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Opportunity to create Wales specific solutions

DEVOLUTION gives us the opportunity to create Wales specific solutions to the food and energy crisis - that was the key message delivered by FUW President Glyn Roberts when he addressed Members of the Senedd at the Union's annual Cardiff Farmhouse Breakfast event.

The event, which was held at the Norwegian Church on Tuesday January 24 2023, heard the Union President highlight that the Agriculture Bill currently being considered by the Senedd - a Bill that represents the biggest changes for Welsh agriculture since the UK joined the European Union - has the potential to solve many of the issues the country is currently facing.

"Almost by definition, farmers are food producers, and it is worth remembering at this, our first Senedd Breakfast event held since the pandemic threw the entire world into turmoil in 2020, how close we came to critical breakdowns in our global and domestic food supply chain during the pandemic.

"Our supply chains continue to suffer the aftereffects of the darkest days of the pandemic, on top of which we are now facing the impacts of Russia's war on Ukraine - a war in which Vladimir Putin has weaponised not only energy, but also food - as recently highlighted in the World Economic Forum," said Glyn Roberts.

Mr Roberts reminded Members of the Senedd that as politicians they are expected to consider and act on global, national and local challenges for their constituents. Global events, he stressed, which impact farming, and therefore everyone who eats today, have led to increases in agricultural input costs approaching 30% in the UK, while consumer food prices have risen alarmingly - but by a fraction of that rate. In addition, climate change is creating difficult growing conditions for farmers, with 2022 being the warmest year on record for the UK.

This, Mr Roberts said, is against a background whereby the UK's reliance on other countries for food has almost

doubled since the mid 1980s, with 40% of UK food now imported compared with around 22% in the mid 1980s.

This includes indigenous foods that can be produced in the UK, with the reliance increasing five fold, from 5% to 25% during the same period - something that may worsen as the UK Government strikes dangerously liberal trade deals with major food exporting nations such as Australia and New Zealand.

"But devolution gives us the opportunity to create local and Wales specific solutions to these problems, in the form of the Agriculture Bill currently being considered by the Senedd - a Bill that represents the biggest changes for Welsh agriculture since the UK joined the European Union. And at the heart of those solutions are the family farms that are the backbone of our food production, our rural economies and culture, and our valued environments and landscapes," he said.

Those joining the Union for breakfast in Cardiff also heard that the FUW believes that such an important and groundbreaking piece of legislation must explicitly seek to ensure the economic viability of farming families and the rural economy in Wales - not just in narrative, or by accident, but by design.

"This would ensure that the Bill is truly holistic - that is, balancing the internationally recognised pillars of environmental, social and economic sustainability. And we all know what happens when one of the legs is removed from a three legged stool.

"Making land management decisions and creating environmental outcomes for Wales cannot happen in isolation to our farming businesses, the families who work the land, or the local and global markets we produce for," said Mr Roberts.

"At the heart of those solutions are the family farms."

He added that farmers manage over 80% of the land in Wales for their livelihoods, and therefore the Bill and the support policies which follow must ensure they are economically resilient businesses, which can invest in and deliver on these environmental Sustainable Land Management objectives while also producing economic multiplier effects for both the wider rural economy and the food supply chain, in addition to their unique contribution to rural communities and the Welsh language.

Mr Roberts further reminded Members of the Senedd of another essential role Wales' family farms increasingly play - renewable energy production.

"I need not remind you of the energy security crisis that Putin's actions have revealed so starkly, and we have only tapped into a fraction of the potential for our family farms to further contribute to tackling this while reducing their own carbon footprints and continuing to feed our nations' populations.

"The grave dangers of throwing caution to the wind when it comes to food and energy security are there for all to see, so whatever path Westminster decides to follow, let us ensure that our devolved administrations here in Wales take an holistic approach to our responsibilities to local, national and global populations," concluded Mr Roberts.



From left, FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman; Huw Irranca-Davies, MS for Ogmore and FUW Breakfast event sponsor; Rural Affairs Minister Lesley Griffiths, FUW President Glyn Roberts and FUW Chief Executive Guto Bebb at the Cardiff Farmhouse Breakfast event.

More breakfast pictures on page 13

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FUW UPDATE

A great start to 2023

by Guto Bebb, FUW Chief Executive

I'm keen to sound positive at the start of a New Year but as I write this column it's January 31 and the radio today has been full of hot takes on Brexit three years after we exited the EU. I don't think my views on Brexit are a surprise to anyone but there is little or no point re-fighting the battles of the past.

For right or wrong we have left the EU and we need to ensure that the context within which Welsh agriculture must work moving forward is as friendly as possible to the family farm here in Wales. The time and energy which has been spent by Government, business, trade associations and the food supply chain in trying to get to grip with Brexit has been a poor use of resources, resources which could have been put to a much more productive use. However, an even greater mistake would be to waste energy on a narrative of "I told you so." It might make you feel self-righteous but as with the seven years of effort to understand how Brexit might work, it is again a case of using energy for little reward. So, back to the positives as we face 2023.

January 2023 sees the FUW in a good place. The membership numbers have edged-up over the past two years and despite numerous staff changes we have a team of energetic officers serving the Counties. The policy team continue to be an asset that we should be proud of and FUWIS is going from strength to strength with all the talk of recession not standing in the way of our confidence that we can follow a very strong 2022 with an even stronger 2023 for the insurance business.

On the political front we are awaiting with interest the introduction of the Agricultural Bill to the Senedd which is now expected on February 7 at which point we will have a clearer view of whether our concerns, expressed on a regular basis to the Government of Wales, are being taken seriously.

It's not the time to let-up on the pressure because we feel within the FUW that

we are slowly getting our messages understood and whilst we may not see everything we have called for making an appearance in the legislation, we do feel that the conversation between the agricultural sector and Welsh Government has become much more constructive over recent months.

I was also delighted with the success of Farmhouse Breakfast week. First and foremost this is an initiative for the benefit of our members which, in turn, proves to be a fantastic fundraiser for the President's Charity, the DPJ Foundation. The sense of community at the breakfast events I attended is palpable and the only complaint I received was that we should do something similar in the summer. Does a National Farmhouse Barbeque week sound good to you?

However, in addition to the fact that the Breakfast week goes down really well with our members we also need to be clear that it also works very well as a lobbying opportunity. The breakfast in Cardiff was a great event, we had a very significant turnout with over a quarter of Senedd Members in attendance. What was even more encouraging was the fact that there was a lot of agreement between the speech made by Huw Irranca-Davies, the Labour MS for Ogmere who sponsored the event and the speech delivered by the President at the breakfast.

We are not there yet, but after our meetings with politicians from all parties during breakfast week I think we can look forward to 2023 with some hope that we will create here in Wales a workable solution to our post Brexit Agriculture support policy.

The next task will be ensuring that there is money available from Westminster to implement such a policy but in order to stay positive I will say no more about that for now!

Addressing misleading statements

by Ian Rickman, FUW Deputy President

LAST month marked the FUW's annual farmhouse breakfast week and up and down the country farmhouse kitchens, village halls and mart cafe's filled the air with the delicious smell of cooked Welsh breakfast. After some disruption brought by the pandemic we were excited to see these events return.

Our farmers do an excellent job every day in producing food, they are out there looking after the livestock and the environment no matter the weather or time of day. Farmers in Wales produce sustainable, nutritious food that we are extremely proud of. It will come as no surprise then that we were extremely concerned to hear Lord Johnson of Lainston, Minister for Investment, make a statement during the second reading of the Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill saying that "...having a New Zealand lamb chop on your plate in the House of Lords restaurant is better for the environment than having one that comes from another part of the UK...it came from a Board of Trade report."

This, and Lord Hannan of Kingsclere's similar comment that "New Zealand lamb eaten in London has a smaller carbon footprint than Welsh lamb eaten in London," significantly misrepresents the figures in the 2021 Board

of Trade Green Trade report, which definitely does not make such a categorical claim.

Lord Johnson also told the Lords that "I read an interesting article in Farmers Weekly, which stated that these FTAs will 'help ensure UK products expand into new markets'" - while failing to mention that the article was written by Beef and Lamb New Zealand!

We have of course written to the Minister highlighting scientific studies that show why a UK Minister should not be making such a misleading statement, let alone running down our farming industry while effectively promoting our main competitors.

As was highlighted during the House of Lords debate, the trade deals struck with New Zealand and Australia will allow food produced to standards that fall well short of those required in the UK to be imported in increasing volumes, representing a significant risk for UK standards and farm incomes.

Conservative Baroness McIntosh of Pickering summed up the concerns, stating "The Government estimate that as a result of the Australian deal we will see a reduction in gross output of around 3% for beef and 5% for sheepmeat due to liberalisation...equivalent to wiping £87 million off the output of UK sheep production and

£67 million off the UK beef sector and does not take into regard the cumulative effect of agreeing similar liberalisation terms with New Zealand."

Labour's Baroness Liddel of Coatdyke criticised the nature of the process by which the trade deals had passed through Parliament, pointing out that the Trade Bill would be superseded by the Procurement Bill, despite both Bills having to go on the statute book around the same time, saying "Sometimes, I think I have followed my namesake Alice through the looking-glass, because this is the most bizarre arrangement I have ever come across in relation to a piece of legislation...We are going to have to pass this Bill when we have been denied the full opportunity for scrutiny."

More recently, the leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats in the Lords, Baroness Christine Humphreys, highlighted the risk posed to Welsh sheep farmers by the two trade deals and called for Parliament to have a final say over all future trade deals alongside guaranteed impact assessments for trade deals on the nations and regions of the UK.

Baroness Humphreys also criticised the UK Government for not considering the risk the trade deals could pose to the Welsh language in Wales' agricultural heartlands.

Clearly, there are some Lords who share the FUW's concerns and some who do not, but in other countries the concessions given by the UK Government to New Zealand and Australia are seen as laughable and showing the UK to be a total walkover in trade negotiations - something that former Secretary of State for agriculture George Eustice effectively confirmed to the House of Commons in November 2022.

The FUW will continue its lobbying to highlight members' concerns and do its utmost to ensure that such misleading statements are addressed accordingly.



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“Farming in Wales is vital and matters in so many ways - we deserve to be recognised.”

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

JANUARY has been a busy month for the FUW, with plenty of lobbying and of course our farmhouse breakfast week returning to farmhouse kitchens, village halls, marts and Cardiff, keeping our teams across the country on their toes.

Our farmhouse breakfast week has been an incredible success once again and it is down to the staff and officials as well as our members, who give it their all to arrange and host these for us. It is a tremendous effort and I congratulate the team for another year of successful breakfasts.

We always enjoy starting the year in such a positive way - sharing our thoughts and hopes for the industry and the coming year over breakfast, enjoying the variety of Welsh breakfast produce from bacon, eggs, sausages, yoghurts, butter and the milk for our tea and coffee - all of which we can and do produce to exceptionally high standards here in Wales.

Our industry which provides this food is something we should be immensely proud of. Our animal health and welfare standards are world leading, our food is produced sustainably and offers all the nutrition needed in a healthy, balanced diet.

Another key message we highlighted during our farmhouse breakfast week was that you, our farmers, work with the environment and as an industry we are working hard to be even more sustainable. Farmers are taking action to increase soil organic matter through their grazing practices, and are managing peatland to protect existing carbon while improving our efficiencies to reduce emissions and optimise production. We also manage existing farm woodlands and are actively planting more trees in the places where they are best suited.

Farming in Wales is vital and matters in so many ways, and our industry deserves to be recognised for the positives it delivers every single day. At the breakfast event in Cardiff, which we for the first time hosted at the Norwegian Church in the Bay (it was excellent - the food was fantastic and the turnout exceptional), we made the point that devolution gives us the opportunity to create Wales specific solutions to the food and energy crisis.

Speaking to a room full of Members of the Senedd, I took the opportunity to highlight that the Agriculture Bill currently being considered by the Senedd has the potential to solve many of the issues the country is currently facing.

Devolution gives us the opportunity to create local and Wales specific solutions to

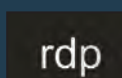


these problems and at the heart of those solutions are the family farms that are the backbone of our food production, our rural economy, our way of life and culture, and our ability to maintain valued environments and landscapes.

Members can rest assured that we will continue our lobbying efforts on these issues throughout 2023 and as the Agriculture Bill and Sustainable farming scheme proposals take shape we will ensure that the views of FUW members are highlighted and explained to our politicians.

Mae'r golofn yma yn Gymraeg ar dudalen 7: "Mae ffermio yng Nghymru yn hanfodol - rydym yn haeddu cael ein cydnabod."

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Mae datganoli yn rhoi'r cyfle i ni greu atebion penodol i Gymru i'r argyfwng bwyd ac ynni

MAE datganoli yn rhoi'r cyfle inni greu atebion penodol i Gymru i'r argyfwng bwyd ac ynni - dyna brif neges Llywydd UAC Glyn Roberts, (*gweler ar y dde*), wrth annerch Aelodau'r Senedd yn nigwyddiad brechwast blynyddol yr Undeb yng Nghaerdydd.

Yn ystod y digwyddiad, a gynhaliwyd yn yr Eglwys Norwyaidd ar ddydd Mawrth 24 Ionawr 2023, tynnodd Llywydd yr Undeb sylw at y ffaith bod gan y Bil Amaethyddiaeth, sy'n cael ei ystyried ar hyn o bryd gan y Senedd - Bil sy'n cynrychioli'r newidiadau mwyaf i amaethyddiaeth Cymru ers i'r DU ymuno â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd - y potensial i ddatrys llawer o'r problemau y mae'r wlad yn eu hwynebu ar hyn o bryd.

"Yn ôl diffiniad, mae ffermwyr yn gynhyrchwyr bwyd, ac mae'n werth cofio, yn ein digwyddiad Brechwast cyntaf i'w gynnal yn y Senedd ers i'r pandemig daflu'r byd i gyd i gythrwfl yn 2020, pa mor agos y daethom at fethiant difrifol o'n cadwyni cyflenwi bwyd byd-eang a domestig yn ystod y pandemig.

"Mae ein cadwyni cyflenwi yn parhau i ddiodeff sgîl-ffeithiau dyddiau tywyllaf y pandemig, ac ar ben hynny, rydym bellach yn wynebu effeithiau rhyfel Rwsia ar y Wcráin - rhyfel y mae Vladimir Putin wedi defnyddio, nid yn unig ynni, ond bwyd hefyd fel arfau - fel yr amlygwyd yn ddiweddar gan Fforwm Economaidd y Byd," dywedodd Glyn Roberts.

Atgoffodd Mr Roberts Aelodau'r Senedd, bod disgwyl iddynt, fel gwleidyddion ystyried a gweithredu ar heriau byd-eang, cenedlaethol a lleol ar ran eu hetholwyr. Pwysleisiodd bod digwyddiadau byd-eang sy'n effeithio ar ffermio, ac felly ar bawb sy'n bwyta heddiw, wedi arwain at gynydd yng nghostau mewnbwn amaethyddol o bron i 30% yn y DU, tra bod prisiau bwyd i'r cwsmer wedi codi'n frawychus - ond gan ffraciwn o'r gyfradd honno. Yn ogystal, mae newid hinsawdd yn creu amodau tyfu anodd i ffermwyr, gyda 2022 y flwyddyn gynhesaf a gofnodwyd erioed yn y DU.

Mae hyn, dywedodd Mr Roberts, yn erbyn cefndir lle mae dibyniaeth y DU ar wledydd eraill am fwyd wedi

dyblu bron ers canol y 1980au, gyda 40% o fwyd y DU bellach yn cael ei fewnforio o gymharu â thua 22% yng nghanol y 1980au. Mae hyn yn cynnwys bwydydd y gellir eu cynhyrchu yn y DU, gyda'r ddibyniaeth yn cynyddu pum gwaith, o 5% i 25% yn ystod yr un cyfnod - rhywbeth a allai waethgu wrth i Lywodraeth y DU gytuno ar gytundebau masnach rydd beryglus â gwledydd allforio bwyd mawr fel Awstralia a Seland Newydd.

"Ond mae datganoli yn rhoi'r cyfle i Gymru greu atebion lleol a phenodol i'r problemau hyn, ar ffurf y Bil Amaethyddiaeth sy'n cael ei ystyried ar hyn o bryd gan y Senedd - Bil sy'n cynrychioli'r newidiadau mwyaf i amaethyddiaeth Cymru ers i'r DU ymuno â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd. Ac wrth wraidd yr atebion hynny mae'r ffermydd teuluol sy'n asgwrn cefn i'n cynhyrchiant bwyd, ein heconomiâu a'n diwylliant gwledig, a'n hamgylcheddau a'n tirweddau gwerthfawr," dywedodd.

Clywodd y rhai a ymunodd â'r Undeb am frechwast yng Nghaerdydd hefyd fod UAC yn credu bod rhaid i ddarn mor bwysig ac arloesol o ddeddfwriaeth geisio'n benodol i sicrhau hyfywedd economaidd teuluoedd ffermio a'r economi wledig yng Nghymru - nid yn unig o ran naratif, neu drwy ddamwain, ond o ran dyluniad.

"Byddai hyn yn sicrhau bod y Bil yn wirioneddol gyfannol - hynny yw, yn cydbwysu pileri cynaliadwyedd amgylcheddol, cymdeithasol ac economaidd a gydnabyddir yn rhyngwladol. Ac rydym ni i gyd yn gwybod beth sy'n digwydd pan fydd un o'r coesau'n cael ei thynnu o stôl deir coes.

"Ni all penderfyniadau rheoli tir a chreu canlyniadau amgylcheddol i Gymru ddigwydd heb ein busnesau ffermio, y teuluoedd sy'n gweithio'r tir, na'r



marknadoedd lleol a byd-eang yr ydym yn cynhyrchu ar eu cyfer," dywedodd Mr Roberts.

Ychwanegodd bod ffermwyr yn rheoli dros 80% o dir Cymru am eu bywoliaeth, ac felly mae'n rhaid i'r Bil a'r polisïau cymorth sy'n dilyn, sicrhau eu bod yn fusnesau sy'n economaidd wydn, sy'n gallu buddsoddi yn, ac yn cyflawni amcanion amgylcheddol Rheoli Tir yn Gynaliadwy, tra hefyd yn cynhyrchu lluosydd economaidd i'r economi wledig a'r gadwyn cyflenwi bwyd ehangach, yn ogystal â'u cyfraniad unigryw i gymunedau gwledig a'r iaith Gymraeg.

Atgoffodd Mr Roberts Aelodau'r Senedd hefyd am rôl hanfodol arall y mae ffermydd teuluol Cymru yn ei chwarae fwyfwy - cynhyrchu ynni adnewyddadwy.

"Nid oes angen i mi eich atgoffa o'r argyfwng ynni sydd wedi dod i'r amlwg yn sgîl gweithredoedd Putin, ac rydym wedi gweld cyfran fach iawn yn unig o'r potensial sydd gan ein ffermydd teuluol i gyfrannu ymhellach at fynd i'r afael â hyn wrth leihau eu hól troed carbon eu hunain a pharhau i fwyd poblogaethau ein cenedloedd.

"Mae'r peryglon difrifol o fod yn fyrbwyll o ran diogelu'r cyflenwad bwyd ac ynni yno i bawb eu gweld, felly pa bynnag drywydd y mae San Steffan yn penderfynu ei ddilyn, gadewch inni sicrhau bod ein gweinyddiaethau datganoledig yma yng Nghymru yn cymryd agwedd gyfannol at ein cyfrifoldebau i boblogaethau lleol, cenedlaethol a byd-eang," dywedodd Mr Roberts wrth gloi.

This article is in English on the front page: "Opportunity to create Wales specific solutions."

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Tîm troseddau gwledig yn cefnogi Wythnos Brechwast Ffermdy UAC

BU Andy Dunbobbin, Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Gogledd Cymru, yn cyfarfod gydag aelodau o'r gymuned amaethyddol leol yng Ngogledd Cymru ar fore 27ain o Ionawr fel rhan o Wythnos Brechwast Ffermdy UAC.

Trefnwyd y digwyddiad, yn fferm Dylasau Uchaf, Padog, Betws y Coed sef cartref Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC, a'i deulu gan gangen Sir Gaernarfon o'r Undeb. Mae'n cynorthwyo i godi miloedd o bunnoedd bob blwyddyn at achosion da. Cynhaliwyd chwe brechwast ledled Sir Gaernarfon dros yr wythnos.

Daeth Peter Evans, Rhingyll Troseddau Cefn Gwlad a Prif Uwch-arolygydd Sian Beck o Heddlu Gogledd Cymru, a Wayne Jones, Dirprwy Gomisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Gogledd Cymru i'r digwyddiad ynghyd a'r CHTh. Gwnaeth y pedwar siarad ag aelodau o'r gymuned amaethyddol leol. Gwnaethant wrando ar eu pryderon a'u sylwadau o ran trosedd mewn ardaloedd gwledig, sy'n faes sy'n cael sylw arbennig gan y CHTh a Heddlu Gogledd Cymru.

Dywedodd Andy Dunbobbin, Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Gogledd Cymru: "Roedd yn fraint cael mynd i un o Frecwastau Ffermdy UAC. Rwyf yn ddiolchgar i Gwynedd Watkin a changen Sir Gaernarfon o'r Undeb am y gwahoddiad. Ein ffermwyr yw asgwrn cefn economi gogledd Cymru. Maent yn cynorthwyo i'n darparu ni â chynnyrch gwych."

Dywedodd Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC: "Rydym yn cyffroi'n arw am ein brechwastau ffermdy bob blwyddyn. Gallwn ddechrau'r dydd gyda theulu, ffrindiau a chymdogion, mewn ffordd gadarnhaol ac iach a chodi arian yr un pryd at achos da, ac eleni, yr achos hwnnw yw Sefydliad DPJ."

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "Rural crime team support FUW Farmhouse Breakfast Week," or from your local county office.



O'r chwith, Uwch Weithredwr Yswiriant, Gwasanaethau Yswiriant FUW Cyf Dafydd P Jones; Dirprwy Gomisiynydd Wayne Jones; Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd, Andy Dunbobbin; Prif Uwch-arolygydd Sian Beck; Rhingyll Troseddau Cefn Gwlad, Peter Evans o Heddlu Gogledd Cymru a Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC.

Political Matters

by Libby Davies, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer

ONCE again, the month has consisted of meetings in the Senedd and farm visits, but what marks January out from the rest of the year in the FUW is of course Farmhouse Breakfast week!

After Covid kept us away last year, this year, I attended my first Cardiff Farmhouse Breakfast. It was great to have representatives of every party in attendance, and to have the opportunity to get together and celebrate the fantastic food produced in Wales. We also enjoyed speeches by our event sponsor Huw Irranca-Davies MS, the Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd, and FUW President Glyn Roberts.

Throughout the week, I also attended the Glamorgan Farmhouse Breakfast where we discussed issues facing members with Luke Fletcher, MS for South Wales West, Andrew RT Davies and Joel James, MSs for South Wales Central, Jenny Rathbone, MS for Cardiff Central, and Alun Cairns, MP for Vale of Glamorgan.



Huw Irranca-Davies MS giving his speech at the Union's annual Cardiff Farmhouse Breakfast event.

I also attended the Gwent Farmhouse Breakfast, where we were joined by Peredur Owen Griffiths MS for South Wales East and Peter Fox MS for Monmouth.

Hot topics on the table included, of course, the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, as well as the

proposed designation of the Cambrian Mountains AONB, increasing local procurement and the need for thriving high streets.

In January, we met Darren Millar, MS for Clwyd West in the Senedd to discuss the Agriculture (Wales) Bill and Sustainable Farming Scheme. We stressed the importance of including economic sustainability explicitly in the Sustainable Land Management Objectives, as well as our wish for the majority of the budget available to be focussed on the Universal layer of the SFS, in order to support the largest number of active farmers.

We repeated similar messages on a farm visit in Gwent with MS for Blaenau Gwent, Alun Davies. In particular, we shared our concerns over the lack of detail regarding common land in the Sustainable Farming Scheme. We also took the opportunity of reinforcing our concerns over the Water Resource (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations and the impacts of the regulations, despite the proposed licensing scheme.

Myself and FUW Chief Executive, Guto Bebb, were also kindly invited to speak with the RWAS Leadership Programme candidates about the Union's strategy and targets for political engagement. We discussed the importance of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill and the need to work with the Welsh Government, MSs and stakeholders to ensure the Bill is fit for purpose. Thank you to the RWAS for the invitation and to the group for an engaging discussion.

Looking forward, the diary is already filling up for the month ahead with meetings at both the local and national level being organised. This month will also see key discussions in the Senedd including a statement on Sheep Scab and the debate on the general principles of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, after which the Bill will move to stage 2 of scrutiny. As a Union, we will of course be monitoring this closely and will keep you updated throughout.



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Amaeth yng ngwaed y genhedlaeth nesaf o fridwyr Jacob

gan Angharad Evans, Swyddog Cyfathrebu'r Iaith Gymraeg

WEDI dwy flynedd anodd iawn i'n cymdeithasau, mae'n dda gweld bwrlwm eu gweithgareddau yn dychwelyd unwaith eto.

Cafodd aelodau rhanbarth Cymru o Gymdeithas Defaid Jacob y cyfle i ddod 'nôl at ei gilydd yn ddiweddar a dathlu llwyddiannau mewn cyflwyniad gwobrwyo.

Cafodd un teulu o Lanfynydd, ac aelodau ffyddlon o'r Undeb yng Nghaerfyrddin tipyn o lwyddiant wrth i ddwy genhedlaeth o'r teulu gipio gwobrau. Enillodd Arwel Jones, a'i ddiadell Celtic deitl diadell fawr orau Cymru. Ac nid Arwel yn unig bu'n casglu tlysau.

Cafodd y genhedlaeth nesaf dipyn o lwyddiant hefyd wrth i neiaint Arwel, Harri a Griff ennill gwobrau ar ôl haf llwyddiannus o ddangos Levi a Bella, ceuch wybod pwy yw'r ddau yma yn y man. Ond i ddechrau, beth am i ni gael ychydig mwy o hanes diadell Jacob Celtic, a sefydlwyd yn y 1990au cynnar gan Arwel: "Er fy mod wedi ennill y praidd bach a chil wobwr y praidd mawr yn y gorffennol, sioc llwyr oedd cael llwyddiant 'leni, ond yn hynod o falch gan fod y mwyafrif o'r defaid wedi magu gartref ers sawl cenhedlaeth bellach," eglura Arwel.

"Mae'n anrhydedd derbyn gwobrau fel hyn, yn enwedig gan feirniad a chymaint o brofiad. Dyw 20 dafad ddim wastad yn edrych fel praidd fawr, a gan ystyried fod rhai o'r defaid yn 7 i 9 oed a chwarter y ddiadell yn ddefaid blwydd, doeddwn i ddim yn disgwyl llawer. Yn amlwg roedd y beirniaid wedi plesio ac wedi nodi cysondeb trwy'r praidd, yn cwrrd â safon y brid ac yn ddefaid efo corff a gwlan da. Hobi yw'r defaid i mi, ond mae angen iddynt dalu ffordd, felly mae cadw'r safon yn bwysig, eu cadw mor fasnachol â phosib ond dal i gynhyrchu ŵyn i'r arwerthiannau pedigri.

"Enillais yr hwrdd gorau nôl yn 2003 gyda Owlscoote Barrie sydd yn llinach pob dafad bellach, felly bron ugain mlynedd yn ddiweddarach braf oedd ennill eto gyda hwrdd wedi magu gartref, ac enillodd Celtic Mini Ben ei ddsbarth yn y Sioe fawr yn 2022 ac mae wedi cynhyrchu ŵyn sydd wedi dod i'r brig.

"Rwy'n gweithio'n llawn amser, ac mae cadw praidd o ddefaid i'w harddangos yn waith caled, ond rwy'n ddiolchgar i'r teulu cyfan am eu help. Rwy'n falch iawn dros y ddau nai, Harri a Griff, er yn byw yn nhref Caerfyrddin, mae'n glir i weld fod amaeth yn y gwaed. Roedd yn braf eu bod yn profi llwyddiant, gan ei bod yn mwynhau gweithio gyda'r defaid ac yn gwneud llawer o waith paratoi at y sioeau heb help.



Enillwyr Tywyswyr Iau: (Dde) 1taf Harri Morris; 2il Griff Morris; 3ydd Sara Harries a 4ydd Lois Harries gyda noddwr y gystadleuaeth yn ogystal ag enillydd Praidd Fawr Cymdeithas Defaid Jacob Rhanbarth Cymru Arwel Jones.

"Mae Harri yn meddwl fod y gwobrau yn wych ac yn brod iawn o'r defaid yn enwedig Levi, ei hwrdd ef. Roedd rhaid i Griff fynd a'r tlysau i ddangos i Bella, ac mae e wedi rhoi caniatâd iddi wneud unrhyw beth mae am, gan ei bod yn enillwraig.

"Mae nifer yn dweud fod rhai o ddefaid Jacob gorau'r wlad yng Nghymru, felly rwy'n edrych ymlaen at gael beirniadu'r gystadleuaeth blwyddyn yma."

Longyfarchiadau mawr i ti Arwel, Harri a Griff, ac mae'n amlwg bod dyfodol defaid Jacob Celtic yn ddiogel iawn. Edrychwn ymlaen yn eiddgar at glywed rhagor am anturiaethau Harri a Griff gyda Levi a Bella yn y dyfodol.

Mae'n bosib iawn y byddwch yn dyfalu beth yw'r cysylltiad rhwng Pencampwr Tywyswyr Ifanc Cymdeithas Defaid Jacob Rhanbarth Cymru Gwennllian Evans a Chornel Clecs - ydych chi'n ei chofio fel Ladi Fach Tŷ Ni am flynyddoedd lawer?!



Enillydd Tywyswyr Canolradd a Phencampwr: Gwennllian Evans gyda noddwr y gystadleuaeth Wyn Harries a noddwr cystadleuaeth y tywyswyr iau Arwel Jones.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "Agriculture in the blood of the next generation of Jacob breeders," or from your local county office

“Mae ffermio yng Nghymru yn hanfodol - rydym yn haeddu cael ein cydnabod.”

gan Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC

MAE Ionawr wedi bod yn fis prysur i UAC, gyda digon o lobïo ac wrth gwrs ein hwythnos brecwast ffermdy yn dychwelyd i geginau ffermdai, neuaddau pentref, marchnadoedd a Chaerdydd, gan gadw ein timau ar draws y wlad yn brysur tu hwnt.

Mae ein hwythnos brecwast ffermdy wedi bod yn llwyddiant ysgubol unwaith eto, ac mae hynny diolch i'r staff a'r swyddogion, yn ogystal â'n haelodau sy'n rhoi ymdrech 100% i drefnu a chynnal y rhain i ni. Mae'n ymdrech aruthrol ac rwy'n llongyfarch y tîm am flwyddyn arall o frechwastau llwyddiannus.

Rydym ni bob amser yn mwynhau dechrau'r flwyddyn mewn ffordd mor gadarnhaol - rhannu ein meddyliau a'n gobeithion ar gyfer y diwydiant a'r flwyddyn sydd i ddod dros



frecwast, a mwynhau'r amrywiaeth o gynnyrch brecwast Cymreig o gig moch, wyau, selsig, iogwrt, menyn a'r llaeth ar gyfer ein te a'n coffi - y cyfan yn cael ei gynhyrchu i safonau eithriadol o uchel yma yng Nghymru.

Rydym yn hynod o falch o'n diwydiant, sy'n darparu'r bwyd hwn i ni. Mae ein safonau iechyd a lles anifeiliaid yn flaengar drwy'r byd, mae ein bwyd yn cael ei gynhyrchu'n gynaliadwy ac yn cynnig yr holl faeth sydd ei angen mewn deiet iach a chytbwys.

Neges allweddol arall a amlygwyd gennym yn ystod ein hwythnos brecwast ffermdy oedd eich bod chi, ein ffermwyr, yn gweithio gyda'r amgylchedd ac fel diwydiant rydym yn gweithio'n galed i fod hyd yn oed yn fwy cynaliadwy.

Mae ffermwyr yn gweithredu i gynyddu'r deunydd organig yn y pridd drwy eu harferion pori, ac yn rheoli mawndiroedd i ddiogelu'r carbon presennol, wrth wella ein heffeithlonrwydd i leihau allyriadau a chynhyrchu cymaint â phosibl. Rydym hefyd yn rheoli coetiroedd fferm bresennol ac yn mynd ati i blannu mwy o goed yn y manau mwyaf addas.

Mae ffermio yng Nghymru yn hanfodol ac yn bwysig mewn cynifer o ffyrdd, ac mae ein diwydiant yn haeddu cael ei gydnabod am y pethau cadarnhaol y mae'n ei gyflawni bob dydd.

Yn y digwyddiad brecwast yng Nghaerdydd, a gynhaliwyd am y tro cyntaf yn yr Eglwys Norwyaidd yn y Bae (roedd yn ardderchog - roedd y bwyd yn wych a'r nifer a oedd yn bresennol yno yn eithriadol), gwnaethom y pwynt bod datganoli yn rhoi'r cyfle i ni greu atebion penodol i Gymru i'r argyfwng bwyd ac ynni.

Wrth annerch ystafell yn llawn o Aelodau o'r Senedd, manteisiais ar y cyfle i bwysleisio bod gan y Bil Amaethyddiaeth, sy'n cael ei ystyried ar hyn o bryd gan y Senedd, y potensial i ddatrys llawer o'r problemau y mae'r wlad yn eu hwynebu ar hyn o bryd.

Mae datganoli yn rhoi'r cyfle i ni greu atebion lleol a phenodol i'r problemau hyn, ac wrth wraidd yr atebion hynny mae'r ffermydd teuluol sy'n asgwrn cefn i'n cynhyrchiant bwyd, ein heconomïau, ffordd o fyw a diwylliant gwledig, a'n gallu i gynnal amgylcheddau a thirweddau gwerthfawr.

Gall Aelodau fod yn sicr y byddwn yn parhau â'n hymdrechion lobïo ar y materion hyn drwy gydol 2023, ac wrth i'r Bil Amaethyddiaeth a chynigion y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy ddwyn ffrwyth, byddwn yn sicrhau bod safbwyntiau aelodau UAC yn cael eu pwysleisio a'u hegluro i'n gwleidyddion.

“Gall Aelodau fod yn sicr y byddwn yn parhau â'n hymdrechion lobïo ar y materion hyn drwy gydol 2023.”

Call us to book your SAF 2023 appointment



IT'S that time of year again when we start thinking about Single Application Forms (SAF). The application window opens on March 1 and the FUW is reminding its members that county staff are here to help and ready to take the stress of filling the form away.

The FUW provides this service exclusively to all fully paid-up members as part of their membership package, which has proved invaluable for thousands of members over the years - saving them time and a paperwork-headache.

FUW Special Policy Advisor Rebecca Voyle, (pictured above), said: "The SAF completion process is probably the single most important form completion exercise being carried out by Welsh farmers since 2004, and the financial repercussions of errors on the forms are severe. Our staff are not only well trained but very well practised in dealing with the complex application process."

Since the Welsh Government mandated that all applications should be done online, the FUW has focused on providing the best possible service to its members.

"I encourage our members and first time form fillers to contact their local office as soon as possible to book an appointment if they need help in filling out the form," added Rebecca Voyle.

Ffurflen Cais Sengl
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Let us take the stress of form filling away - call your local county office to book your appointment

Have you got your safety net in place?



Life insurance means you can keep providing the things that really matter even after you're gone

LIFE happens while you're busy making plans and often we are so busy that we don't take much notice of near misses, or think about what would happen if the worst were to happen to us. These are the situations when we should think about how our family is protected. How can we protect the life we've built together?

Life insurance means you can keep providing the things that really matter even after you're gone. It's useful to think about what impact your death or illness would have on your spouse or family that rely on your financial support.

Here at FUW Insurance Services we can talk you through what individual protection can cover, such as Income Protection, Critical Illness Cover and Life Insurance.

We understand that mortgage payments, medical costs or other financial commitments can take their toll on your family. However, taking out a protection

policy can help you concentrate on recovery and avoid additional stress when you most need to, ensuring peace of mind.

Being diagnosed with a critical illness can be a stressful time. Your focus should be on recovering, and not worrying about your financial stability.

It is worth thinking of life Insurance as a safety net. It could pay out a cash sum if you were to pass away while covered by the policy. Or if you are diagnosed with a critical illness, the correct cover can pay out a lump sum to ease the financial impact on you and your family.

If you were to be diagnosed with a serious illness - income protection could ensure you continue to receive a monthly amount until you can return to work.

If you'd like to speak to us to build a protection plan based on the needs of you and your family, we're here for you.

Cardiff to Edinburgh cycle in aid of MND

LAMPETER based FUW Insurance Services Senior Account Executives Gwion James and Dafydd Evans are set to cycle from Cardiff to Edinburgh as part of a team of former Aberystwyth RFC players on Thursday February 9 2023.

All proceeds will go towards the Doddie Aid appeal which is helping fight Motor Neurone Disease. Doddie Weir was a former Scottish Rugby International who sadly lost his long battle with MND in November 2022.



Dafydd Evans (left) and Gwion James.

The 555 mile ride is to be completed in around 50 hours. Starting at the Principality Stadium Cardiff at 8am on Thursday teams of up to 8 riders will ride in relay to cover the distance almost non-stop day and night, aiming to reach Murrayfield around lunchtime on Saturday, prior to the Scotland v Wales International at 4.45pm.

The group of over 25 teams are led by Former Scotland International and Doddie Foundation Ambassador Rob Wainwright, who will be delivering the match ball from Cardiff to Edinburgh. Among the teams are Olympic champion cyclist Chris Hoy and a 1997 Lions team including Martin Johnson, Paul Wallace, Fran Cotton, Tim Stimpson, Jeremy Davidson and others.

The Aberystwyth RFC team includes farmers Cefin Evans, Gareth Jones and James Raw, along with Dafydd Evans, Iestyn Tudur-Jones, Gwion James, Glyn Williams, Darren Hathaway, Aled Lewis, Dylan Llewelyn, Brian Isaac and Emlyn Jones.

Speaking ahead of the event, Gwion James said: "We've been training since November and are looking forward to the challenge. Doddie Weir was admired as a rugby player and also later as a committed campaigner for MND awareness. It will be an honour to ride this challenge in his memory."

Dafydd Evans added: "The weather is going to be one of the main challenges and we're expecting rain, wind, snow, ice - anything really in that part of the world. It is personally a huge challenge for me and no doubt going to hurt a lot! The motivation will be knowing that we are helping raise funds and awareness to find a cure for this horrible disease." You can donate here:

<http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/aber4doddie>



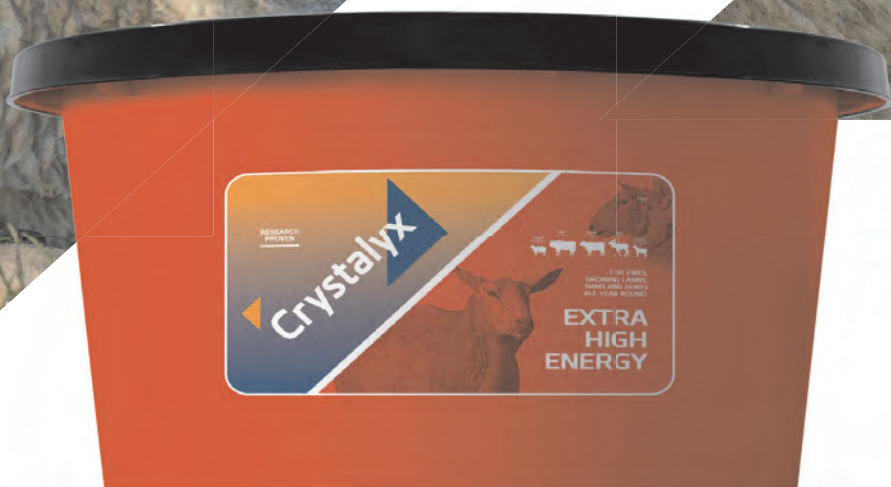
The Aberystwyth RFC team.

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UAC yn cefnogi Cyfrif Mawr Adar Ffermdir 2023

AR ddechrau mis Chwefror, trefnodd UAC amrywiaeth o sesiynau gwybodaeth ar y cyd gyda'r Ymddiriedolaeth Cadwraeth Helwriaeth a Bywyd Gwylt (GWCT) ar ffermydd yng Nghymru i drafod poblogaethau adar brodorol Cymru a sut i ofalu amdanynt.

Fel rhan o'r sesiynau gwybodaeth, rhoddwyd cyflwyniad gan y GWCT a chafwyd cyfle i fynd o amgylch ffermydd Hafod y Llyn Isaf, Nantmor, Gwynedd a New Shipping Farm, Cilgeti, Sir Benfro fel rhan o ddigwyddiad blynyddol GWCT sef Cyfrif Mawr Adar Ffermdir.

Cynigodd y fenter bwysig hon ddull syml o gofnodi effaith unrhyw gynlluniau cadwraeth sy'n cael eu gweithredu gan ffermwyr a chiperiaid ar eu tir ar hyn o bryd.

Dyweddodd Llywydd Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru Glyn Roberts: "Nod Cyfrif Mawr Adar Ffermdir GWCT oedd codi ymwybyddiaeth o'r gwaith cadwraeth wych sy'n cael ei wneud ar ffermydd ledled Cymru. Amlygwyd yr hyn y gellir ei wneud i helpu adar ffermdir i oroesi'r amser anodd hwn o'r flwyddyn fel bod y poblogaethau bridio yn cynyddu.

"Roedd hefyd yn gyfle i ddeall pwysigrwydd cofnodi'r adar hynny sy'n bresennol ac adnabod pa effeithiau y mae Glastir - cynllun amaeth-amgylcheddol Cymru - yn ei gael ar niferoedd adar."

Ychwanegodd Lee Oliver Pennaeth Prosiectau GWCT Cymru: "Roeddem yn falch iawn o'r cyfle i weithio mewn partneriaeth gydag Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru i drafod Cyfrif Mawr Adar Ffermdir 2023, a gynhaliwyd eleni am y ddegfed flwyddyn yn olynol, a denwyd dros 1,500 o ffermydd i gymryd rhan.

"Hoffem dynnu sylw at y gwaith da mae ffermwyr a ffermio yn ei wneud yng Nghymru ar gyfer adar ffermdir, a hoffem weithio gyda ffermwyr sydd eisiau gwneud mwy."

This article is in English on the FUW website - News: "FUW looks forward to Big Farmland Bird Count 2023," or from your local county office.



Free BVD testing ends



Gwaredu BVD

THE free BVD screening and PI hunts offered through the voluntary Gwaredu BVD programme ended on December 31 2022. Over 9,300 (85%) of cattle farms in Wales participated in this 5 year programme.

From January 1 2023, all farmers have to pay their vets for any BVD testing undertaken. The costs will depend on individual vet practices. The FUW recommends that members continue to screen their herds and, where necessary, conduct a PI hunt and remove any PI animals found in order to maintain any previous inroads made in tackling this significant and costly disease.

Vets can continue to use the Gwaredu BVD submission form where cattle keepers with antibody negative herds wish to receive their Gwaredu BVD certificate.

The Gwaredu BVD team will continue to be available to support farmers with BVD queries until at least March 31 2023.

The FUW continues to await a decision on the implementation of BVD legislation in Wales.

The Welsh Government recently published the Summary of Responses to the Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Eradication Scheme consultation which was issued in the summer of 2022. The Welsh Government's Response to a number of key themes arising from the consultation responses has also been published.

The FUW continues to support a mandatory BVD eradication programme in Wales and we will continue to communicate any progress towards legislation as this issue develops.

The Gwaredu BVD team will continue to be available to support farmers with BVD queries until at least March 31 2023

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Farmhouse breakfast week raises over £16,000 for charitable causes

Thank you to everyone who has supported us and joined us for breakfast

THE FUW has enjoyed a successful farmhouse breakfast week in aid of charity (Monday 23 - Sunday January 29 2023) and has raised over £16,000 throughout the week at 25 breakfasts.

The FUW's farmhouse breakfast week is held in order to promote the health benefits of having breakfast, promote the sustainable and nutritious food produced by farmers in Wales and also to have a good catch up before the day starts.

FUW President Glyn Roberts, who also hosted a breakfast event on his farm on Friday January 27, said: "We have enjoyed an immensely successful farmhouse breakfast week and I thank everyone who has supported us and joined us for breakfast. It is vital that we keep talking to each other and that we share the load that often wears us down."

Guto Bebb, the FUW's Chief Executive, added: "Staff, elected officials and members of the Union have gone above and beyond the call of duty once again. Breakfast events across Wales were very well attended and as well as shining a spotlight on maintaining good mental health, also provided an excellent opportunity to speak to our politicians and discuss many of the important farming matters such as the Agriculture (Wales) Bill and the Sustainable Farming Scheme."

Enjoying breakfasts around the counties here and on page 12





Cardiff Farmhouse Breakfast event a success



When it comes to farm safety, check and double check

by Dafydd P Jones CERT II, FUW Insurance Services Ltd Senior Account Executive

WE work in a brilliant industry but this workplace is not without its hazards. No one gets out of bed in the morning with the intention of having an accident, but accidents happen unfortunately, and some with horrible consequences and outcomes.

The goal is to reduce accidents occurring in the first place and to do this there are a lot of things that we can do ourselves to limit the risk. Time is one of the key elements in farm related accidents. The agricultural industry is governed by a lot of external pressures, weather and financial issues to name just two.

People who have been involved in accidents, especially accidents where there are serious injuries or fatalities would do anything to turn the clock back in time and change the circumstances leading up to the accident.

As a driver, owner or operator of any machinery and tools we all have a legal duty and a moral duty to abide by the law and protect ourselves and others from accidents.

Time and finance are quite often never abundant on farms and we are all in a rush to do a job or the repair is expensive on a vehicle or machine, but if you take a vehicle on the road it is your duty as a driver and the owner to make sure that vehicle is roadworthy to comply with the highway code rules. Lights, indicators, wipers should be working and tyres in legal condition.

The lights and indicators are fitted on vehicles for your benefit as a driver but equally as important to warn other road users of your intention either to turn left or right. As tractors and similar Agri vehicles move at a much slower speed, other road users need plenty of warning of your intentions. If you have a flashing beacon, use it. Orange flashing light is a warning sign miles away for other road users to know you are there, everything helps to prevent an accident as much as possible. If you are towing a trailer or implements and they are fitted with lights they also need to be working and can be seen clearly by other road users.

If you are unfortunate to be involved in an accident on the road the police have the right to impound your vehicle until the accident circumstances have been resolved and if a prosecution is pending your vehicle could be impounded for months and sometimes years.

Try not to keep tools, attachments, clutter in your tractor cab, farmers have been severely injured and lost their lives when a tractor overturns and an object in the cab is

thrown around and they are struck in their head or body. Maintain PTO guards at all costs, they are there for the purpose of protecting you and others of rotating apparatus.

When operating a tractor or machine on the yard or your field, always make sure of your surroundings, be wary of blind spots on vehicles where there could be a potential person standing. Check and double check is the message.

It is impossible to cover everything in relation to vehicle farm safety and we can only help and work together to prevent accidents. If you are involved in an accident and the HSE are involved, you are responsible for paying for their investigations, and that can be a hefty bill, depending on the circumstances.

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'Safe site, safe vehicle and safe person' roadshow

IF you haven't already attended one of the Wales Farm Safety Partnership's recent regional roadshows, it's not too late. The final FREE event in the current series of 'Safe site, safe vehicle, safe person' events will take place from 11am - 3pm on Friday, February 10 at Newtown College.

Hosted by one of WFSP's two ambassadors, Alun Elidyr and Glyn Davies, a series of presentations and practical

demonstrations are proving that it's essential to spend a few minutes planning your working day safely rather than risking life and limb. The overarching theme of all three events is that no farmer should ever jump on a farm vehicle or tackle any on-farm tasks without giving farm safety a second thought, it's essential to put the right safety procedures in place before starting work.

Targeted at farming families from every generation as well as agriculture students, the 'Safe site, safe vehicle and safe person' half-day roadshows have already given more than 100 individuals practical tips and advice on establishing 'best practice' systems that will reduce the risks. The WFSP's aim is to create sufficient awareness to impact on the terrifying statistics that equate to farming having one of the worst reputations for workplace accidents.

Well-known farm safety expert and trainer Brian Rees, one of the event presenters, said it is essential that the Welsh farming industry respond to the reality of around 40 fatalities on UK farms year on year, as well as thousands more life-changing or life-limiting injuries, many of which occur in Wales.

"There are always hazards on every farm, particularly where farm vehicles, machinery and large livestock are involved," said Mr Rees, who along with farm safety experts from FUW and Wales NFU, gave a number of practical demonstrations and talks at each event.

Children on working farms; safe animal handling facilities; working on slopes or at height; poorly maintained vehicles; blind corners and poor visibility as well as not using suitable personal protection equipment like safety equipment or helmets, were just a few of the critical areas covered during the information-packed half day event.

Farming Connect offers confidential, fully-funded mentoring on farm safety, which can be provided over the phone or during a farm visit. It also has a range of information leaflets, posters and booklets - some targeted at children - which provide practical advice on farm health and safety topics.

To book your place(s) at the Newtown College roadshow event on Friday, February 10, email: meleri.jones@menterabusnes.co.uk or call 07375 076444. For further information visit: www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/pdf/good-farm.pdf or: www.businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/health-and-safety

It's essential to spend a few minutes planning your working day safely rather than risking life and limb



A group of local farmers and students from Gelli Aur campus, Coleg Sir Gar hear how to stay safe on the farm from Dafydd P Jones, FUW Insurance Services Ltd Senior Account Executive, during a recent Wales Farm Safety Partnership farm safety awareness event.



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You're not alone - reach out for help

by Anne Dunn, FUW Head of Communications

AS we leave the dark month of January behind and start looking forward to slightly lighter evenings, it's fair to say that as a group we've made a fantastic effort last month to look after our mental health.

Staff across the Union and FUWIS took part in the Run 1000 event, which saw many of us out and about getting fresh air, logging miles for Wales and taking a break from the screen. A huge well done to every single person who braved the wind and rain that week!

We also encouraged everyone to get together with friends, family, colleagues and loved ones on Monday January 16, which is also known as Blue Monday. Taking a cue from the Samaritans we joined Brew Monday and enjoyed a natter and a cuppa.

Sharing how we feel, having someone to talk to and someone who listens is important not just during the winter months but throughout the year. As an employer of well over 150 members of staff and a pledge to keep the spotlight on mental health for as long as it remains a problem in our rural areas, I'd just like to remind members and staff that if they need to speak to someone, the DPJ Foundation is there for you.

You don't have to be a farmer to contact them either, so if you feel like it's all getting a bit much - drop them a text or call them. Whichever way you like to communicate is fine - just don't suffer in silence. That said, those who have found themselves in a dark place don't always realise how much they've changed and need help.

If you notice a change in behaviour in those around you, please check in with them. They will not always want to talk to you, but in some cases just knowing that someone has noticed is enough to help them get help.

Some advice we've had as part of our Mental Health First Aid training when someone does start talking to you it is worth remembering - you just need to listen. There is no need to try and fix the person's problems, you don't have to try to identify with their situation or offer advice. Just listen - it's a skill but one worth working on.

I would also say that you don't need to wait to call for help until you have suicidal thoughts. It's worth getting help and talking to someone if you feel you can't cope with everyday things too. Maybe you're feeling tired more often, are feeling emotional, and you might not want to do the things that you usually enjoy right now.


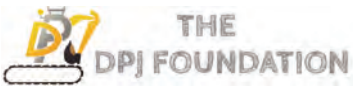




Struggling to cope with everyday life doesn't look or feel the same in everyone and I certainly wouldn't want to generalise about how it'll make you feel or act.

Some signs to look out for include, but are not limited to, lack of energy or feeling tired; feeling exhausted all of the time, experiencing 'brain fog' and finding it hard to think clearly; having trouble concentrating; being restless and agitated; feeling tearful and wanting to cry all the time; not wanting to talk to people or be with them; finding it difficult to cope with everyday things and task.

Should you recognise these signs in someone or you are experiencing some or all of these, please don't feel like you are alone. Help is out there and sometimes the thing that makes us strong is reaching out for help.

Many of the organisations listed below are just a phone call or a text away to help you and your family.



<p>Samaritans: 116 123 or Welsh Language Line (Llinell Gymraeg): 0808 164 0123</p> 	<p>DPJ Foundation: Call 0800 587 4262 / Text 07860 048799</p> 	<p>Mind Cymru: 0300 123 3393 / info@mind.org.uk / Text 86463</p> 	<p>FCN: 03000 111 999</p> 	<p>RABI: 0808 281 9490</p> 	<p>Tir Dewi: 0800 121 4722</p> 
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New faces at the DPJ Foundation

by Kate Miles, Charity Manager and Kathleen Taylor-John, Charity Marketing & Engagement Assistant, the DPJ Foundation



WE are really excited at the DPJ Foundation to introduce two new members to our small team of staff, alongside our expanding team of volunteers.

Beth Gibbon, (*pictured top left*), joined the DPJ Foundation in early January as Team Coordinator and is based in our office at Carmarthen Market. Beth, who has lived and breathed farming all her life, currently farms with her husband and father-in-law on a dairy and beef farm that has recently diversified with a milk vending machine.

Beth will be looking after our strong team of volunteers, coordinating the important activities that take place across Wales. Whilst Beth won't be involved in taking calls on the Share the Load helpline or providing support to the people using our services, she will be making sure that the volunteers are supported with all the training and resources that they need and will be at the office to answer your queries.

Beth will be based at the DPJ office at the Rural Business Development Centre from Wednesday to Friday each week (except for the first week of the month when she will work on a Monday rather than a Thursday).

Alongside welcoming Beth onboard, we also welcome Kathleen Taylor-John, (*pictured bottom left*), to the team this Spring. With our well known and established Marketing and Engagement Assistant Elen Williams taking maternity leave, we will be bringing Kathleen aboard to cover the marketing activity throughout the spring and early summer.

Kathleen grew up on a farm in the Vale of Glamorgan and was a proud member of Wick & District YFC where her role as PR Officer inspired her to learn more about Marketing. Qualifying in Media, Kath also went on to study Agriculture in Pencoed Agricultural College. With certificates in both subjects, Kath is thrilled to be joining the team, combining her passions for farming and social media and sharing her enthusiasm with our team.

All the best to Elen and her partner Owain on their parenting journey.



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Farm owner and new entrant benefit through Venture initiative

THE knowledge and experience of an established sheep farmer and the ambition and energy of a new entrant have combined in a new joint venture farming partnership facilitated by Farming Connect's Venture service.

Second generation farmer Ian Rickman has brought in Sean Jeffreys as a partner to help him farm Gurnos, an 84-hectare upland farm near Bethlehem, Llandeilo. Ian has lived and worked at Gurnos Farm all his life but combining this with his role as FUW Deputy President in recent years has presented challenges with running the farm single-handedly.

"I wasn't giving the farm the attention it needed and was concerned that I would start winding the business down, cutting back on stock numbers. I didn't want that to happen."

Keen to pursue his off-farm commitments but not yet ready to retire from farming, he sought help from Farming Connect's Venture initiative. This matchmaking service pairs up new entrants with landowners who are looking to step back from the industry and offers funding for business planning and legal guidance.

Farming Connect is delivered by Menter a Busnes and Lantra Wales and funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

Ian wanted to give a young person the opportunity to farm. "I was lucky enough to farm because my parents had bought Gurnos in the seventies but if you are not born into farming it is a difficult industry to get into. I didn't want to just rent out the farm because I still wanted to be involved."

The opportunity was advertised by Farming Connect and drew eight applicants, including 25-year-old Sean Jeffreys. Sean, who lived at nearby Ffairfach, had grown up in Swansea but his grandparents had a smallholding



Ian Rickman (left) and Sean Jeffreys.

where they kept sheep and he has always had an interest in agriculture.

He became a partner at Gurnos in September 2022 after funding from Farming Connect's Venture service helped navigate the legal hurdles. The partnership gives Ian and Sean an equal share of the profits.

Ian admits that Venture was an important part of the process. "I wouldn't have known where to start without that help." It provided access to legal advice from specialist agricultural and rural law solicitor, Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones, of Agri Advisor.

"We were able to tell her what we envisaged and what

we both wanted to get out of it, we definitely needed that professional advice," says Ian.

They were also supported by a business consultant to help them plan a way forward. The pair have already scaled up ewe numbers by 100, with 500 Llandovery-type Welsh Mountains due to lamb in March, and there are also 200 ewe lambs.

The ambition is for yet more sheep, "lots of them!" laughs Sean. "We want to grow the business," he says.

His off-farm job as a sales representative for an agricultural supply company has allowed him to invest in the new farming partnership.

"We have spent a lot of money buying ewes, even if you have got the land you have got to stock the place," says Sean.

He is thrilled that he has been given the opportunity to farm, it is a step on the farming ladder and a chance to develop. "If the farm had come up for rent I would never have been able to rent, stock and kit it out, it just never would have happened."

Sean says it is reassuring to have Ian still involved in the business. "It is like having a mentor and one who is open minded and willing enough to let me put my stamp on the business."

Ian is pleased he has been able to bring a new entrant into agriculture. "If we don't get young people involved in farming the industry will just stagnate, we won't move forward."

"If we don't get young people involved in farming the industry will just stagnate, we won't move forward."

Mared appointed as Wales YFC Chief Executive Officer

PREVIOUSLY Head of Operations for the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, Mared Rand Jones, (pictured right), started her new role as the Chief Executive Officer for the Welsh Federation of Young Farmers on January 16 2023.

Mared Rand Jones was raised on a dairy farm, Llanfair Fach, Llanfair Clydogau, Lampeter and is the eldest of four children. She now lives in Tregaron but her roots are still very close to the family farm.

She attended Lampeter Comprehensive School and then Trinity College where she gained a degree in Welsh and Theatre Studies.

Mared is currently one of the Council Members of ASAO and a past Chairman of "Cynnal y Cardi" (Ceredigion Local Action Group) and Director of Coleg Ceredigion. Also, Mared was fortunate to be part of the Agri Academy Rural Leadership Programme in 2016.

She's a member of Lampeter Agriculture Show, Lampeter Stallion Show, Lampeter Rotary Club and Merched y Wawr, Tregaron. She's also one of six women that is responsible for organising the successful Tregaron Welsh Music Festival called "TregaRoc".

Mared enjoys acting and is a member of the Felinfach Theatre acting company and acts the character "PC Wpsi Deisi" in the annual Christmas pantomime. In her spare

time she enjoys swimming, watching rugby and socialising with friends.

Mared has been working as Head of Operations for the Royal Welsh Agriculture Society for almost five years. She previously worked as County Executive Officer for Farmers' Union of Wales and Development Officer for Ceredigion YFC for nearly 11 years. She is a past member of Llanddewi Brefi YFC and competed in numerous competitions.

Commenting upon her appointment as the new Chief Executive, Mared Rand Jones said: "I'm thoroughly looking forward to working as the Chief Executive of Wales YFC, an organisation that is very close to my heart. YFC is an excellent organisation for young people living in rural Wales that offers endless opportunities for members between 10 and 28 years old and I'm excited to be working with the members, officers and staff to lead and drive the organisation forward."

The Federation's Chairman, Hefin Evans, said: "It is an honour to appoint Mared Rand Jones as the new Chief Executive. With her skills and experience she will bring excellent means and energy to move forward with the young and enthusiastic staff team and Wales YFC officers with their excellent work, while keeping the members and the Federation progressing forward."

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North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner visits Bryncir to hear community concerns

NORTH Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, Andy Dunbobbin, recently visited the Lloyd Williams & Hughes Auction Centre in Bryncir, Garndolbenmaen, to engage with the local rural community and to see how the centre provides a valuable forum for the community in the area.

The Commissioner was introduced to key figures in the centre, as well as attendees by FUW Senior County Executive Officer for Caernarfonshire, Gwynedd Watkin.

During the visit, the Commissioner listened to the views of farming and agricultural workers in the area and discussed their concerns regarding crime and emerging trends they had experienced. The visit provided the Commissioner with an opportunity to liaise directly with Auction Centre attendees and discuss his key priority of tackling and preventing rural and wildlife crime.

The event was also attended by North Wales Police Rural Crime team Sergeant Peter Evans, who was on hand to offer practical advice to attendees on how they can keep themselves safe in the fight against crime. Sergeant Evans provided an update to attendees on local crime issues and discussed how they could best protect agricultural equipment from potential theft and how technology can assist with 'tagging' equipment for recovery in the event of a burglary.

The Bryncir Auction Centre is a

"I'm determined to work even closer with the Force's Rural Crime Team to make sure we prevent crimes."

market for agricultural livestock sales and operates two days a week. Attended by approximately 300 individuals weekly, the Auction Centre also acts as a social hub for those in the community, allowing for farmers and farm workers to meet each other and discuss the key issues of the moment in agriculture.

During the visit the Commissioner was told how the Auction Centre was saved by the local agricultural community, with the support of both the FUW and the NFU in 2001, after the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak, following concerns that there would be no market of this provision in the Caernarfonshire area.

North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner Andy Dunbobbin said: "I understand the challenges that face residents in rural communities, who can often feel especially vulnerable due to the location of their homes, away from close neighbours.

"My Police & Crime Plan says how I plan to keep farmers and rural businesses safe and how I am determined to work even closer with the Force's Rural Crime Team to make sure we prevent crimes such as theft and anti-social behaviour.

"I remain committed to cutting rural and wildlife crime and I appreciated the chance to hear first-hand many of the topics that concern our farming and rural community, and what their experience with policing has been to this point.

"I would like to thank the farming community in Bryncir for their warm welcome and for their time in voicing their opinions and concerns and sharing with me the remarkable story behind the Auction Centre's success. I'd also like to thank Sergeant Evans for joining me to demonstrate the wider commitment of North Wales Police in serving the rural community."

FUW Senior County Executive Officer Gwynedd Watkin said: "We were pleased to have the PCC attend Bryncir



From left, North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner Andy Dunbobbin, Bryncir Auction Centre Director John Huw Hughes, North Wales Police Rural Crime Sergeant Peter Evans and FUW Senior County Executive Officer for Caernarfonshire Gwynedd Watkin at Bryncir Auction Center, Garndolbenmaen.

Auction Centre and pledge his support in keeping our community safe.

"The visit provided a great opportunity for the farming community in the area to put a 'face to the name' and for them to be able to voice their concerns and opinions to the Commissioner.

"Within my professional role, I understand how important it is to promote positive engagement and that's why I value Andy attending Bryncir Auction Centre in person to build trust with our rural community and develop a good working relationship between farm workers and the police."

Reducing wildfire risk through good land management practices

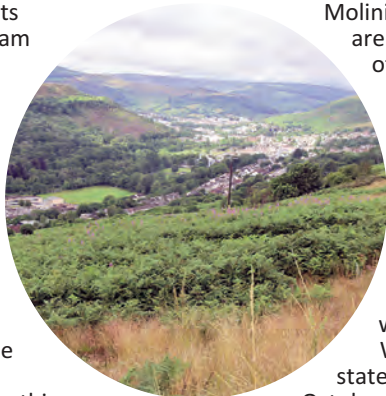
AS Wales approaches the beginning of its wildfire season, the Healthy HillSides team is encouraging land managers to take practical land management steps to minimise their wildfire risk for 2023.

Evidence shows land managers that adopt good wildfire mitigation practices are proven to reduce the likelihood of small wildfire incidents escalating into large ones.

Healthy HillSides is championing the importance of reducing wildfire risk in Wales. We are currently developing easy-read online resources and guidance to develop your own fire plans and risk assessments which will be available later this year, and in the meantime encouraging those planning a burn to contact your local fire service for support with your burn plans.

A Welsh Government burn plan is required before you conduct a prescribed burn and through contacting the fire service, you can receive all the necessary information to help you to burn safely.

Before prescribed burning, it is essential that firebreaks are in place as changing weather conditions and terrain can make grassfires highly unpredictable. Healthy HillSides is advocating cutting firebreaks where you have dense vegetation (particularly bracken or



Molinia grass), as these types of vegetation are notorious for burning quickly and out of control. If your land features dense bracken, regular cutting of fire breaks can support long term reduction of bracken and restoring grassland for improved grazing and biodiversity whilst also reducing the wildfire risk.

For more information on cutting firebreaks to improve grazing, contact PONT on 07421 994860 or visit their website www.pontcymru.org

Wales' Heather and Grass Burning Code states that burning is allowed only between October 1 and March 31 in upland areas and

November 1 and March 15 elsewhere - daylight hours only. Bird breeding times are generally accepted to be March to August; therefore, firebreak establishment should take place before this time where there are no chances of disturbing nests. Other types of land management can continue through this period.

For more information and advice on responsible burning and wildfire mitigation through proactive land management, contact HealthyHillsides@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk to request a free guidance note on land management planning to minimise risk.

If you decide to burn on your land, it's important to notify the fire service BEFORE and AFTER you burn so resource can be allocated if needed. You can contact your local service on the numbers below:

North Wales Fire & Rescue Service: 01931 522006

Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service: 01268 909404

South Wales Fire & Rescue Service: 01268 909408

Farming for Welsh Water

WELSH Water is looking for groups of farmers who would be interested in working together to help safeguard drinking water supplies.

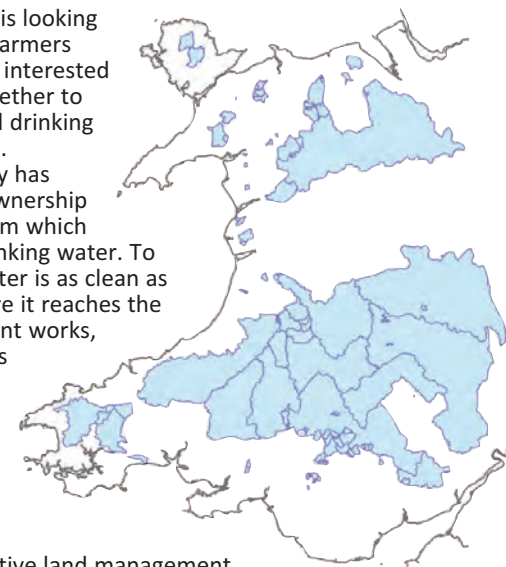
The company has only limited ownership of the land from which it captures drinking water. To ensure the water is as clean as it can be before it reaches the water treatment works, the company is looking to work with farmer groups in its catchments, (*see map*), to come up with new or innovative land management ideas that will protect its sources now and for years to come.

Catchment Partnership Coordinator Alwyn Roberts said: "We are looking to work with groups in our catchments to find opportunities to improve water quality which are mutually beneficial for farming efficiency, as well as biodiversity and the wider environment.

"We are offering funded facilitated groups, in Welsh or English, to support new ideas which could range from bringing in expert speakers to organising exchange visits, or from sharing some of the risks associated with trialling new approaches to scaling up ideas to be incorporated into business as usual for the group members," he added.

If you are interested in setting up or joining a group and would like to find out more, please email: watersource@dwrcymru.com

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Over 200 miles contributed to #Run1000 event

THE FUW group has contributed over 200 miles to the recent #Run1000 charity event, helping team Wales cross the finish line first.

The challenge called on people to sign up to be part of one of five teams - England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and New Zealand.

The competition took place from 9 - 15 January 2023 and saw each team try to complete 1,000 miles, with the nation that reaches the milestone first announced as the winner.

Putting in the miles for the FUW, which totaled 276.15 miles, were Gwenno Davies and her dog Casi (76 miles), Heledd Teleri Williams (52.05), Ffion Prysor Williams (39.45), Kath Shaw (35.9), Gwynedd Watkin (30.48 miles), Haf Puw (25.23) and Huw Jones (17.04 miles).

Speaking after the event, FUW Chief Executive Guto Bebb said: "Our staff have done a sterling job and put in an excellent effort once again, which contributed to the success of Team Wales.

"Good mental health is so important and getting outside into the fresh air, going for a walk with your friends, family and of course our four legged friends, is a great way to foster a healthy mind."



Gwenno Davies and her dog Casi.



From left, Haf Puw, Ffion Prysor Williams and Heledd Teleri Williams.



Kath Shaw.

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Rydym wedi cael wythnos brecwast llwyddiannus iawn eleni. Diolch i bawb a fynychodd ac yn bennaf i Arwyn Roberts, Anita Thomas, Jackie Hughes, Gillian, Mags, Eleri Roberts a'u timau gweithgar am eu hymdrech ardderchog sydd wedi codi ymhell dros £4,000 yn Sir Gaernarfon tuag at elusen Llywydd yr Undeb sef Sefydliad DPJ a Chronfa Coron Eisteddfod Llŷn & Eifionydd 2023. Dymunwn ddiolch i'r gwystai arbennig sef Mici Plwm a fynychodd y brecwastau yng Nghaffi y Fron a Fferm Bryn Hynog am ei gyfraniad hael iawn. Diolch i'r holl noddwyr a'r busnesau lleol isod am eu cefnogaeth barhaus a rhoddion amhriadiwy:

We have had a very successful breakfast week this year. Thank you to everyone who attended and especially Arwyn Roberts, Anita Thomas, Jackie Hughes, Gillian, Mags, Eleri Roberts and their hardworking teams for their excellent effort which has raised well over £4,000 in Caernarfonshire towards the Union President's charity, the DPJ Foundation and the Llŷn & Eifionydd 2023 Eisteddfod Crown Fund. We would like to thank our special guest Mici Plwm who attended the breakfasts at Caffi y Fron and Fferm Bryn Hynog, and for his very generous contribution. Thank you to all the sponsors and local businesses below for their continued support and invaluable donations:

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carmarthen@fuw.org.uk

01267 237974

Information evenings

Two information evenings have been arranged for members to discuss the most important policy issues facing the industry on Thursday February 9 at The White Hart Inn Llandeilo and on Thursday 16 February at Llanboidy Sports and Social Club, both meetings will start at 7.30pm.

Additionally, Scott Naylor from AX Track will also be available to answer any questions members have and will share further details on how AX Track can support farms in the recovery of stolen pickup trucks, quad bikes and farm vehicles.

Members are invited to join us either in person or via Zoom. For further information and Zoom joining details please contact the county office on 01267 237974.

Successful charity bingo night



A charity Bingo night was held on January 10 at the Mari Glyn, Llanllwni. We had a very good turnout and a total of £380 was raised for the President's charity, the DPJ Foundation, thank you to everyone who joined us.

Cynhaliwyd noson Bingo elusennol ar Ionawr 10 yn y Mari Glyn, Llanllwni. Daeth nifer dda iawn yno a chodwyd cyfanswm o £380 i elusen y Llywydd, Sefydliad DPJ, diolch i bawb a ymunodd â ni.

DENBIGH & FLINT

dinbychflint@fuw.org.uk

01824 707198

AMRC Cymru visit



FUW Flintshire members with AMRC Cymru members of staff during the tour.

Members from the Flintshire branch went on a tour of the AMRC Cymru site at Broughton in December 2022. It is part of the University of Sheffield Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre and a member of the High Value Manufacturing (HVM) Catapult.

Key themes include future propulsion, aerospace and food and drink, AMRC has supported a wide range of companies including M&S, Airbus, Boeing and Rolls Royce, as well as SME's such as Phoenix Optical Technologies Ltd, Goodfish, Snowdonia Cheese and Henllan Bakery. Members had a very interesting and informative visit.

glamorgan@fuw.org.uk / 01446 774838

GLAMORGAN & GWENT

gwent@fuw.org.uk / 01873 853280

Big Farmland Bird Count

As part of the Big Farmland Bird Count FUW Glamorgan are hosting an on farm event. Kindly hosted by our County Vice Chair Charlotte Llewellyn, we are looking forward to another successful year of bird spotting.

Last year's total count was 55 species such as Lapwing, Redstart, Woodcock and a straying Hoopoe to name just a few!

This year's event is on Thursday February 16. For more information please call 01446 774838.



Concerns raised at farm visit



From left, Alun Davies MS, FUW President Glyn Roberts, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies, FUW Gwent County Chairman Wayne Langford and FUW Gwent and Glamorgan County Executive Officer Sharon Pritchard.

FUW Gwent County Chairman Wayne Langford and Union officials recently met with Alun Davies MS to discuss the Sustainable Farming scheme (SFS) and wider environmental concerns.

The meeting was held at Mr Langford's farm Penrhyn, Nantybwch, near Tredegar. The family farm is a sheep and beef holding and Wayne and his wife Tracy look after a flock of around 300 Welsh mountain sheep, and a herd of cattle on the common in summer and on the farm in winter. The farm is also part of the Glastir Commons contract.

During the farm walk, Union officials highlighted that members welcomed the overall SFS framework proposed by the Welsh Government based on the principle of a 'baseline payment' for all farmers undertaking 'Universal Actions' which is not dissimilar to providing a 'stability payment' as lobbied for by the FUW for years, with additional revenue streams for 'Optional and Collaborative Actions'.

Mr Davies heard that existing RPW Online data being better utilised and new data being collected through self-monitoring and new technology was also broadly welcomed, in order to minimise the need for advisers or complex and resource thirsty contracts which would dilute the agricultural budget.

"The design principles of the scheme which aim to 'keep farmers on the land' and recognise that 'food production is vital for our nation' are also welcome, however, there are some concerns regarding the scheme details, most notably the feasibility for large numbers to meet the 10% woodland and 10% habitat thresholds," said Wayne Langford.

FUW President Glyn Roberts added: "This would be in addition to a hypocritically raised regulatory baseline for Welsh farmers through the introduction of National Minimum Standards at a time of increased quotas of imports produced to far lower environmental standards."

MEIRIONNYDD

meirionnydd@fuw.org.uk

01341 422298

Wythnos codi arian

Ar ddechrau mis Ionawr, bu rhai o aelodau staff swyddfa'r Undeb ym Meirionnydd yn cerdded oddi amgylch Llyn Alwen ger Cerrigydrudion fel rhan o ymgyrch codi arian tîm Cymru 'Run1000' y DPJ Foundation. Cafwyd diwrnod gwych a llawer iawn o hwyl, er gwaetha'r tywydd.



At the beginning of January, some of the FUW Meirionnydd staff walked around Llyn Alwen near Cerrigydrudion as part of the 'Run1000' Wales team, a DPJ Foundation fundraising campaign. It was a great day with lots of fun, despite the weather.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE

montgomeryshire@fuw.org.uk

01686 626889

YFC public speaking competition

After a well deserved Christmas break for Montgomery YFC county team and members, it was soon back to business and focusing on the Public Speaking Competition, held at Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen, Newtown on January 15. A great day watching members embracing such a vital skill, the standard was exceptional, and the judges were full of praise, and offering plenty of constructive feedback.

Congratulations to Dyffryn Tanat on winning overall in the English and Bro Ddyfi in the Welsh Competition. There were also several individual and team prizes and many members making the county team to represent Montgomery in the Wales YFC public speaking competition.

The County now looks forward to the Entertainment Festival being held at Theatre Hafren on February 22 - 25 2023. Good luck to all clubs involved!



Dyffryn Tanat YFC - overall winners in the English public speaking competition.



Bro Ddyfi YFC - overall winners in the Welsh public speaking competition.

PEMBROKESHIRE

pembrokeshire@fuw.org.uk

01437 762913

Lantra Cymru Award

Farming Connect Farm Innovator Award -

Highly commended: Eurig Jones, Boncath, Pembrokeshire

Congratulations to FUW member Eurig Jones who won the Farming Connect Farm Innovator Award at the Lantra Cymru Awards. Eurig farms 200 acres in Pembrokeshire on the family farm which he and his father run with the help of two workers. They have a flock of 1,800 improved Welsh ewes and a herd of 80 Hereford cross suckler cattle. In a bid to reduce the costs of bought in feed, Eurig recently trialled a high-yielding crop of peas and beans which are now included with a straw bi-product as part of the livestock's total mixed ration (TMR).

Advised by a nutritionist, Eurig incorporates the required level of nutrients including good



quality forage with the optimum balance of proteins, vitamins and minerals, thereby improving the performance of his livestock.

A keen advocate of learning from other farmers and of imparting his knowledge to others, Eurig says that tractor GPS has resulted in both environmental and financial benefits. He uses field-mapping to ensure he targets his use of fertiliser and is already investigating options for robotic feeding to counter staff shortages.

The judges said it was impressive to see how Eurig consistently strives to trial and implement innovative and more efficient ways of farming in order to drive the farm forward.

Join us for our monthly meetings

Are you interested in helping to shape the future of agriculture in Pembrokeshire and across Wales? If so, why not join us at one of our monthly meetings.

During the next 12 months the Welsh Government will be continuing to develop and implementing new Regulations, such as the Agriculture Bill Wales, which will shape the future of agricultural support in Wales. These proposals along with lots of other important issues including changes to BVD legislation and animal movement reporting will be discussed at our meetings over the coming months and we are really keen to hear the views of our members on these important issues.

If you would be interested in finding out how you can play a part in the discussions just contact the county office.



Charity breakfasts

A big thank you to all of you who came along and supported our charity breakfasts in aid of The DPJ Foundation, you helped us raise the fantastic sum of £1,468.93.

In addition, we would also like to say a huge thank you to all of you who helped with donations of produce and/or your time, in the run up to the events and on the days. We couldn't do it without you.

Advertorial

Provita Lamb Response a Natural Alternative to Help Prevent Watery Mouth

The principal causes of early lamb deaths are hypothermia, starvation, and watery mouth. Watery mouth is an E. coli infection and with 45% of early lamb mortality caused by E. coli scours, watery mouth is one of the biggest killers in newborn lambs.

This is primarily due to their almost non-existent immunity at birth. There is a direct and absolute correlation between low immunity and watery mouth. Hence an effective, new approach to promote neonatal gut health, better immunity, and prevention of E. coli infection may significantly reduce this high mortality.

To date, the use of oral Spectam® Scour Halt (spectinomycin antibiotic) has been the primary method of treatment & prevention. With Spectam® now delisted from the UK & Irish market on account of international policy on antibiotic resistance, alternative methods must be adopted. Prevention of watery mouth is more effective than cure, and this preventative approach must be based on rapidly boosting the lamb's immune system at birth.

Why is Provita Lamb Response So Effective?

Provita's Lamb Response can help effectively replace spectinomycin and aid in the prevention of watery mouth. Lamb Response contains a combination of 4 highly effective and unique ingredients, not present in other commercial products, which directly combat E. coli, and enhance the newborn lamb's immunity.



No Prob-lamb!

...with Provita Lamb Response

The Natural
SPECTAM
Replacement

Contact us to order!

FREEPHONE
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✉ info@provita.co.uk
🏠 www.provita.co.uk

Provita
Animal Health Naturally



1 Beneficial bacteria - naturally attenuates E. coli bacteria, enhancing immunity, and 'sealing' the newborn gut. Lamb Response contains a potent strain of live organisms, which is one of the primary active ingredients of the first, EU licensed Probiotic's (Provita Protect POM-VPS) which is clinically proven to prevent Scour and has antibacterial activity against E. coli. This ultra-fast replicating beneficial bacteria seeds the gut expanding the lamb's microbiome, which is the basis of the overall immunity. In addition, tight junctions in the gut will be sealed, crowding out and neutralising E. coli pathogens.

2 Egg powder proteins - provide high concentrations of unique IGY proteins which are more potent against and have a higher binding affinity for E. coli than usual colostral antibodies. The combination of beneficial bacteria plus IGY proteins provides a really powerful immediate protection against E. coli.

3 High levels of vitamins necessary for the young animal's metabolism. Supplies Vitamin E which stimulates the lymphocytes in the underdeveloped immune system, adding a further layer of protection.

4 High energy base stimulates appetite, helping prevent hypothermia and stimulates blood flow through vital organs

In short, Lamb Response will act to:

- Reduce E. coli infection & diarrhoea
- Increase active immunity in the newborn lamb via the gut micro-organisms
- Seal the gut from invading pathogens such as E. coli
- Supply an antimicrobial activity against E. coli via bacteriocins in the gut
- Supply novel IGY proteins which have potent protective gut effects against E. coli
- Stimulate the newborn immune system and improve appetite and suckling

James Warwick, a UK sheep farmer provided a recent testimonial to the effectiveness of Lamb Response addressing his issues with watery mouth:

"Just wanted to say how awesome the Lamb Response is! We have had trouble with watery mouth this lambing and was recommended this by our vet and since we've been using it, we haven't lost lamb to watery mouth! A fantastic product!"

Written by: **Dr Tom Barragry** PhD MSc MVB, MRCVS. Vet Surgeon, Vet Pharmacologist and Vet Advisor to Provita Animal Health.

MEAT MATTERS

Positive growth and activity in export markets

by Laura Pickup, Head of Strategic Marketing & Connections, Hybu Cig Cymru/Meat Promotion Wales

BUILDING export markets for the PGI Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef brands continues to be a key priority for HCC. We know that this is crucially important for under-pinning farmgate prices, but also for carcass balance, managing risk and for growing our reputation as world-leaders in producing high quality lamb.

January saw the HCC team attend Sirha, a specialist hospitality and foodservice trade show for the French market. The tradeshow, based in Lyon, attracts all sort of businesses from France's world-renowned and thriving hospitality sector. France remains the Welsh red meat sector's largest single export market, estimated to be worth £75million. Being both our closest and largest trading partner, it is vital we maintain and grow our business and reputation in this market.

This month we will be targeting newer markets at Gulfood in Dubai. This tradeshow is quickly becoming one of the key events in the global food and drink calendar and will allow HCC to build links and business in a growing market with lucrative potential. We will be attending with a cohort of processors as well as hosting and attending a range of marketing events whilst there, to maximise Welsh Lamb's brand presence - including a high profile event at the UK embassy.

The last four months have seen month-on-month growth in sheepmeat exports. Within home markets, January did see a dip in consumer demand as expected after a very buoyant Christmas period for red meat sales. Long term factors such as the effects of last year's hot dry summer and rising input costs have meant we are seeing more lambs come onto the market in

recent weeks - which has had an impact on prices.

Pressures on family budgets and the on-going cost of living crisis has seen UK shoppers revert to recessionary buying patterns and, as expected, lamb and beef sales have declined post-Christmas. This only reinforces the importance of spreading risk across markets and of having strong trading relationships with both our established and new export markets.

We recently launched our Lamb Supply Report as part of our 'Between the Lines' series which can be found on the HCC website. It examines and analyses supply and demand trends in more detail and I would encourage all producers to read it to gain a thorough understanding of current market forces at work.

Mae adeiladu marchnadoedd allforio ar gyfer brandiau Cig Oen ac Eidion Cymreig PGI yn parhau i fod yn flaenoriaeth allweddol i HCC. Gwyddom fod hyn yn hanfodol bwysig ar gyfer gosod prisiau wrth gât y fferm, ond hefyd ar gyfer cydbwysedd carcasau, rheoli risg ac ar gyfer tyfu ein henw da fel arweinwyr byd o ran cynhyrchu cig oen o ansawdd uchel.



PROPERTY MATTERS

Notice to quit must be addressed to the right person

by Eifion Bibby, Director & RICS Registered Valuer, Davis Meade Property Consultants

Recent court of appeal case involving a 1986 Agricultural Holdings Act tenancy

THE solicitor executor of the preceding land owner had served a notice to quit in respect of an oral tenancy under the 1986 Agricultural Holdings Act of 20 acres of a pasture parcel on the Tenant, Mr X, unaware that he had, on advice, just assigned the tenancy by deed to a Company (of which he was the sole shareholder, director and company secretary, with the registered address being his home address). The landlord was not notified of the assignment and also did not know of it.

Three days after that assignment (and four days after the company had been incorporated), the landlord served a notice to quit on Mr X (instead of the Company). The Company, being now the tenant, responded by stating that the notice to quit had not been correctly served, and it was therefore not valid.

The appeal turned on the validity of that notice to quit, not of its service (as a bad notice could be validly served).

The County Court and the High Court had both, previously, held, that the notice to quit issued in respect of the Landlord was valid, applying the test in Mannai Investment Co Ltd v Eagle Star Assurance Co Ltd, determining that, despite the error in the notice, the reasonable recipient, aware of the situation, would understand its purpose and meaning.

That is, both Courts found that a reasonable recipient of the notice would, in this context, have read it as having been addressed to the Company (which closely resembled the name of the original Tenant).

The Tenant further appealed and the Court of Appeal has now allowed the appeal (finding in favour of the Tenant). In reviewing Mannai, it observed that: "if a notice fails to satisfy the substantive conditions upon which its validity turns, the question of how it is to be interpreted does not arise."

A notice to quit has to be served on the right person, albeit that the Mannai Case might allow it to be remedied for misspelling of the name.

Furthermore, this case highlights the importance of timely action as, in this instance, the notice to quit could have been defeated if a counternotice had been duly issued within one month of its receipt, avoiding the need for Court resolution.

Bu yna lys apêl ddiweddar yn ymwneud â thenantiaeth Deddf Daliadau Amaethyddol 1986 ac mae'r achos hwn yn amlygu pwysigrwydd o weithredu'n amserol oherwydd, yn yr achos hwn, gallai'r gwrthrybudd fod wedi'i drechu pe bai wedi'i gyhoeddi'n briodol o fewn mis o'i dderbyn, gan osgoi'r angen am benderfyniad Llys.



MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Cynnal gweithgareddau cymunedol yn bwysicach nag erioed

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

WEL, mae'r flwyddyn yn gwibio heibio a ninnau wedi cyrraedd mis bach yn barod. Gobeithio eich bod chi fel fi yn mwynhau'r cam ceiliog o oleuni yn fwy bob dydd.

Mae Cennin Pedr ag eirysiau wedi bod yn britho'r cloddiau yn fuan iawn eleni a chynffonau ŵyn bach ar amryw o goed cyll.

Fel mudiad yr ydym wedi bod yn cynnal amryw o ddiwyddiadau hybrid ac yn hoff iawn o hwylustod y ffordd yma o gyfarfod, yn enwedig pan mae'r tywydd wedi bod yn heriol.

Rydym hefyd yn edrych ymlaen at gyfleoedd cymdeithasol amrywiol lle mae cyfle i ni gyd ddod ynghyd. Mae dyddiad cau ein cystadlaethau llenyddol i gyd ar Fawrth 1af a gobeithiwn y bydd nifer yn teimlo yn greadigol.

Pryderwn am ddirywiad cefn gwlad gyda chynifer o wasanaethau yn cael eu colli, banciau yn cau, a lleoliadau cyhoeddus i gyfarfod yn prinhaus yn wythnosol.

Mae cael yr hyder a'r brwdfrydedd i gynnal

gweithgareddau cymunedol yn bwysicach nag erioed.

Cofiw'n fod Cenedl heb laith yn Genedl heb Galon.

Merched y Wawr are concerned about the decline of our rural countryside with so many services being lost, banks closing, and public meeting places dwindling weekly. Having the confidence and enthusiasm to carry out community activities is more important than ever. A nation without its language is a nation without its heart.





Why We're Here

Renewable energy will be the source of power for future generations. Producing energy on a global scale with local optimization requires deep industry, regulatory and technology expertise.

Econergy is looking to work with landowners who have land available and want to explore opportunities to have solar and batteries on their land.

We are currently looking for land on which to develop solar farms, wind farms and battery storage sites in the following areas.

- Near Pembroke Power Station
- South of Carmarthen
- West of Swansea
- North of Swansea
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- East of Abergavenny

If you are a landowner who may be interested in leasing your land for a high level of long term income, please contact us on the details below.

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uk@econergytech.com ○ 07717 531378 ○ www.econergytech.com



Upcoming Schemes

Scheme	Summary	Window
Food Business Accelerator Scheme	The FBAS covers capital investments in processing equipment and infrastructure, along with some associated costs and supports projects that offer clear and quantifiable benefits to the food and drink industry in Wales. The grant can be used to improve and develop production and processing facilities, e.g. to erect new buildings; upgrade premises; and to buy and install new or second-hand equipment (certain conditions apply). The maximum grant threshold per enterprise for any individual investment project is £5,000,000. The minimum grant threshold per enterprise for any individual investment project is £20,000. More information: https://www.gov.wales/food-business-accelerator-scheme-guidance	November 17 2022 A selection will be carried out every 4 weeks The window will remain open until the budget allocation has been reached. The indicative budget allocation is £40 million
Horticulture Development	The Horticulture Development scheme is a Capital grant scheme available to existing commercial horticultural producers across Wales. More information: https://www.gov.wales/horticulture-development-scheme	5 December 2022 - 10 March 2023
Woodland Creation Planning Scheme	The Woodland Creation Planning Scheme offers grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to develop plans for new woodland creation. After a plan is successfully verified by NRW, it will be eligible for Welsh Government funding for tree planting and fencing (Woodland Creation Grant). More information: https://www.gov.wales/woodland-creation-plan-scheme	Open throughout the year (subject to budget)
Small Grants Environment (Hedgerow Creation)	A scheme to provide capital support for the creation of new hedgerows. It is a standalone scheme providing a maximum of £7,500 funding. Land parcels already under Glastir contracts will not be eligible. More information: https://gov.wales/small-grants-environment	January 9 - February 17
Small Grants Efficiency	A scheme to support investment into new equipment and technology to enhance the technical, financial and environmental performance of farm businesses. The minimum grant amount is £1,000 and the maximum is £12,000. A maximum of 40% contribution is available against actual invoiced costs. More information: https://gov.wales/small-grants-efficiency	January 16 - February 24
Woodland Creation Grant	For larger schemes (however the minimum area is only 0.25ha made up of parcels which are a minimum of 0.1ha) and those which do not qualify for the Small Grants - Woodland Creation Scheme. A woodland creation plan is required in advance. Funding is available through the Woodland creation Planning Scheme. The scheme offers no loss of Basic Payment Scheme, 12 years of maintenance and premium payments, alongside an increased fencing rate of £5.56/m. More information: https://www.gov.wales/woodland-creation-grant	February 13 - March 24 Further windows for applications will open 22 May and 21 August
Small Grants Woodland Creation Scheme	For small areas of tree planting under 2 hectares. Check the Small Grants - Woodland Creation Woodland Opportunities map to see if your proposed area is eligible - https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/small-grants-woodland-creation/ This scheme is aimed at farmers to encourage planting of small areas of trees on land which is agriculturally improved or of low environmental value in Wales, therefore applications will not need a woodland creation plan verified by NRW. Funding is available for planting areas between 0.1ha and 1.99ha for shelterwoods, tree planting alongside watercourses, in field corners or small fields. The scheme offers 12 years of payments for Maintenance and a Premium payment alongside an increased fencing rate of £5.56/m. More information: https://gov.wales/small-grants-woodland-creation	February 13 - March 24 Further windows for applications will open 22 May and 21 August

Biodiversity and organic farming

by Dr David Cutress, Farming Connect Knowledge Exchange Hub, IBERS, Aberystwyth University

BIODIVERSITY is essential for farmers to consider during their management of on-farm strategies and systems. New legislation and subsidy schemes are driving prioritisations in the direction of improving the levels of biodiversity and ecosystem functionality provisions, towards supplying important ecosystem services.

One farming strategy repeatedly under discussion regarding biodiversity is organic farming. In theory, organic farming should work alongside farming ecosystems, rather than working against them, to achieve its production goals. Key requirements for organic certification such as the prohibiting of synthetic chemicals and a requirement to focus on soil management, via strategies such as varied crop rotations, are both suggested to help boost local biodiversity levels.

Many other strategies that are regularly applied in organic farming systems also help biodiversity on farms, such as mixed grazing or mixed farming systems, crop diversification, green manure application and organic manure application.

There are also, however, some debated organic strategies, including the higher need for tillage for weed control. Regardless, there is a general agreement, across studies, that organic fields on average have higher species richness and abundance when compared to conventional systems.

Whilst this is the case, certain plant and arthropod

groups tend to benefit more than other wildlife, like birds. This is largely due to organic and conventional farms having inherently different habitats available due to their different management priorities.

What is important to note, however, is that many of the beneficial strategies for biodiversity in organic systems are equally able to be applied on conventional farms. This gives scope for innovative conventional systems to achieve similar biodiversity impacts.

A bigger aspect to consider is that the impacts of biodiversity changes due to field-level practices are not deemed to be as significant as making biodiversity-focused changes to field margins and off-field set-aside land or marginal lands, which may fall within a farm's management area. These can include wildflower borders and increased tree and shrub planting.

Furthermore, as the perspective shifts from the field to the whole farm, or even regional levels, the increase in species richness of organic farming becomes less prominent.

Combining this with the understanding that biodiversity improvements rarely work well in isolation, it is likely that multiple organic and conventional farms (utilising biodiversity beneficial strategies) working together within a region will be key to achieving the most significant lasting boosts in biodiversity.



Many other strategies that are regularly applied in organic farming systems also help biodiversity on farms, such as mixed grazing or mixed farming systems, crop diversification, green manure application and organic manure application



LIVESTOCK
MANAGEMENT
SYSTEMS

Items eligible for the Welsh Small Grant
Efficiency Scheme open until 24 February 2023

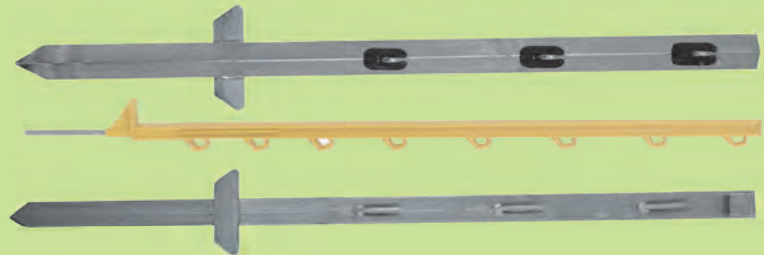
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