhannu llawer o bryderon UAC.

Mae ffigurau a ryddhawyd yn ddiweddar gan Lywodraeth Cymru wedi cadarnhau bod



cyfran gynyddol o arian cynllun Glastir - Creu Coetir Llywodraeth Cymru yn cael ei ddefnyddio i dalu am blannu coed ar dir ffermio Cymru a brynwyd gan fuddsoddwyr gyda chyfeiriadau y tu allan i Gymru. Cadarnhaodd y ffigurau hefyd fod yr ardaloedd a blannwyd gan fuddsoddwyr o'r fath ar gyfartaledd lawer gwaith yn fwy na'r hyn a blannir gan y rhai sydd â chyfeiriadau Cymreig.

"Cadarnhawyd ein pryderon parhaol mewn ymateb diweddar gan Lywodraeth Cymru i gwestiwn Senedd gan lefarydd amaethyddiaeth Plaid Cymru, Cefin Campbell, a ddatgelodd, rhwng cyfnod ymgeisio 8 a 10 cynllun Glastir - Creu Coetir (Tachwedd 2019) a (Tachwedd 2020) tyfodd y nifer o ymgeiswyr â chyfeiriadau y tu allan i Gymru o 3% i 8%," meddai Mr Roberts.

Datgelwyd hefyd, rhwng cyfnod ymgeisio 8 (Tachwedd 2019) a 9 (Mawrth 2020) bod cyfran y tir a dderbyniwyd ar gyfer y grant Glastir - Creu Coetir yn dilyn ceisiadau o'r tu allan i Gymru wedi codi o 10% i 16%.

Mae'r ffigurau hefyd yn datgelu bod arwynebedd cyfartalog y tir a blannwyd â choed gan ymgeiswyr Glastir - Creu Coetir o'r tu allan i Gymru yn 96 hectar yn ystod y tymor plannu diwethaf, o'i gymharu ag arwynebedd cyfartalog o 17 hectar a blannwyd gan ymgeiswyr â chyfeiriadau yng Nghymru.

"Yn ystod y cyfarfod trafodwyd nifer o faterion eraill, gan gynnwys sut y gallwn sicrhau bod y goeden iawn yn cael ei phlannu am y rheswm iawn yn y lle iawn, a'r argyfwng ail gartrefi sy'n wynebu ein cymunedau gwledig. Diolchwn eto i'r Gweinidog am y cyfarfod adeiladol ac edrychwn ymlaen at barhau â'r trafodaethau hyn er mwyn dod o hyd i'r ffordd orau ymlaen i Gymru ynglŷn â'r holl faterion sy'n dod o fewn ei phortffolio," ychwanegodd.

*This article is in English on the FUW website - News: "FUW discusses tree planting and carbon trading with Minister for Climate Change."*

## Caernarfonshire farmer raises agricultural water pollution regulation concerns with local politicians

THE FUW has ensured that issues concerning changes to Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) remain at the forefront of politician's minds.

Arfon MP, Liz Saville-Roberts and Mabon ap Gwynfor MS grasped the opportunity to visit Chwilog farm Mur Clwt Lloer, farmed by Caernarfonshire FUW Chairman, John Hughes, to see the potential issues first hand.

John farms the 75 hectare farm which is all laid out to pasture in partnership with his father William Hughes and wife, Sian. Currently, they raise 120 replacement dairy heifers for a large dairy herd nearby.

Under current NVZ regulations in other UK and EU Nations and previous regulations covering 2.4 % of land in Wales, farmers with more than 80% of their holding designated as grassland have the ability to apply for a derogation to increase the annual livestock manure nitrate whole farm limit from 170kg N per ha to 250kg N per ha.

Despite the same option being included in Welsh Government's draft Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations published in 2020, it was omitted before being laid in front of the Senedd in 2021 without any form of warning or explanation.

If this isn't addressed, John Hughes is resigned to having to reduce his stock to 80 head of cattle, with the catastrophic resulting drop in income.

FUW Caernarfonshire County Executive Officer Gwynedd Watkin said: "The proposed legislation means farmers will need to calculate their anticipated slurry management needs and ensure a minimum of five months' storage to ensure that spreading only happens during the spring and summer months.

"The result is that farmers are forced to farm according to the calendar rather than the weather, and where these regulations have been implemented in Ireland problems are already appearing as farmers have no choice but to start spreading slurry at the same time resulting in serious run-off issues threatening nearby water courses."

John Hughes said: "We currently spread all our slurry to improve the land. These new developments would mean me having to de-stock by a third, and that was the key point I was trying to make to Liz Saville-Roberts and Mabon ap Gwynfor. I really appreciate the opportunity to explain this to them first hand and they totally understood my concerns."

The FUW has provided evidence to the Senedd as part of its review of the regulations clarifying why issues such as the omission of the 250kg derogation is just one of a vast array of severe problems inherent to the draconian regulations introduced by the previous Senedd.



FUW Caernarfon County Chairman John Hughes leads a constructive conversation with Mabon ap Gwynfor (far left) and Liz Saville Roberts (second from left) and Union representatives.



From left, Mabon ap Gwynfor, John Hughes, Huw Hughes, Sian Hughes and Liz Saville Roberts.





# School meal procurement concerns raised with Anglesey County Council

THE FUW has raised concerns about the procurement policies for school meals at primary schools on Anglesey with the local council. Union officials were concerned that the menu offered to children did not incorporate enough local and Welsh produce.

FUW Anglesey County Executive Officer Alaw Jones, (pictured right), said: "We were encouraged by the meeting we had with the County Council and welcome the fact that they hope to work with local farmers to explore opportunities to supply meat and dairy produce for school meals on the island."

The council, which has recently signed a multi million pound contract to supply 9,500 school meals every day with catering giant Chartwells said that though they were limited in their influence over food suppliers, they would be happy to help the FUW raise awareness

of high quality Welsh food producers within the catering company.

"We understand that councils are occasionally hamstrung by regulations meaning they can't impose conditions on these contracts. However, it goes without saying that they should make every effort to source the food for our children locally and from within Wales.

"We are looking forward to assisting the council in finding local and Welsh suppliers.

"Wales has some excellent food producers and our food is sustainable and nutritious. Our animals are reared to world class health and welfare standards and the diet of our children should not be compromised by mediocre food products, when we have excellence on our doorstep," added Alaw Jones.



## Diversification committee highlights housing emergency

THE FUW Diversification Committee has highlighted the need for the Welsh Government to take robust action to protect rural communities from the impacts of second home ownership and other factors that are depleting local housing.

Following a FUW Diversification Committee meeting held on October 14, during which the committee discussed a Welsh Government consultation on local taxes for second homes and self-catering accommodation, newly elected committee Chair, Dewi Owen, (pictured right), said:

"Committee delegates from across Wales expressed acute concerns regarding the impact second home ownership and similar factors are having on the affordability and availability of homes for local people, and how this is threatening our rural communities."

Gwynedd County Council, of which Mr Owen is an elected member, says 60% of residents are currently priced out of the housing market in the county and that around 11% of the county's entire stock is being used as second homes. However, the problem is one that impacts areas across Wales and is continuing to grow.

"The massive rise in second home ownership and houses purchased by outside investors as AirBnB type accommodation since the beginning of the pandemic has added to existing problems, and is leading to young people having to leave their communities.

"As a committee concerned with farm diversification, we of course recognise the importance of tourism and self catering accommodation to our economy, but many of our coastal and rural villages are seeing their communities devastated, with serious implications for our heritage and culture," said Mr Owen.

In considering the Welsh Government's

**"For some of our communities it may already be too late, but robust action needs to be taken urgently."**



consultation, the committee highlighted a number of moves that the Welsh Government and other authorities should take to stem the impact.

"We need loopholes to be closed that currently allow second home owners to avoid paying the council tax premium many local authorities are now implementing by registering their properties as short-term holiday lets and claiming non-domestic business rate," he said.

Mr Owen added this needs to be monitored and policed properly, and that there are currently large numbers of second home owners artificially claiming Small Business Rates

Relief as non-domestic holiday lets, meaning local people are picking up the lion's share of the costs in their local communities through their council tax.

"We also need to raise the thresholds that allow such houses to qualify as business properties - local people who have diversified into self catering accommodation are genuine businesses which make that accommodation available for most of the year, not just for a part of it.

"Yet under the current rules accommodation must only be available to let for around a third of the year to be eligible for rate relief.

"Raising this threshold would avoid blanket changes to business rates which would unfairly target farms and others which had diversified into genuine self catering type enterprises," said Mr Owen.

The committee also proposed changes to the planning rules which would require change of use permission in order to change a domestic property into a second home or a holiday let, and a quota for local communities that ensures a fixed percentage of houses within a community are available for local housing needs.

"The Welsh Government has a mountain to climb in order to tackle this problem, and we acknowledge that it is not straightforward. But they have a duty and moral responsibility to protect our communities from the long term devastation these issues are causing.

"For some of our communities it may already be too late, but robust action needs to be taken urgently, including granting additional powers to local authorities to deal with such matters, before this becomes an even worse problem in the majority of our rural communities," added Mr Owen.

## Environmental Blueprint for Welsh Livestock Farming

HYBU Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales (HCC) has launched a practical guide for farmers, to help the sheep and beef sectors to make the most of Wales's potential to lead the world in sustainable livestock farming.

Entitled *Perfecting the Welsh Way*, the document outlines a range of steps - from animal breeding and fertility to grassland management and nutrition - which could help achieve major reductions in the carbon footprint of sheep and beef farming.

The on-farm measures could cut direct emissions from the sheep sector by 20%, and Welsh agriculture could make an even bigger impact through additional measures such as increasing carbon sequestration in soils and generating renewable energy.

According to independent academic research first revealed in HCC's *Welsh Way* vision released in late-2020, Wales is already one of the most sustainable places in the world to produce red meat, with its non-intensive farming based on abundant rainfall and grass growth which does not depend on imported feed.

The new document is aimed at helping the industry to improve further, to contribute to achieving the Welsh Government's target of net zero by 2050, and ensure that consumers are given the choice to buy the most sustainable lamb and beef possible.

A major focus is grassland management. Grazed grassland, which is the large majority of agricultural land in Wales, can act as a carbon sink. Effective management of grassland will ensure both correct nutrition for cattle and sheep, while also helping to sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

As John Richards, HCC Industry Development and Relations Manager explained, a key conclusion of the work is that there is not one 'silver bullet' to making the most of Welsh agriculture's potential to contribute to mitigating climate change, but that a range of measures taken together can lead to a substantial sustainability gain.

"When we commissioned independent research last year to assess where we stood in terms of sustainable farming, it was always our intention to take that a step further and give leadership to the sheep and beef sectors of how to get even better," said John.

"Through this practical guide, we can see that there are a wide range of improvements that farm businesses can make, with many of them being real 'win-win' initiatives that both help the environment and make farms more efficient and profitable," he added.

"There are already some genuinely world-leading sustainability initiatives taking place on Welsh family farms," explained John. "By extending this best practice to the whole sector, we can make a real difference and help meet the sector's obligations to mitigating climate change."

Many of the measures contained in *Perfecting the Welsh Way* are based on a number of research projects being undertaken by HCC in conjunction with universities, project partners vets and farmers.



## FUW seeks nominations for outstanding dairy person in Wales

THE FUW is once again looking to recognise an individual who has made a great contribution towards the development of the dairy industry and has become an integral part of the dairy industry in Wales.

To recognise such a person the Union is seeking nominations for its FUW Outstanding Service to the Welsh Dairy Industry award. The winner will be announced, and the presentation made, at this year's Royal Welsh Winter Fair on Monday November 29.

FUW Carmarthen County Executive Officer David Waters, (pictured right), said: "There are a number of very worthy individuals in Wales who deserve this award and looking back we have had some fantastic nominations and winners. So if you know of a person in Wales who has made a great contribution towards the development of the dairy industry and has become an integral part of it in Wales, then why not nominate them for this prestigious award?"

Nominations should be in the form of a letter or citation giving full details of the work and achievements of the nominee and need to be emailed to the FUW Carmarthen office: [carmarthen@fuw.org.uk](mailto:carmarthen@fuw.org.uk) or sent by post to FUW Carmarthen, 13A Barn Road, Carmarthen, SA31 1DD by Friday November 12 2021.



## "I look forward to working towards achieving the Unions vision and mission"

THE FUW's new Chairman on Anglesey has highlighted two prime issues as the biggest challenges faced by the industry in the county.

William Hughes, (pictured right), who farms, Graeanfa, near Llanfaethlu pinpointed the difficulties young people have to join the industry and a perceived disconnect between agriculture and city based policy writers as issues he would like to tackle during his two year term as Chairman.

He said: "Smallholdings which are the traditional entry point for young farmers don't seem to be made available as often as they were. There's a perception that farms of, say 70 acres are unsustainable as commercial enterprises.

"Whilst I accept they'd have to be farmed part-time, these are perfect and sustainable for young people to enter the industry. As chairman I hope to work on this issue alongside the county staff to see if we can get an improvement on the situation."

William took over the running of the 350 ewes and 40 suckler cows on his 240 acre family farm when his father, former Ynys Môn Councillor, Richard Hughes, realised that more



and more of his time was being taken by council business.

Richard Hughes had already started hosting touring caravans but William expanded this aspect and the farm is now an official Caravan and Camping Club site.

His second concern is a more widespread issue: "The relationship between agriculture - rural areas generally - and city-based policy makers is changing rapidly because there are fewer and fewer farmers involved these days.

"There's a vacuum of understanding about agriculture. It's important to reconnect people so they understand the importance of thriving, sustainable family farms. Together with the county office staff and the wider FUW community, I look forward to working towards achieving the Unions vision and mission. We must ensure that thriving, sustainable family farms will not become a thing of the past."

"There's a vacuum of understanding about agriculture. It's important to reconnect people so they understand the importance of thriving, sustainable family farms."

## Violence against women - we must speak out

by Eirian Roberts, Chair of the National Federation of Women's Institutes-Wales



### Live Fear Free Helpline

For confidential information, advice or support around domestic abuse, sexual violence or violence against women anyone can contact the Live Fear Free Helpline in any language 24 hours a day 7 days a week by...

**Phone** 0808 80 10 800

**Text** 07860 077333

**Email** [info@livefearfreehelpline.wales](mailto:info@livefearfreehelpline.wales)

**Webchat** <https://gov.wales/live-fear-free/contact-live-fear-free>

For more information, please visit <https://gov.wales/live-fear-free/contact-live-fear-free>






ONE in 3 women will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. A woman is killed every 3 days in the UK by a man. One in 5 children experience parental domestic abuse.

The prevalence of violence against women across the world is alarming. The 'shadow pandemic' of violence and abuse in the home, as described by the UN during the Covid-19 pandemic, is happening behind closed doors in our communities. Tragic events, such as the recent murders of Sabina Messa and Sarah Everard, have highlighted that much more needs to be done to end violence against women so that women are able to live their lives free from the fear of violence, harassment and abuse. The onus should not be on women and girls to adapt their lives but for perpetrators to change their behaviours.

Ahead of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (25 November - 10 December), the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI)-Wales and Joyce Watson MS are calling on men and boys to speak out against male violence towards women.

Whilst women are disproportionately the victims of violence, we should not underestimate the role of men in the prevention and elimination of violence against women. Men can be agents of change and play a part as positive role models to help us achieve a culture change where violence against women is not tolerated by society.

The annual Not in my Name campaign, established by NFWI-Wales and Joyce Watson MS in 2012, involves the recruitment of male ambassadors to challenge the attitudes and behaviours that lead to violence against women and to make the White Ribbon promise to 'never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women'.

Over the years, the campaign has gathered the support of male choirs and sports clubs across Wales as well as the farming Unions. We are delighted that the FUW have pledged their support once more this year.

Violence against women is a cause and consequence of gender inequality and every one of us has a role to play in ending violence against women. We must speak up to challenge attitudes and change behaviours in all areas of life including homes, communities, workplaces, public spaces and online. Only by speaking out against violence against women, can we help achieve a society where women and girls - our mothers, sisters, daughters, friends - are treated equally to men and a society where they are free from the fear of violence and abuse.

FUW members are invited to join our events on 22 November to mark the 16 Days of Activism. These include an online cross-party stakeholder event at 2pm and a candlelight vigil on the steps of the Senedd at 6pm to show solidarity with victims of violence against women across the world. For further information, please visit [www.thewi.org.uk/wi-in-wales/campaigns/no-more-violence-against-women](http://www.thewi.org.uk/wi-in-wales/campaigns/no-more-violence-against-women)

"We must speak up to challenge attitudes and change behaviours in all areas of life including homes, communities, workplaces, public spaces and online."

# “I am highly optimistic for the future of agriculture in Wales”

by Rebecca John

GROWING up in Pembrokeshire, surrounded by a large family with strong links to the agricultural industry, in particular the dairy sector, has meant that agriculture has been a massive part of my life since day one. My rural upbringing has been the source of my passion for agriculture and has been a major influence when deciding on a career path.

At the age of 16 I decided to study a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture at Gelli Aur, Coleg Sir Gar. I was awarded “Student of the year” for both years of my studies. After completing my diploma, I progressed to study for a BSc Degree in Agriculture with Business Management at Aberystwyth University.

I thoroughly enjoyed both the academic and social side of university life. The academic aspect involved lectures, field trips, practicals and a study tour covering a variety of topics, all of which have broadened my existing knowledge and opened my eyes to areas of the industry I was unfamiliar with.

The social part included me joining the Welsh society and the Sea Rowing club in which I carried the role of Welsh Officer for an academic year.

Since graduating this summer I have been working full time alongside my grandfather and father at the family farm,

“My rural upbringing has been the source of my passion for agriculture.”



Rinaston. We milk a herd of all year-round calving pedigree Holstein Friesians, fatten Holstein Friesian steers and shepherd a flock of commercial ewes.

I have always had a passion for pedigree livestock and have been interested in exhibiting livestock. In 2018 I established my own flock of pedigree Kerry Hills with the ambition of

breeding high quality and show potential sheep.

An aspiration of mine is to travel to other countries to experience the variations of other agricultural industries. I have a particular interest in travelling to New Zealand, Australia, America, and Canada.

The eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis is one of my main hopes for the future of agriculture in Wales. As part of my studies at University, I undertook a dissertation project investigating the effects of Bovine Tuberculosis on farmers mental health and financial health of their business.

Over 300 farmers participated in my research. My analysis of my research highlighted clearly that Bovine Tuberculosis is an issue that affects all farmers whether they were under restrictions or not. As the eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis isn't likely to happen for several years, I really do believe that a better support network is needed for farmers struggling mentally and financially from Bovine Tuberculosis.

I am highly optimistic for the future of agriculture in Wales as there are many opportunities available to aid young farmers in terms of their careers and social life such as Young Farmers Club, Farming Connect and many more.

## Dyfed-Powys Police Stakeholder Engagement Letter

Dear Mr Glyn Roberts, FUW President

Over the past twelve months we have been focused on improving the service we provide to victims of crime.

The systems and processes we currently have in place don't always allow us to work in the best way, and we know that on occasions we are taking longer than we should to record and investigate crimes. This impacts on the trust and confidence of victims, our ability to take cases to court and obtain the right outcomes for them.

We have reviewed our current ways of working in detail, having consulted with victims of crime, officers, staff and volunteers, as well as carrying out in-depth analysis of the incoming demand across our four counties. This has informed our new way of working which will be implemented this month.

The demand analysis undertaken and feedback from victims indicated that we needed to change how we manage workloads and officer responsibilities. We are currently asking response officers to attend calls for service, update victims and take responsibility for the investigation of crimes. This, due to their shift pattern and increasing demand has meant that quite simply we are asking the impossible of them, and as an unintended consequence we are letting victims down.

We only have a finite number of resources and have therefore had to make some changes. These changes have created new roles, removing some of the barriers that we know impact negatively on our service and we have had to flex resources to ensure we have enough people in both response policing and investigations.

The new configuration of the roles means that response officers do not carry any ongoing responsibility for investigations. This creates capacity for them to attend urgent calls and be more visible and available. In addition, we have created new local investigation teams, where officers have dedicated time for victim contact and crime enquiries. I can assure you that the demand analysis undertaken tells us that the new ways of working do not jeopardise our ability to respond to calls from those at risk or vulnerable.

To yourselves and the wider public, our service will look much the same. There is no change to the other ways in which we do business; to our partnership arrangements; the way we manage serious or organised crime; or, the way we manage offenders. There is no impact on our rural crime teams or neighbourhood policing teams and no station closures.

The last eighteen months have shown us that we can continue to provide a safe, sustainable service to the public even when working remotely. We need a model of policing that embraces opportunities for us to improve, and one which can continue to evolve.

We are aware that any change to our services may inevitably and quite rightly raise questions. We therefore wanted to ensure you are aware of what is happening, provide an opportunity for you to raise any concerns and to help support any other interaction you think may be helpful.

I am grateful to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Llywelyn, for the scrutiny he and his team have applied to our plans. You can be assured this will continue and that this new way of working will be monitored closely at every stage to ensure we realise the benefits we set out to achieve. We will continue to listen, learn and flex the model accordingly.

We are confident we can demonstrate how these developments will allow us to deliver a better service for victims and the people we serve, and we look forward to communicating these in due course.

Yours sincerely

Temporary Deputy Chief Constable, Emma Ackland

## Conference covers rural issues in Wales

MID October saw the first online Welsh Rural & Wildlife Rural Crime Conference, involving key speakers on a variety of subjects and 60 delegates from the police, NRW, Welsh Government and partner agencies taking part.

Topics such as Farm liaison, mental health and protecting our wildlife were discussed

This all day ‘jam-packed’ conference saw a wide range of subjects covered across the whole scope of rural issues in Wales. Topics such as Farm liaison, mental health and protecting our wildlife were discussed along with a discussion on the illegal bird trade of Peregrine Falcons to name a few.

New Wales Rural & Wildlife Co-ordinator and organiser of the conference, Rob Taylor, (pictured right), said: “During these

times when public gatherings still aren't easy, we decided to hold this vital conference online for the first time. That brings its own difficulties of possible technical issues, but thankfully it went very smoothly with a variety of excellent speakers.

“The input by the DPJ Foundation on suicide prevention and mental health in our farming communities was particularly emotional and yet well received by those listening and I feel the officers are now in a better position to know what help is available to them.”

The new Welsh Rural Co-ordinator role has been able to facilitate such meetings and bring together various people from organisations that can make a real difference for rural Wales.

Mr Taylor added: “This isn't just a talking shop, this is about bringing those that can make the difference onboard by enabling them to meet likeminded people and to see what tools are available to them to move things forward.”

You can follow the Welsh Rural Coordinator on Twitter @Rural\_wales



# We need your help - come and get involved

by Elen Gwen Williams, Charity Marketing & Engagement Assistant, The DPJ Foundation

YOU can get involved with us at The DPJ Foundation today. Whether you want to donate, raise money, organise a fundraising event, support on going events, raise awareness of mental health in agriculture or help others.

## Fundraising events

We are extremely grateful when people do their own fundraising for us. If you have any events you would like us to attend as a charity, get in touch with us. We have a range of our own DPJ Foundation clothing.

From hats, boilersuit, t-shirts, hoodies, and kids clothing. Show your support for the DPJ Foundation and raise awareness of mental health in agriculture.

Head over to our Etsy page to have a look: [www.etsy.com/uk/shop/DPJFoundation](http://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/DPJFoundation)

## Mental Health Awareness Training

If you work within agriculture or the farming community, sign up to take part in The DPJ Foundation Mental Health Awareness training. These free sessions are delivered in both Welsh and English. You could save someone's life.

You will learn how to:

- how to spot the signs of someone with poor mental health
- how to support them
- how to encourage them to access support
- how to look after your own mental health

## Reach out

We are here to listen and help, not to judge. If you're feeling low, or there is a specific worry that is getting you down, or you have considered suicide, please call our 24-hour helpline or give us a text. Our volunteers can listen and set you up with a counsellor. To talk: 0800 587 4262 / or by text: 07860 048799 / open: 24/7

If you're worried about someone close to you, point them in our direction, give them our contact details or even call us yourself, we can help you. Reach out to those who might be struggling, your kindness will make a difference in someone's life.

Don't let your mental health get on top of you. You are not alone - we are here to help. [www.thedpjfoundation.co.uk](http://www.thedpjfoundation.co.uk) / [kate@thedpjfoundation.co.uk](mailto:kate@thedpjfoundation.co.uk)



## RABI launches Big Farming Survey results

“We now need to create a better future for farming people”

RABI's Big Farming Survey results have revealed that despite the farming community facing significant mental and physical health challenges, more than 50% remain optimistic about the future of their farm businesses. The results, which are based on over 15,000 survey responses, were launched on October 14, to 70 influential representatives from the agricultural sector at a launch event in Birmingham.

In response to the findings, RABI has outlined five core themes informed by the hardest-hitting statistics and called on the sector to help drive an effective response to the challenges identified.

Following a welcome address by Chief Executive, Alicia Chivers, the University of Exeter's Centre for Rural Policy Research Team, Dr Rebecca Wheeler and Professor Matt Lobley, presented their ground-breaking results. This was followed by RABI corporate partnership manager, Suzy Deeley, who shared further insight on five key stats that the industry must respond to:

- 1) 36% of the farming community are probably or possibly depressed
- 2) Over one-half of women (58%) experience mild, moderate or severe anxiety
- 3) An average of six factors cause stress across the farming community. The most commonly reported sources of stress are: regulation, compliance and inspection, Covid-19, bad/unpredictable weather, loss of subsidies/future trade deals
- 4) Over half (52%) of the farming community experience pain and discomfort, one in four have mobility problems and 21% have problems in undertaking usual tasks due to health issues
- 5) 59% of respondents believe their business is viable over the next five years

Ms Deeley highlighted some of the positive outtakes within the data, which illustrates the importance of building on the farming community's strengths.

“This survey of a generation has revealed that despite the many challenges facing our community, farming people continue to be incredibly resilient and this is something we should focus on. We owe it to every farming person to use this evidence to take action to improve farmer wellbeing,” says Ms Deeley.

“We believe that farming people and the sector more widely must collaborate to develop solutions to the issues identified. Therefore, RABI will use the results to inform the evolution of our services and welcome others to participate in shaping future farming support,” Ms Deeley continues.

In response to the Big Farming Survey research, Ms Deeley explained that RABI will

soon  
be

launching pilots of three new support schemes. These include an accredited, bespoke farming mental health first aid training service, access to in-person mental health support, and further trials of RABI's Community Pillars initiative.

“There is a huge amount of work going on behind the scenes at RABI to initiate a targeted and appropriate response in partnership with key partner organisations, and we look forward to being able to share more on these developments soon. The introduction of the pilot schemes will be in addition to the long-standing, traditional support services that RABI is so well known for, and to complement the online wellbeing platform, Qwell, that we launched last year,” Ms Deeley adds.

“We're hugely grateful to all the delegates who attended the launch and for their valuable contribution to these important discussions. We have demonstrated that there is a real appetite to work together to address the challenges facing farmers.”

Commenting on the research, Matt Lobley, Professor of Rural Resource Management at the University of Exeter and research lead explains: “The Big Farming Survey has delivered an unprecedented evidence base that has given far greater insight into the realities of life on farm. There is now a unique opportunity to build on the findings which have been presented. Our recommendations are very much aligned to how RABI is evolving its services during this period of agricultural transition.”



Suzy Deeley.



Professor Matt Lobley.

“We believe that farming people and the sector more widely must collaborate to develop solutions to the issues identified.”

# Wales YFC looking forward to seeing the stages thriving again

by Anna Jones, YFC Marketing and Communications Officer

ALTHOUGH an unusual two years have passed, the passion shown to moving forward in these challenging times is testament to the strength of the Wales YFC movement, be it here in Wales or as a nation as a whole.

Caryl Hâf from Ceredigion was duly elected Wales YFC Chairperson on September 18 this year, this time in person after a period of virtual meetings, at the Wales YFC annual general meeting at the Royal Welsh Showground. Hefin Evans from Carmarthenshire was elected as vice-chairperson, and Chris Lewis, longstanding Wales Vice President, was elected as Wales President. His loyalty and hard work for the movement was noted and praised, as he has always believed in the power of YFC members as a collective.

As new chairperson, Caryl asked that all clubs support each other as counties and work together as they move forward through these different times. She noted that she is looking forward to travelling to every county and to meet as many members as possible, this time in person.

Winners of various awards were also announced during the meeting. Pembrokeshire YFC won the Beynon Thomas trophy for the highest points scored by junior members, and the Western Mail trophy for scoring the highest number of points in all Wales YFC competitions throughout the year went to Montgomery YFC.



Caryl Hâf.

There was a sense of turning a new leaf following a strange two years for the movement, with the announcement of new staff members; Rhianwen Jones appointed as Competitions and International Officer, Anna Jones as Marketing and Communications Officer and Philip Evans as the new Chief Executive. Philip noted that it is "a tumultuous time but an exciting time" and said his main priority will be "getting back to where [Wales YFC] was" before the pandemic.

The movement now looks forward to the YFC Eisteddfod, which will be held on November 20 at Pafiliwn Y Bont, Ponrhydfendigaid, and hosted by the Brecknock Federation.

Face to face competing will also be back again at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair this year, including popular competitions such as Baby Beef, Prime Lamb and Stock Judging to name a few.

There is also an exciting opportunity for our members to win £600 in our Cywain competition at the fair this year, by creating and presenting a new and innovative menu in Moodboard form, incorporating produce from two producers from Cywain's producers map (cywain.cymru).

How wonderful it is to look forward to seeing our members again, and to see the stages thriving once more!

To keep up-to-date with news and developments within Wales YFC, follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

## Heledd takes over as FUW's Agri-Environment Schemes Officer

EUROS JONES, our Agri-Environment Schemes Officer is leaving the FUW this month, but this will not have any effect whatsoever on all the Glastir services the FUW has to offer.

Over the last year Heledd Williams, (pictured right), has been assisting Euros in all aspects of the service that we as a Union provide to our members.

Having obtained a degree in Agriculture with Farm Business Management at Harper Adams University, a course which covered topics such as Countryside and Land Management, Environmental Science, Farm Business Law and Agricultural Business Development, Heledd is more than capable of taking over the reins and continue to develop the Union's Agri-Environment Schemes services.

These services will include all activities and opportunities associated with the Welsh Government's Glastir Schemes. Phone your local County Office in order to contact Heledd.

We take this opportunity to thank Euros for all his work wish him well into the future following his success in securing a tenancy on a National Trust farm in Cwm Eidda.

**Mae'r erthygl yma yn Gymraeg ar wefan UAC - Newyddion - Newyddion Y Tir: "Heledd yn cymryd drosodd fel Swyddog Cynlluniau Amaeth-Amgylcheddol UAC," neu o'ch swyddfa sirol leol.**



## NEWYDDION O'R SIR / FUW COUNTY NEWS

01248 750250

ANGLESEY

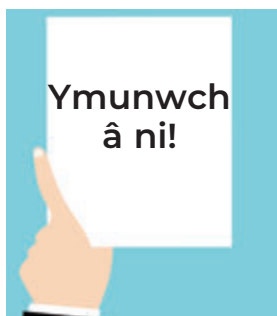
anglesey@fuw.org.uk

### Noson wybodaeth

Ymunwch â ni ar nos Fawrth y 23ain o Dachwedd am 7.30yh am noson yng nghwmni'r milfeddyg Mr Iwan Parry fydd yn trafod BVD ac yn rhoi cyngor ar iechyd a

ffrwythlondeb y fuches, er mwyn sicrhau perfformiad effeithiol a chynhyrchiol. Cynhelir y noson ar-lein drwy gyfrwng Zoom, cysylltwch â ni ar 01248 750250 neu ynysmon@fuw.org.uk ar gyfer y manylion i ymuno. Croeso cynnes i bawb!

**Join us on Tuesday November 23 at 7.30pm for an evening with vet Mr Iwan Parry who will discuss BVD and give advice on herd health and fertility, to ensure effective and productive performance. The evening will be held online via Zoom, contact us on 01248 750250 or ynysmon@fuw.org.uk for joining details. A warm welcome to all!**



## CARMARTHEN

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## Digital connectivity help

by Ceri Jenkins, Digital Connectivity officer, Carmarthenshire County Council

Digital technology underpins almost every aspect of modern living across work, travel, leisure and health, and good internet access is now widely viewed as the '4th utility'. Fast, reliable connectivity is vital to support business growth, help rural communities to thrive, improve health and well-being, and make it easier for people to get online and access public services.

However, many residents are not aware of the services they can receive or are not able to receive sufficient speeds to be able to get online and access day to day services.

Many homes across the country are being upgraded daily through commercial or state aid plans so it is important that you are aware of what speeds you could be receiving. A simple phone call to your internet service provider can help with that.

If sufficient broadband is not available at your property, there are other options for getting the broadband speeds you need. You may be eligible for financial support to install faster broadband.

Welsh Government offer a scheme that supports solutions for homes and businesses by providing grants to fund the installation costs of new broadband connections. The scheme allows up to £800 to cover the cost of installation and it is dependent on the speed of the new connection. This can include 4G broadband solutions, fixed wireless or satellite.

Support is available from the UK Government to connect rural communities with gigabit-capable broadband called the Rural Gigabit Voucher scheme. The Government is providing up to £210m worth of voucher funding as immediate help for people



experiencing slow broadband speeds in rural areas. Vouchers worth up to £1,500 for homes and £3,500 for businesses help to cover the costs of installing gigabit broadband to people's doorsteps. Those with speeds of less than 30Mbps may be eligible for additional funding from the Welsh Government towards these costs. In total up to £3,000 could be available per home and £7,000 per business to help you fund your

community solution.

If you are not part of a community needing faster broadband there are options available for individual properties. The Universal Service Obligation (USO) is a UK Government initiative designed to give households and businesses the legal right to request a decent affordable broadband connection.

There is a digital connectivity officer with Carmarthenshire County Council that can help with your enquiries. You can contact via email at cejenkins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk or call on 07929 751998.

This project has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

Alternatively, you can find more information on <https://gov.wales/get-funding-faster-broadband> or <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk> or <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/business/digital-connectivity>

## CARMARTHEN

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## Nursery named best in Wales



Gwenllian and Ann at the awards ceremony.

Cwtsh y Clos nursery, which is in Llanarthne, was awarded the title by Mudiad Meithrin which oversees nurseries and day care across the country, and is a perfect example of diversification in agriculture.

The venture started in a barn conversion on a small holding, FUW Carmarthen County Vice Chair Mrs Ann Davies approached the then FUW Carmarthenshire's County Executive Officer Meirion Bartlett, for advice and guidance to apply for a diversification grant.

Mrs Davies said: "Meithrinfa Cwtsh y Clos opened in September 2014 with four children registered, two staff and Gwenllian and myself. We now have 30 children every day and 19 members of staff. We cater for over 70 families, offering childcare through the medium of Welsh, a homely caring environment with the animals and farm centre stage of the care we offer.

"The cost of the change to the old cowshed was about £134,000. We've since built an extension during the first lockdown to cater for an increasing demand for childcare."

A thrilled Gwenllian said: "We truly believe that giving children a chance to care for their

environment will develop their nurturing and self-resilience skills. We have an acre of land which is used on a daily basis by the children for playing, growing vegetables/flowers and for loose part play. We've also built a willow dome which they use as a den and we've built a bottle shed (from recycled plastic bottles) which we use as a glass house."

In congratulating Cwtsh y Clos, Nerys Fychan of Mudiad Meithrin said: "As an organisation that is passionate about ensuring each child has the opportunity to benefit from high quality positive early years experiences of all kinds, we are delighted with the standard of this year's winners, and Cwtsh y Clos clearly fall into that bracket. Congratulations."

## CAERNARFON

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## Cyfarfod cangen Sarn

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod o gangen Sarn yn ddiweddar ar fferm Cwrt, Aberdaron o dan ofal Cadeirydd y gangen Arfon Evans, er mwyn dysgu mwy am sut mae prosiect peilot Talu am Ganlyniadau yn datblygu, prosiect sydd yn cael ei reoli gan Gyngor Gwynedd, yr Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol a Chyfoeth Naturiol Cymru ar y cyd.

Cafwyd cyflwyniad gan Andy Godber o'r Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol a eglurodd yr hyn y mae'r prosiect yn ceisio ei gyflawni trwy greu cynefinoedd sydd yn cysylltu'r allt fôr gyda'r mewndir, sydd o fantais i'r amgylchedd a hefyd ddim yn effeithio yn negyddol ar berfformiad economaidd y fferm.

Cafwyd eglurhad ar y defnydd mwyaf effeithiol o hadau porfa a hefyd cyfundrefn bori sydd yn sicrhau'r cynefinoedd gorau ar gyfer y fioamrywiaeth yn yr ardal. Yn ogystal â nifer o aelodau, roedd Arwel Jones o Gyngor Gwynedd ac Iwan Williams o CNC yn bresennol.

**A meeting of the Sarn branch was held recently at Cwrt farm, Aberdaron hosted by branch Chairman Arfon Evans, to learn more about how the Payments for Outcomes pilot project is being developed. This is a project that is jointly managed by Gwynedd Council, the National Trust and Natural Resources Wales. Andy Godber of the National Trust gave a presentation explaining what the project is trying to achieve by creating habitats that link the sea cliffs to the mainland, which is beneficial to the environment and also does not negatively affect the economic performance of the farm. An explanation was given on the most effective use of grass seed and also a grazing system that ensures the best habitats for biodiversity in the area. As well as a number of members, Arwel Jones of Gwynedd Council and Iwan Williams of NRW were present at the meeting.**



## DENBIGH &amp; FLINT

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## Record newydd i mart Llanrwst

Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb am gefnogi sêl gwartheg stôr UAC yn Llanrwst ar y 13eg o Hydref, roedd y gwartheg werth eu gweld.

Llongyfarchiadau mawr iawn i WG Roberts & Co, Groesffordd, Glan Conwy am bris anhygoel o £1,870 am fustach Lim, record farchnad newydd, da iawn wir.

**Thank you very much to everyone who supported the FUW store cattle sale at Llanrwst on October 13, the cattle were well worth seeing. Congratulations to WG Roberts & Co, Groesffordd, Glan Conwy for an incredible price of £1,870 for a Lim bullock, a new mart record, fantastic!**



## Arwerthiant Hyrddod Mynydd Cymreig

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i EL & ML Evans, Grugor Isa ar werthu hwrdd blwydd am 23,000gns ac i T G Evans & R ap Gwyndaf ar werthu hwrdd am 21,000gns yn arwerthiant blynyddol Hyrddod Mynydd Cymreig Sir Ddinbych (J Bradburn price & Co), da iawn wir.

**Congratulations to EL & ML Evans, Grugor Isa on selling a yearling ram for 23,000gns and to TG Evans & R ap Gwyndaf on selling a ram for 21,000gns at the annual Denbighshire Welsh Mountain Ram Sale (J Bradburn Price & Co), well done to all.**

## GLAMORGAN &amp; GWENT

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gwent@fuw.org.uk  
01873 853280

## Glamorgan YFC stock judging

FUW Glamorgan sponsored Glamorgan YFC stock judging competition on October 23 which was held at Penurchadre Dairy Farm by kind permission of the Morgan Family. A great opportunity to meet with all the different ages of competitors and a fantastic day which was very well supported.



## MEIRIONNYDD

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## Llongyfarchiadau

Llongyfarchiadau i Dewi Owen, (**gweler ar y dde**), Esgairgyfela, Aberdyfi ar gael ei ethol yn Gadeirydd Pwyllgor Arallgyfeirio canolog Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru. Mae Dewi wedi cyfrannu i bwyllgorau canolog eraill yn y Brif Swyddfa dros y blynyddoedd, ac yn gyn Gadeirydd a Llywydd sirol yr Undeb ym Meirionnydd. Mae'n Gynghorydd dros ei ardal leol ar Gyngor Gwynedd, ac yn gyn Gadeirydd y Cyngor. Pob dymuniad da iddo yn y gwaith.

**Congratulations to Dewi Owen, (pictured right), Esgairgyfela, Aberdyfi on his election as Chairman of the FUW's central Diversification Committee. Dewi has contributed to other central Head Office Committees over the years, and is the former Chairman and County President of the Union in Meirionnydd. He is a Local Councillor on Gwynedd Council, and a former Chairman of the Council. Best wishes to him with the work.**



## MEIRIONNYDD

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## Gwaith Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn Ardaloedd Draenio Mewnol y sir

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfodydd gan y gangen sirol dros yr wythnosau diwethaf gyda swyddogion Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn yr Ardal Draenio Mewnol ym Meirionnydd. Dechreuwyd yn Nyffryn Dysynni lle'r oedd pryder fod y ffosydd yn anarferol o uchel ynghanol mis Medi, a hynny er gwaethaf y tywydd sych, ac nid oedd hyn yn argoeli yn dda at y gaaf.

Edrychwyd ar sawl agwedd o'r system ddraenio i geisio cael atebion. Pwysleiswyd yr angen i gychwyn y gwaith ynghynt, a gwella safon y gwaith.

Yna yng nghanol mis Hydref, cafwyd cyfarfodydd yng ngogledd y sir, y tro hwn yn Harlech a Llanfrothen. Unwaith eto, roedd pryder gennym am amserlen agor y ffosydd, a phwyswyd yn drwm ar weld y gwaith yn cychwyn mor fuan â phosib.

Bu cyfle hefyd i weld y gwaith o dorri coed sydd wedi ei wneud ar Afon Croesor, sydd yn welliant sylweddol. Gobeithio bydd hyn yn sicrhau na fydd yr afon yn gorlifo fel y gwelwyd yn y gorffennol.

*Over the past few weeks, the county branch has organised meetings with officers from Natural Resources Wales at the Internal Drainage Districts in Meirionnydd. We visited the Dysynni Valley where there was concern that the ditches were unusually high for mid-September, despite the dry weather, and this did not bode well for winter. We looked at many aspects of the drainage system to try and find answers. The need to start the work earlier, and to improve the standard of the work, was emphasised. Then in mid-October, meetings were held in the north of the county, this time in Harlech and Llanfrothen. Again, we were concerned about the timescale for opening the ditches, and we piled the pressure for the work to start as soon as possible. There was also an opportunity to see the tree felling work that has been carried out on the Afon Croesor, which is a significant improvement. Hopefully this will ensure that the river does not flood as we have seen happening in the past.*



## Ein diolch i Bethan

Ar ddiwedd mis Hydref cafwyd cyfle i ddiolch yn fawr iawn i Bethan Braichbedw am ei gwasanaeth clodwiw yn gweithio ar ochr yswiriant yr Undeb. Bu yn bleser cydweithio efo

Bethan, ac rydym yn gwerthfawrogi ei chyfraniad yn fawr. Pob dymuniad da iddi yn ei swydd newydd.

*At the end of October there was an opportunity to say a big thank you to Bethan Braichbedw for her outstanding service working on the insurance side of the Union. It has been a pleasure to work with Bethan, and her contribution is much appreciated. We wish her well in her new role.*



## Pwyllgor Gwaith

Cynhaliwyd y Pwyllgor Sirol ar y 25ain o Hydref, a daeth nifer dda ynghyd. Ymysg y nifer fawr o faterion ar y gweill oedd cyflwyniad gan ŵr gwadd y noson sef Joe Jones, myfyriwr PhD o Brifysgol Bangor (myfyriwr gyda'r Athro Prysor Williams) sydd yn gwneud ymchwil i systemau pori a newid hinsawdd mewn amaeth, mae ei PhD yn cael ei noddi gan Hybu Cig Cymru.

Mae Joe yn fab fferm biff a defaid o'r Iwerddon, ond yn ddiddorol iawn, mae ei wreiddiau ym Meirionnydd (gan fod ei hen-daidd wedi ymfudo o Ddinas Mawddwy i agor siop gigydd yn Iwerddon). Cafwyd noson ddiddorol dros ben.

*The County Committee was held on October 25 and was well attended. Among the many issues on the agenda was a presentation by the evening's guest speaker, Joe Jones, a PhD student from Bangor University (a student with Professor Prysor Williams) who is researching grazing systems and climate change in agriculture, his PhD is sponsored by Hybu Cig Cymru. Joe is the son of an Irish beef and sheep farmer, but interestingly, his roots are in Meirionnydd (as his great-grandfather emigrated from Dinas Mawddwy to open a butcher's shop in Ireland). It was a very interesting evening.*

## MONTGOMERYSHIRE

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## YFC Competitions are back with a BANG!

Montgomery YFC kicked off their competition year with the County Field Day held at Welshpool Livestock Sales on October 3, with over 200 members competing, what a way to start!

Throughout the Field Day members showed the agricultural skills in competitions such as beef, dairy and pig stock judging, fencing, farm safety and 'Fferm Factor'. There was something for everyone with members also exhibiting their talents in competitions such as pumpkin carving, creating a witches hat, auctioneering and Christmas tree decorating. The highlight of the day was certainly that 50 junior members competed in the fat lamb stock judging, for many this was their first ever Young Farmer's competition, just brilliant!

It was fantastic to see members, friends and parents venturing out to join in, support and enjoy our first county competition of the year.

Having our members and friends of the county back doing what they do best was such a wonderful sight after all the virtual competitions over the past 2 years, the only laptop in sight was the one adding up the scores, but what was the overall outcome?

- 1st - Tregynon
- 2nd - Dyffryn Natat
- 3rd - Llanfyllin
- 4th - Dyffryn Banw
- 5th - Bro Ddyfi
- 6th - Llanbrynmair & Carno
- 7th - Trefeglwys
- 8th - Berriew
- 9th - Lliadartywaen
- 10th - Four Crosses
- 11th - Llanfair Caereinion

Tregynon were also the overall winners of the stock judging competitions, with Tudor Lewis (Tregynon) being awarded senior stockman of the year and Holly Page (Sarn) having Junior Stockman of the Year.

However, none of this would've been possible without the judges, stewards and Welshpool Livestock Market. Therefore, the county would like to say a huge thank you to all those involved in making our first competition of 2021 such a success.

For any further results go to:  
website: [www.yfc-montgomery.org.uk](http://www.yfc-montgomery.org.uk)  
Facebook: CFFI Maldwyn Montgomery YFC  
Instagram: @cffimaldwynmontgomeryyfc



Jess Andrew's 2nd place pumpkin carving.



Dewi Griffiths taking part in the lamb trimming.

## PEMBROKESHIRE

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## Are you using Manage My CPH yet?

Since 2017 RPW have been transitioning livestock keepers over to the new CPH rules using the Manage My CPH function on RPW Online. They have recently started to contact those farmers who have not yet updated their CPH records to ask them to map their land via Manage My CPH. It is therefore important that you check any messages which you receive on your RPW Online account over the coming months as this is how they will contact you.

If you need any assistance with completing the form please contact the county office on 01437 762913.



## Keeping your CPH land up-to-date

Don't forget if you take on or give up any buildings or land for your livestock, you need to ensure that the land recorded against your CPH number is updated accordingly to prevent any problems with movement reporting and animal disease controls.

If you require any assistance with making the required changes through your RPW Online account just get in touch.

# “Health and safety is there to save lives”

by Brian Rees, farm safety trainer

TRAGICALLY, on average, 30 to 40 fatalities occur on British farms each year - this horrific statistic needs to be addressed. In addition, many more farmers and farm workers have suffered life changing injuries or ill-health. Last year we had a staggering figure of 41 farmers killed.

The main activities where these fatal accidents occur are transport, handling cattle and working at height. 19 people were killed by moving vehicles, mainly tractors, telehandlers and quads. 11 people were killed by an animal and 3 people by falls from height. Sadly 2 or 3 children are also killed each year.

Over the last 20 years other industries, such as construction, have greatly improved their safety record. This cannot be said for farming. Workers are now seven times more likely to be killed on a farm than on a building site.

The Health and Safety Act 1974 and its Regulations states very clearly that all work equipment must be suitable for task and checked and maintained to ensure everything is in good working order. All lifting equipment must have a thorough examination every 12 months (6 months if lifting people).

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations also states that all persons who use, supervise or manage the use of work equipment must have received adequate training for the purposes of health and safety.

Farmers must take every opportunity to improve health and safety on their farms, this can be done by

attending Health and Safety awareness days, taking advantage of training grants available from Welsh Government through Farming Connect, also from Farming Connect farmers in Wales are able to have 15 hours free health and safety mentoring on their own farms. Farmers can also discuss health and safety issues with their Union or insurance company.

The industry has established ‘Farm Safety Partnerships’ in Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland. These working groups are made up of organisations involved in farming, who aim to promote health and safety in agriculture.

The above initiatives could do so much to improve health and safety on our farms but, unfortunately the uptake from farmers is very poor. 25% would be an average response to many events and very few farmers that do attend take any action when they return to their own farms.

I’ve been involved in health and safety and practical training for 35 years and have come to the conclusion that the majority of farmers, possibly as much as 60/70%, firstly consider health and safety to be another example of government red tape; or that health and safety doesn’t apply to them; or accidents happen to someone else! We must try to convince farmers that health and safety is there to save lives and livelihoods.

To conclude, all the people affected by accidents that I have met over the years, were all hard-working normal farmers and none of them thought it would ever happen to them!

A  
staggering  
41 farmers  
were killed  
last year

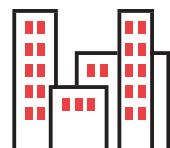
Workers  
are 7 times  
more likely to  
be killed on a  
farm than on a  
building  
site



FUW and FUW Insurance Services Ltd staff attending a health and safety awareness session run by Brian Rees.



## You could be missing out on government funded tax relief!



**9/10** commercial property owners qualify for Capital Allowance tax relief.

Capital Allowances are a form of business tax relief for expenditure on plant and machinery (P&M), fixtures & fittings and integral features that are used within a business. These include items such as trade related machinery, vehicles and fixtures.

### Facts and Figures



**96%** of UK businesses are missing the opportunity to claim Capital Allowances tax relief!

Our average claim is in excess of **£250,000**



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Capital Allowances

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## Introducing a new research project:

“Exploring opportunities for farmers in Wales to produce foods for future markets”

by Dr. Hannah Pitt and Rhiannon Craft (Research Assistant)

HAVE you ever considered introducing plant-based food production to your farm? Changes to subsidies, international trade, consumer preferences, and the climate create challenges and opportunities for farmers.

We want to know farmers’ concerns and interests regarding opportunities to diversify production and meet demands for more UK-grown plant-based food. Who might produce cereals, legumes, fruit, vegetables or nuts? What support would farmers need to take this step?

In order to investigate this, we are running a survey open to all farmers in Wales. The survey is available in English and Welsh -  
English: <https://cardiff.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/exploring-opportunities-for-farmers>  
Welsh: <https://cardiff.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/archwilio-cyfloedd-i-ffermwyr-yng-ngogledd-cymru-gynhyrch>

Responses can be given anonymously. This means that you can avoid disclosing real names and locations (although we will need to know which county you are in).

At the end of the survey, participants are given the option to follow-up by participating in an interview or workshop.

We will also be interviewing innovative farmers in Wales who have already begun to introduce plant-based production to their farms. The project will share information about these case-studies and the issues they highlight.

In the beginning of the new year, we will invite farmers and innovators to online discussions (in English and Welsh) where practical ideas and opinions can be shared.

We will share our findings with relevant stakeholders and decision makers. This research will help ensure that farmers have their voices heard, in order to show policy makers and stakeholders how farmers should be supported to meet new, growing demands.

We hope to inform policy so that the right support is given to Farmers who wish to diversify in this way. The project is led by researchers from Cardiff University. It is funded by a British Academy Small Research Grant. Have any questions or comments? We’d love to hear them. Contact: Dr. Hannah Pitt at [pitth2@cf.ac.uk](mailto:pitth2@cf.ac.uk)

**Mae'r erthygl yma yn Gymraeg ar wefan UAC - Newyddion - Newyddion Y Tir: “Cyflwyno Prosiect Ymchwil Newydd: “Archwilio cyfloedd i ffermwyr yng Nghymru gynhyrchu bwydydd ar gyfer marchnadoedd y dyfodol,” neu o’ch swyddfa sirol.**



## MEAT MATTERS

## New trade deals send mixed messages on sustainability

by Gwyn Howells, Hybu Cig Cymru Chief Executive

HOT on the heels of the outline agreement with Australia in the summer, came the news of a prospective trade deal between the UK and New Zealand.

As expected, the generous deal with Australia has set a precedent for other meat exporting countries to demand similar unrestricted access to the UK.

With UK negotiators keen to establish new trading relationships after Brexit, the agriculture and food sector is understandably concerned that access to our market is being sold cheaply, at the expense of food standards and the environment.

The trade agreement, once ratified, is set to immediately increase access to the UK market for New Zealand beef, and also remove all restrictions on red meat imports within 15 years.

Tariff-free imports of beef will increase straight away from 454 tonnes to 12,000 tonnes, before rising to 60,000 tonnes over 15 years.

In terms of lamb, the impact will be less immediate. New Zealand already has the right to export 114,000 tonnes of lamb to the UK without tariffs, but in recent years has only met around half of that quota.

The deal, which will give an additional allowance before restrictions are completely removed in 2036, is nevertheless a long-term danger. If trade is disrupted for any reason between New Zealand and its emerging Asian markets, we may soon enough see large



quantities of cheaper lamb being exported here.

Wales does not fear trade - we produce high quality red meat which can compete with any in the world. But such generous Free Trade Agreements threaten to distort the market. Meat produced in the southern hemisphere is often not reared to the same standards of animal welfare, and has lower standards of traceability than Welsh lamb and beef.

Increased imports from the other side of the world make no sense in terms of the environmental footprint of our food. Wales already produces to exceptional standards of sustainability.

These issues will no doubt be a major topic of discussion at the forthcoming HCC conference, which will be held in a hybrid format on November 10 - 11. We're lucky to be joined by former diplomat and negotiator Paul McGrade, an expert on the post-Brexit food trade landscape - both internationally and in terms of the Northern Ireland protocol.

**Bydd nifer o'r pynciau mawr cyfredol yn cael eu trafod yng nghynhadledd HCC a fydd yn cael ei chynnal mewn fformat hybrid ar Dachwedd 10 - 11 yng nghwmni'r cyn-ddiplomydd a thrafodwr Paul McGrade, arbenigwr ar fasnach bwyd ar ôl Brexit - yn rhyngwladol ac o ran protocol Gogledd Iwerddon.**

## PROPERTY MATTERS

## End of Tenancy Claim

by Kathryn Williams, Director,  
Davis Meade Property Consultants

MANY Tenants will invest in the Landlord's land and property over the duration of the tenancy term, but what compensation is a Tenant entitled to when the tenancy comes to an end? Tenancy agreements will often differ on this point and as such it is important that a Tenant fully understands their right to compensation before signing the agreement and before they invest in items such as buildings and drainage or soil fertility improvements.

Work carried out by a Tenant will broadly fall into three categories:

Tenants' fixtures, Tenants' improvements and Tenant right matters. Tenant's fixtures are generally items that can be removed from the holding whereas improvements are affixed to the Holding. Tenant right matters are improvements that are deemed to be day to day items for which it would be impractical to obtain Landlord consent for.

Compensation for the afore mentioned categories was first developed as a local practice with the first statutory basis for compensation being provided in 1875. Legislation was developed after the Second World War with standard figures produced for fertiliser, manure and purchased feed stuffs etc. In practice the process is now often dealt with by negotiation particularly as a greater focus is given to soil health.

Under both the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 and the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995 there are time limits and procedures by which a claim must be made. It is always crucial to check the tenancy agreement well in advance of the termination date to ensure the correct process is followed.

The value is not necessarily the cost of the item but rather what the value is to an incoming Tenant or the value that is added to the holding, let as a holding. This may be in terms of the potential to make savings or the potential to increase profitability or the potential increase in the rental sum to be achieved by the Landlord owing to the fact that the improvement is part of the let holding.

Generally, any grant funding attributed to the improvement must be deducted and there may also be writing down periods imposed by the Landlord as part of a written consent.

With regards to Tenant's fixtures either under an Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 (AHA 1986) or Agricultural Tenancies Act (FTA) tenancy a Tenant can remove a fixture following termination of the period (time limits do apply and in some cases prior notification procedures also are required). Under the AHA 1986 there is also scope for the Landlord to elect to purchase the fixtures from the outgoing Tenant.

Tenant right matter improvements include claims for, fertiliser, trace elements, lime, manure in store, manure applied to the land, mole drainage and growing crops to name a few. The Tenant is also entitled to claim for improvements to pastures such as weed control, re-seeding and in certain circumstances hefting and settlement of hill sheep on hill land.

For further information contact Kathryn Williams at Davis Meade - [kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com](mailto:kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com)

**Bydd llawer o denantiaid yn buddsoddi yn nhir ac eiddo'r perchennog dros gyfnod y denantiaeth, ond pa iawndal y mae gan y tenant hawl iddo pan ddaw'r denantiaeth i ben? Am ragor o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Kathryn Williams yn Davis Meade [kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com](mailto:kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com)**

## MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

## Parhau i fentro ymlaen "Un dydd ar y tro"

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

"UN dydd ar y Tro" ydyw geiriau'r gan eiconig ac weithiau mae yn well meddwl felly gan nad oes yr un ohonom yn gwybod beth fydd yn digwydd nesaf! Mae prinder tanwydd, prisiau cyfleustodau yn codi a phrinder trafndiaeth i gludo masnach oll wedi effeithio ar ein bywydau dyddiol.

Mae yna obaith hefyd am ryw fath o normalrwydd newydd a bellach gobeithiwn weld y Ffair Aeaf yn cael ei chynnal ddiwedd y mis yn Llanelwedd. Mae ein haelodau yn sicr wedi bod yn brysur yn paratoi gyda thua 140 ohonynt wedi cofrestru i gystadlu yn y Ffair Aeaf.

Diolchwn am frwdfrydedd yr aelodau ac am eu parodrwydd i gymryd rhan a mentro i fyd technoleg, mae yna griw da yn ymuno ar y cyrsiau Crefft bob pythefnos, a llu o weithgareddau a chyfarfodydd eraill ar draws Cymru gyfan. Mae yn rhyfeddol fod cynifer wedi addasu i fyd technolegol ac mae geiriau fel "Zoom, hybrid, cyrsiau ar-lein" yn ein geirfa bob dydd. Rydym yn dal i gynnal sesiynau i unigolion i'w cynorthwyo i ddod ar-lein am y tro cyntaf a chael dealltwriaeth o'r hyn sydd ar gael ar y cyfryngau cydeithasol.

Mae mis Tachwedd hefyd yn gweld rhifyn y Gaeaf o gylchgrawn Y Wawr yn cyrraedd y siopau ac ynddo ceir nifer fawr o eitemau difyr. Mi fydd yna erthygl ar Cerameg Olwen Thomas, Rebecca Treharne, gwledd o fwyd wrth i gyfnod y clo greu ffrindiau newydd, garddio, lleihau, ailgylchu ac ailddefnyddio ac Afalau - i enwi ond ychydig o eitemau a fydd o fewn y cloriau!

Cofiwch, os ydych chi awydd cychwyn cangen neu glwb mewn unrhyw ardal o Gymru neu am ymaelodi mae croeso cynnes iawn i chi gysylltu. Mae ein haelodau wedi profi pa mor bwysig ydyw bod yng nghalon y gymuned yn ystod y cyfnod heriol, diolch i bawb am gydweithio hapus ac mi wnawn barhau i fentro ymlaen "Un dydd ar y tro."

**There is hope for some kind of new normality at the end of this month, when hopefully the Winter Fair will be held in Builth Wells. Our members have been busy preparing with around 140 of them registered to compete at the Winter Fair.**



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\*during early lactation

**BVD  
zero** 

# Managing animals now for the best colostrum later

by Dr Cate Williams, Farming Connect Knowledge Exchange Hub, IBERS, Aberystwyth University

THIS time of the year is the ideal point to start body condition scoring (BCS) livestock and tailoring the diet to match, this will pay dividends later on as lambing/calving should be more straightforward and both milk and colostrum will be of good volume and quality.

Colostrum or "first milk" is essential for the survival of newborns and sets the animal up for a healthy and productive life. Lambs and calves are born with no antibodies at all as they cannot cross the placenta so, they rely entirely on the antibodies in colostrum. However, the newborn's ability to absorb these antibodies declines with age, so the provision of colostrum in the first 24 hours of life is essential.

Colostrum also contains a high level of fat to help the newborn maintain their body temperature and high levels of protein to give a nutritional boost. However, not all colostrum is created equally, and quality is dictated by a variety of factors.

The two largest influencing factors are parity (number of pregnancies) and age - first and second-time lambing ewes produce colostrum with the highest level of antibodies, whilst cows in their third, fourth and fifth lactations produce the best quality. As such, heifers may benefit the most from careful monitoring of colostrum with a good quality replacement on standby. On the other hand, older ewes might benefit from colostrum assessment to ensure lambs receive an adequate quantity of antibodies.

Maintaining target BCS and providing the correct nutrition throughout pregnancy is important for colostrum production. Targeting nutrition according to BCS and litter size ensures the mother does not suffer when partitioning nutrients and produces the best quality colostrum possible.

Evidence shows that this cannot be influenced by adjusting the diet late in pregnancy and so the mechanisms must be put in place in early and mid- pregnancy.

Measuring colostrum is the only way to ensure it contains adequate levels of antibodies, as measuring by eye relies on colour and thickness, factors that are more affected by fat content.

There are several options for testing colostrum but for on-farm use, the refractometer provides a quick, easy and accurate option. They are relatively inexpensive and provide an instant reading enabling the farmer to react accordingly.



# Tenovus Cancer Care benefits advice

by Siôn Evans, Head of Fundraising, Tenovus

If you or someone you care about has been diagnosed with cancer, we're here to help. A cancer diagnosis can lead to unexpected costs. If you're unable to work or must make changes to your lifestyle, it can be expensive, and bills can quickly mount up.

Thankfully, there are often benefits and grants available, which can help with some of the financial pressures of cancer. That's where Tenovus Cancer Care comes in. Established in 1943, we're Wales' leading cancer charity and our team of expert Benefits Advisors can talk to you about what financial support is available and guide you through the complex benefits system.

Over the last year we've helped people affected by cancer secure over £4.6million worth of benefits and grants. This money has helped thousands of people, and without the support from our team of Benefits Advisors, people would have struggled to access these vital funds.

We support anyone with a cancer

Over the last year we've helped people affected by cancer secure over £4.6million worth of benefits and grants

diagnosis, whether they're currently going through treatment, recovering from treatment, or dealing with a terminal prognosis, to make sure they are getting the right advice at the right time.

Our Benefits Advisors guide people through the process from start to finish, helping them apply for the benefits and grants they may be entitled to. We assist with everything from the basic benefit check and assisting with forms, to helping obtain medical reports and challenging refusals if necessary.

If you think you could benefit from our support, get in touch with our friendly team who will be able to advise you on how we can help address the financial challenges of a cancer diagnosis. Call our free Support Line on 0808 808 1010, open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday, and 10am-1pm on weekends and public holidays.

## Meet Amanda

Amanda approached us for benefits advice in August 2020 following a cancer diagnosis, after reading about our benefit advice team in her local hospital, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd in Bodelwyddan. She wanted advice on assistance to fill out her Personal Independence Payment (PIP) forms and getting a Blue Badge, as she was still on full sick pay from work.

We helped Amanda complete her forms and monitor her application, we also agreed to approach her Clinical Nurse Specialist to provide a supporting letter to apply for a Blue Badge. Her nurse subsequently did so, enabling her to then apply for a badge.

With our support, the badge was issued, and the PIP claim awarded. This gave Amanda a weekly payment of £119.70.

At this point she advised us that her Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) from work was ending. We advised her that she was entitled to claim Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) to replace her SSP. Again, we helped with the application, and she was awarded £114.70 per week.

In total we helped Amanda to increase her weekly income by £233.40 per week. She was delighted with this and found her Blue Badge very useful when she attended any hospital appointments or when she needed to go to the shops.

# British Wool embraced Wool Week

WOOL Week ran from October 4th to 31st. Each year this event is used to amplify the wool message to consumers, and as part of this British Wool targeted consumers with a few key themes during the month; selling and promoting British wool rich products, highlighting those organisations who have made a commitment to buy British wool, and promoting the sustainability as well as the many environmental benefits of wool and British farming.

Graham Clark, Director of Marketing, explains: "We heavily promote wool throughout the year to consumers, however Wool Week gives us an opportunity every year to launch a specific campaign to help drive awareness and ultimately demand for British wool rich products.

"This year we had an extensive programme with our brand partners promoting the best British wool has to offer, this included exhibiting at the Grand Designs Live at the NEC where we took the wool message direct to the consumer."

The new British Wool e-shop was also a focus for Wool Week, as Mr Clark explains: "Many of our

brand partners are on the recently launched British wool e-shop, this gives us an ideal platform to sell British wool rich products direct to the consumer, something we promoted heavily during Wool Week."

British Wool have recently been involved in launching a number of new products and initiatives to help drive demand and ultimately the price for British wool. These include; a major 100% carpet yarn (Wool Britannia) with the market leader in the residential carpet sector in the UK (Headlam Group Plc), a new traceable wool scheme that already includes brands such as Harrison Spinks and Devon Duvets and is being extended further to a major new customer in the coming months, plus numerous other new products such as a stunning 100% British wool kilt cloth from Lochcarron of Scotland.

British Wool's shop can be found at [www.britishwool.org.uk/shop](http://www.britishwool.org.uk/shop) and social media channels @BritishWool across Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest and LinkedIn.



British Wool have recently been involved in launching a number of new products and initiatives to help drive demand and ultimately the price for British wool

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