



llais ffermwyr Cymru

# Y TIR

the voice of Welsh farming

£2.50

**Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn  
Newydd Dda  
oddi wrth  
bawb yn  
Y Tir**



**Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New  
Year from  
everyone at  
Y Tir**

## Details of Labour- Plaid Co-Operation Agreement discussed

THE FUW met Plaid Cymru spokesperson on Rural Affairs and Agriculture Cefin Campbell MS at the end of November to discuss details of the recently published Welsh Labour and Plaid Cymru Co-operation Agreement.

It was announced on November 22 that both parties, subject to support from party members, have agreed to work cooperatively for the next three years on 46 policies where there is a common interest including second homes, tree planting, agricultural pollution, the Welsh language and the Sustainable Farming Scheme.

Speaking after the meeting with the Mid and West Wales Senedd Member, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "There were clear distinctions between the aspirations of Welsh Labour and Plaid Cymru in their manifestos in the spring, but given the current balance of votes in the Senedd, Labour was willing to negotiate on a range of issues."

The agreement states that a transition period will be introduced as the system of farm payments is reformed so stability payments will continue to be a feature of the Sustainable Farming Scheme during and beyond this Senedd term.

Mr Roberts added: "We have consistently argued for the inclusion of stability payments that protect Wales' family farms in any future scheme, and while the commitment is a very high level one we certainly welcome it."

Mr Roberts said he therefore looked forward to working with the Welsh Government and politicians from across the political spectrum to ensure the Sustainable Farming Scheme is developed in a way which fully respects the commitment to stability payments.

The agreement also commits to working '...with the farming community to improve

"We remain committed to monitoring the implementation of this agreement, if it is passed by party members, or any other developments in order to seek the best future for our family farms."



From left, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies; Plaid Cymru Rural Affairs and Agriculture spokesperson Cefin Campbell MS; FUW President Glyn Roberts and FUW Senior Communications and Policy Officer Gareth Parry.

water quality and air quality, deploying the Water Resources Regulations 2021, taking an approach targeted at those activities known to cause pollution'.

"We discussed this with Mr Campbell and the fact that there was a unanimous decision by Senedd Members back in June to review the regulations - a process currently being undertaken by the Senedd Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

"We will therefore monitor developments and seek to ensure proportionate and targeted actions that do not unfairly impact on farmers," he added.

Other sections of the agreement discussed during the meeting included the commitments to implement a community food strategy to encourage the production and supply of locally-sourced food in Wales; to work with farmers to ensure the right trees are planted in the right places and protect local ownership and control of woodlands; and to implement rules to take immediate and radical action to address the proliferation of second homes and unaffordable housing.

"We are grateful to Mr Campbell for giving his time to discuss issues which have a direct impact on agriculture and agricultural communities.

"We remain committed to monitoring the implementation of this agreement, if it is passed by party members, or any other developments in order to seek the best future for our family farms," said Mr Roberts.

### Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW Ltd) Annual General Meeting

December 16th 2021, 6.00pm

To be held via Zoom. Please contact your local office for details of how you may join this meeting

For all members to receive, consider and adopt the Audited financial statements for the period 31st March 2021, together with the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon, and to appoint/reappoint auditors for the financial year ended March 31st 2022.

Any other business of which 21 clear days' notice shall have been given to the directors by any member entitled to vote at such meetings.

Any member of the Union may attend the FUW Ltd AGM, but only members of Grand Council may vote.



### Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynnyddol Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru (FUW Ltd)

Rhagfyr 16eg 2021, 6.00yh

I'w gynnal drwy gyfrwng Zoom. Cysylltwch â'ch swyddfa leol i gael manylion sut y gallwch ymuno â'r cyfarfod hwn

I bob aelod dderbyn, ystyried a phasio cyfriflenni ariannol archwiliedig ar gyfer y cyfnod 31ain o Fawrth 2021 ynghyd ag adroddiadau'r Cyfarwyddwyr a'r Archwilwyr, ac i benodi/ail benodi archwilwyr ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol at ddiwedd Mawrth 31ain 2022.

Unrhyw fater arall y bydd 21 diwrnod clir o rybudd ohono wedi'i roi i'r cyfarwyddwyr gan unrhyw aelod sydd â hawl i bleidleisio mewn cyfarfodydd o'r fath.

Gall unrhyw aelod o'r Undeb fynychu CCB FUW Ltd, ond dim ond aelodau'r Prif Gyngor all bleidleisio.

## FUW UPDATE

# 2021 – Digwyddodd, darfu, megis Seren Wib!

by Guto Bebb, FUW Group Managing Director

I'm not sure whether it's my age or the impact of the pandemic but where has 2021 gone? It seems like only yesterday when I first saw the job advert for the position of Managing Director of FUW Insurance Services but that was a full two years ago. The time has certainly flown by since then and I can hardly believe that there has been a full ten months since I was offered the position of Managing Director of the FUW Group. As the old saying goes - time flies when you are enjoying yourself!

One of the best things about 2021 was being able to go out and about from late Spring onwards. Yes, we have to be Covid cautious but the ability to meet members, undertake farm visits with politicians and keep in contact on a personal level with FUWIS customers have all been a great advantage during 2021 when compared to the situation in 2020. Let's hope that we can continue with this proactive approach to meetings during 2022 starting with our January farm breakfasts which, whilst obviously needing to be Covid compliant, will be a very welcome return to normality for many of our members.

I also want to place on record my thanks to all officers and members who have hosted farm visits since the relaxation of Covid restrictions. It's remarkable how many Members of the Senedd and Members of Parliament have been on a farm with the FUW since the spring and dare I say it, these meetings have made a difference.

In particular I think the second vote on NVZ regulations reflected some of the conversations we had managed with Senedd members which is, I hope, the first step towards a better outcome on this contentious issue. This goes to show how much of a difference these farm visits can make, especially when the politicians are representing areas that are not traditional farming localities.

Only recently I was on a farm yard 1,200 feet above sea level high above Tredegar with two Senedd members on the very day that the Labour / Plaid Cymru working agreement was launched. During that meeting one of the Senedd

members, who had more than a passing knowledge of agriculture, stated that we had actually shown him that asking questions about agricultural issues were as relevant to his part of south east Wales as it is in the North, Mid and West. As he said, "you want to ensure that your contributions in the Senedd reflect the people that you represent and this visit shows that I do represent farmers working in very challenging circumstances who are as deserving of my support as any other constituent". These farm visits do make a difference.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff within the FUW and FUWIS for a quite remarkable effort to keep the show on the road again in 2021. There have been tough times for many individuals, we have lost some long serving members of staff and appointed numerous excellent replacements. We look towards 2022 with a renewed vigour.

Without our members and the customers of FUWIS there would be no FUW Group but it's also true to say that we would be a shadow of what we are if it was not for the work and efforts of the staff across the board. As such all that remains for me to do is to wish all members, customers and staff a good Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi gyd.



## Have a Welsh breakfast with us



BREAKFAST is one of the most important meals of the day and it is a great opportunity to talk and share your thoughts before starting the day.

So in order to promote the health benefits and have a good catch up before the day starts, FUW teams across the country are once again hosting a variety of farmhouse breakfasts (Monday 17 - Sunday 23 January 2022) either in person or virtually, and the FUW is also again taking the farmhouse breakfast to Cardiff on Tuesday January 18.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "We all get really excited about our farmhouse breakfasts every year and even more so about this one, as last year took a different turn because of Covid-19 restrictions.

"We can start the day together with family, friends and neighbours, in a positive and healthy way and at the same time raise money for our charitable cause, the DPJ Foundation. All of us are looking forward to yet another good turnout in January. It's fair to say that a healthy start is not just good for a healthy heart but also for a healthy mind."

The FUW's Farmhouse breakfast week also provides an opportunity to promote the quality premium local produce that farmers grow for us every day of the year, and throughout breakfast week the FUW will shine a spotlight on the importance of our rural economy.

"I hope many of you will be able to join us for breakfast either in person or virtually. We want you to be a part of what we do, and share your thoughts and worries about the state of the industry, tell us your stories and help us to understand how we can help each other, and what better way to do that than round a table where we share great food and have a cup of tea," added Glyn Roberts.

For details about a breakfast near you please contact your local FUW county office and keep an eye out in the January issue of Y Tir. Please note, in person events may be subject to change, depending on Covid-19 restrictions.



Some of the 2021 breakfasts



### Sut i gysylltu gyda Y Tir / How to contact Y Tir

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www.fuw.org.uk



# FUW announce Christmas card competition winners

ANNEST O'Neill of Ysgol Trefrethyr, Criccieth and Rhian Morgan of Ysgol Llandinam, Newtown beat off competition from hundreds of entries from across Wales in the FUW Christmas card design competition. Their designs were chosen as the winners of the Welsh version and the English version respectively.

Now, both girls' designs, which had to include a scene from a farm, have been printed and are being sold by the Union in aid of the DPJ Foundation which supports mental health in farming communities. The winners received Gift Cards as a prize as well as a cash prize for their schools.

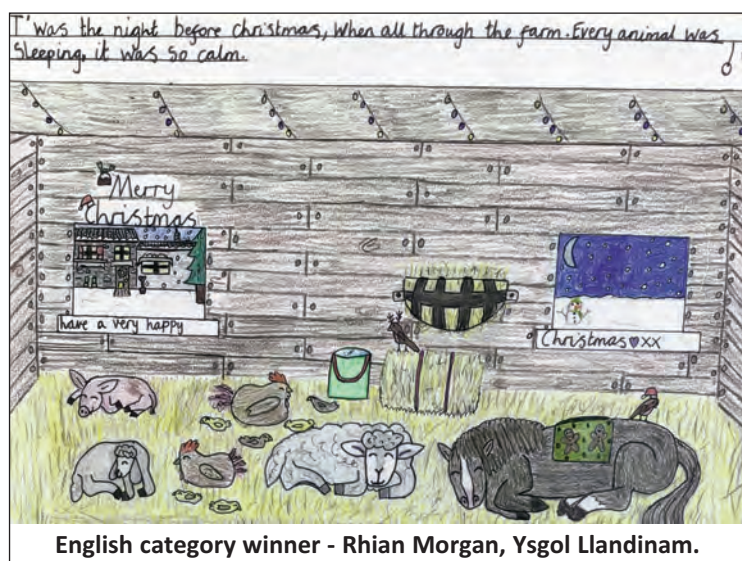
Annest, who won the Welsh version, submitted a design of a Christmas scene of farm animals receiving a gift from Santa and a special Christmas box addressed to the Union.

Rhian's design features an agricultural twist on a traditional nativity scene with farm animals asleep in the manger under the legend, 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the farm, every animal was sleeping, it was so calm.'

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "I was extremely impressed with the standard of work this year, and especially that of Annest and Rhian. There was a lot of innovative thinking and artistic talent on display and I was proud the FUW could arrange this, and for such a worthy cause."



Welsh category winner - Annest O'Neill, Ysgol Trefrethyr.



English category winner - Rhian Morgan, Ysgol Llandinam.

Special thanks go to all the following schools who participated:

**Anglesey:** Ysgol Gynradd Llandegfan, Menai Bridge; Ysgol y Graig, Ynys Môn

**Brecon & Radnor:** Cradoc Primary School, Brecon; Llanbister CP School, Llandrindod Wells; Ysgol Llanfair-ym-Muallt, Builth Wells

**Caernarfon:** Ysgol Brynaerau, Caernarfon; Ysgol Nefyn, Pwllheli; Ysgol Trefrethyr, Criccieth, Gwynedd; Ysgol Tudweiliog, Pwllheli; Ysgol y Gorlan, Tremadog, Porthmadog; Ysgol yr Eifl, Caernarfon; Ysgol Ysbyty Ifan, Betws-y-Coed

**Carmarthen:** Ysgol Llannon, Llanelli; Ysgol Llanpumsaint, Carmarthen; Ysgol Nantgaredig, Carmarthen; Ysgol Peniel, Carmarthen

**Ceredigion:** Ysgol Bro Pedr, Lampeter; Ysgol Cenarth, Newcastle Emlyn; Ysgol Dyffryn Cledyn, Ceredigion; Ysgol Gynradd Aberteifi, Cardigan; Ysgol Gynradd Felinfach, Lampeter; Ysgol Ponrhydfendigaid, Ceredigion

**Denbigh & Flint:** Ysgol Bro Aled, Llansannan, Denbigh; Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint; Ysgol Pentrecelyn, Ruthin; Ysgol Cerrigydrudion, Conwy; Ysgol Bro Cernyw, Abergele; Pentre Church in Wales Primary School, Chirk; Ysgol Betws Gwerfil Goch, Corwen

**Glamorgan & Gwent:** Llangyfelach Primary School, Swansea; Nant Celyn Primary School, Cwmbiran; Pentreban Primary School, Cardiff; Pontrhondda Primary School, Tonypany; Portmead Primary School, Swansea; St Patrick's Primary School, Cardiff; Thornwell Primary School, Chepstow; Upper Rhymney Primary School, Tredegar; Cyfarthfa Park Primary, Merthyr Tydfil; Ysgol Llanedi, Swansea

**Meirionnydd:** Ysgol Bro Elwern, Corwen; Ysgol Bro Tryweryn, Gwynedd

**Montgomeryshire:** Knighton Primary School, Powys; Llandinam School, Newtown; Newbridge-on-Wye School; Rhayader Primary School; Welshpool Church in Wales School; Ysgol Cwm Banwy, Welshpool; Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon, Trefeglwys

**Pembrokeshire:** Roch Community School, Haverfordwest; Ysgol Gynradd Eglwysrwrw, Pembrokeshire

## Some worthy runners-up



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# Carbon Trading - Ensuring Wales' family farms remain part of the solution

In order to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, countries and companies across the world have been racing to pledge their own 'net-zero' targets or claims. This has led to a surge in individuals and businesses seeking to offset their carbon emissions via the Voluntary Carbon Market. Consequently, an increasing number of farms in Wales are being purchased by companies in order to plant trees and offset their own emissions, or sell the associated carbon credits in the future. The FUW maintains that the right tree should be planted in the right place for the right reasons, however, has major concerns that land grabs for carbon offsetting could result in negative impacts on Wales' family farms, the rural economy, biodiversity and Welsh culture.

**To ensure Wales' family farms can remain part of the solution instead of a casualty of carbon offsetting, the FUW proposes the following 10 actions:**

## 1 Offsetting must complement not replace lowering emissions

While offsetting emissions is an important tool in tackling climate change, it should not divert attention away from the core efforts of companies and industries to tackle emissions, and a balance must be struck that ensures vulnerable landscapes, communities and industries do not suffer as powerful players seek to offset their own emissions. Failure to strike an appropriate balance between decarbonising and offsetting risks allowing carbon offsetting to create a 'business as usual' or 'licence to pollute' approach and even for companies to profiteer from investments in offsetting. We cannot offset our way towards Net Zero.

## 2 Welsh farmland must not become a dumping ground for other industries and countries seeking to offset their emissions

The varying and competing demands for land are increasing. From food production for a growing global population to energy production, the current rush to acquire land for carbon offsetting is only one of them. A control mechanism is needed to prevent unlimited amounts of carbon stored in Wales to be sold to individuals and/or businesses outside Wales. Examples of options the FUW believes should be explored to prevent this happening include carbon trading quota systems, enhanced planning controls for afforestation projects, limits to the percentage of purchased land which can have 'change of use' and a geographical cap system on the carbon credit registry. EIAs could also ensure that farmland - whether it be of high quality, classified as less favoured area or managed as habitat - is not inappropriately planted. Currently the Welsh Government continues to count voluntary carbon market credits generated from Welsh activity (such as tree planting) within their greenhouse gas inventory, despite the fact that companies are purchasing such credits to offset their own emissions outside Wales. In order to tackle climate change on a global scale, credits should not be counted twice and this may become problematic for Governments attempting to reach net zero targets in future, as the rules around carbon trading are developed.

## 3 Communities not corporations on Welsh land

It is no secret that entire farms are being purchased by multinational companies, at an alarming rate. Anything which displaces farmers, rural communities and land managers (i.e. those who have the most understanding, generational knowledge and practical experience of land management) will only further exacerbate the climate and nature crisis. Unnamed financial institutions were the largest users of carbon credits in 2019, followed by the chemicals and petrochemicals industries, reiterating the need to prevent large businesses from being able to buy licenses to pollute. The nation's emission reduction targets should not be unfairly or disproportionately placed on land suited for carbon sequestration at the detriment of agriculture, food production, family farms or rural communities.

## 4 Sales of carbon credits from farmland must not undermine the ability of farm businesses to become Net Zero themselves in future

The importance of demonstrating net zero, and the price of carbon is likely only to increase. Retailers such as supermarkets will be searching for low carbon farming suppliers, whilst a carbon tax may be introduced in the future. As such, farmers who sell carbon credits now (or too cheaply) may find themselves in a position in future where they need to purchase credits themselves at a higher price in order to offset their own emissions, as the carbon stored in their own soils is being used to offset emissions elsewhere. Individual farm businesses, the Welsh agricultural sector and Wales as a nation should need to focus on becoming net zero first before credits are sold beyond these areas.

## 5 Effective governance is needed to ensure the Voluntary Carbon Market is regulated

The concept of carbon offsetting only works if the credits sold are genuinely removing the promised/traded amount of GHG emissions out of the atmosphere. However, the current voluntary carbon market "*operates in the shadows*", with some good "*but lots of bad*" in the system says former Bank of England governor Mark Carney, who has been tasked with scaling up the market. Ensuring this international market is effectively regulated should help reduce the ability of companies to purchase land and make up their own rules to claim net zero, as well as protect farmers entering into contracts. Whilst the Woodland Carbon Code and Peatland Code exists in the UK, more consistent standards, enforcement and methodologies are needed internationally. Furthermore, there are 600 to 700 million tons of old carbon credits still available, many of which are no longer considered valid in terms of offsetting. A governing body is needed to manage the market before it's too late.

## 6 Contracts must be transparent and protect the landowner

Fair and transparent contracts must protect the sellers (i.e. landowners) of carbon credits from any failures to deliver or liability claims. Natural carbon sequestration is not permanent, therefore forest fires, establishment failures, disease and soil erosion can all result in a release of carbon. Farmers must be made aware of the need for buffers, and the length, implications and restrictions associated with such contracts.

## 7 Other land uses should be recognised and rewarded

The opportunity to increase carbon sequestration and long term storage of carbon by protecting and enhancing the existing store on farmland is huge. This can be done through improved management of existing woodland, hedgerows, heathlands, wetlands, peatlands and increasing soil organic carbon in grasslands. For example, global croplands and grasslands can capture and store the equivalent of up to 8.6 gigatons of carbon dioxide a year, according to a 2019 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. That's equal to about 1.3 times all U.S. emissions that year, according to U.S. government data. This would also ensure increasing carbon sequestration can work alongside farming systems, food production, rural communities and existing habitats, as opposed to a blanket afforestation approach as seen in New Zealand, or focusing solely on new tree plantations.



Continues on page 5

### 8 A singular Soil Carbon Code is required

Protecting and building soil structure through reduced tillage, species rich grasslands, livestock grazing management and increasing tree cover also offers multiple benefits for productivity and biodiversity on farmland. Soil can also provide a more resilient carbon store compared to trees due to increased droughts, wildfires and disease. The Soil Carbon Code should be developed as with the Peatland Code and Woodland Carbon Code, to provide UK-wide governance and a level playing field for farmers. This would also provide more carbon credit opportunities for livestock farmers increasing soil organic carbon levels in their permanent pastures.

Did you know?  
A third of the Earth's carbon is stored in grassland soils; they store carbon as soil organic matter at about 3.5 times greater than plants

### 9 Carbon calculators need to be accredited and standardised

Farmers are recognising the need to carry out carbon audits for their farm, whether it be for benchmarking or for their milk contract. However, it has become apparent that there are a number of different carbon calculators available, each of which differ from one another in some way. Evidently, a standardised calculator or calculators which meet an accredited standard is required; firstly to form a baseline to identify how 'green' agriculture is in Wales; secondly to help shape the future agricultural support scheme; and thirdly to identify whether there are any credits remaining to sell beyond the farm gate after offsetting the industry's emissions.



Mae copi Cymraeg o Weithredu ar Fasnachu Carbon er mwyn sicrhau y gall ffermydd teuluol Cymru barhau'n rhan o'r ateb - ar wefan UAC: [www.fuw.org.uk/cy/polisi/adroddiadau](http://www.fuw.org.uk/cy/polisi/adroddiadau)

### 10 'LULUCF' & on farm sequestration needs to be calculated within farm emissions

Many bodies and organisations - such as the Committee on Climate Change and the Welsh Government - have taken the view that agricultural emissions cannot be offset by carbon stored via 'land use, land-use change and forestry' (LULUCF) initiatives in their calculations, therefore once agricultural land is planted with trees, it is no longer classified as farmland. This fails to recognise that much of the LULUCF carbon sinks are often on farmland and have been formed as a result of farming, such as hedgerows, soil organic carbon in pastures and on-farm woodland. Ensuring that carbon calculators and Governments recognise the relationship between agricultural emissions and LULUCF will encourage farmers and land managers to increase carbon sequestration via initiatives such as 'hedges and edges' as opposed to such carbon being lost to another entity.

## Deadline to accept Glastir contract extensions extended



THE FUW recently raised concerns with Rural Payments Wales (RPW) and during a meeting with Minister for Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths regarding the timing of issuing Glastir extensions contracts just prior to the Christmas period.

Due to the timing of the Programme Monitoring Committee meeting, the three week period which would follow for Glastir contract holders to accept their extensions would have come to an end on December 31 - during a time when RPW and Welsh Government offices operate at a reduced capacity meaning those wishing to query contracts may be unable to do so before the deadline.

**It has since been announced that the deadline to accept contract extensions has been extended until the January 31 2022.**

Whilst existing contracts expire on December 31 2021 and contract holders will have until January 31 2022 to accept their new contract, it is important to note that contract holders will need to continue to abide by all the conditions of their current contract from January 1 2022 if they intend to accept the contract extension.

## TB Eradication Programme announcement a disappointment

THE FUW has again been left frustrated following the statement made by the Minister for Rural Affairs on November 16, regarding TB Eradication Programme.

The Minister announced a 12 week consultation, 'A Refreshed TB Eradication Programme' that outlines future policy proposals by the Welsh Government in tackling the disease in Welsh cattle.

FUW Animal Health and Welfare Committee Chairman Ian Lloyd, (pictured right), said: "With the incidences of TB increasing in Low TB Areas in Wales, it is frustrating that the only response the Welsh Government has to tackle this issue is with increasing cattle controls and with greater testing burdens being placed upon our hard-working farming families.

"There is increasing concern about the mental health and well-being of our members and this latest statement will do little to alleviate the emotional and financial strains borne by our farmers.

"It is disappointing to see yet another consultation reviewing payments for cattle compulsorily purchased due to TB. The Union has made its views on this matter clear; no farmer should be over or under compensated for such cattle. Any moves to reduce the payments given to farmers will be vociferously opposed by the FUW."

Dr Hazel Wright, FUW Senior Policy Officer, (pictured below), added: "Whilst the FUW recognises that rapid, accurate and early identification of disease is a key component of a disease eradication programme, it is disappointing - but not surprising - that the programme aims to simultaneously 'strengthen TB controls' whilst phasing out the badger trap and test work in persistent breakdown herds'.

"The FUW maintains that a holistic approach to TB is needed in order to stamp out all sources of infection. This latest statement continues to chase the disease whilst stepping down efforts to address a significant contributor to the spread of infection.

"As TB vaccine trials continue in England, it is important to be realistic in the expectation on the effects of a vaccine with regards to disease control. With a workable vaccine and delivery strategy potentially being many years away, the current war on TB must use all available methods in achieving real positive results now."

Mr Lloyd added: "The Welsh Government admits that year on year TB controls for cattle have been stepped up, but the figures demonstrate this one sided approach to tackling the disease has had negligible impacts across vast areas of Wales."

He said farmers will therefore be angered to see yet further tightening of the rules for cattle without proactive actions to tackle infections from badgers, and the Welsh Government in fact intends to step down the already paltry actions to tackle the wildlife reservoir that is infecting Welsh cattle on a daily basis.

"We only need to look at the positive impacts on disease levels in areas of England where they have grasped the nettle to tackle the wildlife reservoir to see why Wales is not doing much better," he said.



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## CORNEL CLECS

## Pa gig fydd ar eich plât chi'r Nadolig hwn?

gan Angharad Evans, Swyddog Cyfathrebu'r Iaith Gymraeg

ANODD credu ein bod ni bellach yn cyfri lawr wythnosau diwethaf 2021, blwyddyn heriol arall yn tynnu at ei therfyn, a phawb yn gobeithio y daw cyfnod gwell gyda'r flwyddyn newydd. Ond yr hyn sydd wedi dod i'r amlwg fwyfwy eleni eto, yw awydd cynyddol pobl i siopa a chefnogi busnesau bach lleol. Mae'n braf gweld ffermwyr a'u teuluoedd yn mentro, yn arallgyfeirio ac yn cynnig cynnyrch fferm o'r fferm yn uniongyrchol - a dyna beth mae'r cwsmer eisiau heddiw - gwybod a deall yn union o le daw'r cynnyrch sy'n mynd ar y plât - o'r giât i'r plât!

Gyda sôn nôl ar ddechrau'r hydref am y posibilrwydd o brinder tyrcwn, a oes modd meddwl am y cinio Nadolig traddodiadol heb dwrci, a meddwl am gig arall?

Dyma Helen Thomas, Dirprwy Swyddog Gweithredol UAC yn siroedd Gwent a Morgannwg i gyflwyno dau aelod sydd wedi mentro gyda'i bocsys cig: "Mae ein haelodau Ben a'i wraig Julia Jones yn rhedeg fferm draddodiadol mewnbwn isel yn Sir Fynwy, lle mae eu gwartheg a'u defaid yn cael eu bwydo ar borfa'n unig.

"Maent yn gwerthu eu cig eidion a'u cig oen yn uniongyrchol i gwsmeriaid lleol ac yn bodloni unrhyw geisiadau penodol lle bo hynny'n bosibl. Nid oes ond angen i chi ddarllen y sylwadau ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol i weld pa mor hapus y mae eu cwsmeriaid o wybod lle daw eu cig o."



Cafodd *Cornel Clecs* y cyfle i holi'r ddau o'i Fferm Ffynnonau am lwyddiant eu cwmni, *Hillside Beef and Lamb*, gyda'r *Pasture Fed Livestock Association* yn ardstyio bod yr holl ddefaid a'r gwartheg yn cael ei magu ar borfa. Dyma Ben i ddweud mwy o'r hanes:

"Pan ddechreuais *Hillside Beef and Lamb*, yn ei ffurf wreiddiol, roeddem mewn gwirionedd yn gwerthu bocsys porc a chig oen yn syth o fuarth y fferm, ac yn eu cludo'n lleol yng nghefn hen gar Ford Fiesta fy mam. Roeddwn bob amser yn rhyfeddu at y syniad y gall unrhyw un gael unrhyw beth ond Twrci adeg y Nadolig.

"Ond yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf ac wrth i'r busnes dyfu, mae fy ngwraig a minnau'n gwerthu cig eidion trwy gydol y flwyddyn, a chig oen yn ei dymor. Rydyn ni



dal i gludo'n lleol ond yn ein fan rheweddio erbyn hyn. Rydym bellach wedi darganfod bod cynnydd rhyfeddol mewn archebion o gwmpas amser y Nadolig, wrth i lawer o bobl roi cynnig ar gigoedd Nadolig gwahanol.

"Ar yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn, mae'r archebion yn newid o stêcs a briwig i ddarnau mawr o gig, 'Digon ar gyfer 9! Digon ar gyfer 12, a digon dros ben!' Ffiledau cyfan ar gyfer Wellington Cig Eidion, coes cyfan o gig oen, asen gyfan i'w gosod ar ganol y bwrdd cinio. Rwy'n credu mai Twrci fydd y cig traddodiadol o ddewis adeg y Nadolig am flynyddoedd lawer i ddod eto, ond mae'n rhaid dweud bod llawer o alw am gig arall ar yr adeg hon hefyd.

"Wrth i newid hinsawdd gymryd lle blaenllaw yn y newyddion, efallai mai cig eidion neu gig oen sy'n cael ei fagu ar borfa dda, yn lleol yw'r anrheg orau adeg y Nadolig - mae'r milltiroedd bywyd yn isel, cefnogi ffermydd a busnesau lleol sy'n cefnogi'r economi leol, yn ogystal â bod yn gyfeillgar i'r amgylchedd."

Ychwanega Helen: "Gyda llawer o gynnwyr yn y sector amaethyddol yn ddiweddar, mae'n hanfodol bwysig cofio mai'r ffermydd bach teuluol hyn sy'n ffurfio asgwrn cefn yr economi leol.

"Cig wedi'i seilio ar borfa fel yr hyn y mae Ben a Julia yn ei gynhyrchu yw'r cynhyrchiad bywyd mwyaf cynaliadwy a pham bod hi'n bwysig prynu'n lleol. Y buddion eraill o brynu'n lleol yw ei fod yn cryfhau'r economi ac yn lleihau'r effaith amgylcheddol."

Pa bynnag gig fydd ar y eich plât y Nadolig hwn, sicrhewch ei fod yn lleol ac o'r ansawdd gorau posib. Dymunaf Nadolig Llawn a dedwydd iawn i chi a'ch teuluoedd i gyd. Diolch am eich cefnogaeth ac am fod yn ddarllenwyr ffyddlon unwaith eto. Welai chi gyd yn 2022, a chofiwch gysylltu os fydd gyda chi unrhyw stori neu hanesyn a fydd o ddiddordeb i Gornel Clecs - byddai'n braf iawn clywed wrthyhch.

*This article is on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "What meat will be on your plate this Christmas?," or from your local county office.*



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# Payment Capping in future support schemes

## PAYMENT CAPPING - THE CURRENT SITUATION

In 2015 the Welsh Government introduced reductions for higher farm payments and an ultimate limit on the amount an active farmer could claim through the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) - the payments upon which Welsh farmers rely for 80% of their income.

77% of Welsh farmers receive less than £20,000 through the Basic Payment Scheme and the average payment is £15,000

The system - known as payment capping - means payments over £150,000 are reduced by increasing amounts and no payments are made that are over £300,000 (Table 1). However, this is well over what the majority of Welsh farmers receive from the Basic Payment Scheme - 77% receive less than £20,000, and the average payment is £15,000.

Also introduced in 2015 was a 'redistributive payment' system which reduces payments for farms with larger areas and increases the amount of money smaller and medium sized farms receive (Table 2) - an approach that modelling shows benefits the vast majority of Wales' family farms - the average Welsh farm size is 57 hectares (141 acres).

*No such systems were introduced in England, meaning there is no limit to what larger farms and estates can claim.*

## WHAT THE FUW BELIEVES

The FUW has supported the capping of direct agricultural payments, since 2007 (after farm employee wages and other factors are taken into account) on the grounds that this maximises the amount of money going to typical Welsh family farms and rural communities.

For the same reasons the FUW also proposed that redistributive payments should be allowed under EU regulations - which the EU accepted.

The FUW therefore **successfully lobbied** for the introduction of both payment capping and redistributive payments in Wales at the lowest rates allowed by EU Regulations at the time.

The FUW maintains the view that **payment capping and redistributive payments should be maintained and enhanced under future policies, coupled with a strict 'active farmer' rule**, to ensure money goes to the family farms that make the greatest contribution to rural economies and communities, and that the capping rates should be lowered subject to careful consideration of factors such as the number of families a farm supports as partners and employees.

Payment capping and redistributive payments should be maintained and enhanced under future policies, coupled with a strict 'active farmer' rule

Table 1: BPS Payment Capping Rates

£150,000 to £200,000	Payments reduced by 15%
£200,000 to £250,000	Payments reduced by 30%
£250,000 to £300,000	Payments reduced by 55%
Over £300,000	Payments reduced by 100%

Table 2: Redistributive payments

First 54 hectares	£232/hectare
Remaining hectares	£121/hectare

Top three recipients of (direct) farm payments (BPS) in the UK in 2020:

1. National Trust (England) £2,984,000
2. Beeswax Dyson Farming Ltd. (England) £2,845,000
3. RSPB (Scotland) £1,587,000

(Average farm payment in Wales: £15,000)

Top three recipients of all rural (CAP) payments in the UK in 2020 (including Rural Development Programme (RDP) payments, which are not capped in any of the UK nations):

1. National Trust £12,222,000
2. Menter a Busnes £11,194,000
3. RSPB £10,178,000

## WHAT IS BEING PLANNED FOR WALES' FUTURE?

The Welsh Government has refused to commit to maintaining any form of payment cap or redistributive payment system, raising concerns that the future support schemes being planned will lead to money being taken away from hard working family farms and given to large landowners and charities - or even people based outside Wales.

If coupled with a weakening of the current 'active farmer' eligibility criteria - a system that favours real farmers rather than absentee landowners - this would make matters worse, by taking away even more money from farming families and rural communities.

**The FUW believes this would be a social and economic betrayal of Wales' family farms and communities, and a morally reprehensible backwards step for Welsh society.**

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**Contact your Senedd Member** telling them you believe payment capping, redistributive payments and strict active farmer criteria **must** be included in the Agriculture Bill that will be progressing through the Welsh Senedd over the coming year.

Visit [www.fuw.org.uk/en/capping](http://www.fuw.org.uk/en/capping) for more information.



# The Importance of reviewing Sums Insured and Rebuilding Costs in a rapidly changing market

by Roger Van Praet, DipCII, FUW Insurance Services Ltd Non-Executive Director

INSURANCE is an essential business component, transferring risk and providing much-needed financial security. However, for insurance to fulfil its objectives, the cover you purchase needs to accurately reflect your business requirements. Insuring assets and buildings for incorrect values, or setting cover limits too low, is likely to result in underinsurance.

Underinsurance can lead to policies not operating as intended, delivering less indemnity than needed following a loss, and jeopardising your farm business's ability to recover. Despite its serious consequences, underinsurance remains common. Recent research by Zurich suggests that underinsurance was a feature in 79% of cases.

**Underinsurance is a perennial problem within the agricultural sector in particular. It is difficult to understand why the issue seems to have such a low profile when it poses such a threat to your business survival and its on-going success.**

Underinsurance occurs when cover is set too low to adequately meet a policyholder's needs. Below are some examples that demonstrate how underinsurance can affect different types of insurance cover:

Declared Farm Buildings reinstatement value on Policy Schedule	Actual Farm Buildings reinstatement value at risk	Indicative Cost of repairs following an insured loss	Claim settlement by insurer	Financial shortfall for policyholder
£150,000	£300,000	£30,000	£15,000	£15,000
Estimated by policyholder at inception of cover and declared as buildings Sum Insured	True reinstatement cost assessed by expert opinion at time of loss based on current rebuilding costs and including site clearance, debris removal, planning constraints and other factors	Policyholder suffers significant Storm and Tempest damage on buildings. Estimated repair costs are £30,000	Underinsurance 'Condition of Average' applies. The final settlement is proportionally reduced to ½ of the claim value	Policyholder is left short of ½ of the funds needed to complete repairs with significant financial impact on the business

**Ensuring sums insured are accurate will mean claims run more smoothly and achieve the best outcomes for customers.**

Many factors determine the true rebuilding costs of farm buildings. The current serious labour shortages and materials supply issues due to Brexit, the Pandemic, HS2, shortage of drivers and general demand presents new challenges.

- There is significant inflation on materials - farm buildings are generally 'materials intensive' with around 9% increase in general building costs but a massive 30% increase in 'modern material' type farm buildings
- Longer lead and repair times - due to demand for building services, delays in materials and labour issues. HS2 offers no advantage to us in Wales but as one of the largest infrastructure projects in the UK for decades, demand for materials, particularly steel and concrete have increased significantly.
- Prices quoted by Agricultural Engineers are only guaranteed for very short periods - often 7 days or even less

## Buildings - it's not just the building itself

A 'building' applies not just to a main structure, but also includes features such as foundations, boundary walls, drains, landscaping. Not including such features is a frequent source of underinsurance. Precisely what is included will be defined in your policy wording.

## Buildings - don't use market value

A building's market value is irrelevant for insurance purposes, and its use for building sums insured is a frequent source of underinsurance. Buildings sums insured need to reflect the full cost of reinstating a building following a total loss. Other factors to consider in determining appropriate Rebuilding Costs/Sums Insured:

- Building Regulations
- Planning requirement
- Debris removal
- Professional fees - architects/surveyors
- Insulation
- Welfare - of workforce
- Power and lighting
- Availability of Steel frame/other supplies

- VAT Status (VAT status of owner? Most farms are VAT registered, but not all e.g. retired, charitable status)
- Asbestos? Cost of removal and disposal of asbestos is significant location (e.g. Remote, poor access, materials uncommon for location)

## Basis of Settlement:

Reinstatement is always the preferred outcome. That is rebuilding or repairing to a condition equivalent but not better or more extensive than before. Insurers will usually agree to reinstatement on another site at the same cost if the damaged building is beyond repair and inconveniently located for current farming practices.

Some insurers will offer settlement on the basis of 'Modern Materials' which is cover based on the use of modern materials and techniques to reduce costs. Substantial repairs of traditional buildings will be undertaken with modern materials. This can often appear attractive at the time of proposal as rebuilding costs of traditional stone/brick and slate buildings with modern materials is significantly less and consequently premiums are less. However, Modern Materials wording cannot always be relied upon.

What happens when the insured has to reinstate with traditional materials?

- National Park/Conservation Area. Significant parts of Wales are either in National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Areas, SSIs and other areas with significant planning constraints
- Listed Status. Buildings may be listed - on occasions without the insured's knowledge
- Buildings with development potential
- When insured simply wishes to put back what was there.

Each building will have features that can significantly alter a reinstatement cost, such as difficult site access, period features or specialist construction techniques. A qualified surveyor will have the expertise to identify and quantify these factors, and one should consider appointing a surveyor when establishing rebuilding costs/sums insured for insurance purposes of traditional or specialist buildings.

## Stock in Trade, Feedstuffs, Plant and machinery and other equipment

Plant and machinery are commonly insured on either a reinstatement or indemnity basis. These items can be particularly susceptible to depreciation, so it is particularly important to approach valuations from the correct basis. Where the items are still readily available, determining values should be relatively simple. However, for older or difficult-to-source items, you may need to base valuations on alternatives of a similar type, capacity and utility. If dealing with large, specialist or bespoke pieces, there are likely to be a variety of additional considerations, such as costs for design, manufacture, installation and commissioning.

## Livestock

And do not forget your livestock. Prices have been fairly buoyant recently and should be reflected in your overall Sums Insured. Again, Sum Insured should reflect the overall value at risk. Cattle and Sheep can be specified separately if differing levels of cover are required. Insurers' margins on livestock claims tend to minimal and they will almost always look for Statement of Value at risk before settling a livestock claim

Regular reviews are essential. Your FUWIS Account Executive will always welcome the opportunity to discuss and review your insurance requirements. Contact them today!



*Nadolig Llawen*  *Merry Christmas*

**Bydd cydweithwyr o Wasanaethau Yswiriant FUW yn parhau i wasanaethu cwsmeriaid dros gyfnod y Nadolig fel a ganlyn:**

**Colleagues from FUW Insurance Services Ltd will continue to serve customers over the Christmas period as follows:**

Iau/Thurs 23 Rhagfyr/December - Ar agor/Open  
Gwener/Fri 24 Rhagfyr/December - Ar gau/Closed  
Llun/Mon 27 Rhagfyr/December - Ar gau/Closed  
Mawrth/Tues 28 Rhagfyr/December - Ar gau/Closed  
Mercher/Wed 29 Rhagfyr/December - Ar agor/Open  
Iau/Thurs 30 Rhagfyr/December - Ar agor/Open  
Gwener/Fri 31 Rhagfyr/December - Ar gau/Closed  
Llun/Mon 3 Ionawr/January - Ar gau/Closed



# Anglesey farmers left exasperated by preventable flooding

EXASPERATED Anglesey farmers whose land is flooded every year have said 'enough is enough' as their land continues to flood because of inaction by National Resources Wales (NRW).

The area - deemed an Internal Drainage District - is protected by a dyke and a series of ditches and floodgates which are opened to release floodwater from the river Cefni but closed to protect the land from the ravages of high tides in the winter.

But as the first big storms of winter arrived, farmers in Cors Malltraeth between Malltraeth and Llangefni were racing to rescue animals and save their livelihood from the flooded wetlands.

Landowners in the area all pay annual rates to the NRW for maintaining the ditches and maintaining the river but the dredging has been reduced to just cutting the vegetation back, leaving less room for the water to flow and leading to flooding every year.

At a lively meeting on November 5, which was arranged by the FUW Anglesey office, farmers delivered a robust 'enough is enough' message to the NRW.

The meeting was also attended by a representative of

Anglesey County Council's Structures Department which is concerned about the A5 at Pentre Berw which was underwater for several days, and local MS, Rhun ap Iorwerth.

FUW Anglesey County Executive Officer Alaw Jones said: "The problem is twofold - the clearing of the ditches and riverbed and the operation of the floodgates. Until recently the NRW used to clear the ditches and dredge the rivers much sooner in the season but now they say they don't have the budget. This is ruining farmers' livelihoods and is flooding food producing, quality land out of production."

She added that the farmers are desperate to fix the problem and have offered to pull together to rebuild the breaches in the banks of the river Ceint, which flows into the Cefni on the site, and which were caused in 2017, but are struggling as the NRW refuse to grant them the necessary licences to work on the land.

"Members can be assured that we will continue to raise issues such as these on their behalf to ensure the problems are addressed," she said.



# Standing firm against violence and abuse

THE FUW will continue its support of the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) 'Not in My Name' Campaign to stamp out violence against women.

Joining a special candlelight vigil in Cardiff on November 22, which had been arranged by the NFWI- Wales, FUW President Glyn Roberts, (pictured right), said: "It is a sad sign of the times that we are still having candlelight vigils to highlight the extreme situation many find themselves in through domestic violence and abuse. Yet it is important, critical, to not give up in the plight to raise awareness and change attitudes."

The Union President highlighted that there are many consequences of domestic abuse, including the development of anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions.

"The FUW made a commitment to keep the spotlight on mental health, standing here today, side by side with many like minded individuals and organisations, is part of that ongoing work for the FUW. Domestic abuse affects all of our communities, urban and rural.

"For many people home is no longer a place of safety and Covid-19 restrictions have increased the isolation suffered by many which is often exacerbated in our rural

communities. It has also been more difficult for victims of domestic abuse to seek help at a time when incidence of domestic abuse has increased, which is even more acute in some of our isolated rural communities," he told the delegation outside of the Senedd.

As part of the campaign, the FUW is also working with partner organisations, such as Welsh Women's Aid and the DPJ Foundation, to provide Domestic Abuse Training to all staff to better understand domestic abuse and how to sign post people to specialist support.

"We believe that we have a duty as an organisation, embedded in our rural communities, to play our part in raising awareness of these issues and supporting people where we can.

"With this in mind and as part of the campaign, the FUW will be working with partner organisations to provide Domestic Abuse Training to all staff.

"Myself and the Farmers' Union of Wales say loud and clear - Violence against women and girls is not acceptable and it has to end. United we stand in making the promise to never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women," he said.

Eirian Roberts, Chair of NFWI-Wales said: "The candlelight vigil on the steps of the Senedd formed part of our annual Not in my Name events held since 2012, in partnership with Joyce Watson MS, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence and Against Women and White Ribbon Day. It was an opportunity for us to bring people together to show solidarity with victims and survivors of violence against women across the world.

"We are delighted to have the FUW on board in taking action to raise awareness of domestic abuse and thank Glyn Roberts for his powerful contribution at the vigil.

"Over the last year, tragic events such as the murders of Sabina Messa and Sarah Everard, have shone a spotlight on male violence against women and girls and have reinforced how far we have still to go before our homes and public spaces are truly safe for women.

"WI members across the country are determined to redouble their efforts to make sure that all women and girls can live the lives they choose, free from the fear of abuse."



Images: Natasha Hirst

# “It never fails to amaze me how resilient the industry is”

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

2021 has been another year of challenges for the agricultural industry, but as always, we have taken the stumbling blocks into our stride. As I write this review at the end of November, to ensure a timely publication in the December edition *Y Tir*, it never fails to amaze me how resilient this industry is.

Our year started in a very different way than usual - the long standing farmhouse breakfast week went virtual, as in person events were still not possible due to covid-19 restrictions.

Nonetheless, the team managed to raise thousands for our charity the DPJ Foundation. We are now looking forward to having breakfast either in person or virtually in the New Year, so keep your eyes peeled for information local to you and get in touch with your county office for more details.

Our teams, including staff from FUW Insurance Services Ltd. also joined forces to combat poor mental health as they joined others as part of the #Run1000 challenge to inspire rural communities to take to the countryside to help improve their mental health. The winner of the challenge to reach the 1,000 milestone was Wales and the FUW Ltd. group team contributed a total of 1,156 miles to the overall 64,785 miles recorded across all teams around the world.

From the outset we were engaged in environmental and biodiversity work, urging members to take part in the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust's Big Farmland Bird Count and highlighting the good work that is already being done on farms across Wales. The event was a great success and I hope that many of you will take part again next year. More recently, the FUW was proud to host the launch of the Gylfinir Cymru/Curlew Wales Action Plan, aimed at saving a species that members care deeply about.

Against the backdrop of environmental work carried out by our farmers however, was frustration as members directly felt the brunt of not just climate change but inaction by authorities. Members in Meirionnydd for example had several hundred acres of land at Llanfrothen near Porthmadog flooded, as a result of the Afon Croesor overflowing once again to the nearby Internal Drainage District, which is supposed to be managed by Natural Resources Wales - causing tremendous damage to some of the best agricultural land in the area.

Shortly after we were faced with another major problem. Cue the introduction of the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021. It can still only be described as a gross betrayal of the industry and one we hope the committee looking into it now will rectify. Indeed, we expressed our bitter disappointment with Senedd Members who failed to support a motion to annul the regulations after the motion was defeated by 30 votes to 27 - support that was turned around within weeks following extensive lobbying, when the newly appointed Senedd Members voted unanimously to review the regulations.

Nevertheless, the decision to cut and paste outdated thirty year old EU legislation designed to tackle problems in intensively farmed areas into the Welsh statute books is itself a major concern for all those who understand the purpose of Welsh devolution, and we have not shifted our position on this.

At the beginning of the year and in a show of unity, we



joined forces with NFU Cymru and Wales YFC and called upon the Minister, Lesley Griffiths MS, to pause and reconsider what a future policy should deliver for the people of Wales. We also expressed concerns around the future direction of Welsh agricultural policy, following the publication of the Agriculture (Wales) White Paper.

We rejected the key proposals for the future of agricultural support in Wales set out in the White Paper, and called for a genuine Welsh policy to be developed to meet Welsh objectives. Central to the Welsh Government's proposals would be moves to ratchet up rules and restrictions, and base farm support payments purely on the delivery of environmental benefits such as clean air, water quality, and wildlife habitat. The failure of the Welsh Government's Agriculture White Paper to refer to payment capping was also shameful and raised major concerns that a regressive move away from the policy is being considered.

Let us therefore hope that the recently published Labour - Plaid Cymru Co-operation Agreement and its commitment to stability payments sets a more appropriate balance that recognises the dangers of ignoring the social and economic needs of farmers.

In addition to our political engagement, we hosted a series of hustings where farmers could quiz the prospective Welsh Senedd candidates across Wales ahead of the Welsh Senedd elections in May. In line with the Welsh Senedd elections, we outlined the big issues facing agriculture in Wales at a press conference and launched our Welsh Senedd Election manifesto.

In our 2016 election manifesto we warned of the unprecedented challenges facing the incoming Senedd Members and Government, and in the five years since those challenges have not only materialised but been exacerbated and added to.

The materialisation of a far harder form of Brexit than had been promised by those who lobbied for our departure from the EU has restricted access to our main export markets on the continent in ways which are only beginning to be felt, while the on-going Covid-19 pandemic has changed our lives beyond recognition - highlighting the fragility of global food supply chains and the importance of a strong farming sector on which our domestic markets should be able to rely for mainstream products.

While such issues have been largely beyond the control of our devolved administrations, the reaction of the Welsh Government to the uncertainty and challenges faced by our agriculture sector was at times bewildering and counterintuitive, not least in terms of its appetite for drastically increasing costs and restrictions while advocating untried and untested reforms of rural support policies.

Meanwhile, UK Government cuts to Welsh rural funding - in direct contradiction to promises made repeatedly by those who advocated Brexit - have added to the pressures on Welsh agriculture, the rural economy and Welsh Government. The FUW continues to be clear that Wales' family farms lie at the centre of our rural economy, culture and landscape, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs and tens of thousands of businesses involved in the Welsh food supply industry, and making innumerable other contributions to the well-being of Welsh and UK residents - benefits central to

which is the production of food, our most precious commodity alongside water.

Doing so in a way which reflects the need to mitigate climate change and protect our environment must be at the core of policy development for the Welsh Government and Senedd, but such aspirations must be tempered by the knowledge that sweeping changes that undermine our family farms and food production will merely shift production to countries with lower animal welfare standards and higher global and environmental footprints.

Rather than feeling that such concerns have been taken on board and seeing proportionate measures put in place to safeguard our industry, many consider the current direction of travel as a betrayal of devolution which directly threatens the agricultural industry and the culture, language and way of life which are intrinsically linked to Welsh food production.

With this in mind, we made no apology in highlighting our members frustration about the lack of bespoke Welsh policies regarding future farming scheme proposals and tackling water quality issues put forward by the Welsh Government.

Welsh farmers are proud to produce world-leading food to environmental, animal health and welfare and food safety standards that are second to none, but these need to be regulated in a proportionate manner which does not stifle innovation, create unjustified restrictions and place Welsh farmers at a severe competitive disadvantage against other countries' agricultural produce.

Such concerns are particularly pertinent in an era when the UK Government is proactively seeking to sign trade deals with countries with production standards which fall well short of those already required of Welsh food producers. And while the aspiration that further raising standards will provide our producers with a competitive advantage in high-end markets is understandable, it is also naive given what the data tells us - price continues to be the main motivation when consumers make their food choices.

Alongside other critical issues and priorities outlined by the FUW we urged the Welsh Government and Senedd to develop bespoke, tailor-made policies that reflect such global realities as well as Welsh economic, social and environmental needs and the seven Welsh Well-being Goals; policies which maintain our already high standards while ensuring Welsh producers are not undermined in ways which lead to greater imports of food from those with far lower standards than our own.

We then met with the agriculture leads of the main political parties in the run-up to the Welsh Senedd elections, highlighting industry concerns and our key manifesto asks.

The Union has and will continue to hold the parties to account on their commitments to farming and work closely with the Government to ensure future policies support thriving, sustainable family farms - for the benefit of the rural economy, the environment, food security and our unique rural culture and traditions.



Continues on page 11

Trade deals continued to be a major point of concern this year. Our members from Montgomeryshire, as well as the British Meat Processors Association (BMPA) met with MP Craig Williams, a member of the International Trade Committee, to discuss the impact Brexit is having on meat exports. Here we highlighted the need to address non-tariff barriers that are causing major problems for exporters. Many if not most exporters kept consignments at minimum levels or decided not to export at all in the first weeks of January - which did not come as a surprise to us.

Staying with trade deals, we have made no secret about how we regard the prospect of liberal trade deals with countries such as New Zealand and Australia and have raised these concerns regularly with politicians across Wales, on farms, in virtual meetings and in evidence given in writing and orally to House of Commons and House of Lords Inquiries.

In those meetings and documents and in various press statements we have emphasised the degree to which the UK Government's trade policies, coupled with decisions on issues such as live trade, suggest a deliberate or inadvertent willingness to undermine UK farming and food security in return for negligible benefits to the economy. The UK Government's own figures, published by the Department for International Trade, show that the economic benefits for the UK of the trade deals being discussed are microscopic and will favour other countries far more than our own.

As *Y Tir* goes to print we await the outcome of the emergency UK-EU talks aimed at overcoming the problems caused by the Northern Ireland Protocol - problems which highlight the dangers of rushing into other international agreements without careful scrutiny - and naturally hope the rhetoric about a UK-EU trade war that will be devastating for tens of thousands of UK businesses, not least Welsh farmers, will not become a reality.

Plenty of concerns were raised when it came to the consultation on transporting and exporting live animals, and the Union was clear that farmers should not be discriminated against by a ban on exports when those in other countries and around the world with which trade is set to be liberalised are free to move animals in ways which fall well below the high standards we have in the UK - something the Union described as utter hypocrisy.

The UK Government's decision to allow imports from the EU to circumvent checks until 2022 and beyond was described by many in the industry, including us, as a blow for many UK producers, and an own goal in terms of the UK's negotiating position over improvements that would help UK exporters. While thorough checks have been in place for UK food exports to the EU since January 1 2021, equivalent checks on food products imported from the EU will be phased in over a period measured in years, due to the UK's failure to build border inspection posts and prepare for a process it initiated, giving importers a clear advantage and risking WTO legal action by countries outside the EU.

During the year we also joined a roundtable meeting with Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs George Eustice MP, where we stressed the need for clarity on funding for Welsh agriculture. We therefore later in the year welcomed the announcement by Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, Lesley Griffiths, that farmers will continue to receive the Basic Payment Scheme until 2023 and that there will be a two year extension to the Glastir Advanced, Commons and Organic scheme contracts. Thankfully the UK Government's funding allocation, announced in the autumn Spending Review, is sufficient to allow this to happen - but that does not detract from the frustration that those funds were, for the second year running, significantly below what was promised in the Conservative manifesto, meaning by 2025 Welsh agriculture and rural development will be a total of

around £248 million worse off than it would have been had we retained the 2019 budget, as promised by the UK Government.

Not taking our eyes off the ball when it comes to livestock worrying, we hosted a webinar to address the on-going incidents across Wales. It was an informative and well attended event, which helped to explain what services FUW Insurance Service Ltd. can provide to members should they find their livestock has been attacked. We further heard from the North Wales Police Rural Crime team about the law and what they can do to prosecute those who fail to keep their dogs under control. A welcome cheer was due shortly after as the announcement by Welsh Government Minister of Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths, signaled that a dedicated all-Wales Rural and Wildlife Crime Coordinator role will be established. The Minister agreed to provide funding for the 12 month pilot role and has written to all the Welsh Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners to encourage the appointment of an all-Wales Rural and Wildlife Crime Coordinator. Since the appointment of Rob Taylor to the role we have regularly met with him and other police forces across Wales to ensure our rural and farming communities can be kept safe.

As we got closer to COP 26 and the United Nations Food System Summit (UNFSS), our campaign 'Guardians of the Welsh Land', helped members address misleading claims by various groups about the role livestock farming plays in relation to climate change and the environment. We have consistently recognised the threat represented by climate change and the need to take action. This is clear from a cursory look at our manifestos and policy documents published over the past twenty years.

2021 was therefore an important year for these types of conversations. Knocking on our door were the United Nations Food Systems Summit and COP26. We engaged with these conversations at an international level and shared some concerns with other industries across the globe about the wider narrative and ambitions set out in inconspicuous looking documents and plans that aim to tackle climate change and perceived unsustainable food production methods.

The rationale behind our 'Guardians of the Welsh land' campaign therefore was to address those increasingly misleading claims by the media, politicians and other anti-meat lobby groups about the role livestock farming plays in relation to climate change and pollution. We will also address some myths that exist around poor animal health and welfare standards.

The campaign further highlighted that Welsh farmers are rising to the challenge of improving soil health and increasing organic matter in soils, improvements which represent further opportunities for sequestering more carbon. These improvements, the campaign highlighted, are achieved through specific livestock grazing patterns and rest periods. The campaign was also clear that the correct options, guidance and rewards are required to encourage more farmers to adopt such systems.

As farmers are the most trusted link in the supply chain, they are best placed to communicate their stories helping to address consumer concerns and influencing political agendas. I therefore thank all those members who have supported our efforts to tell the positive story of farming throughout the year.

These visits and case studies also helped us to fully explain that a future agricultural support scheme focussed solely on a Public Goods and environmental outcomes based on poorly understood and complex environmental factors would be a mistake.

And as the climate change conversations got louder, we discussed the merits and drawbacks of limiting the amount of carbon credits that can be sold from Welsh

land, carbon trading quotas and other approaches that might be applied in Wales.

Indeed, during a meeting of our Land Use and Parliamentary Committee, members expressed extreme concern that a large proportion of the carbon locked and sequestered in Welsh land could be sold to other countries and companies outside Wales, undermining the ability of Welsh agriculture or even Wales as a whole to become carbon neutral. They also highlighted ongoing concerns that Welsh farms were being purchased by companies from outside Wales in order to cash in on Wales' carbon.

We met with relevant Ministers, including Climate Change Minister Julie James, Deputy Minister Lee Waters and wider political groups to raise all these concerns. This was particularly important as we continued to receive reports from members on almost a weekly basis of whole farms or parcels of land being bought up by individuals and businesses from outside of Wales, for the purpose of tree planting in order to invest in the growing carbon market or offset their own emissions - rather than seeking to reduce their carbon footprint in the first instance.

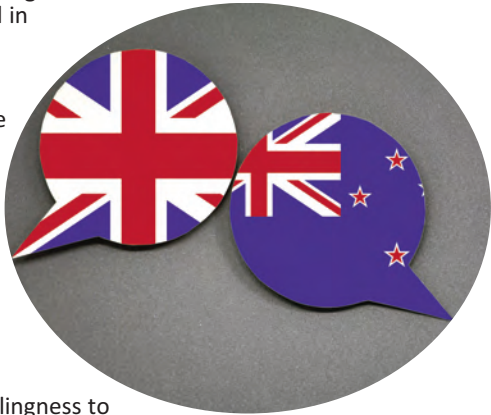
Another topic that kept us on our toes this year, sadly so, is the ongoing bovine TB crisis. Not a meeting we had on farm went by without a member highlighting the devastating impact on their business and mental health this disease has. We were therefore again frustrated by the statement made by the Minister for Rural Affairs regarding the TB Eradication Programme.

The Minister announced a 12 week consultation, 'A Refreshed TB Eradication Programme' that outlines future policy proposals by the Welsh Government in tackling the disease in Welsh cattle. With the incidences of TB increasing in Low TB Areas in Wales, it is beyond frustrating that the only response the Welsh Government has to tackle this issue is with increasing cattle controls and with greater testing burdens being placed upon our hard-working farming families.

An agreement between the Labour party and Plaid Cymru to work cooperatively for the next three years on 46 policies where there is a common interest raises a number of hopes - although I suspect much of the devil will be in the detail. The deal covers a huge array of principles, including local procurement, second homes, tree planting, agricultural pollution, the Welsh language and the Sustainable Farming Scheme. The agreement states that a transition period will be introduced as the system of farm payments is reformed so stability payments will continue to be a feature of the Sustainable Farming Scheme during and beyond this Senedd term. We of course look forward to working with the Welsh Government and politicians from across the political spectrum to ensure the Sustainable Farming Scheme is developed in a way which fully respects the commitment to stability payments. As members might expect, we will be keeping a close eye on the developments in order to seek the best future for our family farms.

On a final note this year, I would like to thank our new Managing Director Guto Bebb, our officials and chairmen of committees and of course our staff across the FUW group for all of their hard work. During another year of remote working I think everyone has done an amazing job in serving our members, lobbying and highlighting the excellent work that is being done on behalf of members and customers. I will raise a glass to you all on Christmas day and hope that you get to enjoy a peaceful and Merry Christmas and I wish you all the very best for the New Year.

**Mae'r erthygl yma yn Gymraeg ar wefan UAC - Newyddion - Newyddion Y Tir: "Nid yw byth yn methu â fy synnu pa mor wydn yw'r diwydiant," neu o'ch swyddfa sirol leol.**



# Upper Wye valley farmers embrace conservation, tourism and food production



A FEW miles outside Rhayader, in Mid-Wales, nestled between the Elan valley and the river Wye, is Nannerth Fawr farm, home to Andre and Alison Gallagher. The farm house is one field from the 2 mile river frontage and the land stretches from the river to the common hill land. It's diverse ground and the 200 acre farm includes 103 acres of grassland, including wetland areas, 62 acres of wood pasture, and 30 acres of woodland, in 9 separate enclosures. The couple currently farm 200 sheep, keep a few horses and poultry, as well as Boer goats for meat.

Andre and Alison bought the farm over 30 years ago, by sealed tender. With no previous experience in farming the couple embarked on a steep learning curve. Alison recalls: "The farm was in a derelict state when it was bought. We didn't know we were going to be successful until the day we took it over and it was a bit of a shock as lambing started the following day here on the farm. We were plunged straight into outdoor lambing but managed reasonably well I think. It helped a lot having friends and neighbours for farming advice and support."

As well as improving the farm and renovating the farm buildings and house, the couple have worked to maintain diverse habitats and support biodiversity on the farm. When they bought the farm a lot of woodland already existed, which they fenced off, as well as creating further

"If the land here wasn't grazed it would become overgrown very quickly. In the wetlands we have established, the molinia and the rushes have spread too extensively and could take over the whole 5 hectares. We now intend to mow and graze more of the wetland and pond area."

woodland over the years. The existing ancient woodlands, with mainly oaks, were therefore protected and in 2013 the couple planted another hectare of native species on a small plot of land.

In 2014 they planted a further 3.5 hectares of native species and enclosed some existing oak woodland which together made 10 hectares. "We left little glades and pathways so the woodland is not too dense. Altogether that's 10,000 trees. We've also done a lot of hedge restoration," says Alison.

"Currently we are embarking on a scheme of 11 hectares of mixed conifer and deciduous planting on the far north of the farm. It's very steep there with a lot of bracken cover on the hill. It's very difficult for livestock to manage so it makes sense to establish woodland there. We also wanted to make the farm more sustainable for the next generation. We felt we had to do something to generate some future income as well as the conservation aspect," adds Andre.

Sustainability of the farm is important to Andre and Alison and looking after the land plays a big part in that. Alison explains: "We have a traditional upland farm with a history of low inputs such as chemicals and fertiliser and the farm has now been organic for 13 years.

"We had some problems with the standing flock we inherited, mainly footrot and bad teeth. We've improved the flock and dealt with those problems. We also remove underperforming ewes and are selective in our breeding. The sheep now look well and are healthy."

Overall the couple aim for sustainable farming practices, less cost in raising the livestock, and for the system to be low input. "We've cut down the sheep numbers to about a quarter of what they were before and they seem to be doing much better. The ewes are

bigger, they're fatter, the lambs are doing better as well. There is now lots of grass for them and we're moving them around more. We make our own hay on the ancient hay meadows and just winter feed hay and a little concentrate, plus minerals, particularly for ewes expecting and feeding twins," explains Andre.



When it comes to looking after the grassland on the farm, Andre is proud of the ancient meadows here at Nannerth. "We are really pleased to have maintained our ancient meadows. Having previously been in an ESA scheme and then in Tir Gofal, we're now in Glastir Advanced, so we don't cut those hay meadows until the middle of July. We don't graze them for a month after and we don't use bought in fertiliser. We only use ground limestone if needed," he says.

A survey carried out on the meadows many years ago showed that there are over 60 species of plants growing there. Whilst the crop is light, Andre says the grass is as good as it gets. "The sheep and goats far prefer it to anything else. We had to buy in a few bales last year just to top up the feed and the goats were not interested in the ryegrass. They are very spoiled now."

"NRW are coming back soon to do another survey, including the mosses and some very rare lichens which grow in the woods and I'm really interested to see what they find. Apparently we're in a micro climate here, in a bit of a dip next to the river and between the hills, it seems to have kept air pollution at bay, which is interesting because we're fairly close to the A470," adds Alison.

Around 66 species of bird call the land around the farm home and Andre and Alison love seeing the summer visiting birds, such as pied flycatchers and redstarts.



Continues on page 13

“They nest here, raise their young and then go off again. I put up 150 bird boxes about 20 years ago and amazingly the first 50 had birds in them all within a week,” says Andre.

The Welsh Clearwing moth also thrives at Nannerth Fawr. “It uses the mature downy birch trees close to the river. We can see where they have made holes and pupae come out. The land has been farmed extensively for a long time and it’s nice to see such a variety of species here,” says Alison.

Whilst the couple strongly support biodiversity and are very aware of species decline, they recognise the important role of livestock. “If the land here wasn’t grazed it would become overgrown very quickly. In the wetlands we have established, the molinia and the rushes have spread too extensively and could take over the whole 5 hectares. We now intend to mow and graze more of the wetland and pond area.

“In the wetlands we have created 15 ponds providing good habitat for 17 species of dragonfly, amphibians and some waterbirds. The wetlands are grazed by 2 ponies but we need to up the grazing animals a bit. You have to have some stock grazing otherwise it turns into a wild jungle and nothing flourishes,” explains Andre.

Alison adds: “We try to do a mixture of things. Farming that sits ok with conservation, conservation that sits ok with farming. We were lucky here; we had the wetlands down the bottom with peatland, native woodlands with ancient oaks and the river margin. We’ve built on those and that has increased biodiversity on the farm.”

Keeping healthy environments in mind, Andre and Alison also keep bees. “The meadow flowers provide forage for the bees which are essential pollinators in the food chain. Honey bees also like to feed on the local heather and we have planted small leaf lime trees which are very good for early pollinating insects. For their comfort and ours, we built a bee house last year, which protects the hives from storms, wind and rain,” says Andre.

When it comes to food production the couple are clear that anything other than livestock would not suit the land. “We don’t have many options as to what we produce here. We’re too high up to successfully grow vegetables and other crops but what we can grow is grass. Rearing livestock is really what lends itself to our farm and grassland is a carbon sink. Our animals have a good life, we’re organic and the livestock is fed on grass. As far as the meat goes, it’s as healthy and as sustainable as it can be,” says Alison.



“As strong advocates of good quality food, we avoid heavily processed foods and meat. It is good to hear that increasingly people are making sustainable choices in the food they buy and their diets. In our opinion it’s better to have good quality local meat two or three times a week than processed, poor quality meat every day. Livestock farming, how we do it here in Wales, is fairly sustainable and I would encourage consumers who are concerned to look for Welsh and homegrown produce,” Andre says.

With constant advice for farmers to diversify to survive and drawing on previous experience of running a hotel, Andre and Alison diversified into self-catering holiday cottages starting almost 30 years ago. “Farming is very hard and especially for smaller farms like ours. Most have to diversify to keep things going. Very few farms around here survive just on farming income. With the changes to the support system and potential trade deals with countries that have different standards, there won’t be a level playing field. So we continue to invest in our diversified farm tourism business, trying to improve something every year,” explains Alison.

“When we came here it was obvious that this is an ideal location for people to come on holiday. Farming really goes with tourism. People don’t see farm animals any more and they only think of farming as what they see on television, including mass, intensive cattle farms with no grass at all. Our guests get a real feel for what an upland Welsh farm is like,” says Andre.

With tourists from far and wide coming to stay at Nannerth, Andre and Alison enjoy the opportunity to show people what farming in Mid Wales is about. “Most people who come here really like the animals and are interested in how farming in this area works. They want an authentic farm and we’re more than happy to help our guests better understand what farming, conservation and food production here is about,” he adds.

“Farming is hard work and a lot of thought and effort goes into what you do for the future. If you worked out what your income was it would be near enough two and sixpence an hour in old money. People love what we do here and they’re always amazed at the different skills you have to have and the fact that you’re out every day irrespective of the weather.

“People also like to help with lambing and many have had a great time helping over the years - I think 27 years of lambing is the record for one family. The kids get involved and they’re fascinated with the birth, bonding and suckling process. They learn by seeing and doing - it’s hands on!

“Keeping tourism going, looking after the land, promoting biodiversity and producing sustainable, nutritious food is what being sustainable means to us,” says Alison.

“There is also a wider responsibility because it is of critical importance to help reverse climate change and species decline in order to sustain the planet we all depend on. Working for the future and for the next generation is what farmers have always done. It’s now more crucial than ever,” adds Andre.



*Mae'r erthygl yma yn Gymraeg ar wefan UAC - Newyddion: "Ffermwyr yn Nyffryn Gwy Uchaf yn manteisio ar gadwraeth, twristiaeth a chynhyrchu bwyd."*

# Importance of industry showcased during farm tour with MP

FARMERS from Meirionnydd have taken the opportunity to highlight the importance of the industry during a tour of four local farms with MP Liz Saville-Roberts. The visits further provided an opportunity for members of the FUW to express their concerns about the looming New Zealand and Australia trade deals and their impacts on family farms here in Wales.

Opening the gates to their farms on the day were Huw Roberts of Y Gyrn, Llanuwchllyn; Robyn L Roberts, who farms land at Pengeulan, Llanuwchllyn; farming father and daughter team Glyn and Elain Roberts, who farm at Rhydyrefail near Parc and Arwel Davies of Pantyneuadd, Parc.

A key message during the day was that family farms make a significant and indispensable contribution to cultural life in Wales, contributing as they do in the vast majority of Wales to numerous community organisations and events, the maintenance of rural schools and the provision of jobs and economic benefits.

In this context, members highlighted that the proposed trade deals with New Zealand and Australia presented a direct threat to family farms in Wales, which would ultimately put the future of Welsh culture and language, as well as the economy at considerable risk.



**Y Gyrn:** From left; FUW Meirionnydd County Executive Officer, Huw Jones; Meirionnydd FUW President, Euros Puw; Huw P Roberts; Meirionnydd FUW Chairman, Edwin Jones; Liz Saville Roberts MP; Former FUW President, Emyr W Jones and FUW Policy Officer Teleri Fielden.

Speaking after the event, FUW Policy Officer Teleri Fielden said: "Truly unique to Wales is the persistence of a Celtic language in large numbers of Welsh communities. That number is highly dependent on the agricultural sector. If our family farms suffer because of those trade deals, it would have far reaching repercussions."

"The FUW would emphasise the essential cultural, social and economic role played by all family farms in Wales. When the use of the Welsh language is taken as a proxy for the cultural importance of an industry it is clear that family farms and the businesses that rely on them are critical to the cultural identity of Wales," added FUW Meirionnydd County Executive Officer Huw Jones.

The MP further heard that the most significant single challenge facing family farms relates to low farm incomes, which have a knock on impact on the wider rural economy and social problems such as the loss of young people from rural communities.

"Whilst fluctuations have occurred over the past decade, there continues to be a general downward trend in farm business income. While farm incomes remain low, in the absence of direct support they would be far lower or negative, representing a major threat to their very existence. That is a natural concern for us as we want to



**Penygeulan:** From left; Emyr W Jones; Robyn Roberts; Liz Saville Roberts MP; Teleri Fielden; Euros Puw and Edwin Jones.



**Rhydyrefail:** From left; FUW Insurance Services Ltd Account Executive, Gweno Davies; Emyr W Jones; Elain Roberts (also Meirionnydd YFC organiser); Edwin Jones; Alaw Roberts; FUW President, Glyn Roberts; Eirian Roberts; Liz Saville Roberts MP; Euros Puw and Teleri Fielden.

keep the next generation working in agriculture. For that to happen, our industry must be attractive and uncertainty in incomes will not help matters," said Edwin Jones, FUW Meirionnydd Chairman.

The potential phasing out of direct support, against a backdrop of unfavourable trade deals, members told the MP, was a real concern.

"In addition to that, trade deals which allow the importation of cheap food produced to lower standards than those required of Welsh farmers will reduce domestic farmgate prices and increase reliance on the direct support that is currently destined to be phased out in Wales and England," explained Teleri Fielden.

Amongst the costs faced by farmers, Teleri Fielden added, are the numerous regulations in place, and plans to increase such costs through the introduction of additional restrictions and regulations which are not in place in other countries represent an additional threat to Wales' family farms.

FUW Meirionnydd County Executive Officer Huw Jones added: "What is evident is that Wales and the UK have very little to gain from trade deals with these countries. Economically we will not benefit, as they are major agricultural trading nations, which produce to very different standards than we do. The playing field is already skewed in their favour."



**Pantyneuadd:** From left; Emyr W Jones; Gweno Davies; Arwel Davies; Edwin Jones; Teleri Fielden; Euros Puw and Liz Saville Roberts MP.

"It's also worth noting that such trade deals will also act as a major obstruction to any future UK Government wishing to renegotiate trading arrangements with our nearest neighbours, as they are binding international agreements."

Walking around the farms, the two of which are involved in environmental schemes (Y Gyrn and Pantyneuadd), the MP further heard that climate change targets would be severely undermined by importing food from across the world, whilst reducing Wales' capacity to produce sustainable, nutritious food.

Addressing climate change concerns, with trade deals in mind, Teleri Fielden said: "Against the backdrop of COP26, where nations from across the world are making pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and take better care of the environment, the UK Government is looking at signing trade deals that will severely undermine those ambitions here at home."

"The misleading rhetoric around the contribution of UK agriculture and meat eating to climate change at a time when environmental conditions appear to be being largely omitted by the UK from trade deal negotiations raises concerns that food security will be proactively undermined by UK Governments whilst liberal trade deals will hand over control of food production emissions to countries with far less regard for such matters."

## Spending review breaks pledge

RELATIVE cuts to Wales' agricultural and rural development funding allocation announced in the latest spending review break the Conservative manifesto pledge not to cut rural funding for the second year running, the FUW has said.

The UK budget and spending review announced on October 27 revealed that an average of £300 million a year would be allocated to Wales for agriculture and rural development over the next three financial years.

This is £37 million less than the budget allocated in 2019 - a year in which the Conservative manifesto pledged to "guarantee the current annual [Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)] budget to farmers in every year of the next Parliament."

Responding to the budget announcement, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "The FUW made strong and valid arguments in response to the UK Treasury's decision last year to adopt a creative interpretation of the manifesto commitment and allocate a budget some £137 million less than had been anticipated, by including unspent EU funds from the 2014-2020 CAP budgetary period in its calculations."

"We recently wrote to Secretary of State for Wales Simon Hart MP urging him to do his utmost to ensure that this year the Conservative manifesto commitment was honoured, but clearly that has not happened."

The letter also noted that had the UK remained in the EU and Wales continued to receive the same proportion of the CAP budget, the average annual Welsh allocation of CAP funding would have been around £334 million (based on previous allocations and the £0.89/€ exchange rate) in addition to any unspent funds.

Mr Roberts said the FUW would continue to monitor further announcements on the spending review and engage with the Welsh Government on how these cuts will influence devolved funding allocations ahead of its budget announcement later this year.

"Critical to the viability of family farms and rural economies is the maintenance of the BPS budget, and we welcome the Welsh minister's commitment to maintaining this in the coming years," he added.

**"We recently wrote to Secretary of State for Wales Simon Hart MP urging him to do his utmost to ensure that this year the Conservative manifesto commitment was honoured, but clearly that has not happened."**

# Action plan to save the curlews in Wales



A MULTI-PARTNER supported recovery plan to reverse the decline of curlew from Welsh landscapes was launched on Monday November 22.

The Wales Action Plan for the Recovery of Curlew is written and led by Gylfinir Cymru/Curlew Wales, a broad partnership working with Welsh Government to address the chronic decline in population and geographic distribution of this iconic bird.

Patrick Lindley, Chair of Gylfinir Cymru, said:

“Wales’ breeding curlews are in significant decline and if we fail to act now this species could be on the brink of extinction by 2033. Like much of the rest of the UK and Europe, we are facing a climate emergency and a nature crisis, and the loss of breeding curlew is considered by many to be the most pressing bird conservation priority in Wales.

“The loss of biodiversity is far-reaching, complex, and challenging, but it is considered by many that the loss of breeding curlew from Welsh landscapes will be a loss of biodiversity too far. Gylfinir Cymru’s aim is to halt and if possible, reverse this decline by the implementation of this ten-year action plan. Working closely in collaboration with Welsh Government, environmental non-government organisations, farming unions, academia and individuals, this 10-year curlew action plan meets this challenge by setting the strategic direction of closely aligned actions to deliver tangible gains for Wales’ remaining breeding curlews.

The Action Plan sets out a 10-year programme to conserve breeding curlews and to stabilise the decline in breeding curlews in Wales.

To do this the plan will address four main themes:

- Identify a network of Important Curlew Areas (ICAs) in Wales to maximise opportunities and provide a focus for targeted conservation action
- Reverse the current drivers of low productivity (predators and grassland management practices during the breeding season)
- Ensure a package of support is available to enable all farmers and land managers to collaborate at the landscape scale to deliver the outcomes required by breeding curlew using the best available evidence
- Support public awareness campaigns and education to influence consumer choices and demands for agricultural products that support breeding curlew friendly habitats.

Mark Isherwood MS is the Wales Species Curlew Champion, he said: “Since becoming Wales Species Champion for the Curlew in 2016, I have learned much about the perilous predicament of the Curlew, both as an individual species and as an ecological umbrella or indicator species.

“I am privileged to have worked with Gylfinir Cymru/Curlew Wales, since its subsequent formation as a coalition of expert organisations working together because they have a shared passion and determination to secure the future of Curlew as a breeding bird in Wales. We need to understand the multiple and multi-species benefits of saving Curlew from an ecosystem resilience, cultural and natural heritage perspective.”

Minister for Climate Change Julie James said: “The plight of the curlew epitomises the nature emergency. It is not just something for governments and nature experts to address in isolation - it is for all of us in Wales to take ownership of, support and get involved in the remedies. Thanks to Gylfinir Cymru/Curlew Wales for leading the way in the recovery of this iconic species, they do so for the benefit of us all.

“I want future generations to be able to hear the beautiful cry of the curlew.

That’s why I am already investing over £200k to support projects that help curlew in Wales, and millions more in projects that give nature and biodiversity the opportunity to recover and thrive, including funds for landowners and farmers to make the right land use choices for our wildlife.”

*Gylfinir Cymru is a partnership of: Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, The British Association for Shooting and Conservation, The British Trust for Ornithology, The Countryside Alliance, Cofnod, Curlew Country, Denbighshire County Council, The Farmers’ Union of Wales, Natural Resources Wales, The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, The National Farmers’ Union Wales, The National Gamekeepers’ Organisation, The National Trust, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Snowdonia National Park Authority, The Welsh Ornithological Society and Welsh Government.*

*For more information on the work of Gylfinir Cymru and access to the Wales Action Plan for the Recovery of Curlew, please visit Curlew Recovery Partnership ([curlewwales.org](http://curlewwales.org))*

The Action Plan sets out a 10-year programme to conserve breeding curlews and to stabilise the decline in breeding curlews in Wales

# Capital Allowances

## Are you sat on a potential cash windfall?

by Mark Williams, Business Development Manager, PFP

CAPITAL Allowances are a form of tax relief. They reduce your taxable profit and therefore the amount of tax you pay. They are available on loose plant (e.g. Agricultural equipment, vehicles etc.) which are commonly claimed but also extend to the fixtures and integral features (electrics, plumbing, etc.) in commercial units. Whilst Capital Allowances are a non-contentious area of tax sat firmly on a statutory basis (i.e. claiming them is specifically allowed by legislation), they can still deliver substantial savings for property owners in the Agricultural sector.

These allowances are generally distributed incrementally over several years. However, the allowances can also be accelerated for recent capital expenditure using the Annual Investment Allowance (AIA). The AIA is currently set at £1m per annum, meaning in most cases, all the tax relief can be claimed in the first year.

A proportion of the purchase price (for existing properties) or build cost or refurbishment cost (for new build where the client has undertaken the work themselves) is deemed to have been paid for the fixtures that were in place at the time of the purchase. You are perfectly entitled to claim Capital Allowances on these regardless of how long ago the purchase was. Unfortunately valuing them in a way HMRC will accept is not straightforward. A claim on these involves a mix of Chartered surveying and complex tax calculations.

Over recent months PFP have helped a number of farming clients

PFP were instructed earlier in the year to carry out a capital allowance review for a limited company that built new onsite storage units on their farm at a cost of £250k. Of that expenditure, we were able to identify just over £100k of capital allowances were available which their accountant was unable to identify. This £100k of allowances was able to be used straight away using the annual investment allowance which resulted in them paying £19,000 less corporation tax than they would have had to pay otherwise.

Another client had three unused farm buildings and decide to convert them into holiday lets. In total they spent £790,000 on the development turning the buildings into seven luxury holiday cottages. PFP, by combining their RICS chartered surveyors and team of tax experts managed to secure an income tax saving of £138,420.



## About PFP

PFP have a team of specialist real estate Tax Advisors, combining qualified Tax Advisors, Chartered Certified Accountants and Chartered RICS/MCIOB Surveyors. Over the best part of the last decade they have become one of the most respected national players in the Capital Allowances sector. The team of 20 strong, spread across four offices are perfectly positioned to help investors in real estate receive the benefits of due Capital Allowances. **The FUW have partnered up with PFP to assist members, contact your local county office for further details.**



# What's coming up with The DPJ Foundation

## Run1000 Team Wales for The DPJ Foundation

We are looking forward to Run1000 in January 2022. Last year Wales came out on top and won, so hopefully with your support we will try our best to win again, but it's not easy, the competition is hard with the battle of the nations across the UK, and for the first time, New Zealand will be competing too.

Launched in 2021 by founder Sheena Horner, who started running again in lockdown for the first time in 20 years, the campaign was joined by over 1,200 participants who walked or ran during the month of January. Each step counted towards their country's collective miles, ultimately raising £51,545 for charity.

With teams this year from Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland and New Zealand, the team captains are not only competing to be crowned winners but also raise more money for their chosen charities - RSABI, DPJ Foundation, Embrace Farm, YANA, Farmstrong New Zealand, Farming Community Network, The Gamekeepers Welfare Trust and Vetlife. Each team will be led by a captain who has faced their own battles with mental health.

Team Wales - founder of Welsh mental health charity, DPJ Foundation, Emma Picton Jones will lead her team for the second year after winning in 2021, with 24,397 miles.

So, get your running gear on and join us to try and do as many miles as possible for Wales and help raise much needed funds for agriculture charities across the UK and New Zealand.

The competition is open to all, whether or not you have been affected by mental health and costs just £20 to participate, with the money divided equally between the charities.

Whether you run 1 mile or 10, walk for 10 minutes or 1 hour, Run1000 is flexible and open to all levels of fitness and experience.

To register with Team Wales and take part, visit: [www.run1000.org](http://www.run1000.org)

Whether you run 1 mile or 10, walk for 10 minutes or 1 hour, Run1000 is flexible and open to all levels of fitness and experience



Some 2021 Run1000 participants.

## The DPJ Foundation Advent calendar

This December we are doing a different kind of advent calendar, where you can all take part in.

Behind each door there will be a challenge to complete, from being physically active to being creative, cooking, planning new ideas and discovering more about yourself, for example do something playful outdoors - walk, run, skip, jump or even just relax.

There will be something for everyone. Keep a look out on our social media accounts.

## Mental Health Awareness Training

As an industry we have a responsibility to do something about the issue of mental health and the risk of suicide within agriculture. We all have a role to play. 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

We have an English session online via Zoom on December 9 and a Welsh session online via Zoom on December 11. Get in touch for more details: [kay@thedpjfoundation.co.uk](mailto:kay@thedpjfoundation.co.uk)

# “Cefn gwlad ac amaethyddiaeth yw gwraidd a churiad calon ein Hiaith, ein diwylliant a'n cymunedau”

gan Gareth Thomas, Is-Gadeirydd UAC Ynys Môn

MAE'R ddwy flynedd diwethaf wedi nodi pwysigrwydd amaethyddiaeth oddi fewn ein cymunedau, wrth i ni gyd frwydro yn erbyn feirws newydd, a gweld newidiadau sylweddol i bob agwedd o'n bywydau. Does dim amheuaeth bod angen canolbwyntio ar y cadwyni cyflenwi llai a lleol, a pharhau ar ein siwrne i gynhyrchu bwyd o'r safon uchaf.

Yn yr amser heriol, newidiol ac anhysbys hyn, ddaru bob amaethwr dorchi llewys i ymgymryd â'r gwaith a'r gofyn ychwanegol, cyflymus am fwyd mewn modd cynhyrchiol a thrawiadol, ac mae'n edmygedd i yn fawr tuag at bawb sy'n gweithio oddi fewn y diwydiant anhygoel yma.

Er ein bod ni fel diwydiant ac fel amaethwyr yn cael ein trin fel crewyr problemau'r byd, yn wir, yr hollol groes yw'r realiti. Mae ein gwreiddiau ni fel amaethwyr a'n diwydiant ni yw sylfaen rôl gwarchodwyr ein hadnoddau naturiol, dim dinistrwyr fel y mae eraill yn nodi, ac yn wir, ni yw curiad calon ein Hiaith, ein diwylliant a'n cymunedau.

Yr ydym yn gwneud hyn heb i unrhyw un sylweddoli, ac yr ydym yn gweithio'n ddiflino yn erbyn heriau anghredadwy wrth geisio cynhyrchu bwyd o'r safon uchaf posibl, llawn maeth a daioni, er bod cymaint yn protestio a gweithio yn ein herbyn.

Mae'r dyfalbarhad, cymhelliant, gwytnwch a'n nerth yn profi ei bod yn cymryd pobl arbennig i ymgymryd â'r heriau i fod yn rhan o'r diwydiant yma, gan nad yw hi'n swydd arferol.

Fel llawer un sydd ddigon ffodus i gael eu geni a'u magu oddi fewn cefn gwlad Cymru, yr ydym yn ymwybodol o bwysigrwydd ein gwaith, yn ogystal â bod yn ymwybodol o'r heriau sydd yn ein hwynebu.

“Mae amaethwyr yn warcheidwaid natur a'r amgylchedd, nid yn ddinistrwyr, ac yr ydym yn aml yn cael ein cymharu mewn modd annheg a hollol anghywir.”

Yr wyf yn erfyn ar bawb oddi fewn y diwydiant i barhau â'r gwaith. Mae adegau yn dod lle mae'n hawdd teimlo bod pawb yn gweithio yn ein herbyn, ond yn wir, mae angen i bawb sylweddoli, heb os nac oni bai, heb amaethyddiaeth ni fyddai ein diwylliant a'n Hiaith mor gryf, nag chwaith heblaw amdanom ni, nid oes gan Lywodraeth Cymru siawns o gyrraedd eu nod o filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050.

Mae amaethyddiaeth yn rhan o'r datrysiad i'r heriau sydd yn ein hwynebu, nid y problem sydd angen ei thargedu. Mae amaethwyr yn warcheidwaid natur a'r amgylchedd, nid yn ddinistrwyr, ac yr ydym yn aml yn cael ein cymharu mewn modd annheg a hollol anghywir.

Mae ein safonau ni yr uchaf yn y byd, ond yr ydym yn cael ein cymharu hefo gwledydd a systemau llwyr wahanol. Yr ydym yn cael ein barnu gan bobl mewn dinasoedd, pobl sy'n fflio cannoedd o ffilltiroedd, pobl sy'n dewis osgoi cig i fwyta deiat o fwyd wedi'i brosesu, sy'n creu a chynnal cynhesu byd eang, ac sy'n creu datgoedwigo. Ond er hyn, ni yw'r gelyn ganddynt. Nawr yw'r amser i'r diwydiant oll sefyll fel un, yn unol â chryf yn erbyn negeseuon ffug, negeseuon niweidiol a negeseuon hollol hyrt bost.

Yr ydym angen bod yn addysgwyr, ac yr ydym angen gweld bod addysgu am fwyd Cymreig yn cael ei ddysgu yma yng Nghymru, a sicrhau bod pawb yn gwybod nodweddion iachus a maethlon y bwyd yr ydym yn ei gynhyrchu yma yng Nghymru, ac oddi fewn y Deyrnas Unedig.

*This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: “Countryside and agriculture is the beating heart of our language, our culture and our communities,” or from your local county office.*







# Lantra seeking support from FUW members

LANTRA would like to engage with FUW members on careers, initially to support them to build content on job roles and potential career pathways for their new website.

Jeni Adamson is leading the project to create this new resource, she said: "After working on the promotion of land-based careers with our Scotland team for four years, my new role as Careers Lead focuses on the development of UK-wide careers resource to promote awareness of the variety of job roles across the sector; alongside this we aim to provide accessible online careers information to help people understand how to start and how to develop a rewarding career in the industries Lantra represents across the UK."

Lantra's careers resource will cover thirteen industries including agriculture, allowing them to highlight cross-industry

roles to those in a different industry (e.g. forestry) who might be looking for a change, as well as to present a range of options to new entrants, including those leaving school, college or university and career changers, unsure as to which might best suit their existing strengths, interests and capabilities.

This resource will be an invaluable tool to career influencers, helping teachers, careers advisers and parents/guardians become more aware of the exciting and fulfilling career opportunities that exist in the UK land-based industries to help support young people making decisions on post-school options.

If you have any questions about the project, or want to know how you can get involved, please get in touch with Jeni Adamson on - jennifer.adamson@lantra.co.uk



## NEWYDDION O'R SIR / FUW COUNTY NEWS

### ANGLESEY

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### Sioe Aef Môn

Braf iawn oedd gweld torf ym Mhafiliwn y Sioe unwaith eto a hynny ar gyfer y Sioe Aef a gynhaliwyd ar Ddydd Sadwrn y 6ed o Dachwedd. Eleni cafodd y digwyddiad ei drefnu yn gyfan gwbl gan wirfoddolwyr ac Aelodau'r Gymdeithas, cafwyd chwip o ddiwrnod ac mae angen eu llongyfarch hwy yn fawr am hynny.

Roedd digon o fwrlwm ar stondin yr Undeb a braf oedd cael cyfle i roi'r byd yn ei le, a hynny wyneb yn wyneb unwaith eto.

Cafwyd hefyd gyfle i ddal fyny hefo'r Aelod o'r Senedd dros Fôn, Mr Rhun ap Iorwerth yn ystod y sioe, a thrafod nifer o faterion cyfoes gan gynnwys y bygythiad o golli tir amaethyddol i blannu coed, Rheoliadau Llygredd Amaeth (NVZs) a TB gwartheg.



*It was great to see a crowd again at the Show Pavilion for the Winter Show on Saturday November 6. This year's event was organised entirely by volunteers and members of the Association, and it was a hugely successful day and they are to be congratulated for that.*

*There was plenty of activity and buzz on the Union's stand and it was great to have a long awaited catch up face to face. There was also an opportunity to catch up with Anglesey MS Mr Rhun ap Iorwerth during the show to discuss a number of current issues including the threat of losing agricultural land for planting trees, the Agricultural Pollution Regulations (NVZs) and bovine TB.*



### CAERNARFON

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### Cyfarfod Blynyddol llwyddiannus

Cafwyd noson lwyddiannus iawn yng Nghyfarfod Blynyddol cangen Sir Gaernarfon o'r Undeb ddechrau mis diwethaf. O dan gadeiryddiaeth John Hughes o fferm Mur Clwt Lloer, Chwilog, cafwyd cyflwyniadau gan Andrew Hogley, sef Prif Weithredwr y Bwrdd Gwlân, Dr Prysor Williams o Brifysgol Aberystwyth a Martin Lyons o Fanc HSBC.

Roedd cyflwyniad Andrew Hogley yn cyfleu pryderon y diwydiant fel mae pethau ar hyn o bryd ond braf oedd clywed am ymdrechion y Bwrdd Gwlân i ddenu prynwyr newydd i mewn i'r arwerthiannau gwllân er mwyn creu mwy o gystadleuaeth am y cynnyrch.

Derbyniwyd gwybodaeth gan Dr Prysor Williams ar sut i fynd ati i asesu ôl troed carbon eich fferm. Proses cymhleth tu hwnt ond bu i Dr Williams ei gyflwyno mewn modd dealladwy iawn. Anodd fydd hi i gael cysondeb o fewn y sector yma gan fod cymaint o gynhyrchion ar y farchnad i'ch helpu i asesu eich ôl troed carbon, felly nid pob un ohonynt sydd yn defnyddio'r un ffactorau i ddod i ganlyniad.

Nododd Rheolwr Amaeth dros Gymru banc HSBC, Martin Lyons bod y banc yn ffyddiog iawn i'r dyfodol o fewn y sector defaid, biff a llaeth, ond ddim mor hyderus gyda thir â'r sector foch. Braf oedd clywed hynny er mor ansicr yw dyfodol incwm yr holl sectorau ar hyn o bryd. Cafwyd sesiwn holi ac ateb ddigon difyr gyda phawb wedi cael cyfle i fynegi eu pryderon a'u barn.

Talwyd y diolchiadau i bawb gan Rhydian Owen, sef Is-Gadeirydd y Sir sydd yn dod o fferm Trewen, Botwnnog a hefyd cyfeiriodd at waith cyfieithydd y noson a gafodd ei ganmol gan y gwestai, sef Lynwen Davies.

*A very successful evening was had at the Caernarfonshire AGM at the beginning of last month. Chaired by John Hughes of Mur Clwt Lloer farm, Chwilog, presentations were made by Andrew Hogley, Chief Executive of the Wool Board, Dr Prysor Williams of Aberystwyth University and Martin Lyons of HSBC Bank. Andrew Hogley's presentation conveyed the industry's concerns at the moment but it was pleasing to hear of the Wool Board's efforts to attract new buyers into the wool auctions to increase competition for the product. Dr Prysor Williams conveyed information on how to assess your farm's carbon footprint. It is a very complicated process but Dr Williams presented it in a very comprehensible way. It will be difficult to get consistency within this sector as there are so many products on the market to help you assess your carbon footprint, and not all of them use the same factors to come to a conclusion.*

*HSBC Bank's Agriculture Manager for Wales Martin Lyons noted that the bank was confident of the future of the sheep, beef and dairy sectors, but not so confident about the arable and pig sectors. It was reassuring to hear this despite the uncertain future of all sectors' incomes.*

*There was an interesting question and answer session with everyone having the opportunity to express their concerns and opinions. Rhydian Owen, County Vice-Chairman of Trewen farm, Botwnnog, thanked everyone and also referred to the work of the evening's translator, Lynwen Davies who was praised by the guests.*

### Visit to Pengroes flock



The North Country Cheviot Sheep Society held their Annual General Meeting on Saturday November 13 2021 that included a flock visit to "Pengroes flock" on the Isle of Anglesey.

The society President and FUW member Mr Melfyn Williams, (pictured left), of Y Graig, Brynsiencyn, Anglesey, was delighted to welcome around 80 or so members from Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales to visit the farm and view a selection of North Country Cheviot breeding ewes, retained ewe lambs and ram lambs.

Melfyn, who is a property auctioneer and estate agent runs their flock of pure Northies on Anglesey and have been involved in the North Country Cheviot Sheep Society for 41 years with their flock, Pengroes, which father Huw Williams (Huw Bugail) started in 1980. The flocks consists of both a Hill and a Park type flock.

To see more please visit the North Country Sheep Society Website: [www.nc-cheviot.co.uk](http://www.nc-cheviot.co.uk)



## CARMARTHEN

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01267 237974Industry concerns raised with  
Plaid Cymru leader

Farmers from Carmarthenshire recently met with Plaid Cymru leader Adam Price to discuss industry concerns including carbon storage, tree planting and climate change, as well as the future of the industry.

Opening the gates to his organic sheep farm Clyttie Cochion was FUW Carmarthen County Chairman Phil Jones, who farms just outside of Carmarthen, Llanpumsaint.

Members and Union officials took the opportunity to highlight that farmers were best placed to help eliminate the effects of climate change but that appropriate support was needed.

Speaking after the visit, Phil Jones said: "There needs to be a range of measures introduced and ways of combating carbon release which will keep Welsh money within the local economy. Family farms bought by large corporations which will be used to grow trees and offset businesses' emissions outside Wales is akin to selling the family silver."

Members further discussed concerns about future funding and payments linked to public goods. Phil Jones said: "We know what funding is available for the next year but we are concerned that there is still talk of linking future support to the provision of public goods. The FUW will continue to work with the Welsh Government to work out a funding strategy that supports active farmers and our industry."

What future might there be for agricultural colleges was also discussed, considering that an area equivalent to 3,100 average sized family farms could be erased from the Welsh landscape if the Government meets their tree planting plans.

## CEREDIGION

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## Mari yn ymuno gyda'r tîm

Yn ddiweddar penodwyd Mari Davies, (**gweler ar y dde**), yn Ddirprwy Swyddog Sirol yng Ngheredigion. Mae Mari wedi ei magu ar fferm Pantyryfyn, ac mae wrth ei bodd yn dangos defaid yn y sioeau lleol. Mynychodd Ysgol Uwchradd Tregaron ac yna ymlaen i Benweddig i wneud Lefel A.

I ehangu ei gorwelion cafodd y profiad o weithio allan yn Seland Newydd am gyfnod. Erbyn hyn mae hi a'i phartner Ceredig wedi bod yn lwcus iawn i gael y cyfle i gymryd tenantiaeth fferm ym Mhontarfynach ac yn ffermio gwartheg biffa defaid. Maent yn falch o fedru rhoi'r cyfleoedd cawsant nhw o dyfu lan yng nghefn gwlad i'w merch fach, Enfys Mair.

**Mari Davies, (pictured right), has recently been appointed as Deputy County Executive Officer for Ceredigion. Mari grew up on Pantyryfyn farm, and enjoys showing sheep at local shows. She attended Tregaron Secondary School and then Penweddig Secondary School to do A levels. To broaden her horizons she had the experience of working out in New Zealand for a period. Now she and her partner Ceredig have been lucky enough to have the opportunity to take on a farm tenancy in Devil's Bridge where they keep beef cattle and sheep. They are proud to be able to give their little girl, Enfys Mair, the same opportunities they both had growing up in the countryside.**



## Enillwyr Clwb 200 winners

## Hydref/October

- 1 - Mr C Davies, Aberaeron
- 2 - Mr & Mrs Jones, Llanon
- 3 - Mr Lewis, Capel Dewi



## Tachwedd/November

- 1 - Mr Jones, Swyddffynnon
- 2 - Mr Evans, CNE
- 3 - Mr Owen, Ffostrasol

## DENBIGH &amp; FLINT

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## CFFI Clwyd nôl ar lwyfan

Cynhaliwyd Eisteddfod CFFI Clwyd ar ddiwedd mis Hydref yn Neuadd Ocsiwn Rhuthun, a bu cystadlu brwd drwy'r dydd.

Noddwyd cadair Eisteddfod eleni gan Amaethwyr Corwen ac fe'i henillwyd gan Llywela Edwards o CFFI Uwchaled am ei cherdd o dan y teitl "Ffin". Daeth CFFI Nantglyn i'r brig unwaith eto drwy ennill marciau uchaf yr Eisteddfod.

**At the end of October, Clwyd YFC held their annual Eisteddfod at the Ruthin Auction Hall, and members competed at a very high standard all day. The Chair this year was sponsored by Corwen Farmers and won by Llywela Edwards from Uwchaled YFC for her poem under the title "Border". The overall winners of the Eisteddfod were once again Nantglyn YFC.**



**Enillydd y gadair Llywela Edwards o CFFI Uwchaled gyda'r beirniad Erin Prysor Evans.**



**Llywydd sirol Bob Parry (dde) yn cyflwyno'r enillwyr CFFI Nantglyn gyda'r tlws.**

## GLAMORGAN &amp; GWENT

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01446 774838gwent@fuw.org.uk  
01873 853280

## Check your RPW account

Please check your RPW account for important messages. Some of you would have received notice to update your CPH number. It is important that this is updated accordingly to prevent any issues with animal disease and movement reporting.

Also please check if you have any outstanding Capital Works as these need to be completed by December 31 2021.

If you require any assistance with confirming any changes or making your claim, please get in touch with the county office.



## MEIRIONNYDD

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## Ein diolch i Euros

Cafwyd cyfle ar ddechrau mis Tachwedd i ddiolch yn fawr i Euros Jones am ei holl waith i'r Undeb, a'i wasanaeth hynod gydwybodol i'r aelodau drwy ogledd Cymru. Bu'n bleser cydweithio efo Euros, ac yn sicr bydd ein cyfeillgarwch yn parhau. Rydym yn dymuno'r gorau iddo yn ei swydd newydd, a hefyd yn dilyn ei lwyddiant yn cael tenantiaeth fferm Tynant Eidda, Ysbyty Ifan.

**At the beginning of November there was an opportunity to thank Euros Jones for all his work for the Union, and for his extremely conscientious service to members throughout North Wales. It has been a pleasure to work with Euros, and our friendship will continue. We wish him all the best in his new job, and also wish him well following his success in gaining the tenancy of Tynant Eidda farm, Ysbyty Ifan.**



## MEIRIONNYDD

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## Eisteddfod CFFl Meirionnydd

Cynhaliwyd Eisteddfod Ffermwyr Ieuaic Meirionnydd ar ddechrau mis Tachwedd, a braint fawr i Gangen Sirol Meirionnydd oedd nodd'r Gadair unwaith eto. Dyma'r bumed flwyddyn i'r gangen gyflwyno'r Gadair, ac mae'n braf medru cynorthwyo'r mudiad gwerthfawr yma, sy'n cyfrannu cymaint i'n pobl ifanc. Diolch yn fawr iawn i lolo Puw, y Parc, am wneud y Gadair yn weddol fyr rybudd. Roedd yn werth ei gweld, ac wedi ei gwneud o dderw gorau Meirionnydd. Rhaid llongyfarch yn galonnog iawn yr enillydd, sef Mared Jones, Fferm Fronalchen, Dolgellau.

*The Merioneth YFC Eisteddfod was held in early November, and it was a great privilege for the Merioneth County Branch to sponsor the Chair once again. This is the fifth year that the branch has presented the Chair, and it is great to be able to help this valuable organisation, which contributes so much to our young people. Many thanks to lolo Puw, Parc, for making the Chair at relatively short notice. It was well worth seeing, and made from the finest oak in Merioneth. Congratulations to the winner, Mared Jones, Fronalchen Farm, Dolgellau.*



Enillydd y Gadair  
Mared Jones.



Yn cyflwyno'r Gadair, o'r chwith, Huw Jones, Swyddog Sirol; Wil Jones, Cadeirydd CFFl Meirionnydd; Alwyn Rees, Llywydd CFFl Meirionnydd a Elain Roberts y Trefnydd; lolo Puw, ynghyd â Edwin Jones, Cadeirydd yr Undeb ym Meirionnydd.

## Ymweliadau fferm

Diolch yn fawr iawn i'r aelodau yn ardal Llanuwchllyn a Parc am eu croeso pan ddaeth ein Haelod Seneddol Liz Saville Roberts ar ymweliad yng nghanol mis Tachwedd. Bu'n gyfle gwych i drafod pwysigrwydd amaeth i'r economi wledig, a phryderon y dyfodol ar drothwy newidiadau sylfaenol iawn i gymhorthdal fferm. Ymysg y nifer o faterion a drafodwyd hefyd oedd y pryder am y cytundebau masnach gyda Seland Newydd ac Awstralia, trafodaethau'r gynhadledd COP26, a phryder am gwmnïau y tu allan i Gymru yn prynu tir i blannu coed. Diolch i Teleri Fielden, Swyddog Polisi o'r Brif Swyddfa am ei chyfraniad gwych i'r trafodaethau. Darllenwch fwy am yr ymweliadau ar dudalen 14.

*Many thanks to members in the Llanuwchllyn and Parc area for their welcome when our MP Liz Saville Roberts visited in mid-November. It was a great opportunity to discuss the importance of agriculture to the rural economy, and the concerns for the future as we face fundamental changes to farm subsidies. Trade agreements with New Zealand and Australia, the COP26 conference and concerns about companies outside Wales purchasing land to plant trees were among the many issues that were also discussed. Thanks to Teleri Fielden, Policy Officer from Head Office for her excellent contribution to the discussions. Read more about the visits on page 14.*



## PEMBROKESHIRE

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## TB Eradication Programme Consultation

In our January 2022 County Executive Committee meeting we will be discussing the proposals which have been put forward in the Welsh Government's TB Eradication Programme consultation which has recently been launched.

If you would like to join us for this virtual meeting on Tuesday January 11 at 7.30pm please contact the county office and we will send you the link.



## 200 Club+ Winners

## October

£25 - Glanville, Llwynpinner

£10 - Jones, East Furston

£10 - Edwards, Hafod Ddu

## November

£25 - Thomas, Church View

£10 - James, Quarter Park

£10 - Edwards, Hafod Ddu

If you would like to be in with the chance of winning one of three monthly prizes and are not yet signed up to our 200+ Club, please contact the county office for further information

## Glastir Advanced Capital Works

If you have a Glastir Advanced contract you need to ensure that you have completed all of your 2021 capital works by December 31 2021. If there are extenuating circumstances as to why you are unable to comply with the deadline you need to notify these, in writing, to RPW as soon as possible for them to consider whether a derogation can be applied. All claims must be submitted via RPW Online by January 28 2022.

Diolch am eich cefnogaeth barhaol trwy gydol 2021

Thank you for your continued support throughout 2021

*Nadolig Plawen*

*Merry Christmas*

Mae timau UAC ledled Cymru yn cymryd seibiant o hanner dydd, dydd Iau 23ain o Ragfyr ac yn croesawu ymholiadau o ddydd Mawrth 4ydd o Ionawr 2022.

FUW teams across Wales are taking a break from 12noon on Thursday 23rd December and welcome enquiries from Tuesday 4th January 2022.



# Work at height: preventing falls

FALLS are the second highest cause of death in agriculture - every year at least eight people die falling from a height. Those who survive suffer broken bones and worse.

Falls often happen from roofs, lofts, ladders, vehicles, bale stacks, and unsuitable access equipment, such as buckets. These accidents and injuries cause you pain and cost your farm time and money. Most fall injuries can be avoided.

The law says you need to follow these rules in this order:

- avoid work at height where you can; and if not
- use work equipment or measures to prevent falls; and if not
- use work equipment that minimises the distance and consequences of a fall.

Every year  
at least **8**  
people die  
falling from  
a height



## Working on roofs

- Most types of fibre cement roofs will be fragile.
- Roof lights will often also be fragile.
- No one must ever work on or from, or walk over, fragile roofs unless platforms, covers or similar are provided which will adequately support their weight.
- Always consider first whether it is really necessary to access the roof.
- Does the work need to be done, or could it be done in some other way, such as from below or from an integrated work platform?

If you, your employees or contractors do need to access roofs for any reason then always:

- Plan the work.
- Set aside enough time to do the work.
- Take account of weather conditions such as light levels, ice, wind and rain.
- Make sure everyone knows the precautions to be followed when working at height.
- Fix a prominent permanent warning notice at the approach to any fragile roof.
- Never walk on fragile materials such as asbestos or other fibre cement sheet, roof lights or glass.
- Roof lights and glass may have been painted over.
- Never 'walk the purlins' or 'walk the line of the bolts'.
- Roof ladders or crawling boards must span at least three purlins. They should be at least 600mm wide and more when the work requires it.
- Don't use a pair of boards to 'leapfrog' across a fragile roof, but provide enough boards.
- Take precautions to prevent a person falling from the ladder or board. Use edge protection or safety harnesses, or safety netting where this is not feasible. Take specialised advice.
- Roof ladders must be securely placed, with the anchorage bearing on the opposite side of the roof. Never use gutters to support any ladder.

## Work platforms on fork-lift trucks

- If you need to raise people above the ground, eg for building maintenance, use properly designed work platforms rather than ladders.
- Never use grain buckets, pallets, or other makeshift equipment. Serious injuries and death have resulted from buckets tipping accidentally.
- For planned or regular work at height, you should use a fully integrated and properly constructed working platform.

# Farm awareness course for rural police officers

21 RURAL officers from all four Welsh police forces were given vital first-hand experience of farming this recently by attending a "Farm Awareness" course in Carmarthenshire, the first course of its type ever run in Wales.

This unique day, sponsored by the Welsh Government, gave Welsh officers the knowledge required to attend farms in the course of their daily duties with the confidence of understanding farming and importantly the dangers of this rural working environment.

The day started off with an intense classroom input covering the different types of farming in Wales and the real issues that face the industry, from the impact of rural crime to governmental rules and movement licences of livestock.

In the afternoon the officers were able to experience livestock up close, by assisting in the gathering and the counting of sheep and also to understand the dangers that can be presented by working with cattle both indoors and outdoors.

Different types of farm machinery were also on the busy agenda with health and safety covered and what to do to make farm vehicles safe if required to do so in an emergency, with some officers given the chance to drive tractors and experience first-hand their capabilities.

Wales Rural Co-ordinator, Rob Taylor, who helped organise the event said: "Rural policing is without doubt a specialist area of policing and our officers who attend farms and deal with farmers throughout Wales need to know their way of life and the environment that they are in.

"This course was excellent and I am extremely grateful to Coleg Sir Gar, Carmarthen for making the necessary arrangements and providing it at the required level. This training is part of an ongoing program of providing our Welsh rural officers with the skills they need to provide a first class service to our farming communities throughout Wales."



"Rural policing is without doubt a specialist area of policing and our officers who attend farms and deal with farmers throughout Wales need to know their way of life and the environment that they are in."

## MEAT MATTERS

## New Welsh Way document charts path ahead for sheep and beef

by John Richards, Industry Development and Liaison Manager, HCC

IN 2020, HCC launched our Welsh Way vision of sustainable farming, which included vital evidence from independent experts that Wales was already among the leading exponents of sustainable red meat production.

That document was always intended as the start of a journey rather than the end.

Sustainability messages have been central to recent marketing campaigns, and new survey research has highlighted that lamb branded as 'Welsh' is perceived by consumers as being more 'natural' and environmentally friendly than rival imported or UK-branded products.

This is also central to how HCC is communicating with policy-makers, retail and catering suppliers. Our message is that people don't need to cut red meat from their diet in order to make a contribution to the environment, they should just choose meat that has been produced sustainably.

Food and farming is coming under increasing public scrutiny - both fair and unfair - on our environmental record. Being able to prove that various products are sustainable is high on the agenda of retailers. Crucially, so is the need to get even better.

Therefore we were delighted to launch this autumn a practical guide 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 further cuts in the carbon footprint of sheep and beef farming.

There is not one 'silver bullet' to making the most of Welsh agriculture's potential to contribute to mitigating climate change, but a range of measures taken together can lead to a substantial sustainability gain.

Through this practical guide we can see that there are a wide range of improvements that farm businesses can make. Many of them are real 'win-win' initiatives, based on existing best practice, that both help the environment and make farms more efficient and profitable.

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, such as the Red Meat Development Programme, RamCompare and GrasscheckGB.

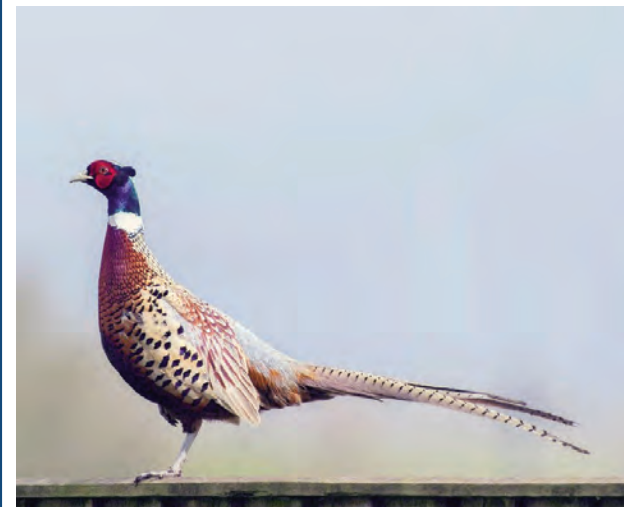
***Mae Hybu Cig Cymru'n falch iawn o lansio canllaw ymarferol yr hydref hwn i helpu'r sectorau defaid a biff i wneud y mwyafrwyf o botensial Cymru i arwain y byd o ran ffermio da byw cynaliadwy. O dan y teitl Perffeithio'r Ffordd Gymreig, mae'r ddogfen yn amlinellu ystod o gamau - o fridio anifeiliaid a ffrwythlondeb i reoli glaswelltir a maeth - a allai helpu i sicrhau gostyngiadau pellach yn ôl troed carbon ffermio defaid a biff.***



## PROPERTY MATTERS

## Compensation for damage by Game Agricultural Holdings Act 1986

by Kathryn Williams, Director, Davis Meade Property Consultants



WITH the UK shooting season now in action, there will inevitably be damage caused by game birds to agricultural crops.

Under section 20 of the Agricultural Holdings Act (AHA) 1986, there are provisions that enable a tenant to make a claim where his crops have suffered damage from wild animals or birds where the sporting rights are vested in the landlord or anyone who the landlord has granted the sporting rights to (other than the tenant himself). If the landlord has given written permission to a tenant to kill any particular game, then this subject game is excluded from the right to claim compensation against in relation to any damage caused.

The question has been raised as to whether hand reared pheasants that are often tame after release are "wild birds"? It is submitted that once released into the wild, these birds do qualify as "wild birds" despite the way they were reared.

To claim compensation for damage, the tenant must give written notice to the landlord within one month of becoming aware of the damage, or one month before he ought to have reasonably become aware of the damage. The tenant must give the landlord a reasonable opportunity to inspect the damage before the subject crop is harvested or removed from the land. With regards to seed, it is classed as growing once sown regardless of whether it has germinated.

Written notice of the claim together with the details of the claim must be given to the landlord within one month after the expiry of the year in which the claim is made. "Year" in this context means any period of 12 months ending, in any year, with 29 September or such a date as may be made by agreement between the landlord and tenant.

The amount of compensation payable to the tenant is now unlimited.

*For further information and guidance please contact Kathryn Williams at Davis Meade Property Consultants on 07971 583638 or kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com*

***Gyda ninnau bellach yng nghanol tymor saethu'r DU, mae'r difrod a achosir gan adar hela i gnydau amaethyddol yn anochel. O dan adran 20 o Ddeddf Daliadau Amaethyddol 1986, mae yna ddarpariaethau gwahanol. Am ragor o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Kathryn Williams yn Davis Meade Property Consultants ar 07971 583638 neu drwy e-bostio kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com***

## MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

## Hwyl wrth gymdeithasu

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

MAE yna hwyl wrth gymdeithasu - ac yn sicr mae yna hwyl wrth gymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau boed yn rhithwir neu'n ddigwyddiadau go iawn. A ydych chi wedi profi pa mor ddoniol mae sgysiau pobl yn medru bod ar Zoom a faint o bobl sy'n gweld ei gilydd am y tro cyntaf ers blynyddoedd lawer, mae yna agosatrwydd er y pellter daearyddol.

Rydym wedi cael cyfle i longyfarch aelodau Ffynnongroes, Dolgellau, Bro Ilar, Groes, Cylch Aeron a Blaenffos ar eu llwyddiant o fod yn fuddugol yn y Cwis Hwyl Cenedlaethol, pob un o'r timoedd yma wedi cael 100 allan o gant!

Rydym yn ymfalchïo yn fawr yn ein crefftwyr talentog a'n cogyddion a arddangosodd eu sgiliau creadigol yn y Ffair Aeaf yn Llanelwedd. Pa ffenestr siop well sydd yna i gefn gwlad Cymru a'r diwydiant amaeth?

Bydd sawl un, gobeithio yn mwynhau darllen y gyfrol "Caru Crefftio" ac yn bwrw ati i greu rhai o'r crefftau a fydd yn ysbrydoli'r genhedlaeth nesaf i barhau gyda'u creadigrwydd.

Fel mudiad rydym yn cynnal nifer fawr o weithgareddau rhithwir o hyd gan gynnwys cyrsiau crefft ac mi fydd yna ffeiriau Nadolig i hyrwyddo bwydydd a chynnyrch Cymreig hefyd fis yma. Carwn ddymuno Nadolig hapus a blwyddyn newydd yn llawn gobaith i bob un ohonoch.

***Merched y Wawr are extremely proud of its talented members who showcased their crafting and cookery skills at last month's Winter Fair in Llanelwedd. As Christmas fast approaches, there will be a number of Christmas Fairs being held to promote Welsh food and produce as well as holding various virtual events including craft courses. Merched y Wawr would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a New Year full of hope.***



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## Rural crime and policing on the agenda



From left, FUW Meirionnydd County Executive Officer, Huw Jones; FUW President, Glyn Roberts; North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, Andy Dunbobbin; Head of North Wales Rural Crime Team, Sgt Liam Jones; FUW Caernarfon Senior County Executive Officer, Gwynedd Watkin; Dafydd P Jones, FUWIS Llanrwst and FUW Anglesey County Executive Officer, Alaw Jones.

RURAL crime and policing were on the agenda when North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Andy Dunbobbin called in to see FUW President Glyn Roberts at his farm near Betws y Coed.

For Glyn, who farms Dylasau Uchaf, Padog with his daughter Beca Glyn it was an opportunity to discuss the latest initiatives to detect and combat crime such as collars that detect when stock are running, gauges that indicate a diesel tank is being emptied and even pressure pads under quad bikes.

The information is transmitted back to the farm computer using new wireless technology known as LoRaWAN (Low Power Long Range Wide Area Access Network).

Also present was Police Sergeant Liam Jones who has been recently appointed to lead the North Wales Rural crime team and the meeting was an opportunity for the FUW to emphasise that maintaining and strengthening the rural crime team is imperative for the future.

Other initiatives such as making sure farmers get to know the members of the team who work in their local areas by patrolling livestock markets is welcomed, and the importance of using new technology in preventing and detecting crime was also discussed.

Glyn Roberts, FUW President said: "We had an extremely positive and constructive meeting, and we feel it is extremely important that as an Union we have a good dialogue and rapport

with the police. We have worked in partnership, and this has brought enormous benefits in efforts to tackle crime, and also changes to the law relating to livestock being attacked by dogs.

"We're glad that this good working relationship will continue into the future under the leadership of Andy Dunbobbin. We encourage our members to sign up to the new Community Alert service in order for them to receive up-to-date information on local crime. It was great to hear that progress is being made in Cardiff and Westminster on the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill which should give the police greater powers in respect of dogs attacking or worrying livestock, which we welcome."

North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Andy Dunbobbin said: "Tackling rural crime is a key priority in my Police and Crime Plan so we can provide a first-class police service for people who live in the countryside as well as the urban areas of North Wales.

"I'm fully committed to ensuring people and businesses in our rural communities receive their fair share of our policing resources and the Chief Constable has assured me he will consider this when deciding on operational matters.

"Amongst other things I am backing the new Future Farms initiative to showcase LoRaWAN at six demonstration farms.

"Information about the high-tech kit and its effectiveness will be available on a new website, [www.futurefarms.cymru](http://www.futurefarms.cymru) - with the aim of beefing up farm security to combat rural crime.

## Survey on state of digital connectivity



A NEW survey, run jointly by the National Federation of Women's Institutes-Wales, CLA, FUW, NFU Cymru and Wales YFC, aims to explore the current state of digital connectivity in Wales.

Following on from the survey held earlier this year, which highlighted that over 50% of respondents from a rural area felt that the internet they had access to was not fast and reliable, the group has met with various stakeholders and hosted a webinar to discuss the issues further at the virtual Royal Welsh Show in July 2021.

The new survey will seek to explore how people feel about the level of communication between themselves and their provider, cost-value of service and further look at how proposed changes to online livestock recording systems are going to affect the farming community.

In a joint statement, the organisations said: "We encourage all our members and anyone who has an interest in digital connectivity to fill out the survey to help inform our next steps and communications with stakeholders going forward."

The survey can be accessed until December 12:

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YZRWVR6](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YZRWVR6)

## Changing land management to achieve net zero

by Dr William Stiles, Farming Connect Knowledge Exchange Hub, IBERS, Aberystwyth University

THE recent climate change conference, COP 26, has highlighted that major changes in land management practice are needed to meet the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 'net-zero'.

Net zero is the target for achieving a balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere. It is a 'net' rather than a 'gross' target as eliminating all emissions would be unrealistic, but a balance can be struck between reductions in GHG output and increased offset, predominantly using natural carbon sinks such as soils and vegetation for the purposes of sequestration.

Climate change presents a major challenge and threat to the land management sector. The size and scale of change needed is daunting, but is achievable. And, if actioned appropriately, these actions may have the potential to provide solutions for multiple challenges currently threatening this industry.

As part of this, land management systems in the UK will be expected to modify to increase the potential for sequestration. This is likely to be in the form of increased biomass growth, achieved by the increased inclusion of organisms such as trees in agricultural landscapes, and by improving the management of soil to ensure maximum potential for sequestration (or at least, the retention of existing soil carbon).

Estimations for how the UK landscape will have to change in order to manage climate change objectives indicate that around 22% of land currently employed for agriculture will need to be released for other uses, such as carbon sequestration, habitat restoration, and bioenergy production. In Wales, woodland cover will need to increase by at least two thousand hectares per year between now and 2030 (and probably beyond), and tree cover on farms and the wider rural landscape will also need to increase.

Improved peatland management is also a key component of future climate friendly land management. Peat is a carbon store of significant importance. The restoration of peatland systems, degraded through modification in order to support food and fibre production, will be essential to return these systems to carbon sinks rather than carbon sources.

Climate change presents a major challenge and threat to the land management sector. The size and scale of change needed is daunting, but is achievable. And, if actioned appropriately, these actions may have the potential to provide solutions for multiple challenges currently threatening this industry.

Regardless, inaction will result in a scenario where food production may become increasingly challenging. Thus, the above sectorial changes must be embraced in order to ensure a sustainable and productive future for agriculture across Wales and the UK.



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"The results obtained with ProVitaMin were nothing short of remarkable. Of the two ewes flushed that year, one produced 25 embryos which the other produced 19. Subsequent to this 23 of the embryos produced were implanted into commercial recipients leading to 18 lambs scanned. Also used on all the flock, fertility has dramatically improved."

"ProVitaMin drench is used pre-tupping and on all lambs before weaning to boost weight gain and overall condition for show and sales. It is a versatile drench and with the small volume application a bottle goes a long way."

"The first round of ProVitaMin drench helps boost ewe fertility levels while the second acts to increase lamb vitality. I also ensure that the ewes selected for AI receive the mineral and vitamin boost. All the lambs get ProVitaMin prior to weaning. This ensures that growth rates are not reduced, once they are taken off their mothers."

"The flock was split into two groups - the ewes drenched with ProVitaMin tupped several days before those tupped with the competitor product. The ProVitaMin drench was much easier to use as it was a smaller amount given."

"Using ProVitaMin has boosted ewe and lamb performance in terms of fertility and growth rate. This has resulted in an extra 1/2 lamb per ewe sold for us this year."

\*references available on request

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