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Extension to EU Withdrawal Period must be agreed to safeguard economy



AN extension to the EU Withdrawal period must be agreed, if the UK Government and European Union fail to reach an agreement regarding close post-Withdrawal Period trading arrangements in the coming weeks.

That was the consensus reached by Council delegates of the Farmers' Union of Wales at a special virtual meeting on Thursday June 25.

"Given around two thirds of identifiable Welsh exports go to European Union (EU) Member States and that Welsh agriculture is particularly dependent on such exports for its economic viability, failure to enter a close trading agreement with the EU after the current EU Withdrawal Period would be catastrophic for Wales and its farmers," said FUW President Glyn Roberts.

As such, the Union believes that the UK Government and EU should agree an extension to the Withdrawal Period beyond the current December 31 2020 end date, allowing more time for further negotiations.

"We have previously called for such extensions, at times when it looked like we were going to go over the cliff-edge, and I'm glad that the Council of this Union has given their full support to such a resolution once again," said Glyn Roberts.

The FUW has long argued and highlighted that the damage from reverting to basic WTO rules, which would be the case in a no-deal scenario, would be a disaster.

"A recent study by 'UK In a Changing Europe' (UKInace) suggests that, compared to the status quo, reverting to basic WTO terms would lower GDP by 8.1% over 10 years.

"This would be in addition to the impact of Covid-19, which has caused the UK economy to shrink by a quarter. I therefore hope the UK Government heed the advice and agree an extension, should they fail to reach an agreement with the EU," added Glyn Roberts.

From Brexit - to Covid-19 - back to Brexit

IT has led conversations since 2016 - the EU referendum and on-going Brexit process. Four years on, and with a third Prime Minister in charge, talks between the EU and the UK remain volatile.

Negotiations have been difficult to say the least - we have seen political game playing and posturing, and the digging in of heels over a level playing field for competition, fisheries and the role of the European Court of Justice.

We have seen deadlines repeatedly extended at the midnight hour as the negotiations continue, and the latest countdown clock is now ticking down to a new absolute deadline for a deal on December 31, when the withdrawal period is due to end.

With little more than 5 months to go, we take a look at some key events from the last 4 years and look ahead to what could potentially happen in the months to come.

Turn to pages 12 & 13 for full breakdown

"The FUW has long argued and highlighted that the damage from reverting to basic WTO rules, which would be the case in a no-deal scenario, would be a disaster."

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Eco-colonialism and our land

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

IN recent years, farmers and others in Wales have begun to use the term 'eco-colonialism' to describe the attitudes of some individuals and charities to the land we have farmed for millennia, especially as the rewilding movement has grown in popularity and influence, and when people are really angry they sometimes even use the term 'eco-fascists'.

On the 3rd of June, a live panel discussion organised by the Extinction Rebellion (XR) Youth movement entitled *The Eco-Fascist History of Conservation* (available to watch on YouTube), discussed the shocking ways in which conservation movements continue to treat indigenous populations in many parts of the world.

Amongst the speakers were ecologist and author Dr Mordecai Ogada, who spoke about conservation in Kenya from the 1950s to the present day, and Stephen Corry and Fiore Longo from Survival International, a charity which fights for the rights of indigenous people around the globe.

Ms Longo spoke of families in the Congo threatened and beaten by armed men, intimidation at such a scale that villages have been abandoned and one woman being forced to give birth in the forest after fleeing her village to escape the persecution.

Many more harrowing stories from the area are presented in a United Nations Development Programme report leaked to *The Guardian* earlier this year, but what many will find shocking is that the violence, intimidation, burning of forest camps and worse was carried out in the name of conservation, and that the armed gangs were in fact 'ecoguards' paid for in part by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Such horrific scenes could not be further from the relative comfort of our Welsh homes, but a statement given to the UN by one of the people affected will start to ring a few bells for some: "WWF came to tell us that they are going to make a new park and that we will no longer have the right to go in it. But that is our forest and we do not want this park."

And when you listen to what Dr Ogada told the Extinction Rebellion audience about the colonialist attitude of conservationists and conservation bodies in Kenya, the picture starts to look more familiar: "It's a powerplay", he says. "When you find people who are specialists in producing livestock at the moment and you remove livestock from the scene, you've disempowered them and you've created dependency [on tourism], which is the aim of conservation right now."

Dr Ogada also points out that "The coronavirus crisis we are currently going through has ruthlessly exposed the myth that tourism is a valid basis for conservation. There are no tourists coming now, and the indigenous communities who retained their livelihoods like pastoralism or agriculture are doing fine, but those who have found themselves in these microcolonies called wildlife conservancies are suddenly relying on relief food handouts."

And in his closing remarks, Survival International Director Stephen Corry says: "It's actually getting worse... And it's a battle which does not just involve tribal peoples and indigenous peoples. The big conservation organisations want to turn 30% of the globe into protected areas. They say this is to do with climate change and biodiversity. In fact it will have exactly the opposite effect... It will be a complete disaster. It will entail the eviction of tens of millions of people. It will bring widespread starvation..."

"All these places, including the most apparently wild, are in fact human creations created over thousands of years. The grass plains of East Africa are the result of thousands of years of pastoralism by the local people so what we see as wild nature just doesn't exist..."

"There is huge money at stake. Why do they want to do this? Why do they want to push these 30% protected areas? It's mainly about money, power and control of land. They can sell carbon deals... look at the boards who control these things - they're all from the big polluting industries and at that level it's nothing to do with conservation at all."

"...there comes a time when people stand up and say enough is enough."

In Wales, we enjoy rights, legal systems and privileges that most indigenous people around the globe can only dream of, but the arrogant, dismissive, colonialist and sometimes xenophobic attitudes of certain environmentalists and environmental bodies referred to by the speakers are all very familiar to us - and there is certainly no shortage of people who, despite living hundreds or even thousands of miles away, have serious plans as to how our lives and



landscapes should be utterly changed to make way for their version of conservation and solving the climate change problem.

When it comes to a community reaching "a time when people stand up and say enough is enough" and demonstrating that we in Wales can challenge and change these projects, there is no better example than what happened in the vast Summit to Sea project area around Pumlumon last year.

Readers of *Y Tir* will recall that Summit to Sea was Rewilding Britain's flagship scheme launched in October 2018, which aimed to rewild on a scale never before seen in Britain, creating 'core areas' supporting "low-impact tourism and recreation" that would be extended over time (or as Dr Ogada described them, 'microcolonies').

The project, which also aimed to influence and change the Welsh Government's post-Brexit support policy in favour of rewilding, targeted some 160,000 acres of land in Montgomeryshire and Ceredigion, an area earmarked by George Monbiot as one where farming should be replaced with a rewilded environment in his book *Feral*, back in 2013 (Monbiot's has since become an advocate of

laboratory grown food replacing all farming).

So it was hardly a surprise that the original application for funding for the Summit to Sea project was sent from George Monbiot's home address in Oxford, in the name of Rewilding Britain, a charity he was instrumental in setting up and of which his partner is the Chief Executive.

It was very clear to residents in the area from the outset that the Summit to Sea project was little more than a sugar-coated version of the extreme plans for the area described in Monbiot's book, and when FUW Caernarfonshire member Owen Pritchard identified that funding for the project came from Arcadia - a charity set up by billionaire Lisbet Rausing, who is also a founder and non-executive director of Ingleby Farms and Forests which produces some 61,000 lambs and 300-400 tonnes of wool annually on farms in New Zealand and Australia - this galvanized the local farming community against the plans.

Following a meeting in the area last July, attended by more than 100 locals, and the subsequent establishment of *Cymunedau Oil Pumlumon a'r Ardal* (COPA) to oppose the plans, the end result has been the departure of Rewilding Britain from the project and a substantial change in the project's approach and leadership which has been welcomed by the group.

The departure of Rewilding Britain marked a major victory for the local community, but with the partnership now including none other than the World Wide Fund for Nature the group will no doubt continue to be vigilant.

And let's not forget that, important as the victory was, it comes against a background of huge and constant pressures from individuals and organisations to change landscapes and displace traditional people and activities with urban ideas of wilderness - pressures which are as present in the UK as they are in Africa and other parts of the globe.

It's also no secret that the appetite for such plans is as common in the corridors of power as the powerful environmental lobbyists who peddle them, and hints of this appetite can be seen in numerous government policy documents published both in Wales and England.

There's even evidence of overt colonialist attitudes that should have died out in the 19th Century: In a Twitter message earlier this year relating to the actions of locals in the Summit to Sea area, Defra Board member Ben Goldsmith referred to a "...small band of trolls in Wales who've been running around whingeing to MPs and God knows who else that someone had the temerity to question the way they see things", prompting the FUW to call for Mr Goldsmith's resignation.

The COPA group - which actively promotes and supports conservation as part of, not instead of a farming landscape - has shown that we can fight back effectively, and in Wales we are lucky enough not to have to do this by challenging armed militias paid for by environmental charities. But our politicians and environmental groups must also wake up to the colonialist attitudes within their own circles - attitudes which are neither a thing of the past nor only a feature of projects in far-flung parts of the world.

Mae'r erthygl yma yn Gymraeg ar dudalennau 6 a 7: "Eco-wladychiaeth a'n tir."

SAF Preliminary Check Letters issued

AS *Y Tir* went to press the Welsh Government had just issued SAF Preliminary Check Letters on farmers' RPW Online accounts where they believe errors may have been made on the SAF. Farmers have until July 20 to consider the information in the letters and respond to avoid potential penalties. Members are also reminded that if they do get any notifications from RPW Online during the year these should be checked immediately, as they may relate to important issues and failure to check them and respond could delay payments. Members should contact their County Office if any help is needed in responding to such notifications.

If we have published anything that is factually inaccurate, please contact the editor on 01970 820820 at ytir@fuw.org.uk or at FUW, Llys Amaeth, Plas Gogerddan, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3BT and once verified we will correct it here as soon as possible.

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

Golygydd/Editor: Nia Davies-Jones - ytir@fuw.org.uk

Golygydd y Gymraeg/Welsh Editor: Angharad Evans - angharad.evans@fuw.org.uk

Swyddog y Wasg UAC/FUW Press Officer: Anne Dunn - anne.dunn@fuw.org.uk

www.fuw.org.uk



Are you receiving our emails?

A guide to stop the FUW emails going into your Spam/Junk folder

WE have been emailing FUW members important updates and exclusive invitations recently. Covid-19 has seen the world being thrust into online communication. But it seems some of you aren't getting our emails. They could be sitting in your junk or spam folder. In some cases they might not be getting through to you at all due to your mail hosting security settings. Here are some tips you can do to make sure you don't miss FUW emails.

The easiest process followed by most mailbox providers is:

- Open an email from the sender you want to whitelist
- Click the from/sender address in the top of the email
- Click Add to contacts or Add to safe senders' list.

This process may vary slightly for every email client. We've listed down the steps for the main mailbox hosts.

Steps to add a sender address to address book

BT Internet

- From the **Settings** tab, select the **Safe senders'** folder and click on the **Add** button
- Add post@fuw.org.uk and click **Save**
- After a confirmation message the email address will be added to your list of safe senders



Gmail

- **Add the address to your contacts**
- Add post@fuw.org.uk to your Gmail Contacts
- Also - **Mark messages as 'Not spam'** if Gmail has marked emails you wish to receive as spam, tell Gmail the emails are not spam
- In Gmail, navigate to the spam folder
- Search for emails containing the address you wish to whitelist (eg post@fuw.org.uk)
- Select all the emails shown
- Click **More** and then **Not spam**



Hotmail

- Login to your Hotmail, click on the **Settings** icon at the top right side of the page, expand it and click on **More Mail Settings**
- Click on **Safe and blocked senders**
- Click **Safe Senders**
- Insert the email address you want to say is safe (post@fuw.org.uk)
- Then click **Add** to list



Call for British Wool Covid-19 support

THE FUW has written to Economy Minister, Ken Skates, following the news that British Wool has been denied Covid-19 support through the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CIBLS).

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to a significant drop in demand for wool as the global market for cross bred wool has been shut since February this year. The busiest selling period for GB and Welsh wool is between February and May each year and the impact of the coronavirus on wool sales has therefore been particularly acute.

In its letter, the FUW highlighted the impact that the closure of wool markets would have on the price received by sheep farmers for their wool and highlighted that sheep producers must still pay for this year's shearing costs.

FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman said: "The closure of normal wool markets has left British Wool with around one third of their wool stock unsold and this has had a direct impact on sheep producer incomes. This unsold stock not only detrimentally affects calculated wool values, which are payable for the 2019-20 balance, but also means that British Wool are unable to pay an advance for this season's wool."

Despite funding being made available to other wool purchasers, British Wool has failed to qualify for support as they have been classified as a public sector body.

"British Wool is wholly independent, self-funding and operates within a competitive market place. We believe that British Wool should have fully qualified for support under the CIBLS scheme or some other variation of Covid-19 support for businesses.

"Given the impact upon both the sector and upon primary producers, we have made our views known and have written to the Minister to call for a rethink on this funding decision," added Ian Rickman.

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If you are a landowner, an ICP, developer or community group and you need to discuss your requirements and the connection process, before making an actual application for a new connection to the network, please contact WPD on the relevant number below.

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South West & Wales:
0800 028 6229

wpdconnectappoint@westernpower.co.uk

Please mention that your enquiry is for **connection appointments** when you call.

For details of our operational area please visit our website www.westernpower.co.uk



Update from our Policy team

by Gareth Parry, FUW Policy Communications Officer

TODAY is day 90 of UK lockdown. Plans which will soon allow for non-essential shops to reopen, children to return to school and the abolishment of the 'stay local' rule show the first signs of a return to some semblance of normality. However, we must not forget that our farmers have continued to produce food during this pandemic and have done so despite concerns over issues such as the dry weather, veterinary provision and the increased use of footpaths.

For FUW staff in our virtual 'kitchen table' offices, the usual work streams relating to livestock and milk prices, advancements in animal health projects and even Brexit have continued despite the additional workstreams relating to Covid-19. Thankfully, the use of remote technology has allowed the kitchen table to be a great place to update our members on all of the work being done by the FUW during our virtual County meetings.

Pandemic or not, the recent spell of dry weather has - and will continue to - influence the remainder of this year's farming calendar. Since preparing evidence on the impact of dry weather for the Welsh Government-led Agriculture Resilience Group, many areas have now been fortunate enough to experience some rain. Nonetheless, the weather continues to be an important issue for FUW policy as the days of 'farming by calendar' have given way to farming despite unpredictable weather patterns. For those that normally, or more recently, have needed to extract water, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have prepared a dry weather advice document which can be requested by contacting NRW by email: drought.nrw@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Dry weather typically means plenty of sun and this has led to an increase in those using public footpaths. The past 12 weeks of lockdown have frustratingly seen incidents of gates being left open, dog attacks on livestock and dog fouling. Alongside its 'Your Dog, Your Responsibility' educational campaign, the FUW continues its lobbying for legislative changes to grant police better investigative and enforcement powers and to make the penalties fit the seriousness of the crime.



With much of the Unions attention being diverted to Covid-19 matters, it is also important to remember the tremendous work undertaken by our FUW County Staff. The past couple of months have seen a total of around 3,000 Single Application Forms (SAF) completed before the June 15 deadline. During this time, many questions have been raised regarding the future structure of farm payments in Wales.

Welsh Government have confirmed that the current process of SAF and paying farmers through BPS will remain in place for 2021. However, questions remain regarding those Glastir contract agreements ending this year.

Many of you will remember the FUW roadshows and meetings where Union Policy staff outlined the successive 'Brexit and our Land' (2018) and 'Sustainable Farming and our Land' (2019) consultations which outlined how Welsh Government proposes to replace the current Basic Payment Scheme (BPS).

The proposals outline a Sustainable Farming Scheme developed on the idea of paying farmers 'public money for public goods'. Despite the FUW raising concerns over the timing of these consultations in relation to Brexit, there remains a huge number of uncertainties when it comes to how the future scheme will be structured and implemented.

Nevertheless, a summary of responses to the latter consultation can now be viewed on the Welsh Government website and the FUW's initial response can be viewed at www.fuw.org.uk/en/policy/policy-reports

As a reminder, the UK Agriculture Bill is currently progressing through the House of Lords. An attempt to introduce a clause requiring that any agricultural or food product imported into the UK under a trade agreement be produced to animal health and welfare, plant health and environmental protection standards equivalent to those in the UK was opposed by the UK Government and defeated during the Third Reading of the Bill on May 13 2020.

In order to support our lobbying activity on this issue, we are urging you to go to the FUW website (fuw.org.uk/en/policy/contact-your-mp) to send the prepared letter to your local MP and representatives to press for the proposed clause to be introduced into the Agriculture Bill before it receives Royal Assent.

In addition to some of the most significant issues ever facing the farming sector in Wales, other 'business as usual' consultations continue and the FUW continues to distribute these to members through the website and county office structure.

Over the past 12 months, we have been developing the new website to make it easier to access important information such as Policy updates, news, committee meetings and consultation responses. Click the login button at the top of the homepage to see what there is to offer in Welsh and English.

You will have received guidance on how to login by email but if you have any problems please contact your local FUW county office staff.

Lords reflect key Union concerns in agri bill reading

FUW President Glyn Roberts has welcomed the fact that key concerns raised by the FUW in correspondence with members of the House of Lords were echoed by members across the political spectrum as the Agriculture Bill received its second reading in the house.

The bill - considered to be the most important piece of UK legislation in relation to food and farming for more than 70 years - includes a clause that would ensure imported organic food from an overseas country is produced to standards equivalent to those applicable in the UK.

However, an attempt to introduce a similar clause requiring that any agricultural or food product imported into the UK under a trade agreement be produced to animal health and welfare, plant health and environmental protection standards equivalent to those in the UK was opposed by the UK Government and defeated during the third reading of the bill in the House of Commons on May 13 2020.

In a letter to members of the House of Lords, FUW President Glyn Roberts said "This has hugely angered farmers and consumers alike, not least given that the UK Government has committed to such a principle in numerous statements, and that maintaining UK standards and protecting consumers, farmers and food producers from sub-standard imports has cross-party support.

"Moreover, support for the introduction of such a clause has united agricultural bodies, environmental and animal welfare groups in an unprecedented manner.

"It would be a sad indictment of the Brexit process and those who made numerous promises regarding protecting our markets and standards after the Withdrawal Period if the UK Parliament were to deliberately or inadvertently allow a lowering of current standards and instigate a 'race to the bottom' at a time when animal welfare, climate change, environmental and food safety issues are at the top of agendas across the globe," the letter stated.

Speaking after the reading, Mr Roberts said: "We very much welcome the fact that our concerns were reflected in speeches from across the political spectrum as well as from independent members of the House of Lords."

Mr Roberts also raised farmers and consumers' concerns in a recent meeting with DEFRA Secretary of State George Eustice, which he described as 'positive'.

Job losses would be major blow to rural economy

THE FUW has responded with dismay to the news that one of Wales' biggest food companies, Castell Howell which employs around 700 staff, is having to consider job cuts because of the drop in hospitality trade caused by the Covid-19 lockdown.

West Wales farmer and entrepreneur, Brian Jones, who formed Castell Howell Foods in the early 1980s, has previously been recognised for his services to agriculture with the Farmers' Union of Wales External award for services to agriculture.

Responding to the news, FUW Carmarthenshire Chairman Phil Jones, said: "Brian has done so much for agriculture and his passion for Wales as a food destination has been second to none. His commitment to do what is good for Wales as well as his Celtic Pride brand has always been an example of that.

"For the company to now face potential job losses because of Covid-19 is heartbreaking to say the least. The wider consequences for the rural economy, suppliers and staff could be drastic if no alternative can be found.

"We are hoping that this will be only a small blip in this company's future and that they can return to normality, increase their business growth as soon as possible and re-employ not just those that may have lost their jobs but many more.

"The consequences for the food service industry have been devastating and sadly Castell Howell have not been exempt. With this in mind we call on the Welsh Government to do all they can to assist the sector in recovering from the lockdown downturn as quickly as possible."

If you have an email address but are not currently receiving the FUW's member ebulletins and would like to, please contact gareth.parry@fuw.org.uk / 01970 629461

Crucial that we move with the times - We will create an on-line version of 'Y SIOE 2020'

by Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Chief Executive, Steve Hughson

MUCH has changed in the last year. Who would have thought, as we celebrated the 100th Royal Welsh Show that a worldwide pandemic would lead to the cancellation of the 2020 Royal Welsh Smallholding and Countryside Festival, Royal Welsh Show and pace the Winter Fair at risk.

Some have compared this crisis to 'Foot and Mouth' in 2001 and whilst I accept that was serious, this pandemic is much worse. In addition to our own events, all other planned events have been cancelled. The pandemic has affected everyone across all communities, with the tourism, leisure, hospitality and event sectors being among the worst affected. Events involving the 'mass gathering' of people were first to be affected by restrictions and will be last to recover.

As chair of the Mid Wales Tourism Forum, I have been proud to sit on the Welsh Government COVID-19 Tourism taskforce. With many agricultural businesses diversifying into tourism, I am delighted that the First Minister was able to announce the first steps to opening up 'self-catering' and venues without shared facilities, benefiting the rural economy. I also sit on the Event Wales working group, where the landscape is very different! The opening up of the major event sectors, involving sport, arts and culture seems a very long way off and worryingly is not really part of the current agenda.

This creates huge uncertainty within a sector that includes agricultural shows, which are an integral part of our rural communities. Shows of all sizes bring people together, creating that 'rural buzz' and an opportunity to showcase the very best Welsh produce and Livestock. Many feel that it will be at least the spring of 2021 before income streams start again. That presents a huge challenge, particularly for mental health. The support of our membership is crucial at this challenging time.

The Society has also taken advantage of the Government Job retention scheme, placing the majority of our staff on 'furlough'. Whilst we are extremely grateful for this and other Government support, on its own it will not be enough. The inevitable tapering of the 'furlough' payments, before any real prospect of income will create a gaping hole in our finances, which will be difficult to fill.

As an iconic Welsh Cultural event of National importance, we hope that the Welsh Government will support the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society in the same way as the support already given to Eisteddfod yr Urdd, the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, Llangollen Eisteddfod and Hay Festival. We only want fair treatment.

Looking to the future, we continue to see opportunity and must move with the times. We will create an on-line version of 'Y SIOE 2020', with content that will educate the public about agriculture and Welsh produce, facilitate the transfer of knowledge within the industry, provide entertainment and create nostalgia. We can't afford to sit still.

We hope you enjoy our on-line show, but most of all I hope to see you all on the Showground as soon as it is safe to do so. Cadwch yn ddiogel.



The busy FUW pavilion at past Royal Welsh Shows



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gan Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC

YN ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf, mae ffermwyr ac eraill yng Nghymru wedi dechrau defnyddio'r term 'eco-wladychiaeth' i ddisgrifio agweddau rhai unigolion ac elusennau tuag at y tir yr ydym wedi'i ffermio ers miloedd o flynyddoedd, yn enwedig wrth i'r mudiad ailwyltio dyfu mewn poblogrwydd a dylanwad, a phan mae pobl yn wirioneddol ddiog, maent weithiau hyd yn oed yn defnyddio'r term 'eco-ffasgaidd'.

Ar y 3ydd o Fehefin, cynhaliwyd trafodaeth banel fyw a drefnwyd gan y mudiad Ieuencid Gwrthryfel Difodiant (*Extinction Rebellion*) o'r enw *The Eco-Fascist History of Conservation* (ar gael i'w wyllo ar YouTube), ar y ffyrdd ysgytiol y mae mudiadau cadwraeth yn parhau i drin poblogaethau brodorol mewn sawl rhan o'r byd.

Ymhlith y siaradwyr roedd yr ecolegydd a'r awdur Dr Mordecai Ogada, a siaradodd am gadwraeth yn Kenya o'r 1950au hyd heddiw, a Stephen Corry a Fiore Longo o Survival International, elusen sy'n ymladd dros hawliau pobl frodorol ledled y byd.

Soniodd Ms Longo am deuluoedd yn y Congo yn cael eu bygwth a'u curo gan ddyddion arfog, bygythiad ar y fath raddfa yn arwain at y trigolion yn gadael pentrefi, ac un ddynes yn cael ei gorfodi i roi genedigiaeth yn y goedwig ar ôl ffoi o'i phentref i ddianc rhag yr erledigaeth.

Mae llawer mwy o straeon torcalonius o'r ardal yn cael eu cyflwyno mewn adroddiad Rhaglen Ddatblygu'r Cenhedloedd Unedig a ddatgelwyd i'r *Guardian* yn gynharach eleni, ond yr hyn sy'n syfrdanu llawer yw bod trais, bygwth, llosgi gwersylloedd coedwig a gwaeth yn eu cyflawni yn enw cadwraeth, a bod y gangiau arfog mewn gwirionedd yn ymddwyn fel 'eco-warchodlu', a thalwyd amdanynt yn rhannol gan y Gronfa Fyd-eang ar gyfer Natur (WWF).

Ni allai golygfeydd erchyll o'r fath fod ymhellach o gysur ein cartrefi yng Nghymru, ond bydd datganiad a roddwyd i'r Cenhedloedd Unedig gan un o'r bobl yr effeithiwyd arnynt yn dechrau adleisio ychydig o bethau i ni: "*Daeth WWF atom i ddweud eu bod nhw'n mynd i wneud parc newydd ac ni fydd gyda ni'r hawl i fynd iddo fwyach. Ond dyna ein coedwig ni ac nid ydym eisiau'r parc hwn.*"

A phan wrandewch ar yr hyn a ddywedodd Dr Ogada wrth gynulleidfa'r Gwrthryfel Difodiant am agwedd wladychol cadwraethwyr a chyrrff cadwraeth yn Kenya, mae'r darlun yn dechrau edrych yn fwy cyfarwydd: "*Gêm o bŵer yw hyn, meddai. "Pan fyddwch chi'n dod o hyd i bobl sy'n arbenigwyr ar gynhyrchu da byw ar hyn o bryd a'ch bod chi'n tynnu da byw allan o'r sefyllfa, rydych chi'n mynd a'u pŵer nhw ac yn creu dibyniaeth [ar dwristiaeth], sef nod cadwraeth ar hyn o bryd.*"

Mae Dr Ogada hefyd yn tynnu sylw at y ffaith "*Mae'r argyfwng Coronafirws yr ydym yn mynd drwyddo ar hyn o bryd wedi datgelu'r chwedl bod twristiaeth yn sail ddilys ar gyfer cadwraeth. Nid oes yna unrhyw dwristiaid nawr, ac mae'r cymunedau brodorol sydd wedi cynnal bywoliaeth megis bugeiliaeth neu amaethyddiaeth yn hapus braf, ond mae'r rhai sydd bellach yn rhan o'r microcoloniau hyn a elwid yn warchodfeydd bywyd gwyllt yn dibynnu'n sydyn iawn ar gymorth bywyd.*"

Ac i gloi, dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Rhyngwladol Survival, Stephen Corry: "*Mae'n gwaethygu mewn gwirionedd ... Ac mae'n frwydr sydd nid yn unig yn*



cynnwys carfan o bobl a phobloedd frodorol yn unig. Mae'r sefydliadau cadwraeth mawr eisiau troi 30% o'r byd yn ardaloedd gwarchoddedig. Dywedant wnelo hyn â newid yn yr hinsawdd a bioamrywiaeth. Mewn gwirionedd bydd yn cael yr effaith hollol i'r gwrthwyneb ... Bydd yn drychineb llwyr. Bydd yn golygu troi degau o filynau o bobl allan o'u cartrefi. Byddai'n dod â newyn eang...

"Mae'r holl leoedd hyn, gan gynnwys y rhai sy'n ymddangos fel y rhai mwyaf gwyllt, mewn gwirionedd yn greadigaethau dynol

a grëwyd dros filoedd o flynyddoedd. Mae gwastadeddau glaswellt Dwyrain Affrica yn ganlyniad miloedd o flynyddoedd o fugeiliaeth gan y bobl leol, felly nid yw'r hyn a welwn fel natur wyllt yn bodoli...

"Rydym yn sôn am arian mawr fan hyn. Pam bod nhw eisiau gwneud hyn? Pam bod nhw eisiau gwrthio 30% o'r ardaloedd gwarchoddedig hyn? Mae'n ymwneud yn bennaf ag arian, pŵer a rheolaeth ar dir. Gallant werthu cytundebau carbon ... edrychwch ar y byrddau sy'n rheoli'r pethau hyn - daw pawb o'r diwydiannau llygrol mawr ac ar y lefel honno nid oes a wnelo o gwbl â chadwraeth."

"... daw amser pan fydd pobl yn cael digon ac yn dweud, "digon yw digon."

Yng Nghymru, rydym yn mwynhau hawliau, systemau cyfreithiol a breintiau all y mwyafrif o bobl frodorol ledled y byd ond breuddwydio amdanynt, ond mae agweddau mawreddog, diystyriol, gwladychol ac weithiau senoffobig rhai amgylcheddwyr a chyrrff amgylcheddol y cyfeirir atynt gan y siaradwyr yn gyfarwydd iawn i ni - ac yn sicr nid oes prinder pobl sydd, er bod nhw'n byw cannoedd neu hyd yn oed filoedd o filltiroedd i ffwrdd, â chynlluniau dwys o ran sut y dylid newid ein bywydau a'n tirweddau yn llwyr i wneud lle i'w fersiwn nhw o gadwraeth a datrys y broblem o newid yn yr hinsawdd.

Wrth feddwl am gymuned yn cyrraedd "*amser pan fydd pobl yn cael digon ac yn dweud, "digon yw digon"* ac yn dangos y gallwn ni yng Nghymru herio a newid y prosiectau hyn, nid oes enghraifft well na'r hyn a ddigwyddodd yn ardal prosiect helaeth O'r Mynydd i'r Môr o gwmpas Pumlumon y llynedd.

Bydd darllenwyr Y Tir yn cofio mai O'r Mynydd i'r Môr oedd cynllun blaenllaw Rewilding Britain a lansiwyd ym mis Hydref 2018, a oedd yn anelu at ailwyltio ar raddfa na welwyd erioed o'r blaen yng Mhrydain, gan greu 'ardaloedd craidd' yn cefnogi "*twristiaeth a hamdden effaith isel*" a fyddai'n ehangu dros amser (neu fel y disgrifiodd Dr Ogada, 'microcoloniau').

Targedodd y prosiect, a oedd hefyd yn anelu at ddylanwadu a newid polisi cymorth Llywodraeth Cymru ar ôl Brexit o blaid ailwyltio, tua 160,000 erw o dir yn Sir Drefaldwyn a Ceredigion, ardal a glustnodwyd gan George Monbiot fel un lle y dylai amgylchedd gwyllt gymryd lle ffermio yn ei lyfr *Feral*, yn ôl yn 2013 (ers hynny mae Monbiot yn hyrwyddo bywyd sy'n cael ei dyfu mewn labordy er mwyn cymryd lle ffermio).

Felly nid oedd fawr o syndod bod y cais gwreiddiol am gyllid ar gyfer y prosiect O'r Mynydd i'r Môr wedi'i anfon o gyfeiriad cartref George Monbiot yn Rhydychen, yn enw *Rewilding Britain*, elusen yr oedd yn allweddol wrth ei sefydlu, a'i bartner yn Brif Weithredwr ohono.

CORNEL CLECS

Parhad gwahanol i'r 'sioe'

gan Angharad Evans, Golygydd y Gymraeg

I NIFER fawr ohonoch fel ninnau, mae haf 2020 yn dipyn gwahanol i'r arfer - yn dawelach. Erbyn hyn mi fyddai'r tri ohonom yma wedi bod yn arddangos mewn oleiaf tair sioe leol, a'r calendr yn go lawn o sioeau arall yn ymestyn dros yr haf. Ond nid felly eleni, wrth i ni gyd wynebu 'normal' newydd a hynny heb rai o ddigwyddiadau mwyaf arwyddocaol y calendr amaethyddol yng Nghymru.

Ond mae'r diwydiant amaethyddol wedi profi'i hunan mor addasol ag erioed. Rhwydd iawn byddai dweud 'fyddwn nôl flwyddyn nesaf', ond yn hytrach, mae nifer o ddigwyddiadau wedi dewis peidio ildio'n llwyr i Covid-19, ac wedi chwilio am ffyrdd arall o weithredu, a hynny'n ddigidol. Ond er bod hyn yn torri tir newydd, ac yn ysgafnhau ychydig ar y sefyllfa anghyffredin bresennol, a'i dyma ddyfodol ein sioeau'n llwyr?

Er bod technoleg yn datblygu'n gyflym, a bron iawn unrhyw beth yn bosib, yn bersonol nid wyf yn meddwl bod modd i unrhyw dechnoleg gymryd lle'r sioe draddodiadol yn llwyr, ac yn sicr ddim yr elfen gymdeithasol sy'n hanfodol ac yn allweddol i lwyddiant unrhyw sioe, boed yn fach lleol, neu'n genedlaethol enfawr.

O fod yn sefyll mewn caeau sioe, penwythnos ar ôl penwythnos, weithiau dwywaith mewn wythnos dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf, mae arwyddocâd y sioeau bach lleol a'r ffordd maent yn rhan o fframwaith amaethyddiaeth yn ei gyfanrwydd yn amlwg. Dyma ffermio a'r gymdeithas amaethyddol ar ei gorau.

Wrth reddf ac yn naturiol, mae pobl yn cymryd diddordeb mewn pobl arall, nid i fod yn



fusneslyd, ond i rannu baich, syniadau, rhoi'r byd yn ei le a thynnu coes. Dyna le mae sioeau amaethyddol yn darparu llwyfan i bawb ddod ynghyd i gymdeithasu, yn enwedig rhai cyntaf y tymor, y diwrnod cyntaf allan i nifer wedi cyfnod hir o wyna. Mae teuluoedd cyfan yn cyd-dynnu er mwyn paratoi a chystadlu a daw cymunedau o sawl ardal at ei gilydd.

Er gwaethaf siom pawb na fydd sioeau'n cael eu cynnal eleni, mae pawb ymhob man yn cefnogi penderfyniad pwyllgorau gwirfoddol, pob sioe ar hyd a lled Cymru, y mwyafrif llethol wedi gorfod gwneud un o'r penderfyniadau anoddaf i ganslo'r digwyddiadau yma sy'n hanfodol i'n diwydiant, diwylliant a'n heconomi leol. Mae pawb yn gwerthfawrogi bod dim dewis arall ac yn cydnabod difrifoldeb y clefyd yma sy'n rhemp ar draws y byd ar hyn o bryd.

Ond, er bod y sefyllfa'n ymddangos yn ansicr iawn ar hyn o bryd, rwy'n sicr o un peth, mi ddaw cyfle eto i gystadlu, cefnogi, cymdeithasu a mwynhau sioeau a phob

digwyddiad amaethyddol arall. Mae'r sioeau wedi bod trwy lawer, rhyfeloedd ac afiechydon anifeiliaid ac wedi goroesi i'w llwyddiant presennol.

Felly, er ein bod ar wahân ar hyn o bryd, mi ddaw cyfle eto i ni gyd fod gyda'n gilydd, nôl yn y sioeau ac yn mwynhau popeth sydd yn cyfrannu cymaint at eu llwyddiant. Ond yn y cyfamser, pob llwyddiant i barhad gwahanol y 'sioe'.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "The 'show' must go on."

parhau o dudalen 6

Roedd hi'n amlwg iawn i drigolion yr ardal o'r cychwyn cyntaf mae fersiwn o'r cynlluniau eithafol a ddisgrifiwyd yn llyfr Monbiot oedd y prosiect, O'r Mynydd i'r Môr, a phan ddaeth yn amlwg i Owen Pritchard, aelod o gangen UAC Sir Gaernarfon bod y cyllid ar gyfer y prosiect yn deillio o Arcadia - elusen a sefydlwyd gan y biliwnydd Lisbet Rausing, sydd hefyd wedi sefydlu ac yn Gyfarwyddwr Anweithredol o *Ingleby Farms and Forests* sy'n cynhyrchu 61,000 o ŵyn a 300-400 tunnelli o wllan ar ffermydd yn Seland Newydd ac Awstralia yn flynyddol - daeth y gymuned amaethyddol leol at ei gilydd er mwyn gwrthwynebu'r cynlluniau.

Yn dilyn cyfarfod yn yr ardal ym mis Gorffennaf y llynedd, a fynychwyd gan fwy na 100 o bobl leol, a sefydlu Cymunedau Oil Pumlumon a'r Ardal (COPA) wedi hynny i wrthwynebu'r cynlluniau, y canlyniad

"Mae'n rhaid i'n gwleidyddion a'n grwpiau amgylcheddol ddechrau fod yn ymwybodol o agweddau gwladychol o fewn cylchoedd eu hunain - agweddau sydd ddim yn perthyn i'r gorffennol nac yn nodwedd o brosiectau mewn rhannau pellennig o'r byd yn unig."

terfynol yw bod *Rewilding Britain* wedi gadael y prosiect a newidiodd agwedd ac arweinyddiaeth y prosiect yn sylweddol sydd wedi'i groesawu gan y grŵp.

Roedd ymadawiad *Rewilding Britain* yn fuddugoliaeth fawr i'r gymuned leol, ond gyda'r bartneriaeth bellach yn cynnwys neb llai na'r Gronfa Fyd-eang ar gyfer Natur (WWF), does dim amheuaeth y bydd y grŵp yn parhau i fod yn wylidwrs.

A pheidiwch ag anghofio, mor bwysig oedd y fuddugoliaeth, ei bod yn dod yn erbyn cefndir o bwysau enfawr a chyson gan unigolion a sefydliadau i newid tirweddau a disodli pobl a gweithgareddau traddodiadol â syniadau trefol o anialwch - pwysau sy'n bodoli yn y DU, yn union fel sydd yn Affrica a rhannau eraill o'r byd.

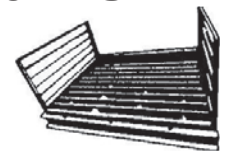
Nid yw'n gyfrinach chwaith fod yr awydd am gynlluniau o'r fath mor gyffredin yn lefelau uwch llywodraeth â'r lobiwyr amgylcheddol pwerus sy'n eu hannog, a gellir gweld awgrymiadau o'r archwaeth hyn mewn nifer o ddogfennau polisi'r llywodraeth a gyhoeddwyd yng Nghymru a Lloegr.

Mae yna dystiolaeth hyd yn oed o agweddau gwladychol amlwg a ddylai fod wedi marw allan yn y 19eg Ganrif: Mewn neges Drydar yn gynharach eleni yn ymwneud â gweithredoedd pobl leol yn ardal O'r Mynydd i'r Môr, cyfeiriodd aelod o Fwrdd Defra, Ben Goldsmith, at "... carfan fach o droliau yng Nghymru sydd wedi bod yn rhedeg o gwmpas yn swnian at ASau, a Duw a wyr pwy arall, bod gan rywun y beiddgarwch i gwestiynu'r ffordd y maent yn gweld pethau", a arweiniodd at UAC yn galw am ymddiswyddiad Mr Goldsmith.

Mae grŵp COPA - sy'n mynd ati i hyrwyddo a chefnogi cadwraeth fel rhan, nid yn lle, o dirwedd ffermio - wedi dangos y gallwn ymladd yn ôl yn effeithiol, ac yng Nghymru rydym yn ddigon ffodus i beidio â gorfod gwneud hyn trwy herio lluoedd arfog y telir amdanynt gan elusennau amgylcheddol. Ond mae'n rhaid i'n gwleidyddion a'n grwpiau amgylcheddol ddechrau fod yn ymwybodol o agweddau gwladychol o fewn cylchoedd eu hunain - agweddau sydd ddim yn perthyn i'r gorffennol nac yn nodwedd o brosiectau mewn rhannau pellennig o'r byd yn unig.

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Here for you during these unprecedented times

by Mark Williams, Life Consultant, FUW Insurance Services Ltd

WE are living in unprecedented times! Usually we have people or institutions to draw upon for their experiences and lessons learned, but this time there are none.

There are different levels of emotions that we are individually going through, depending on where we live and what we do for a living. We think about how people are coping whether they have themselves been infected or have had family members or friends that have contracted the virus. It's difficult to imagine.

The last few weeks have been a lot to cope with, for all of us. Our world has been turned upside down and even as we hope for improvement will the future reflect the past? These are some of the emotional issues that we have and continue to face as well as financial things that should not be ignored.

Many people are struggling with finances at this time, companies and businesses have been shut down overnight. The extent of this and of any subsequent recovery will only be revealed in the fullness of time. There are also the financial implications of people being infected by the virus, being sick, and being unable to work. These are all real and genuine concerns and finally, there are, as the news reports have highlighted day after day, those who have died as a result of the virus.

The past few months have made us all more aware of our mortality. No one wants to think of themselves becoming ill or dying, it's human nature to think of ourselves as invincible. At the very least I expect to live into my late eighties and with good health to match. However, hope needs to be tempered by reality and Covid-19 has, if nothing else, made us all reconsider our assumptions.

Bad things happen and we can't stop that. However, we can and should take steps to take care of ourselves and our loved ones, financially, if we were to become ill or die.

There are products that can replace our income if we were unable to work due to illness. There are options which can be considered to secure the financial position of our families if we were to die, whether through the provision of a future income or a lump sum payment.

I ask myself the question, and I think you should too, "If something was to happen to me today, how would my family cope financially tomorrow?" At a time like this it might be worth your while to talk to FUW Insurance Services Ltd, we can provide independent advice on options that are suitable for you and your family so that even if the worst was to happen, you and your dependents would be secured financially.



Life Insurance

Most people don't want to think about what will happen when they're no longer around, but it's an important consideration when planning for the future of your loved ones

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More than worrying - We need real change to stop dog attacks on livestock



THE Covid-19 virus has seen both novel and traditional users of the countryside attempt to ease lockdown boredom by visiting beauty spots. Alongside those pandemic specific issues which have affected farming in Wales over the last few months, it remains a sad and frustrating fact that irresponsible dog ownership continues to blight livestock production in Wales.

Despite tremendous industry investment in educational tools and campaigns, many members of the public remain oblivious to the damage that is caused when dogs chase or attack livestock. Worse still are the repeat offenders that completely disregard the emotional, financial and welfare consequences that occur when livestock are the victims of a dog attack.

As a Union, we have taken the decision to move away from the term 'livestock worrying' as such a term cannot begin to convey the seriousness of the offense to members of the public and we continue to educate dog walkers on the importance of keeping dogs on a lead near livestock. However, whilst previous campaigns have concentrated heavily on educating dog walkers, data from North Wales police shows that around 80% of attacks actually occur by dogs that have escaped from the home environment due to absent owners or insufficient boundaries.

This data has helped the FUW expand its public messaging and last year we started the 'Your dog, Your responsibility' campaign which widened the message to respecting the countryside, picking up after your dog, keeping dogs on a lead near livestock and making sure that dogs don't escape from home.

Disappointingly, and despite tremendous effort, it remains a fact that education without suitable deterrents will never solve the problem. There are currently four laws that can be used when examining dog attacks on livestock, however all are antiquated and remain completely unfit for purpose.

For example, the 1953 Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act was introduced before DNA could be extracted from a sample and it therefore does not give police forces the power to obtain DNA samples from suspect dogs.

Given that most dog attacks occur in fields with no witnesses, providing police with the power to investigate these crimes is imperative. It is also true that the current laws do not allow for penalties which fit the seriousness of the crime; nor do they allow for adequate compensation for farmers.

On a more positive note, the interest in dog attacks on livestock continues to gain momentum and figures for Wales show that there has been an overall decrease in attacks. Nevertheless, one attack is one too many and only time will tell if the recent decline turns into a longer term trend.

The FUW continues to press for legislative change and we continue to raise this issue at the highest levels. Our list of demands is both clear and simple and can be found above right.

The FUW wants:

- Mandatory recording of dog attacks on livestock by all Welsh police forces (in order to get a true record of the problem)
- Changes to the current limited and outdated fines - currently in Wales it is a non imprisonable offense with a maximum fine of up to £1,000
- Fines levied on offenders should be proportionate and should allow for full compensation to farmers
- Police forces granted the power to obtain DNA samples from suspect dogs
- Powers to confiscate dogs.
- Legal responsibility for dog owner to report an attack within 24 hours to prevent badly injured sheep being left to suffer
- Failure to report an attack should be an offence
- Power to ban an owner from owning another dog
- Powers of dog destruction after conviction with the 1953 act.

Other proposals include:

- A change to the definition of 'arable land' as attacks are only enforceable on arable land and if a farmer is moving sheep between fields on a public highway the legislation is not valid
- A wider definition of 'livestock' is also needed as certain animals, such as deer, llamas and alpacas, are not covered by the 1953 act
- There also needs to be a proper definition of 'under close control' as it applies to dogs being walked near livestock

Whilst there is not one quick fix, it is an affront to Welsh farming that the law remains so ridiculously inadequate and we will continue to lobby until real change has been made.



Gofynnwch i ffrind, aelod o'ch teulu neu gymydog i ymuno a'r Undeb a byddwn yn anfon £40 i chi fel diolch!

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Po fwyaf o aelodau sydd gennym, y cryfaf yw ein llais.

Ask your friend, family or neighbour to join the Union and we'll send you £40 as a thank you!

In our 2019 membership survey 85% of members said they were very satisfied with the services of the Union so why not suggest others to join?

The more members we have, the stronger our voice is.

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#FarmingMatters

A focus on: Stress

'THESE are stressful times', 'I feel stressed', 'You are stressing me', 'This is very stressful' - these are very common phrases. We use them and hear them a lot. But what does stress actually mean, how can we spot the signs and most important of all - what can we do about it?

We know what it's like to feel stressed, but it's not so easy to pin down exactly what stress means. Are we talking about a situation or event that has put pressure on us, or do we mean our reaction to being placed under pressure?

Most of us will agree that being under pressure is a normal part of life. It can help us take action, feel more energised and get results. But if we become overwhelmed by stress frequently, it could become a problem.



What are the signs of stress?

How you might feel:

Irritable, aggressive, impatient or wound up
Over-burdened
Anxious, nervous or afraid
Like your thoughts are racing and you can't switch off
Unable to enjoy yourself
Depressed
Uninterested in life
Like you've lost your sense of humour
A sense of dread
Worried about your health
Neglected or lonely

How you might behave:

Finding it hard to make decisions
Constantly worrying
Avoiding situations that are troubling you
Snapping at people
Biting your nails
Picking at your skin
Unable to concentrate
Eating too much or too little
Smoking or drinking alcohol more than usual
Restless, like you can't sit still
Being tearful or crying

How you might be physically affected:

Shallow breathing or hyperventilating
Muscle tension
Blurred eyesight or sore eyes
Problems getting to sleep, staying asleep or having nightmares
Tired all the time
Grinding your teeth or clenching your jaw
Headaches
Chest pains
High blood pressure
Indigestion or heartburn
Constipation or diarrhoea
Feeling sick, dizzy or fainting



What causes stress?

Feelings of stress are normally triggered by things happening in our life which involve being under lots of pressure, facing big changes, worrying about something, not having much or any control over the outcome of a situation, having responsibilities that we're finding overwhelming, not having enough work, activities or change in our life and times of uncertainty.

There might be one big thing causing you stress, but stress can also be caused by a build-up of small pressures. This might make it harder to identify what's making you feel stressed, or to explain it to other people.

Did someone move the brush or used the last gloves in the milking parlour, or is the drive shaft broken and the cow has started calving at the same time?

What can be done about it?

Yes, a little stress can be good for us, but if you're in the red zone a lot, it's worth sorting out how to overcome it. Working out what triggers stress for you can help you anticipate problems and think of ways to solve them. Even if you can't avoid these situations, **being prepared can help**.

If you flew off the handle, it's worth asking yourself if the response was appropriate. **Take some time to reflect** on events and feelings that could be contributing to your stress. You might be surprised to find out just how much you're coping with at once.

Maybe you can **turn the volume down on what's stressing you** - too much time on social media and dealing with technology, the news etc. We might feel stressed and overwhelmed by having too many things to do and think about at the same time.

For some, **time management** is a big stress factor. Making a list of things you have to do and focus on the most urgent first should help with that.

For farmers the advice '**don't to do too much at once**' might seem laughable but if you take on too much, you might find it harder to do any individual task well. This can make many of us feel like we have even more pressure on us.

Take breaks and take things slowly. It might be difficult to do this when you're stressed, but it can actually make you more productive.

And last but not least - **ask someone if they can help**. If you feel like everything is crashing down on you and aren't coping, please remember to 'Share the Load'.

Source: Mind.org.uk

Samaritans: 116 123
or Welsh Language Line
(Llinell Gymraeg): 0808
164 0123

DPJ Foundation:
Call 0800
587 4262 / Text
07860 048799

Mind Cymru: Call
0300 123 3393, email:
info@mind.org.uk /
Text 86463

FCN:
03000
111 999

RABI:
0808 281
9490

Tir Dewi:
0800 121
4722



How I cope with stress from the office

FUW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright

Do you know when you're stressed?

Not immediately - it can take a while to recognise that I'm stressed. Normally my husband recognises it before I do.

What are the signs of stress for you?

I start to mull over things that would never normally bother me. This can include replaying conversations from particularly arduous meetings or finding it difficult to let go of things that have annoyed me.

What stresses you?

Generally not the big things. I thrive on busy workloads and enjoy pressure working. However, I can get stressed when I feel that there are too many little jobs piling up and I can't seem to get the time to do them.

How do you manage the stress?

If it is work related I make lists to reorganise my brain and stop it from randomly jumping from one task to another. This helps declutter my thinking and helps me focus on getting things done.

Do you proactively manage your stress?

Yes, but probably unintentionally. I love to craft and I'm a huge fan of cross stitch and embroidery. I sew for several hours almost every night and find the repetitiveness very relaxing; especially after a day where the meetings have been 'aggressively constructive'!



Farm Support spreading across Wales

TIR DEWI, the Farm Support Charity is planning to launch its service for farmers into Powys, Anglesey, Gwynedd and Conwy this summer. Their current team of volunteers have supported over 200 farmers and their families in Dyfed in recent years. They have helped with a wide range of issues including the effects of isolation, the burden of administration, financial pressures and the sheer weight and complexity of farming work.

Elen Skyrme, who is leading the launch into Powys for Tir Dewi said: "We recently ran a survey of farmers and every farmer who responded said that there was a need for more support. It was clear that there is no single issue, and therefore, no single solution. Tir Dewi volunteers work with farmers, whatever their problem to help them find their solution."

Another interesting conclusion from the survey is that 2/3 of farmers are reluctant to ask for help as they are concerned about confidentiality, embarrassment, or shame.

"Farmers are naturally concerned about their reputation in a community where almost everyone knows each other. Tir Dewi provides a truly confidential service and will never judge a farmer on their circumstances. We are here to help," said Gareth Davies, CEO of Tir Dewi.



Can you Help?

Tir Dewi is looking for volunteers to join their team in Powys and North Wales. Volunteers can offer as much or as little time as they like. Training and support will be provided. If you feel that you can help or want to know more, please contact: volunteering@tirdewi.co.uk

My view of stress on the farm yard

FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman

Do you know when you're stressed?

I guess not initially, until I realise I'm worrying more.

What are the signs of stress for you?

Starting to worry about the amount of work that needs to be done on the farm and the lack of time to get things done. Becoming more irritable and short tempered.

What stresses you?

At certain times of year there's lots to do, shearing, routine vaccinations, silage, reseeding etc. Often the weather dictates what can be done and the jobs can pile up.

How do you manage the stress?

I try to prioritise the work to be done, accept that I can't do everything and that some things such as the weather are out of my control.

Do you proactively manage your stress?

I try to. I switch off the phone so there's less distraction. I always feel better once I've ticked off some of the jobs on the list. I try to put things in perspective, for example, talking to neighbours in the mart, when you realise that the problems are not exclusive to you or switching off for a few hours watching rugby.



Menter Moch Cymru

Developing the pig sector in Wales
Datblygu'r sector moch yng Nghymru

Mae Menter Moch Cymru yn gweithio gyda phob rhan o'r gadwyn gyflenwi i gefnogi a datblygu'r sector moch yng Nghymru.

- Sesiynau Hyfforddiant Am Ddim
- Grantiau ar gyfer Cynlluniau Iechyd y Genfaint
- Teithiau Astudio
- Cefnogaeth Marchnata a Hyrwyddo
- Cefnogaeth i Newydd Ddyfodiaid
- Tafenni Ffeithiau ac Adnoddau

Menter Moch Cymru works with all parts of the supply chain to support and develop the pig sector in Wales.

- Free Training Sessions
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- Study Tours
- Marketing and Promotional Assistance
- New Entrant Support
- Factsheets and Resources



mentermochcymru@menterabusnes.co.uk
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Brexit - key events and potential

by Anne Dunn, FUW Press Officer

From the beginning

Long before 2016 the FUW was discussing the possibility of an EU referendum and our fears that it would lead to the loss of farm support and cheap food imports. In the months running up to the referendum we met with the then Prime Minister, David Cameron, and highlighted that we want to remain part of the EU and that contingency plans for a potential Brexit were vital and needed to be drawn up quickly.

We highlighted that access to EU markets, especially for lamb, is vital to Welsh agriculture; argued that if the UK votes for Brexit then we need a level playing field for the UK Nations, a realistic timetable for negotiations and a smooth transition. The Union stressed that the prospect of free trade deals with countries such as New Zealand and the US and losing continental markets as a result of a 'hard Brexit' would be a perfect storm for Welsh Agriculture, and that a transition period of at least 10 years is necessary to phase in new agricultural policies post-Brexit.

We have been relentless in arguing that agricultural support should reflect levels which would have been in place if the UK had voted to remain and from the outset called for urgent economic modelling work to be carried out, following an admission by the Department for Exiting the European Union that the UK Government has done no work on crashing out of the EU with 'no deal'.

Getting closer - or so we thought

With everything up for grabs we renewed our call for clarity on rural funding for Wales, following a keynote Brexit speech in 2018 by then Secretary of State Michael Gove.

The FUW stressed that certainty was needed over critical concerns specific to Wales, but with just thirteen months to go there was still no clarity over the post Brexit funding formula through which Wales would receive its allocation for agriculture and rural development, or how this would be protected to prevent distortion between the devolved nations.

2018 saw the launch of our 'Fair Farm Funding' campaign, highlighting the urgent need for the UK Government to clarify funding for the sector in Wales. Its aim was to secure fair funding for farmers in Wales after leaving the EU, ensuring the industry does not receive less than it did before the UK left the European Union, insisting that funding for farming should not be subject to the Barnett Formula.

In July 2018 we published our detailed 'Filling the Void' report, highlighting the need for a range of legal and financial frameworks to prevent market distortion and

unfair competition between farmers in different parts of the UK - an issue which is only now being woken up to by many politicians.

The FUW told the second Prime Minister to have Brexit in their portfolio, Theresa May, at the Royal Welsh Show 2018, that seeking an extension to the Article 50 period must be a priority if a hard Brexit in April 2019 becomes likely - a request she refused to consider at the time. We made it clear that the consequences of a hard Brexit would be so extreme for our industries, including farming, and for the economy of the country as a whole that it should not be allowed to happen.

Towards the end of that year we reiterated the Union's view that the best way to minimise disruption and economic damage to agriculture and other industries is to remain within the Common Market and the Customs Union after leaving the EU.

There could be no doubt in our minds - anything that falls short of that would bring with it obstacles in terms of trade and other issues, with inevitable consequences for our industry and economy.

The draft withdrawal agreement may have been a step in the right direction away from the abyss, but it was impossible to tell whether that step would have been significant enough.

Facing the Cliff edge the first time round

At the end of 2018, we then threw our weight behind an amendment to the UK Government's EU withdrawal deal motion aimed at giving greater protection against the UK leaving the EU without some form of solid framework for the future UK-EU relationship. The amendment, tabled by Labour MP Hilary Benn and signed by both Labour and Conservative MPs, was supported unanimously by FUW standing and county committee chairmen during a special meeting held at the start of December that year.

Nobody was left under any illusion as to what a hard Brexit would mean for our industry when at the FUW's twentieth annual Welsh Assembly farmhouse breakfast in January 2019, President Glyn Roberts warned that the disastrous impacts of leaving the EU, the Customs Union and Single Market on March 29 2019 were already being felt.

"The impact will hit home more and more over the coming weeks: Contracts will be lost, prices will be affected and Welsh businesses will suffer," he told those present.

Just a few weeks later, farmers and others reliant on agriculture for their income were increasingly frustrated with the lack of clarity on the UK's exit from the EU and desperate for stability to continue running their businesses.

Our lobbying continued and we spoke to key figures in the European Commission and Parliament about Brexit and implications and highlighted the worries and concerns of our farmers at the St David's Day reception at 10 Downing Street.

In March 2019 we renewed calls for Article 50 to be revoked to allow the UK to 'take back control' of the Brexit timetable in order to deliver a smooth Brexit that did not threaten millions of livelihoods. A report by capital markets think tank New Financial estimated that banks were moving around £800bn in assets as a result of Brexit, and that this and other moves by financial firms could reduce UK tax receipts by 1%.

Also in March came the UK Government's publication of draft post-Brexit tariff rates that would have meant food imports attracting tariffs which were a fraction of the rates we would have to pay to export to the EU and elsewhere - a proposal reiterated in October 2019 but which has since been revised to reflect FUW concerns (see front page).

In addition to slamming the tariff rates and pointing out they played straight into the hands of foreign negotiating teams, we asked for clarification after the UK Treasury claimed 'the UK's temporary import tariffs will...not apply to goods crossing from Ireland into Northern Ireland' - something that appears to fly in the face of World Trade Organisation rules.



We've left the EU - and faced Covid-19 - what about this deal?

Fast forward to January 2020; with a new Government in place backed by a significant Conservative majority, a slightly amended version of Theresa May's original EU Withdrawal agreement was accepted by Parliament, paving the way for the UK to leave the EU while remaining within the Customs Union and Single Market until December 31 2020 - and starting an 11-month race against the clock to sort out the future EU-UK relationship.

In late February, a leaked email written by UK Treasury adviser Dr Tim Leunig claiming the UK could follow the example of Singapore 'which is rich without having its own agricultural sector' caused outrage in the media and within farming circles.

Within a few weeks, UK consumers had their first real experience of food shortages and empty shelves since World War II, and by the beginning of April Singapore had announced new measures to accelerate local food production as disruption of global food supply chains started to hit home.

Not surprisingly, the importance of food security was referred to repeatedly during the third reading of the Agriculture Bill in Parliament on Wednesday May 13 - the first such reading to be carried out under Parliament's new coronavirus lockdown 'hybrid' proceedings and electronic voting process.

With food security now more in the limelight than ever, Labour's Shadow Environment Secretary Luke Pollard described the Bill as an 'odd beast' given it 'nearly entirely omits food, and therefore doesn't even begin to solve all the problems that the virus has both caused, and revealed'.

The need to prevent imports from countries with animal welfare, environmental and other production standards that would not be legal in the UK became a rallying cry for opposition parties and some Tory backbenchers, and a change to the Bill correcting this position received cross-party support - but the motion was defeated by the Government and the Bill is now being considered by the House of Lords.

Meanwhile, comments from many government supporters about the 'advantages' of opening up our markets to such sub-standard imports echo precisely the FUW's concerns raised years before the EU Referendum about what could follow Brexit.

outcomes in the coming months

So where are we now?

The UK is set to complete its exit from the EU in a little over five months, by which time it's predicted that the pandemic will have caused the biggest recession seen since at least the Second World War.

Every credible analysis - including the Government's own - predicts harder forms of Brexit will cause significant additional damage to the economy.

The UK Government's rhetoric around sticking to the December 2020 withdrawal date and being prepared to walk away without an EU trade deal is alarming, not only for agriculture but also a host of other UK industries - many of which are already holding on by the skin of their teeth.

Meanwhile, trade negotiations with the US have started, and other nations and trading blocs are in the pipeline. Playing hardball in negotiations with the EU and refusing to consider an emergency extension will weaken our hand and play straight into the hands of the US and others.

With a majority of MP's having voted to oppose amendments that would have protected farmers and consumers from trade deals allowing foreign sub-standard products onto our markets, our agriculture sector and food security are now open to additional post-Brexit dangers. And that at a time when the population has just woken up to the dangers of food shortages.

Adding to such concerns of food security is a recent report published in the journal *Nature Food*, which concludes that Britain relies on 'frictionless trade' to feed itself and that 'disruption in Europe could lead to certain shortages'.

It further says that the UK has become 'dangerously dependent' on for example, imported fruit and vegetables from a small number of European countries, importing almost half of its food and 84% of it is fresh fruit.

This dependence, moreover, relies on the frictionless trade, which the single market provides. The degree to which this dependence can be sustained after Brexit is the point at issue.

Potential trade deal with the US puts strong focus on need for tariffs and standards

At the start of June more details emerged of trade negotiations with the US, which would see the UK allowing imports such as chlorinated chicken and hormone treated beef amongst other produce. The caveat being that high tariffs would be imposed on cheaply-produced food to minimise the impact on UK farmers.

The Government proposal for such a trade deal would see a 'dual tariff' regime imposed with varying levels of duty on imported food depending on whether they comply with UK animal welfare standards.

The FUW has been clear in lobbying for tariffs that prevent the importation of products that fail to meet our high standards. We therefore welcomed the announcement that key agricultural tariffs would be aligned with those of the EU and the UK Government should not move from this position.

Where lower tariffs are agreed as part of a trade deal there needs to be complete satisfaction that all standards are equivalent to ours, and that our producers will not be undermined either in terms of unfair competition or our ability to export to other key markets, not least the EU.

Some free-marketeers will be concerned by such proposals, as consumers may not see the benefits of leaving the EU in the form of cheap food in supermarkets.

Whilst there is no guarantee that the US will accept such an offer, especially as US President Donald Trump is an opponent of tariffs and may reject this out of hand - it could become the standard offer to other countries as the UK continues to broker deals.

Is no-deal a likely outcome?

As we speed towards what could potentially be the end of the Brexit process (for now), the question on businesses minds is 'will we have a deal or are we going to revert to trading under basic WTO rules?'

With both sides more or less in deadlock, and each side occupied dealing with Covid-19, expectations for now remain low.

Worryingly, a recent poll by the UK in a Changing Europe, an academic think tank, found that over 70 per cent of its Brexit analysts believe a trade deal is unlikely to be agreed by the end of the year.

Therefore, unless we can agree on an extension (which had to be applied for before the end of June according to the withdrawal treaty) - things could get tight.

It seems unlikely that Mr Johnson will agree to an extension, let alone propose it, at this point, yet there may be some hope - 53 per cent of the 100 experts surveyed by the *UK in a Changing Europe* (May 2020), think that 'despite the government's promise not to extend the transition period, the terms will be extended beyond December 31 2020'.

The FUW has long argued and highlighted that the damage from reverting to basic WTO rules would be a disaster and a new study by '*UK In a Changing Europe*' (UKInace) suggests that, compared to the status quo, it would lower GDP by 8.1 per cent over 10 years. This would be in addition to the impact of Covid-19, which has caused the UK economy to shrink by a quarter - a change so vast and unprecedented that economists have had to change the scales on their graphs just to show the fall.

Time will tell where we go next but one thing is clear - if a decent UK-EU trade deal is not reached we will need an extension to the withdrawal period if severe additional economic impacts are to be avoided.

While we continue to hear the UK Government stating categorically that they will not seek an extension; that we will leave the EU in earnest at the end of December come what may and that an UK-EU deal must be reached by July, if the past four years has taught us anything it is that common sense can prevail to bring us away from the cliff edge, even if that means embarrassing U-Turns, Ministerial resignations or even snap elections.

So let us hope that the 'Get Brexit Done' slogan gets the word 'Safely' tagged on to it to allow this to happen in 2020.

Date	What's happening
June	<p>A time for stocktaking.</p> <p>An EU-UK political declaration, agreed as part of Boris Johnson's Brexit deal, says a summit should take place in June so Britain and the EU27 can assess the progress of the talks.</p> <p>June is also the final month for Britain to request an extension of its transition period beyond 2020, something Mr Johnson has pledged not to do.</p> <p>If the end of June deadline is not met, Article 50 can no-longer be used because Britain is a third country. That means any extension in the autumn would have to go through a separate treaty. Such a treaty might have to be ratified by national, and in some cases, regional parliaments.</p>
July 1	<p>The political declaration that forms part of Mr Johnson's Brexit agreement with the EU commits both sides to seek a deal by this date on access to UK fishing waters for European fishermen.</p> <p>The issue is of crucial importance to about eight coastal states, among them France, and EU leaders have made clear that trade talks will grind to a halt unless there is a deal.</p> <p>The two sides also have a target to reach decisions on access to each other's financial services markets by this date.</p> <p>Brussels sees this as another source of leverage in the talks, given the importance of the City of London to the UK economy.</p>
November 26	<p>EU officials say that a trade deal must be negotiated, checked, translated and presented to the European Parliament by this week if it is to be ratified by the end of the year.</p> <p>MEPs will be in Strasbourg in the final week of November for their penultimate plenary session of 2020.</p> <p>The final one, in mid-December, would come too late to sign off on any deal with the UK.</p> <p>EU negotiators note that, in practice, this leaves only about six months to actually politically negotiate with Britain.</p>
December 31	<p>The cliff edge.</p> <p>If a trade deal is not in place, then Britain will fall back on to basic World Trade Organization terms, meaning tariffs on goods and little practical cooperation to smooth border checks.</p> <p>The outcome would effectively be a no-deal Brexit and both sides would need to make preparations for how they cope with the economic fallout in 2021.</p>

Sheep industry experts stand together to urge action now

An open letter to all sheep farmers

We would like to bring to your attention advice from the Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep (SCOPS) group regarding the use of the two newer wormer groups (4-AD orange (Zolvix™) and 5-SI purple Startect).

Why do we need to act? We would urge more sheep farmers to follow the advice of the SCOPS group and integrate the two newer groups into their worm control programmes now.

These products help lambs to reach their growth potential by removing the build-up of worms that have survived previous treatments and slow the development of resistance to the older three groups of wormers, if they are used in the right way before the older wormer groups become ineffective.

We would encourage all sheep farmers to introduce one of these new groups at only two points in their worm control plan. Firstly, as part of their quarantine treatments for all incoming sheep, and secondly as a one-off treatment for lambs, in the latter part of the grazing season.


When should I incorporate? An effective farm protection (quarantine) treatment is essential to prevent otherwise healthy sheep bringing resistant worms onto the farm. For full details go to: <https://www.scops.org.uk/internal-parasites/worms/quarantine-treatments/>

To get the most benefit from the treatment for lambs, it is important that it is used in the latter part of the grazing season (as a mid-late season break dose) when a treatment is deemed necessary (ideally following a significant worm egg count).

Why is this best practise? The purpose of this treatment is to remove worms that have survived previous treatments with one or more of the older wormer groups (1-BZ white, 2-LV yellow and 3-ML clear). Removing this build-up of worms left behind in the lambs helps them to reach their growth potential and has the double benefit of helping to slow the development of resistance to the older three groups. All lambs remaining on the farm should be treated, but to avoid the risk selecting for resistance to the newer group 4-AD & 5-SI wormers, it is very important not to "dose and move" lambs to "cleaner" grazing straight away. To avoid this risk simply drench the lambs and return them to the same fields for four or five days before moving them. For more details on mid-late season break dose go to: <https://www.scops.org.uk/news/5221/sheep-farmers-encouraged-to-use-newer-wormers-as-a-mid-season-lamb-dose-this-summer/>

The mid-late season break dose for lambs and as part of the farm protection (quarantine) treatment are the only generally recommended times to use these newer products. To avoid the risk of resistance developing to the two newer groups they should not be used at other times without detailed advice from your consultant or sheep vet.

Signed on behalf of



Phil Stocker on behalf of National Sheep Association



Kevin Harrison on behalf of Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep



Dave Bartley on behalf of Moredun Research Institute



Nick Hart on behalf of Sheep Veterinary Society



This letter has been written in partnership with Elanco, makers of Zolvix™.

For further information call Elanco Animal Health on +44 (0)1256 353131 or write to Elanco Animal Health, Lilly House, Priestley Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9NL. Zolvix™ 25 mg/ml oral solution for sheep (monepantel). Legal category: [POM-VPS] in UK. Zolvix, Elanco and the diagonal bar logo are trademarks of Elanco or its affiliates. Use medicines responsibly (www.noah.co.uk/responsible), © 2020 Elanco or its affiliates. PM-UK-20-0357_rdp 31310. Date of Preparation June 2020.



Realise your lambs' growth potential¹



Watch Simon's story and learn more



or visit:
www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk/midlate-season

Use as a break dose to remove the resistant worms other wormers leave behind

Act now. Ask your agricultural merchant or vet for ZOLVIX™.

Elanco

For further information call Elanco Animal Health on +44 (0)1256 353131 or write to Elanco Animal Health, Form 2, Bartley Wood, Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook, RG27 9XA.

Zolvix™ 25mg/ml oral solution is a broad spectrum anthelmintic for the treatment and control of gastro-intestinal nematode infections and associated diseases in sheep including lambs, hoggets, breeding rams and ewes. Legal category: **POM-VPS** in UK. Further information can also be found in the Summary of Product Characteristics. **Advice should be sought from the medicine prescriber prior to use.** Zolvix, Elanco and the diagonal bar logo are trademarks of Elanco or its affiliates. **Use medicines responsibly** (www.noah.co.uk/responsible). © 2020 Elanco and its affiliates. Date of preparation: June 2020. PM-UK-20-0377. rdp31306.

1. The production costs of anthelmintic resistance in sheep managed within a monthly preventive drench program I.A. Sutherland, J. Shaw, R.J. Shaw Veterinary Parasitology 171 (2010) 300–304.

01248 750250

anglesey@fuw.org.uk

ANGLESEY

Sefydlu busnes godro defaid

gan Huw Jones, aelod UAC Ynys Môn

Mae creu bywoliaeth i berson ifanc yng nghefn gwlad yn dalcen caled ac i'r perwyl hwnnw yn edrych ar amrywiol syniadau dros gyfnod o fisoedd - syniad newydd na fyddai angen gormod o dir na chyfalaf anferthol. A dyna'r sbardun i deithio i dde Ffrainc ychydig dros flwyddyn yn ôl - gyda chymorth Cyswllt Ffermio - i ddysgu mwy am odro defaid.

Mae'n ddull o amaethu a ffordd o fyw sy'n gyffredin iawn mewn rhannau o'r wlad a'r cynnyrch - caws gan amlaf - yn cael ei brynu'n lleol.

Dydi godro defaid ddim yn olygfa gyffredin ar Ynys Môn ond gan fy mod yn byw yng ngwlad y medra roedd y syniad yn un oedd yn apelio. Ddeuddeng mis yn ddiweddarach mae gen innau ddiadell o ddefaid Lacaune croes Friesland - dros 40 o ddefaid yn cael eu godro'n ddyddiol a 50 o wyn beinw newydd sydd wedi cyrraedd o ogledd Lloegr.

Mae'r tymor wedi bod yn un o ddysgu - o gropian cyn cerdded. Rwyf wedi mynychu un o bwyllgorau cymdeithas llaeth dafad Prydain ac wedi bod mewn cysylltiad â swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru sy'n ymchwilio i'r sector.

Roedd 'na ddwy elfen bwysig wrth sefydlu'r busnes - adeiladu parlwr godro symudol a chanfod prynwr i'r cynnyrch. Roeddwn i'n ymwybodol iawn nad oedd pwrpas cynhyrchu llaeth dafad heb ganfod rhywun i'w brosesu. Rwyf wedi bod yn hynod o ffodus bod Dr. Carrie Rimes o gwmni Cosyn Cymru yn casglu'r llefrith deirgwaith yr wythnos ar gyfer ei brosesu'n gaws ac iogwrt. Mae ei gwybodaeth a'i chynghor wedi bod yn amhrisiadwy.

Mae'r defaid yn debyg i eifr ar un olwg gyda



chlustiau hir a physiau mawr; yn ddof ac yn hoff iawn o lenwi eu bolia. Ar gyfartaledd maent yn cynhyrchu liter o laeth yr un ac yn pori ar laswellt.

Mae'r wyn wedi eu magu ar lefrith dafad i ddechrau ac yna ar bowdr, dwysfwd a gwellt. Prynais beiriant magu awtomatig gydag arian ysgoloriaeth Sefydliad Syr Henry Plumb.

Fy mwriad tymor hir ydi cynyddu'r ddiadell a datblygu rhywfaint o gynnyrch fy hun. Oherwydd y coronafeirws, fodd bynnag, mae hyn yn amhosib ar hyn o bryd gan fod y ganolfan dechnoleg bwyd yn Llangefni wedi cau. Ond credaf fod y feirws wedi tanlinellu pa

mor bwysig ydi medru olrhain bwyd a phrynu'n lleol. Fe ddylai hynny fod o fantais i bawb yn y diwydiant amaeth yng Nghymru.

Huw Jones, FUW Anglesey member, with the support of Farming Connect, travelled to the South of France just over a year ago to learn more about milking sheep. Milking sheep is not a common sight on Anglesey, but the idea really appealed to Huw. Twelve months later, Huw has a flock of Lacaune cross Friesland sheep - milking over 40 sheep a day and 50 ewe lambs from the North of England. It's been a steep learning curve, from building the mobile milking parlour to finding customers for the produce. In the long term, Huw's aim is to increase the flock and develop some of his own produce, but as a result of the Coronavirus, these plans are on hold for the time being as the Food Technology Centre in Llangefni is closed. Huw believes that the virus has emphasised the importance of food traceability and to buy local.

Mudiad Ffermwyr Ifanc Ynys Môn yr un mor brysur!

Mewn blwyddyn arferol, erbyn hyn byddai aelodau Ffermwyr Ifanc Ynys Môn yn ymlacio a cheisio cael eu gwynt atynt yn dilyn paratoi fel lladd nadroedd ar gyfer uchafbwynt y calendr, sef y Rali, oedd fod gael ei chynnal ar benwythnos cyntaf mis Mehefin.

Gwaetha'r modd, bu'n rhaid gohirio pob digwyddiad ar gyfer gweddill ein blwyddyn aelodaeth nôl ym mis Mawrth ac rydym fel pob mudiad arall wedi gorfod wynebu'r her o geisio aros mor weithredol â phosib ond gan llynu at reolau ymbellhau cymdeithasol a chyfnod clo'r Llywodraeth.

Braf yw cael dweud bod y mudiad sydd ar ei newydd wedd am y tro wedi bod yr un mor weithredol, â bron iawn yr un mor brysur yn ystod y cyfnod hwn! Mae gwirfoddolw'n un o brif nodweddion y mudiad, mae ein haelodau'n bendant wedi bod yn gwneud eu siâr, gan gydweithio gyda Chyngor Sir Medrwn Môn a Menter Môn mewn sawl man megis ceisio hybu Banc Amaeth Menter Môn ac er mwyn cynorthwyo yn eu cymunedau, boed yn siopa, dosbarthu meddyginiaethau neu gerdded y cŵn i eraill sydd yn fwy bregus o fewn y gymuned.

Hefyd, rydym wedi bod yn rhannu nwyddau i Ysbyty Penrhos Stanley, Ysbyty Cefni a bu Clwb Llangefni yn dosbarthu i Gartref Rhos, Malltraeth. Rydym wedi sefydlu tudalen 'Just Giving' er mwyn casglu arian i'r rhai sydd ar flaen y gâd ynghanol y pandemig hwn, sef Elusen Awyr Las Gogledd Cymru.

Ar benwythnos y Rali, aethom ati yn aelodau a ffrindiau'r mudiad i geisio cerdded, rhedeg neu feicio o Sioe i Sioe, sef o Gae Sioe Môn ym Mona i'r Cae Sioe yn Llanelwedd. Llwyddom i

wneud y 125 milltir...a mwy! Rydym yn parhau i dderbyn cyfraniadau.

Yn ogystal â chasglu arian a gwirfoddoli, rydym wedi bod yn ceisio codi calon pobl. Felly, aeth y Swyddogion Sir ati i dderbyn heriau gan aelodau a ffrindiau'r mudiad ac rydym wedi cael cymysgedd garw...o ymarfer corff i ganu i ddawnsio i goginio...maent i'w gweld ar ein tudalen Facebook! Mae'r heriau yn parhau i fynd ymlaen felly gyrrwch neges atom!

Rydym yn ddiolchgar o'r gefnogaeth yr ydym yn ei dderbyn a byddwn yn parhau i wneud ein gorau i fod yr un mor weithredol yn ystod yr wythnosau a'r misoedd sydd i ddod.

Despite the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, Anglesey YFC have continued to play an active and supporting role within the community, whilst adhering to the Government's social distancing and lockdown rules. One important aspect of the YFC movement is volunteering and this has happened in many forms during the last few months, from shopping; collecting and distributing medication; and walking the dog for the most vulnerable in the community. Anglesey YFC have also set up a Just Giving page to raise money for those who've been keeping everyone safe during the pandemic. On the day that the Rally should have been held, members and friends attempted to walk, run or cycle from the Anglesey Showground to the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth, they managed to clock up more than 125 miles and raise money in the process. They are so grateful for the support that they've received and will continue with their efforts over the coming weeks and months.

Letter to the Editor

Coming from a farming family I understand the importance of agriculture to the UK economy. I am proud to represent a constituency in Parliament, Ynys Môn, that is home to an agricultural sector that operates to some of the highest standards, produces some of the highest quality produce, in the United Kingdom, if not globally.

Agriculture is crucial to the success of our local economy and is one of the cornerstones of the success of the island's tourism and hospitality sector.

Since being elected I have regularly met and engaged with the FUW, the NFU and the Anglesey Young Farmers Federation and, during this unprecedented crisis, I have seen our farmers working tirelessly, in the face of enormous challenges, to feed our nation. I am in awe of their steadfastness and we should all be hugely grateful for their invaluable contribution in our battle against Covid-19.

The Conservative Party manifesto, on which I stood, was explicit in pledging that in all of the Government's trade negotiations there will be no compromise on the UK's high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards.

The Government is firmly committed to upholding these standards outside the EU and the EU Withdrawal Act will transfer all existing EU food

safety provisions, including existing import requirements, onto the UK statute book.

These import standards include a ban on using artificial growth hormones in domestic and imported products and set out that no products, including chlorine, other than potable water, are approved to decontaminate poultry carcasses.

The economic consequences of the pandemic for the Welsh economy, and particularly for our local economy on Ynys Môn, cannot, and must not, be underestimated.

The thriving tourism and hospitality sector on the island, and indeed far beyond, creates significant demand for the island's high quality agricultural produce. The closure of tourism has been devastating for demand and the Welsh Government's effective closure of Wales to tourism for the rest of this summer represents a significant threat to the viability of many farms across the island.

I am now working tirelessly to ensure that the UK Government provides long term economic support for Welsh tourism, and the supply chain that supports it, including agriculture, to ensure not only its survival but to see it thrive once again.

Virginia Crosbie AS/MP

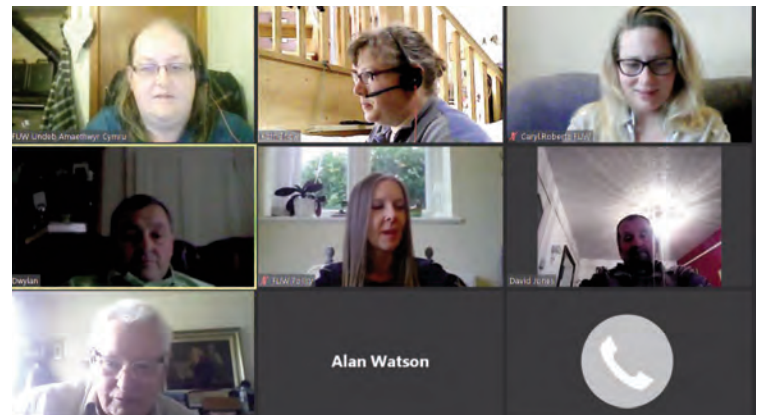
Member of Parliament for Ynys Môn
Aelod Seneddol dros Ynys Môn

01982 554030

breconandradnor@fuw.org.uk

BRECON & RADNOR

County meeting via Zoom



Brecon and Radnor's first attempt at a County Executive meeting via Zoom was a success. We held an informal meeting, Dr Hazel Wright from the Policy Team joined us to answer questions from members. Topics discussed included the recent consultation about recording medicine use in cattle, the FUW response to dog attacks on livestock, future farm support, food security and the future of imports following the COVID-19 pandemic.

01982 554030

breconandradnor@fuw.org.uk

BRECON & RADNOR

Sending a message

by County Councillor David Price

One of the lessons learned during the early days of the Covid-19 lockdown, was the importance of local services. Local shops, local butchers, local livestock markets. All essential during these difficult times.

The news that Brightwells were temporarily closing the livestock market in Builth Wells was met with disappointment. But that early disappointment has turned to frustration, even anger, as the weeks have passed by.

Many farmers, local politicians, and of course our farming union representatives, have pressed Brightwells for answers as to when the mart will re-open. Brightwells finally responded with a statement that due to the public nature of the site, their insurers had concerns regarding the health and safety of their staff and the public at this site. They would consider re-opening when Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed.

This response did little to curb the frustration of this farming community, as clearly other similar town-centre markets have managed to get the go-ahead from their insurers and are open as livestock drop-off centres.

The gathering of farmers at Builth Wells Market car park on June 14 was an opportunity to simply send a message to Brightwells, that we all wish to see our local livestock market open as soon as possible. At a time when we are supposed to limit the distance we travel; it makes no sense to have to drive to livestock markets much further afield.

Rob Powell, Blaenbwch called me and asked me to attend this meeting at the market, he was the driving force behind this gathering. I suggested that Brightwells should be present and have fair representation, so I invited Irving Parry (Brightwells Director & Chairman). He declined the invitation due to lockdown restrictions. I immediately offered him the opportunity of a Team/Zoom meeting with interested parties, but he has not responded. Sadly, he has also not responded to an email I sent



Credit: Tremio Aerial Photography

the previous month, offering assistance in meeting with County Council officers, to address their insurers concerns regarding public access at the site.

On the eve of Sunday's gathering I suggested via Facebook, that all farmers attending should stay in their vehicles to adhere to lockdown restrictions, and simply sound their horn in unison as a gesture of solidarity.

The turnout on the day was remarkable. Over 100 vehicles filled the car park. It was an amazing response. It was also heartening to hear residents whose properties are adjacent to the market offer their support too. Likewise, the local police officers attended, and expressed their satisfaction with the manner in which the gathering was planned and conducted.

Brightwells directors may not have been present on Sunday to hear so many vehicle horns blowing defiantly, but I truly hope they have got the message that we simply wish to see the market reopen immediately. Our local market.

Brightwells respond

As *Y Tir* went to print County Executive Officer, Catrin Price, received this response from Brightwells:

As you know, the Directors of Brightwells decided to temporarily close this livestock market at the start of the Covid-19 lockdown. This was because, unlike other livestock markets, it could not be secured from the general public and we were advised it was not safe to operate under those circumstances, not only for the safety of our staff and the users of the market, but also for the residents of Builth Wells. The Directors are working with their landlords, Powys County Council, to facilitate its re-opening as soon as it is safe to do so.

I note your opinion that Builth Market is no different from the other centres in Wales that you have quoted, but this does not accord with the professional advice that the Directors of Brightwells have received.

Doubtless, given the concerns of your members regarding the future of this market, we can look forward to their whole-hearted support in selling their livestock through Builth Wells when it re-opens.

The Directors will be issuing press releases shortly advising the farming community of the proposed re-opening date.

Regards,
Irving Parry, Brightwells
Director & Chairman, FRICS FAVV

01341 422298

meirionnydd@fuw.org.uk

MEIRIONNYDD

Pwyllgor Gwaith ar Zoom!

Am y tro cyntaf yn hanes y Gangen Sirol, cynhaliwyd Pwyllgor Gwaith Meirionnydd ar Zoom ym mis Mehefin, a daeth nifer dda iawn o'r aelodau yn rhan o'r drafodaeth.

Roedd ein Haelod Seneddol Liz Saville Roberts gyda ni drwy gydol yr amser, ynghyd a Nick Fenwick Pennaeth Polisi'r Undeb. Rydym yn ddiolchgar dros ben iddynt am eu hamser a'u cyfraniad.

Cafwyd trafodaeth ar y sectorau biff, defaid a llaeth ac effaith y pandemig ar amaeth yn gyffredinol. Cyfeiriwyd at y diweddaraf gyda'r Mesur Amaeth, ac ymysg y pynciau eraill oedd trafodaethau masnach, sefyllfa'r diwydiant gyda gadael Ewrop, y pryder am ehangu rheolau ansawdd dŵr, a phrisiau gwlan. Trafodwyd hefyd y diweddaraf am y sector twristiaeth fferm, a'r cymorth sydd ar gael.

Diolch yn fawr iawn i Sion Ifans, Cadeirydd y Sir am arwain y drafodaeth yn wych, a rhoi cyfle i bawb ymuno yn y drafodaeth.



For the first time in the history of the County Branch, the Meirionnydd Executive Committee was held on Zoom in June, and a very good number of members participated in the discussion. Our MP Liz Saville Roberts was present, alongside Nick Fenwick Head of Union Policy. We are extremely grateful to them for their time and contribution. Discussion took place on the beef, sheep and dairy sectors and the impact of the pandemic on agriculture in general. We received an update on the latest developments regarding the Agriculture Bill, and other topics included trade discussions, the industry's situation with regards to leaving Europe, the concern about expanding water quality rules and the price of wool. The farm tourism sector and support available were also discussed. Many thanks to Sion Ifans, County Chairman for leading the discussion brilliantly, and giving everyone the opportunity to join in with the discussion.

01446 774838

glamorgan@fuw.org.uk

GLAMORGAN

Walter Rowlands Memorial Award

This Award was created to honour the memory of Walter Rowlands who was the Glamorgan County Executive Officer. The award is fully supported and funded by his family who are keen to support agricultural students from the county to encourage their studies in the industry.

WHAT IS IT?

A £200 educational grant for agricultural students in the Glamorgan area studying an

agricultural based course in college or university. The grant has re-opened for applications with a closing date of August 31 2020 - a presentation is to be made in October 2020.

HOW TO ENTER?

Please send an e-mail to glamorgan@fuw.org.uk - setting out your details and interests, details of your course and future ambitions.

01686 626889

montgomeryshire@fuw.org.uk

MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Montgomery YFC keeping busy

by Huw Jones, Montgomery YFC County Chairman

Working in agriculture can be extremely isolating and the YFC plays a huge part in combatting rural isolation and promoting positive mental health - some of our members rely on their weekly club meetings as their social activity and one of our main priorities for the duration of the lockdown and beyond is keeping our members engaged and busy with YFC related activities, we have adapted some of our competitions and activities so that they can be held virtually.

The general knowledge of Montgomeryshire was tested when I held a virtual quiz night for the members on Facebook live, which was a success! We have held a number of committee meetings on Zoom with members where they have all shared ideas and started planning future virtual activities. Covid-19 has made us think outside the box and get creative!

Montgomery YFC would like to thank all the members for their hard work and dedication within their communities at this time. Keep up the good work!

Get to know the Lampeter office team



Emma Davies County Executive Officer

How long with Union: Nearly 26 years

Home life (married/single etc): Married to Anthony and have two sons, Ifan who works for a local Estate Agent and Dion who is a Carpenter alongside his father in the family carpentry business, which employs 5 other carpenters. We live on a smallholding where we keep 50 head of beef cattle

Hobbies/other activities outside work: When time allows, and I'm not caught up in carpentry/farming paperwork I like to go out walking the countryside/coastal path and spending time socialising with family and friends

What does your job entail: Assist members as best I can. The job is so varied you never know what to expect from one day to another!

What do you enjoy doing most: I enjoy meeting members and having a laugh and also being able to assist with agricultural issues eg RPW, BCMS etc.

What's the most important part of your job: Being ready to listen and hopefully obtain a result that the member is happy with

Typical day: Everyday is different, except for the period March to May where everyday is spent completing SAF forms on behalf of our members.

Elin Jenkins Administrative Assistant

How long with Union: 5 years

Previous jobs/education: Managed to get a BSc in Microbiology and Zoology at Aberystwyth University and previously worked in the Quality Control Laboratories at Volac International

Home life (married/single etc): Married to Irfon, a dairy farmer with two kids, Meian 6 and Guto 4

Hobbies/other activities outside work: I love baking and trying out different recipes on the Staff at Lampeter office, often swapping recipes with Carys our resident Mary Berry. I also dabble in a bit of sewing and going to the gym (so I don't feel so guilty for eating cakes!)

What does your job entail: Answering calls and queries on farming issues

What do you enjoy doing most: Without a doubt going to Talybont Show! Such a lovely, rural and local show, fantastic atmosphere, popular with our members and always lucky with the weather. Farmhouse breakfast week is good fun too, although a lot of work to organise, it's brilliant to see our members and local communities come out to support our Presidents' charity each year

What's the most important part of your job: Taking the time to talk to our members and asking how they are. SAF appointments have been a little different this year with the office being closed, so it's even more important to lend an ear, talk and listen to our farmers during these bizarre times.



Dafydd Evans Senior Account Executive

How long with Union: 15 Years in October

Previous jobs/education: I attended Penweddig Secondary School before completing a degree in Rural Resource Management at Aberystwyth University. I then decided to go travelling and ended up in Australia for nearly 2 years working on various farms. On my return I did various farm and building work before being appointed with the FUW in 2005

Home life (married/single etc): Born and bred in the village of Llanafan which is approximately 10 miles inland of Aberystwyth. After a couple of years living down on the outskirts of Cardiff we

moved back to Llanafan. I live with my wife Liz and our son Jac who is nearly four

Hobbies/other activities outside work: Shooting, fishing and cycling (recent mid-life crisis)

What does your job entail: I cover the South West Ceredigion area and service an existing portfolio of clients as well as assisting and advising new clients in all their insurance needs. I am based in the Lampeter office with a team of top notch support!

Most unusual request? Asked by an elderly client to go and get her Daihatsu which was parked 3 fields away and bring it back to the yard!

What do you enjoy doing most: By far the best part of the job is getting to visit and meeting all kinds of different characters. It is nice to be able to give that personal touch

What's the most important part of your job: I try and give clients the best possible service throughout the year by fulfilling all of their insurance needs

Typical day: No day is ever the same but I tend to split the day with some visits and then returning to the office to do some paperwork.

Aled Evans Uwch Swyddog Yswiriant

Pa mor hir gyda'r Undeb: Medi 2002

Swyddi blaenorol: Banc Nat West ac Antur Teifi Cyf

Bywyd cartref: Yn briod i Helen am bron i 30 mlynedd a gyda dau o fechgyn - Rhys Iorwerth a Cynan

Diddordebau tu allan i'r gwaith: Teithio, ffilmiau, gwleidyddiaeth, gwyllo chwaraeon, ac edrych ar ôl ein diadell fach o ddefaid Ryeland

Beth mae eich swydd yn ei olygu: Gofalu am anghenion yswiriant pob cwsmer yn fy ardal a sicrhau eu bod nhw'n cael y cyngor a'r gwasanaeth gorau posib. Hefyd, bob amser yn chwilio am gwsmeriaid newydd

Beth ydych yn fwynhau fwyaf: Mynd allan i weld cwsmeriaid ar y fferm

Beth yw'r rhan bwysicaf o'ch swydd: Sicrhau bod pawb yn cael gwasanaeth a chyngor da

Beth fydddech yn ei newid ayb: Mwy o amser i ymweld â chwsmeriaid a llai o waith papur

Unrhywbeth arall: Gan fod gyda mi ddiddordeb mewn ffermio a gwerthu mae'r swydd yma wedi bod yn ddelfrydol i mi. Yr wyf yn ffodus iawn fy mod yn gallu gweithio mewn ardal hyfyrd a chael cefnogaeth arbennig gan fy nghyd-weithwyr yn y swyddfa yn Llanbedr Pont Steffan, sydd yn gwneud y swydd llawer yn haws.



Meinir Jones, Account Handler

How long with Union: I have been working for FUW Insurance Services since February 2014

Previous jobs/education: I was a pupil at Gwenlli Primary School and Aberaeron Comprehensive. When finished School I went on to Haverfordwest College to do Hair & Beauty

Home life (married/single etc): I was bought up on our Family Farm Esgaireinon in Synod Inn where I loved helping with the milking and day-to-day farming work. I am married to Dyfrig and have 3 girls. We live in Derwen Gam, Llanarth on a 30 acre Small Holding farming Beef & Sheep, we also have a Fencing & Steel Fabrication Contracting Business

Hobbies/other activities outside work: Socialising with friends and doing the never ending paperwork for the farm and the contracting business

What does your job entail: My job as Account Handler involves sorting out day-to-day Insurance queries for all Account Executives, processing renewals for Dafydd Evans, answering the phones and dealing with clients who visit us in the Lampeter Office. I feel that the communication between me and the client is most important and being able to help and listen as much as we can.



If you require a translation of these profiles please email our Translator: angharad.evans@fuw.org.uk

Lowri Davies Claims Handler

How long with Union: 3 years in October

Previous jobs/education: Studied Agriculture in Aberystwyth University 2013-2017

Home life (married/single etc): Living with partner

Hobbies/other activities outside work: Watching Autograss Racing (with the hope of racing one day), walking the dog down the beach, spending time with friends - shopping, cinema or out for meals and gardening - growing fruit and vegetables

What does your job entail: Registering new property claims with insurers, provide advice on making a claim and explaining the claim process to policyholders, collect accurate information and documentation from them to proceed with the claim

What's the most important part of your job: Ensure that claims are dealt with efficiently and that payment for valid claims are made to our policyholders. Also building a good relationship with our policyholders.



Paige Denyer Account Handler

How long with Union: Worked for FUW Insurance Services in Head Office since November 2017, been based in the Lampeter office since February 2020

Previous jobs/education: I was a pupil at Aberaeron Comprehensive school up until GCSE's then moved to Lampeter for A Levels. Have worked in hospitality since school and also worked in Meithrinfa'r Enfys Nursery in Cross Inn

Home life (married/single etc): I have lived in Llanarth with my parents and my older brother until 7 years ago when he moved to Malaysia. Currently in the process of making house plans and going through planning to build with my partner Steffan, staying local for both of us with a hopeful planning consent in Bwlch-Llan, Talsarn. Also have my own Sports Massage Business which has been up and running a year now

What does your job entail: Supporting the Account Executives in Lampeter office and processing the renewals for them each month. Answering the phone to clients and dealing with queries from people coming into the office or over the phone.



More Lampeter office staff profiles in the August issue

Beef Donburi



THE covid pandemic has provided many people with the opportunity to get creative in the kitchen and I am no exception. I am a proud and avid consumer of Welsh produce and, having recently come across the Wagamama 'Feed Your Soul' cookbook, I have been creating dishes that use Welsh beef and lamb in a new way.

This Japanese inspired book contains everything from ramen to teriyaki lamb and is a great way to buy a joint of red meat and use it across several dishes.

A really quick and easy make is the Donburi; a dish which translates as 'rice and bowl'. I've added shredded beef (coated in chilli, spring onions and Teriyaki sauce) to the mushroom version in the cookbook. Along with teriyaki coated rice, the dish contains a gyoza sauce covered omelette which holds mushrooms and broccoli that have been fried until they caramelise.

Once the rice and omelette are in the bowl, it is simply a matter of adding the beef and finishing with a sprinkling of spring onion, chilli seed and carrot.

Whilst the book contains many sauce recipes, there are many ready-made versions of sauces such as gyoza and teriyaki to cut down the preparation time for busy households.

We may not be able to go on holiday yet, but we can certainly bring a taste of Asia to Wales. *Itadakimasu!*

Hazel Wright, FUW Senior Policy Officer

FUW Agency



Don't let the digital world leave you behind

Rural Payments Wales (RPW) communications are going digital - let us manage your online account and ensure that you don't miss important deadlines.

For just £195 + VAT a year, you will receive:

- **Full peace of mind** that your online account is being monitored by trained staff with advanced policy support
- **Notifications** of Welsh Government paperwork by phone, text and post
- **Crucial notices** of potential penalties or issues with claims that could cost thousands if left unmonitored

Let us check the paperwork so you can get on with your day job

We understand that farmers don't always have reliable access to the internet to be able to monitor their online accounts. We offer a **COMPLETE SERVICE** from local county offices to ensure you receive all messages and access all functions in your RPW online account

ATVs - get to know the vehicle

OVER the year's Quad bikes and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) have become essential on most farms. However, like any piece of machinery, it's not the quad bike that is dangerous, it's the way it's handled. So, before you jump on and start up your ATV, take the time to get to know the vehicle, know your limits and know the dangers.

ATVs such as quad bikes and side-by-side utility vehicles are designed to cope with a wide variety of off-road conditions, but if used carelessly can very rapidly become unstable.

The injuries from these vehicles can often be fatal, because they can achieve high speeds and when an ATV overturns, there is no roll bar to protect the driver's head or neck (as is the case with a tractor or utility vehicle). In fact, many quad bike fatalities in the UK have been caused by head injuries.

Helmets would have prevented most, if not all, of these deaths. So please make sure you always wear a suitable helmet when riding a quad bike.

There is no one cause of all ATV accidents.

However, many of these incidents involve the negligence or recklessness of the driver or another person nearby.

Causes of ATV accidents include drunk driving, to speeding recklessly, to unsuitable terrain, to vehicle rollover; the list goes on and on. These accidents are also caused by less obvious reasons, such as poor maintenance or exceeding the carrying capacity on the ATV.

It is worth remembering that ATVs, in light agricultural use, are designed to hold the operator, and the operator only. Whilst the long seat on a quad bike allows you to shift your body weight backwards and forwards for different slope conditions - it is not for carrying passengers!

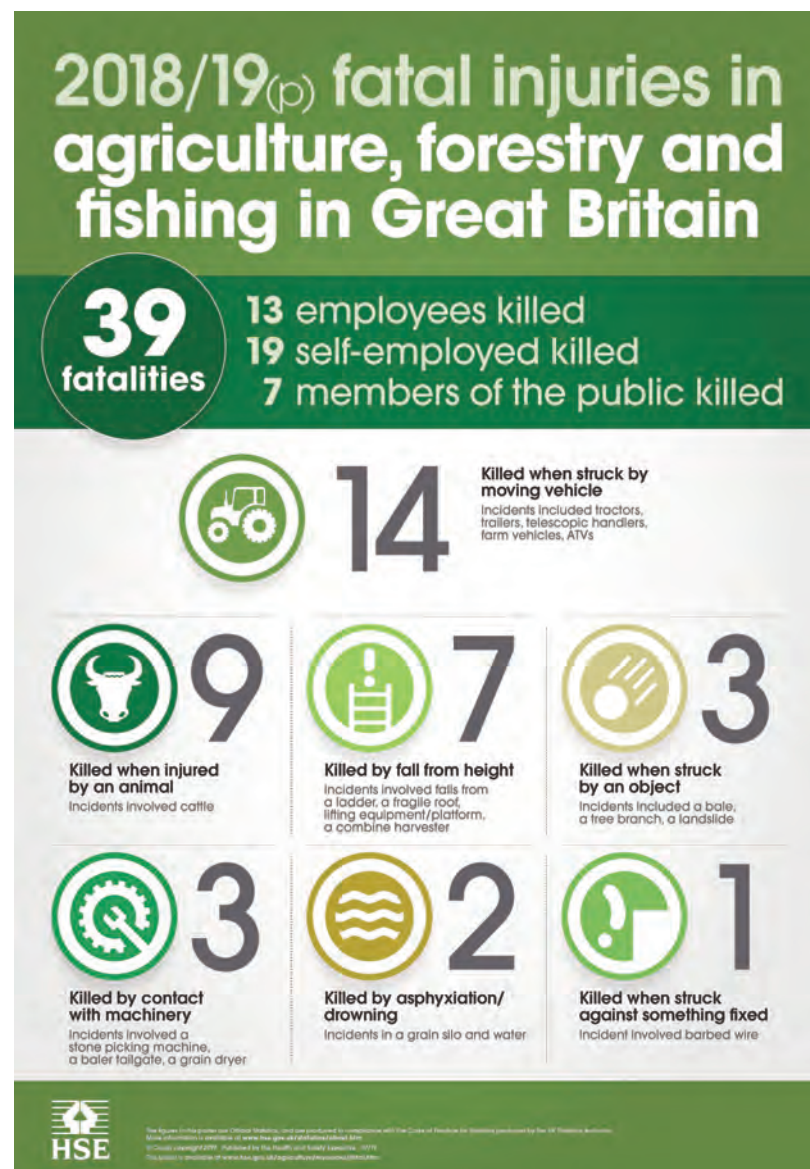
There is no doubt that ATVs are a real aid on the farm, but if you have an ATV, you are being negligent if you don't at least familiarise yourself with safe driving practices and prevent children (those under 16 years of age) from driving the ATV in any circumstances.

Here's what you can do to reduce the risk:

- carry out safety checks and maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, eg regularly check tyre pressures, brakes and throttle;
- secure loads on racks and make sure they are not overloaded and evenly balanced;
- always read and follow the owner's manual;
- stick to planned routes, where possible, and walk new routes if necessary to check for hidden obstructions, hollows or other hazards;
- take extra care with trailed or mounted equipment and understand how they affect stability;
- make sure all riders receive adequate training.

Follow the **SAFE STOP** procedure if you need to check equipment, carry out maintenance work or clear blockages:

- Fully apply the handbrake
- Put all controls in neutral
- Stop the engine
- Remove the key from the ignition



High submission rates key to tight calving pattern on dairy farm

EVERY missed heat in a block calving herd is a financial loss so hitting submission, conception and pregnancy rate targets increases profitability and allows farmers to select the right cows for breeding or culling.

Vet Kate Burnby, who is working with Farming Connect demonstration farmer and FUW member Iwan Francis to improve fertility in his split block calving herd, says high submission rates are key to achieving a tight calving pattern.

High submission rates rely on cows cycling and expressing heat well and there must be a good heat detection policy in place, she told farmers listening in to a Farming Connect webinar facilitated by Farming Connect dairy technical officer for south Wales, Gwenan Evans.

Mr Francis has been calving his 200-cow crossbred herd in two 12-week blocks in the spring



Farming Connect demonstration farmer and FUW member Iwan Francis.

and autumn at Nantglas, Talog, but is working to reduce each block to 10 weeks without increasing the existing 10% empty rate.

"Iwan is starting from a very good point, his fertility is very good but we are trying to get it to an excellent level," said Ms Burnby.

To achieve this, eight cows calving at the end of the spring block - 7% of the spring calvers - were sold; calving 81% of this block in the first six weeks enabled this decision.

The culling of late calvers increased the six-week calving figure to 90%, Ms Burnby pointed out. "Iwan was able to do this because he had 21 heifers calving and all but one calved in the first three weeks."

Heat detection collars are aiding the current breeding period - Mr Francis is hiring these but has applied for a Welsh Government grant to buy 100.

A synchronisation programme was used in conjunction with AI for mating the heifers and cows were fitted with collars on April 12. Tail paints are used alongside collars. Ms Burnby favours this 'belt and braces' approach.

"Paints are a good indicator of how things are going, how many cows have been missed. Also, if you have a breakout and cow activity level on the collars goes up you can still catch them if you have tail paints," she says.

Sixty-seven cows were served in the first 15 days, Mr Francis reports. If a farm has a DIY AI system, Ms Burnby advises an annual refresher course. "Occasionally things can slip, it is surprising what a fresh pair of eyes can see," she says.

She believes there is little benefit in twice-a-day AI. "If you are unable to detect the onset of when a cow starts to stand heat there is very little benefit in serving twice a day, if you serve her at the next available serving after observation you will get similar results," she believes.

"There is only a 1-2% advantage of using the AM/PM rule, although it can suit some herds to divide the workload into morning and afternoon sessions."

To improve fertility in Mr Francis' autumn block, issues around housing will be investigated.

"It may be beneficial to give cows more of an opportunity to loaf, to have a bigger area where they can display heat," said Ms Burnby. "Cows don't express heat as well if they don't have enough space."

Farming Connect, which is delivered by Menter a Busnes and Lantra, has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

MEAT MATTERS

Sheep farmers: We want your views

by Dr Heather McCalman

ONE of the key aims of HCC's Hill Ram Scheme is to improve profitability of the sector through the use of tried and tested genetic improvement methods.

To achieve this we are looking to gain a better understanding of Welsh sheep farmers' views on genetic improvement and performance recording.

We know that the uptake of performance recording and the use of genetic measures on hill and upland farms right across the UK is low. Within the Hill Ram Scheme we are trying to remove some of the barriers for hill farmers by using technology to record and monitor performance and genetics - meaning that hill farmers do not have to make fundamental changes to their system to take part in the scheme.

However, we are very interested in hearing from all Welsh sheep farmers about their opinions and views on performance recording and use of recorded breeding stock as well as other key issues that affect breeding decisions on sheep farms.

To investigate this issue and to get a well-rounded view on the subject we have launched an online survey which we would like to encourage FUW members to take part in.

The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete online and you could win a tablet by taking part. You can access the survey via the HCC website.

Across the Hill Ram Scheme and the whole of the Red Meat Development Programme, our team is working remotely to ensure that projects



are still running as smoothly as possible during these unusual times.

Usually at this time of year, HCC along with many other individuals, families and organisations, would be preparing and looking forward to the Royal Welsh Show.

Whilst the show isn't going ahead in a physical sense this year, we will be preparing a virtual schedule of activities during the Royal Welsh Show week which you will find on our social media channels.

In the meantime, you can keep up-to-date with all of the latest RMDP news and developments by following our Twitter page (@RMDPCymru) or by checking out the HCC website.

Un o nodau allweddol Cynllun Hyrdod Mynydd HCC yw gwella proffidioldeb y sector trwy ddefnyddio dulliau gwella genetig sydd wedi'u profi. Er mwyn cyflawni hyn maent am wella'i dealltwriaeth o farn ffermwyr defaid Cymru ar wella genetig a chofnodi perfformiad. Mae gan HCC ddiddordeb mawr mewn clywed gan holl ffermwyr defaid Cymru am eu barn ar gofnodi perfformiad a'r defnydd o stoc bridio wedi'i cofnodi yn ogystal â materion allweddol eraill sy'n effeithio ar benderfyniadau bridio ar ffermydd defaid. Er mwyn ymchwilio i'r mater hwn a chael golwg gyflawn ar y pwnc mae HCC wedi lansio arolwg ar-lein ac yn annog aelodau FUW i gymryd rhan. Bydd yr arolwg yn cymryd oddeutu 15 munud i'w gwblhau ar-lein, a bydd cyfle i chi ennill tabled am gymryd rhan. Mae'r arolwg ar gael ar wefan HCC.

PROPERTY MATTERS

Concerns over public rights of way aired at online meeting

by Philip Meade of
Davis Meade Property Consultants

FARMERS concerned about public access over their land were able to discuss their worries at an online seminar organised by the FUW and Davis Meade Property Consultants.

We held the meeting over the platform Zoom and the farmers who joined us had numerous questions for us speakers.

All the farmers had some sort of right of way over their land, public footpaths in most cases but also coastal access, 'open country' under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, bridleways and green lanes and had experienced problems at one time or another.

Dogs were a common problem with concerns over dog muck, livestock worrying, injury and deaths and disease transfer from dog faeces.

For many of the farmers the Covid lockdown had reduced the problems they experienced with public access but for a smaller number problems have got worse.

The session was also an useful opportunity to revisit the rules on livestock and cultivations on public path, and questions over liability for dogs and livestock. We reminded farmers that the owner of a dog is responsible for any damage done to livestock by their dog.

From the farmer's point of view killing a dog which is threatening livestock must always be a last resort and it is vital that the Police are informed as soon as possible if the farmer is to have a defence against legal action.

The farmers were keen to lobby for stricter controls over dogs in the countryside, for example making it a legal requirement for dogs to be on a short lead at all times around livestock. This is already a legal requirement on 'open access' areas during the bird nesting season.

We also talked about Definitive Map Modification Orders which can be put in place if someone intends to claim a new footpath across land and also the merits and pitfalls of temporary diversions and permissive routes which may incur increased liability for the land manager.

The use of a specific route by members of the public for a period of time (usually 20 year plus) can lead to an application for a permanent right of way. This is of particular concern for landowners adjoining housing estates or with certain landscape 'features' such as rivers, reservoirs, lakes or those with tracks accessing items such as solar panels, masts or wind farms.

The solution is to make a Statutory Declaration under the Highways Act every 10 years and lodge it with the local council, stating ownership, current RoW and hence clarifying what isn't a RoW and ideally include a marked up OS plan. Notices should also be displayed on the land.

Where a Definitive Map Modification Order is made for a Right of Way, landowners must be alerted so they can object to it and the Local Authority must refer any applications with objections to the Planning Inspectorate. Here it is key to properly challenge the evidence of the extent and nature of the claimed use.

The online Zoom meeting was a new way for farmers to meet during lockdown and was a great success with the topic having been proposed by the FUW.

We are now planning future seminars on other topics of interest to farmers in Wales and England.

For further details contact Philip Meade at the Oswestry office of Davis Meade Property Consultants, telephone: 01691 659658, email: philipmeade@dmpcuk.com

Cafodd ffermwyr a oedd yn poeni am fynediad cyhoeddus ar eu tir gyfle i drafod eu pryderon mewn seminar ar-lein a drefnwyd, ar y cyd, gan FUW a Davis Meade Property Consultants. Cynhaliwyd y cyfarfod dros Zoom ac roedd gan y ffermwyr a ymunodd yn y seminar nifer o gwestiynau i Davis Meade Property Consultants. Roedd y cyfarfod Zoom ar-lein yn ffordd newydd i ffermwyr gwrdd yn ystod y cyfnod clo ac roedd yn llwyddiant mawr gyda'r pwnc tafod wedi'i gynnig gan FUW. Mae cynlluniau ar y gweill ar gyfer seminarau yn y dyfodol ar bynciau eraill sydd o ddiddordeb i ffermwyr yng Nghymru a Lloegr.

MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Cyfnod o newid, addasu ac addysgu

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

A YDYCH chi fel fi wedi gorfod dysgu geirfa newydd dros y misoedd diwethaf? Mae Zoom, Cyfarfod Rhithiol, Gweminarau i gyd yn bethau yr ydym yn gorfod ymwneud â hwy. Mae yna nifer fawr o gyfarfodydd a ffyrdd o gyfarfod a chyfathrebu. Mae ein canghennau, clybiau, rhanbarthau, pwyllgorau wedi addasu yn gyflym tu hwnt.

Ydych chi fel fi erbyn hyn yn ateb ffôn y tŷ, ffôn symudol, e-byst, negeseuon ar Messenger, tectst a gweplyfr, ac yn dyheu am gael cyfarfod rhywun wyneb yn wyneb i gael sgwrs hyfryd a chartrefol unwaith eto?

Ydych chi wedi gwneud rhywbeth newydd, arallgyfeirio i dorri gwallt aelod o'r teulu, paentio wal neu ffens mewn lliw llachar, plannu hadau planhigion am y tro cyntaf, neu goginio pryd o fwyd anarferol? Mae'n gyfnod o newid, addasu ac addysgu.

Mae gennym Wyl Lenyddol Rithiol ar y gorwel a phawb yn edrych ymlaen at gael clywed pwy ydyw'r llenorion talentog ac i edmygu gwaith y buddugwyr a fydd yn ymddangos yng nghylchgrawn y Wawr. Mae yna sawl enfys wedi ymddangos dros yr wythnosau diwethaf yng nghanol y gwres a'r cawodydd gwyltllion a gobethio yn wir y daw eto haul ar fryn.

Like everyone else, Merched y Wawr have had to learn a whole new set of vocabulary over the last few months, whilst working with Zoom, virtual meetings and Webinars. Merched y Wawr branches, clubs, regions and committees have had to adapt very quickly. Merched y Wawr's Virtual Literary Festival will be happening soon, and they're looking forward to seeing all the winning pieces of work, which will appear in Y Wawr magazine.



How low can you go? Protein in the dairy cow diet

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

THE modern dairy cow's nutritional requirements are highly complex due to the microbial population of the rumen and the demand for efficient and high-yielding animals. In the dairy industry, feed costs represent one of the largest expenses, so feed efficiency must be enhanced to optimise production and profit.

As milk-producing capacities of high-yielding cows continue to increase, so will the difficulty in meeting their nutritional requirements.

Certain amino acids are less abundant than others and it is established that methionine and lysine are the two most deficient amino acids in dairy cows. Targeted feeding of these amino acids as a supplement is effective, with cows showing increased milk yield, DMI and milk protein concentrations as well as contributing to overall animal health. In a diet where amino acids are balanced, protein content can be reduced to 12-14%.

In the past, overfeeding protein was common practice - to ensure that the cow has more than enough to produce large quantities of high-quality milk. Rations high in protein do stimulate milk production and can increase dry matter intake (DMI). However, biologically, high protein diets reduce reproductive performance and fertility. What goes in must come out - excess protein is eliminated from the body via ammonia in the faeces and urine which contributes to environmental pollution.

Feeding excess protein also reduces profit margins, as feed costs increase but productivity remains the same (or even decreases).

In cases where the farmer wishes to reduce concentrate use or in forage-based diets, red clover may be a good option to maintain protein content - grazed or as silage. Red clover produces an enzyme that helps to reduce protein breakdown in the rumen allowing better utilisation by the animal.

Studies have found that feeding red clover silage improved protein usage without impacting milk yield and protein yield in lactating cows - although the protein content of red clover varies depending on its growth stage, so silage sampling is essential to avoid overfeeding protein.

Red clover may also benefit the land and environment too, by improving soil structure and fertility and by fixing nitrogen which reduces the need for nitrogen fertilisers. Fed alongside targeted amino acids, a high protein forage is a good way to ensure that cows are receiving the right protein whilst maintaining profits and protecting the environment.



New NVZ rules will impact all sectors

by Edward Page, Land Agent at Davis Meade Property Consultants

ON April 8, Welsh Government published draft regulations for an all-Wales Nitrate Vulnerable Zone. "The regulations are designed to target more

intensely polluting practices but could undoubtedly affect all holdings across Wales," said Edward Page, a land agent with Davis Meade Property Consultants.

"Industry stakeholders have challenged the Welsh Government's announcement which, if progressed after the current Health Crisis as suggested, will increase Wales' NVZ area from approximately 2.4% to potentially all land holdings."

The new rules could become part of Cross Compliance requirements on a transitional basis, depending on the agricultural activity.

Restrictions imposed on farmers might include:

- Rules on the placement of manure field heaps to minimise the risk of effluent reaching watercourses.
- Prior to spreading nitrogen fertiliser a field inspection would be undertaken to identify risk of nitrogen getting into surface water.
- Nitrogen fertiliser must not be spread on land if there is a significant risk of nitrogen getting into surface water.

- No more than 250kg of nitrogen from manure can be applied to any individual field.

- No more than 170kg of nitrogen from manure can be applied each year, averaged across the holding, either by animal or spreading.

- A Nutrient Management Plan must be established for any nitrogen fertiliser applications.

- Five months of slurry storage would be required for any slurry produced by any livestock, other than pigs or poultry which will require six months of storage

"We expect continued industry resistance to these proposals but it is another clear indication of policy change that seeks further environmental gain from agriculture," said Edward.

"Farmers in Wales must review their Natural Capital holding in preparation; the condition of their soils, quality of water courses, ecological habitat and their carbon emission and retention opportunities.

"We are ready to stand by and assist FUW members by helping them prepare for these challenges which we believe could dramatically change land management over the next five years.

"In the tenanted sector, it is worth noting that not all the risk must be faced by tenant farmers alone and their tenancy agreements may require landlord investment into infrastructure as a result of regulation change.

"Please do contact us for further advice," he added."

Edward Page can be contacted through the Oswestry office of DMPC on 01691 659658 / 07496 914731 or email edwardpage@dmpcuk.com

Upcoming EOI window details

Scheme	Summary	Window closes
BPS Greening Requirements	The three crop rule crop diversification requirements for the 2020 BPS year will no longer apply . Seed receipts need not be submitted however Ecological Focus Area requirements remain in place. The system cannot be changed at this late date to stop warnings appearing on the SAF when the three crop rule is not met - a message will therefore appear and can be ignored.	
Glastir Commons	The deadline for claiming the Glastir Commons grant is July 10 2020.	10 July 2020
Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC)	The 9th Expression of Interest window has been extended to the end of July. The scheme provides financial support for capital works including planting, fencing and in, certain circumstances, annual maintenance and premium payments. You must contact a registered planner to discuss your proposals and they must then complete and submit an EOI on your behalf. The land put forward to be planted must be registered with the Rural Payment Wales Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) and be under your full management control.	31 July 2020

Ask the Expert with RDP Law



Law

RDP's Head of Agriculture and Private Client, Sioned Thomas, highlights some of the common questions she's asked about Succession Planning



1. What is Succession Planning?

A succession plan is a long-term plan about the future of the farming business, the goals and vision of the business and a plan on how to achieve them. It forms part of the overall business plan and deals with more than just retirement and death.

2. Is it just a Will that I need?

A will is one document that forms part of the succession plan, but it is also important to consider the following questions:

- Land and other property ownership - is the property held in one person's sole name, or in joint names, is it a partnership asset, is it held by a company?
- Who is occupying the property and on what basis? Are there formal agreements in place to reflect this, for example, tenancy agreements, grazing licences, share farming agreements and so on?
- Which members of the family are involved in the business and what are their future plans?
- What is the business structure? Is it sole trader, partnership, or limited company? If it is a partnership or limited company is there a partnership agreement or shareholders agreement in place detailing what happens on death, retirement, loss of mental capacity and/or disputes?
- Are there other third parties involved, for example, is there land being let out, are there any share farming agreements, or informal agreements with neighbours or family members?
- What happens if someone loses the mental capacity to be able to make day-to-day decisions? Does anyone else have the power to act on his/her behalf? Is there a Lasting Power of Attorney in place?

All the above points need to be taken into consideration when preparing a Will and the Will needs to tie in with the provisions of all the other documentation that is in place.

3. Doesn't my entire estate automatically pass to my spouse in any event?

The answer to this question depends on your situation. If you die intestate (i.e. without leaving a Will), the rules of intestacy govern who inherits your estate. Different rules apply depending on whether you have a spouse, whether he or she survives you and whether you have children. For example, if you die leaving a spouse, and you have children then the surviving spouse will receive your personal possessions, a statutory legacy of £270,000.00 and the remainder of the estate will be shared as to 50% to the surviving spouse and 50% to the children equally.

Careful consideration needs to be given as to how this would work in your situation and whether the business would have to be split or assets sold to be able to be distributed in accordance with the intestacy rules. It may also have adverse tax implications. A Will avoids this uncertainty and enables you to control how assets are distributed.

4. What is a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)?

An individual can appoint someone (or more than one person) to be their attorney. The registered attorney(s) can act on the individual's behalf, to carry out day-to-day functions which the individual can no longer manage on their own due to a mental or physical illness.

There are two types of LPA - firstly for Health and Welfare which gives the attorney the power to make decisions about things such as your daily routines, medical care and life sustaining treatment and secondly for Property and Financial Affairs which gives the attorney the power to make decisions about money and property, for example, managing your bank account, paying bills, selling property.

We have seen instances where a business has come to a halt because one of the partners became suddenly incapacitated and the bank account was frozen. If an LPA had been put in place, the attorney could have made decisions on behalf of the incapacitated person and a very difficult and stressful situation could have been avoided.

5. What about taxation?

Taxation is an important element of succession planning and different outcomes have different tax implications. Succession planning enables you to ensure that you are maximising the available reliefs and allowances, to reduce the potential tax bill whether that is on retirement, lifetime gifts or death.

It is important that all your professional advisors work together to assist you with your succession plan. Your solicitors, accountants, financial planners, business advisor and any other professionals you may require for your own circumstances can each bring their own expertise to the table, to ensure a plan that works for you and your family is put in place for the future.

Sioned Thomas, (pictured left), heads up both the Agricultural and Private Client departments at RDP Law. She has extensive experience in estate administration and succession planning for farming clients as well as acquisition, disposal and re-financing of agricultural property.

Sioned has a farming background and understands that the family relationship within a farming business is like no other. Her passion for farming clients and their businesses is undeniable and enables RDP to provide a specialist range of services based around agriculture, estate planning and farm diversification. Sioned is also an advocate of the Welsh language and can conduct meetings in Welsh or English.

If you would like to discuss anything covered in this article, contact: sioned.thomas@rdplaw.co.uk / 01633 413500. Or visit our website for more information - www.rdplaw.co.uk/practices/agriculture






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