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PM slammed over Aussie trade deal

FUW President Glyn Roberts has written to Prime Minister Boris Johnson opposing a trade deal that would open up the UK market to beef and lamb from Australia.

The EU's previous agreement with Australia allowed 7,150 tonnes of beef and 19,186 tonnes of lamb to be imported into EU countries, but following Brexit the quota was split, allowing Australia to import 3,761 of beef and 13,335 tonnes of lamb into the UK.

"However, following a cabinet meeting on Friday May 21, and despite significant pressure from the FUW and others - including some cabinet ministers - it's understood that the PM has come down on the side of a deal that would see the the quotas phased out to allow unlimited access to our market," said FUW President Glyn Roberts.

Former Defra secretary and current cabinet office minister Michael Gove has previously described such a trade deal as a 'red line' that would not be crossed, telling BBC Countryfile: "There's no point in having high environmental and high animal welfare standards if you then allow them to be undercut from

"Such a move would have grave consequences for Welsh farmers and cause genuine anger, not only within rural communities but amongst the general public as a whole."



Mr Roberts said the U- turn on such a 'red line' was a disgraceful betrayal and said the rush to reach an agreement was driven by the UK Government's desire to announce the signing of a major trade deal by the date of the G7 summit in Cornwall, due to be held between June 11 - 13.

"The deal is clearly being driven by the G7 photo opportunity

rather than what's in our nations' interests," he added.

According to a UK government analysis, such a deal would be worth between 0.01 and 0.02 per cent of GDP over 15 years - a benefit Mr Roberts described as "vanishingly small".

"We've made such concerns perfectly clear in a meeting in May with trade minister Greg Hands and in a letter to the Prime Minister, which was copied to Welsh secretary Simon Hart and Defra secretary George Eustice," he said.

In the letter, Mr Roberts highlights the fact that Australian rules and standards fall well short of those required of farmers in the UK, and that "...if a Welsh farmer was to employ the land and animal management practices that are commonplace in Australia, they would face prosecution or even imprisonment."

He also highlights the danger that allowing such produce onto the UK market would risk creating further barriers for our exports to the EU or even lock us out altogether, as the EU would seek to protect itself from becoming a back-door to substandard products from Australia.

A deal with a country with far lower standards would also be severely hypocritical given "Defra, the Welsh Government and other UK administrations are seeking to increase the restrictions placed on UK farmers, thereby further increasing the differences between standards here and in places such as Australia," Mr Roberts told the PM.

The letter describes claims by some politicians that a liberal deal with Australia should not be feared since current import volumes are extremely low and unlikely to increase as "clearly spurious", highlighting that "If such arguments had any merit

then maintaining the current quota would not be controversial and would not be opposed by Australia...Australian politicians and industry representatives have been candid in expressing their view that the UK is a major target for the expansion of sales of red meat in particular,"

The FUW's support for opening up new markets is also highlighted, with the letter stating "We of course recognise the value of developing existing and seeking new markets for all UK products, including our food. However, we are also well aware of the reality given the attempts to do just that over decades in the scores of non-EU markets to which we had access as members of the EU. It is therefore important that our optimism is tempered by reality, particularly when it comes to selling products in countries that are long established markets for our competitors.

The letter ends: "I do not need to quote the repeated UK Government promises that UK standards would not be undermined by future trade deals, but it is a matter of fact that what is currently being discussed in terms of Australia will do precisely that, irrespective of whether arrangements relating to food are implemented immediately or phased in over ten or fifteen years.

"Such a move would therefore have grave consequences for Welsh farmers and cause genuine anger, not only within rural communities but amongst the general public as a whole. Such a further breach of promises made simply adds to our concerns following the decision to significantly cut funding for Welsh Agriculture announced in the November Spending Review. This was, as you are aware, a decision that contradicted a 2019 Conservative manifesto commitment."

Commenting following an emergency meeting of the FUW's Presidential Policy Team to discuss the Uion's next steps, Mr Roberts said: "Whatever is announced at the G7 meeting, we will leave no stone unturned and will lobby parliament to do all it can to prevent such a catastrophic deal being signed off."

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FUW UPDATE

Politics is back at the centre of my working life

by Guto Bebb, FUW Group Managing Director

IN June 2019 I announced that I would not be contesting the next General Election. As you know, the election came sooner than many anticipated and by December 2019 I was no longer a Member of Parliament and was free of politics. Little did I know!

Becoming Managing Director of FUWIS was a fantastic opportunity. I have argued for business development and economic sustainability for rural Wales all my life. My father was a Chartered Accountant with offices in Pwllheli and Caernarfon and outreach in Cerrigydrudion. I saw, during numerous summers of working as a clerk, the importance of agriculture to the well-being of the rural economy. From tyre dealers to feed merchants, pubs to Solicitors the farming pound circulated for the benefit of all. I was therefore excited to be offered the opportunity to lead a business operating throughout rural Wales which had grown through the efforts of those rural communities, and of course, with FUWIS there would be no politics!

However, the more I saw of the relationship between FUWIS and the FUW the more I thought that two Managing Directors was not conducive to harmonious working relationships within the Group. Therefore, when the position of FUW MD was advertised I decided to make the case for a single Group Managing Director. I was fortunate enough that the Directors saw the merit of such an approach. Good news apart from one minor downside - the politics is back.

The FUW is not affiliated to any political party and that is a strength. However, not being party political is not the same as not being political. A huge amount of what the Union has to address is inherently political. Since my appointment we have had the controversy surrounding the disproportionate NVZ regulations imposed by Welsh Government, work on producing our manifesto for the Senedd elections and now the intense efforts to lobby Westminster with regards to the proposed Aussie free trade deal.

Politics is back at the centre of my day-to-day work and looking from the outside-in rather than being an insider as I was as an MP and Minister, has been revealing. It's disappointing that facts seem to be relegated by politicians to something of secondary

importance when it comes to their wider goals. What is worse is that those wider goals are often window dressing for the sake of making an impression on the electorate.

With the NVZ regulations the desire of the Welsh Government to be seen as caring for the environment trumped the factual case for a more targeted approach. The result is damaging expenditure for many farms which will be of questionable value to the aim of improving our environment. The same factors are at work with this rush to sign what will be, at best, a rather insignificant Free Trade Deal with Australia. The overall impact of any deal, according to the Government's own assessment, will be no more than a rounding error in our economic output but the totemic ability to say that we have, post Brexit, managed to secure a free trade deal seems to blind the current Westminster Government to this reality.

What is worse is that whilst the deal is of negligible benefit to the UK it is worth seven or eight times more to Australia not least in the area of food exports. So, for the purpose of telling the wider electorate that Brexit is a success, promises made to farmers by countless Ministers will be abandoned. If the future of the family farm in upland Wales, England and Scotland is a price worth paying for a trade deal as insignificant as this then I shudder to think what will happen when we start negotiations with larger trading partners. Politics, I'm afraid, is back at the centre of my working life.



Tenant farmers hit brick wall over Water Resources Regulations

A TENANT farming family from Montgomeryshire has hit a brick wall over the Welsh Government's recently introduced Water Resources Regulations, with their landlord standing in the way of their ability to comply with the new regulations.

Bryan Jones, his wife Susan and son Andrew, farm at Coedyparc, Caersws, Powys, a 105 acre all grassland farm which is home to a 85 strong closed dairy herd.

The family, who have been farming here since 1973 on a lifetime tenancy agreement, are worried that with their landlord unwilling to foot the bill for the costly capital works required to be compliant with the new regulations and the banks not lending money for works carried out on tenant farms, it will spell the end of their farming lives on the holding.

Bryan Jones said: "I've been milking cows my entire life, starting when I was just 12 years old and will mark my 66th year of dairy farming this year. It's what we do as a family. It's our life. We have never had a pollution incident here. NRW through their own assessment have confirmed that there is no pollution here, but we still need to comply with these new regulations and carry out works at eye watering costs which will be in the region of £70,000. Who is going to pay for that?"

"The landlords have refused and the bank won't lend us the money to carry out work on a property we don't own. I'm at my wits end and fear that in three years time this could very well be the end of our farming life here. I have no objection to a polluter pays policy but this is going to cripple the industry if nothing is changed. The Welsh Government must consider the financial implications of these regulations on small and medium sized farm businesses and tenant farmers as a matter of urgency."

Susan is worried about what is going to happen to all those family farms who are not in a financial position to comply. She said: "Our family farms are the beating heart of our rural



Susan, Andrew and Bryan.

communities. We produce sustainable food, make enormous contributions to the rural economy, look after the environment and provide employment.

"Losing farms and losing cattle from the area will have far reaching consequences. The direction these policies are going is a direct threat to our way of life, the rural economy and the safe, reliable and sustainable food supply. We are in an impossible situation and I'm worried about the future of our industry and the next generation of farmers, especially where tenant farmers are concerned.

"The Welsh Government must consider the social and cultural impacts on rural communities given the implications these regulations will have on young farmers, tenants, and new entrants.

"If there was evidence supporting the need for such

sweeping regulations that would be something, but Natural Resources Wales' data shows it's not needed in more than 90% of Wales and studies from areas that already have the regulations show it's likely to make pollution much worse," she added.

The cattle are housed over the winter months to protect the soil and ground, which would not cope with the livestock on it during the wet period. Andrew, who has been working alongside his father on the dairy farm since he was 16 years old adds: "We take pride in our dairy herd and the outstanding animal health and welfare standards we have here. That same pride is applied to the ground we farm on and the environment. Everything works in rhythm and we know what works for the land and the livestock. These regulations will force many to make changes to the way they farm to the detriment of the environment.

"Natural Resources Wales, as the principal adviser to the Welsh Government, has previously warned the Welsh Government that the pan-Wales NVZs approach may have the "perverse outcome" of making water quality worse."

"Who is going to pay? The landlords have refused and the bank won't lend us the money to carry out work on a property we don't own. I'm at my wits end and fear that in three years time this could very well be the end of our farming life here."

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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New Welsh Government and Senedd must take stock and change their approach

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President



WRITING a month ago, we were not sure who would pick up the baton to govern Wales or who would be responsible for agriculture. Since then we have written to First Minister Mark Drakeford, re-appointed agriculture Minister Lesley Griffiths, climate change Minister and Deputy Minister Lee Waters, as well as to all opposition leaders.

Both the Agriculture White Paper proposals and the all Wales NVZ remain priorities for the FUW, and our concerns have been reiterated in letters to the First Minister and Lesley Griffiths.

The appointment of two climate change ministers highlights just how high on the political agenda climate change is. It will be a priority for the FUW to highlight the positive role farmers play in mitigating climate change through carbon stored on farms, amongst many other benefits provided by the industry, especially with the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) due to be held in Glasgow in November.

We will take every opportunity to drive home the message that grazing livestock and farming in general make an invaluable contribution towards biodiversity and landscape management and are part of the solution to climate change - not the problem.

What has become evident over the past four weeks though is how valid the Welsh Senedd is, and the fact that no seats were won by those who stood on a mandate of seeking to abolish the Welsh Parliament is a clear confirmation of that. The fact that Labour did so well in Wales, compared to what happened over the border, should also serve as a reminder that there are very clear differences between the two nations.

Indeed, the FUW was founded to ensure that farmers in Wales have a distinctive voice and are heard, that our differences are highlighted at political level and understood to have very different requirements. Agriculture in Wales is different to what it is in England, and Welsh Government policies need to reflect that.

However, the controversy around the likelihood of a UK-Australia trade deal which would allow the importation of food produced in ways which would be illegal in Wales highlight the importance of taking into account those matters which are not devolved to Wales, most notable trade policy.

Our First Minister has also been vocal in highlighting the adverse impacts of such a disastrous trade deal for Welsh farmers, and

I can only compliment him on having taken such a tough stance in various interviews.

However, trade is only one of the two key factors that will determine the future of many of our family farms, with the other being the future agricultural policy implemented by the Welsh Government and Senedd, and while Mr Drakeford stands firmly alongside the FUW in opposing the proposed trade deal with Australia, when it comes to changes to Welsh agricultural policies, the Welsh Government has previously been doing little more than copying Defra.

Since 2016, we have called for the modelling of any proposed changes to Welsh agricultural policies, so if Welsh ministers really want to make decisions that are disastrous for rural businesses and employment they can at least do so with their eyes open. To date, despite being fixated with wanting to introduce nigh on identical radical changes that are untried and untested, neither the Welsh nor English administrations have modelled the economic impacts of their plans.

With around 80% of Welsh farm income made up of direct support, and a similar proportion in many areas of England, this means the two administrations are doing the economic equivalent of rebuilding an engine blindfolded. It remains to be seen if this is part of the plan to get rid of the so-called 'bottom third' or unviable farming businesses, as defined by Defra, but it is worth remembering that whilst average farm incomes are around £24,000, current CAP support maintains businesses with average turnovers of around £160,000 - money which is generally spent locally and circulated around the Welsh economy, maintaining thousands of jobs through the well recognised multiplier effect.

Meanwhile, recent weeks have seen the release of a number of analyses and modelling results in the EU that are of direct relevance to proposed changes in Wales and England.

According to an evaluation carried out by EEIG Agrosynergie, the money paid to farmers through the Common Agricultural Policy (which is to all intents and purposes still operating in Wales and England) plays an important role in terms of farm incomes and allowing farm businesses to cope with falls in market prices, contributing to stability.

With England set to cut farm payments by 20% this year, rising to 50% in 2024, English farmers and the rural businesses that rely on them are soon to find out just how valid

that analysis is - and they are very much the guinea pigs for the type of changes Wales also has planned.

While farmers in the Republic of Ireland, France and elsewhere are reacting angry, and in some cases violently to far more modest proposed changes in the EU, it remains to be seen whether the 20% cut to English payments later this year will evoke a more substantial response from an English farming community that has to date been remarkably placid.

The Agrosynergie analysis also looks at how some payments in the EU overcompensate farmers for below average incomes, finding that this is limited to 9% of small farms but reaches more than 30% for large farms. These figures however are not valid for Wales, because in 2015 we not only capped farm payments but also introduced a redistributive payment system which moves money to support smaller farmers.

However, with the previous Welsh Government having strongly suggested it will do away with both payment capping and the redistributive payment principle under a new scheme, we have again written to the Welsh Government highlighting that this would be a massive backwards social step for Wales - taking money away from those family farms which make the greatest contribution to our

Agriculture in Wales is different to what it is in England, and Welsh Government policies need to reflect that.

economy and Welsh society and handing it over to large landowners, companies and charities which are often absent landlords based over the border.

With a new Welsh Government and Senedd comes an opportunity for our politicians to take stock and change their approach. Let us hope that just such a change comes, through recognition that, rather than following England, we should make informed decisions based on data and modelling to create a Welsh policy with food production, social, environmental and economic principles at its heart - for the benefit of the family farms in Wales.

Mae'r golofn yma yn Gymraeg ar wefan UAC - Newyddion - Newyddion Y Tir: "Rhaid i Lywodraeth a Senedd newydd Cymru gymryd popeth i ystyriaeth a newid eu hagwedd."

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Welsh Senedd Elections results 2021

Regarded as having been one of the most crucial elections for the future of the agricultural sector in Wales, the Union left no stone unturned in its efforts to stress the importance of various policy areas to future decision makers. Post election results, the lobbying work continues.



Post election activity

- Letters being sent from each county chairman to constituent and regional Members of the Senedd, to introduce themselves and request future meetings and farm visits
- Ten Key Asks from the FUW manifesto attached to all letters
- Letter from the President sent to the First Minister and relevant Cabinet Ministers highlighting concerns around public goods schemes, lack of payment capping and NVZ regulations
- Letter from the President sent to heads of parties

Pre election

- Writing and subsequent promotion of FUW manifesto to candidates and the Press
- Local county hustings held with candidates in partnership with Wales YFC and NFU Cymru
- President and Vice President meetings with the agricultural leaders from each main political party

President Glyn Roberts and Deputy President Ian Rickman met with the agriculture leads of the main political parties during the run-up to the Welsh Senedd elections, highlighting industry concerns and the Union's key manifesto asks.

Welcoming the opportunity to query various pledges made by the parties in their manifestos the President and Deputy President were able to emphasise the importance of the next Government committing to stability, family farms, supporting rural communities and Welsh jobs, sustainable agriculture and rewarding environmental outcomes.

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

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "The Agriculture Bill white paper proposals were discussed at length, due to their far reaching consequences to our industry and its long term viability. Furthermore, NVZ regulations, tree planting pledges, the parties commitments to ring fencing the agricultural budget, Bovine TB, the disappointing lack of

commitment to place a cap on payment thresholds in order to favour family farms and the potential complexity of a public goods scheme have been discussed in detail by the Union with the parties over the past few weeks.

"Whilst there were positive commitments to Wales' farming communities, there has never been a more crucial election for the future of the agricultural sector in Wales. **The FUW will continue to lobby for bespoke Welsh policies now and in the future.**"

FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman added: "The Union has left no stone unturned in our efforts to stress the importance of various policy areas to our future decision makers. The FUW is not affiliated to any political party, and therefore has a duty to work with both the government of the day and the opposition parties, irrespective of their political persuasions.

"For the period of the next Welsh Senedd and beyond, we are committed to lobbying all those in Cardiff to ensure that agriculture and family farms receive the attention and respect that they warrant - for the sake of all our futures."

The FUW manifesto and Ten Key Asks can be found under the 'Policy Reports' section on www.fuw.org.uk

Regional Members of the Senedd

Cefin Campbell MS	Plaid Cymru	(Mid and West Wales)
Jane Dodds MS	Welsh Liberal Democrats (Not affiliated to a Political Group)	(Mid and West Wales)
Eluned Morgan MS Minister for Health and Social Services	Welsh Labour	(Mid and West Wales)
Joyce Watson MS Commissioner	Welsh Labour	(Mid and West Wales)
Llyr Gruffydd MS	Plaid Cymru	(North Wales)
Mark Isherwood MS	Welsh Conservative Party	(North Wales)
Sam Rowlands MS	Welsh Conservative Party	(North Wales)
Carolyn Thomas MS	Welsh Labour	(North Wales)
Rhys ab Owen MS	Plaid Cymru	(South Wales Central)
Andrew RT Davies MS Leader of the Opposition	Welsh Conservative Party	(South Wales Central)
Heledd Fychan MS	Plaid Cymru	(South Wales Central)
Joel James MS	Welsh Conservative Party	(South Wales Central)
Natasha Asghar MS	Welsh Conservative Party	(South Wales East)
Delyth Jewell MS	Plaid Cymru	(South Wales East)
Laura Anne Jones MS	Welsh Conservative Party	(South Wales East)
Peredur Owen Griffiths MS	Plaid Cymru	(South Wales East)
Luke Fletcher MS	Plaid Cymru	(South Wales West)
Tom Giffard MS	Welsh Conservative Party	(South Wales West)
Altaf Hussain MS	Welsh Conservative Party	(South Wales West)
Sioned Williams MS	Plaid Cymru	(South Wales West)

Members of the Senedd by Constituency

David Rees MS Deputy Presiding Officer	Welsh Labour	Aberavon
Janet Finch-Saunders MS	Welsh Conservative Party	Aberconwy
Jack Sargeant MS	Welsh Labour	Alyn and Deeside
Siân Gwenllïan MS	Plaid Cymru	Arfon
Alun Davies MS	Welsh Labour	Blaenau Gwent
James Evans MS	Welsh Conservative Party	Brecon and Radnorshire *Gain from lib dem
Sarah Murphy MS	Welsh Labour	Bridgend
Hefin David MS	Welsh Labour	Caerphilly
Jenny Rathbone MS	Welsh Labour	Cardiff Central
Julie Morgan MS Deputy Minister for Social Services	Welsh Labour	Cardiff North
Vaughan Gething MS Economy Minister	Welsh Labour and Co-operative Party	Cardiff South and Penarth
Mark Drakeford MS First Minister of Wales	Welsh Labour	Cardiff West
Adam Price MS Leader of Plaid Cymru	Plaid Cymru	Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
Samuel Kurtz MS	Welsh Conservative Party	Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
Elin Jones MS President	Plaid Cymru	Ceredigion
Ken Skates MS	Welsh Labour	Clwyd South
Darren Millar MS	Welsh Conservative Party	Clwyd West
Vikki Howells MS	Welsh Labour	Cynon Valley
Hannah Blythyn MS Deputy Minister for Social Partnership	Welsh Labour	Delyn
Mabon ap Gwynfor MS	Plaid Cymru	Dwyfor Meirionnydd
Rebecca Evans MS Minister for Finance and Local Government	Welsh Labour	Gower
Rhianon Passmore MS		Islwyn
Lee Waters MS Deputy Minister for Climate Change	Welsh Labour	Llanelli
Dawn Bowden MS Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip	Welsh Labour	Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney
Peter Fox MS	Welsh Conservative Party	Monmouth
Russell George MS	Welsh Conservative Party	Montgomeryshire
Jeremy Miles MS Minister for Education and the Welsh Language	Welsh Labour and Co-operative Party	Neath
John Griffiths MS	Welsh Labour	Newport East
Jayne Bryant MS	Welsh Labour	Newport West
Huw Irranca-Davies MS	Welsh Labour and Co-operative Party	Ogmore
Mick Antoniw MS Counsel General designate and Minister for the Constitution	Welsh Labour	Pontypridd
Paul Davies MS	Welsh Conservative Party	Preseli Pembrokeshire
Buffy Williams MS	Welsh Labour	Rhondda *gain from Plaid*
Mike Hedges MS	Welsh Labour and Co-operative Party	Swansea East
Julie James MS Minister for Climate Change	Welsh Labour	Swansea West
Lynne Neagle MS Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing	Welsh Labour	Torfaen
Gareth Davies MS	Welsh Conservative Party	Vale of Clwyd *gain from Labour*
Jane Hutt MS Minister for Social Justice	Welsh Labour	Vale of Glamorgan
Lesley Griffiths MS Minister for Rural Affairs	Welsh Labour	Wrexham
Rhun ap Iorwerth MS Commissioner	Plaid Cymru	Ynys Môn

“Braint oedd cael cyd-weithio gyda Mel”

gan Gwyn Williams, Cyn Swyddog Ardal Sir Ddinbych

TRIST yw cofnodi marwolaeth Mel Williams o Fae Colwyn wedi salwch byr. Bu Mel yn Swyddog Sir yn siroedd Dinbych a Fflint o Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru am ddeuddeg mlynedd, rhwng Hydref 1989 a Thachwedd 2001. Roedd dilyn Meurig Voyle fel Swyddog Sir yn y siroedd yma yn her ac yn gryn gamp, ond llwyddodd Mel i wneud hynny gydag arddeliad a dycnwhc arbennig iawn.

Yn fab fferm o Gynwyd, ger Corwen, ond wedi treulio 30 mlynedd fel Heddwes, Sarjant, ac y'n diweddu ei yrfa fel Arolygwr gyda Heddlu Gogledd Cymru. Bu'n aelod o CID y llu, ac fe ddefnyddiodd yr un doniau o weithredu'n drylwyr, gofalus a phenderfynol fel swyddog o Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru, a hynny trwy gyfnodau llawn trafferthion a helbulus, i'r diwydiant yn gyffredinol a hefyd i aelodau unigol.

Ar ei union wedi dechrau gyda'r Undeb, daeth yn boblogaidd eithriadol gyda'r aelodau. Cofiaf y diweddar Lloyd Williams Y Pentre, Rhuddlan yn datgan gyda gwên y byddai wedi hoffi holi un cwestiwn arall i Mel yn ystod ei gyfweiliad, sef faint o amser a gymerodd Mel i ddatblygu'n heddwes. Byddai'r ateb, meddai Lloyd Williams, yn rhoi syniad faint o waith oedd tynnu'r plismon allan o Mel! Ond defnyddio ei ddawn fel heddwes i gynorthwyo ac i ddatrys problemau'r diwydiant amaeth a wnaeth Mel, a hynny gyda graen arbennig.

Yn ystod blynyddoedd ei wasanaeth, cafwyd argyfyngau, un ar ôl y llall; BSE, Clwy'r Traed a'r Genau, argyfwng pris tanwydd a blocâd Stanlow; a dyma hefyd ym 1993 ddechrau cofnodi manylion y tir o dan y Cynllun IACS.

Cofiaf dreulio oriau mewn ystafelloedd yn cofnodi manylion caeau a choedydd; Mel yn fwy na bodlon i ddal ati gyda phaned a smoc yn unig i'w gynnal!

Byddai'r diweddar Brynley Williams Cefn Melyn, Cilcain yn fawr ei glod i Mel am ei berswadio i sefyll am sedd, ac ennill y sedd ym mlynnyddoedd cynnar y Cynulliad. Bu ymdrechion Mel yn allweddol i gael swyddfa i swyddogion ardal yn Llanrwst, trefn sydd ar hyd a



O'r chwith, y diweddar Meurig Voyle, Swyddog Gweithredol Sir Ddinbych a Fflint ar y pryd Rhys Roberts, Mel Williams, Iwan Jones a Llywydd yr Undeb ar y pryd Emyr Jones yn Sioe Ddinbych a Fflint mis Awst 2012.

lled Cymru erbyn hyn. Bu'n fraint fawr i mi i gael cyd weithio gyda Mel dros y 12 mlynedd a phrofi o'i gyfeillgarwch a'i gefnogaeth.

Dyma englyn o waith y diweddar Gwilym Morris, Llechryd, Llanefydd i Mel ar ei ymddeoliad yn Nhachwedd 2001.

*Trwy bennod ein trybini - ti fu'n dyst,
Ti' fu'n dŵr mewn cynni.
Yma'n un ohonom ni,
'N ein harwain a'n cyngori.*

This tribute is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "It was a privilege to work with Mel."

BVD extension welcomed

THE FUW has welcomed the news that free BVD testing for cattle farmers in Wales has been extended until 31 December 2022.

The testing, which is provided through Gwaredu BVD, supports both youngstock testing and the hunt for persistently infected animals in order to help herds eliminate the disease and achieve BVD free status.

Over 8,600 of Welsh herds (80%) have been screened for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) since its launch in 2017. From the 8,600 herds already screened, approximately 2,446 (26.1%) have tested positive. The programme now aims to continue working with farmers and their vets to identify the persistently infected (PI) animals.

The Union's Animal Health and Welfare Committee has been fully engaged in both Gwaredu BVD and in discussing how future BVD legislation might work.

Ian Lloyd, the FUW's Animal Health and Welfare committee chairman said: "We know that BVD is costly and estimates suggest that this disease can cost £4,500 per year for the average beef herd, and £15,000 for dairy herds through associated issues such as lowered milk yields, poor fertility, diarrhoea and respiratory problems.

"We encourage members to participate in Gwaredu BVD and urge them to take advantage of this additional funding in order to determine the status of their herd and to work towards eliminating the disease where any issues are found."

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Mae *Cornel Clecs* wedi bod yn holi dau berson, sydd fel arfer wrth eu bodd ynghanol bwrlwm y sioeau, am y siom o golli tymor arall a beth yw dyfodol sioeau amaethyddol yng Nghymru?

Yn gyntaf, holwyd i Mared Rand Jones, Pennaeth Gweithrediadau, CAF: "Yn sicr mae gohirio Sioe Frenhinol Cymru am yr ail flwyddyn yn olynol oherwydd pandemig Covid-19 yn golled enfawr i'r Gymdeithas a hefyd i'r gymuned ehangach yn ariannol ac yn gymdeithasol.

"Mae'r Sioe yn uchafbwynt y flwyddyn i nifer ohonom yng Nghymru a thu hwnt ac yn ffenestr siop i'r diwydiant amaeth yng Nghymru. Mae'n gyfle da i bawb ddod ynghyd i gymdeithasu, mwynhau gwledd o gynnyrch Cymreig, cystadlu a hefyd gwledd safon uchel y stoc yn y prif gylch.

"Mae Sioeau Amaethyddol yn binacl yr Haf i nifer ohonom ac rydym sicr yn edrych ymlaen pan fyddwn yn medru ail gydio a mynychu Sioeau unwaith eto boed yn cystadlu, beirniadu, stiwardio, y stondinau masnach neu fynychu i fwynhau holl weithgareddau sydd gan y Sioeau i'w cynnig. Mae'r flwyddyn ddiwethaf wedi bod yn her i ni gyd ac rydym yn ddiolchgar dros ben am bob cefnogaeth barhaus.

"Mae ail-ddechrau cynnal Sioeau yn mynd i fod yn sialens ond dwi'n ffyddiog bod dyfodol Sioeau Amaethyddol yn ddiogel ac mi fydd yn well nag erioed pan wnaiff ail-ddechrau. Mae'r Sioeau Amaethyddol yn asgwrn cefn ein cymunedau ac yn gyfle arbennig i hyrwyddo ein diwydiant. Rwy'n



edrych ymlaen at weld y bwrlwm ar feysydd y sioeau unwaith eto."

Ac yna, ein Llywydd Glyn Roberts: "Mae'r Covid wedi effeithio ar bob agwedd o fywyd, un ohonyn nhw ydi gorfod gohirio sioeau bach Cymru, mae hyn wedi cael effaith mewn mwy nag un ffordd.

"Mae diwrnod

sioe leol yn ddiwrnod i'r teulu cyfan, cyfle i'r plant gael cystadlu a chwarae, cyfle i fwynhau gwledd celf, chrefft, coginio a'r cynnyrch gardd, cyfle i edmygu anifeiliaid y fferm ac yn fwy na dim yn gyfle i gymdeithasu. Mae colli'r cyfle yma wedi bod yn ergyd i lawer iawn. Mawr obeithiwn y bydd modd at ddiwedd yr Haf y cawn fwynhau rhai o'r sioeau bach lleol.

"Yng nghydestun ehangach mae'r un gwerthoedd yn wir am ein pererindod flynyddol i'r Sioe Fawr yn Llanellwedd, cyfle i gyfarfod ffrindiau na fyddwn ond yn eu gwledd yn flynyddol yn Llanellwedd lle bydd cryn siarad a rhoi'r byd yn ei le.

"Elfen arall rydym yn ei golli o beidio cynnal y Sioe Fawr yw'r pwysigrwydd o fod yn ffenestr siop wych i'r diwydiant i gynulleidfa niferus sydd yn heidio i'r Sioe o'r cymoedd a'r dinasoedd, a thu hwnt i Gymru.

"Rwy'n siŵr fod pawb yn edrych ymlaen unwaith eto i ail afael ym mwrlwm y Sioeau a chael nerth a hwyl yng nghwmni ein gilydd."

Yma fe fu lle ith ddoniau

Yma fe wneir ffrindiau oes.

(Ein Alaw Ni, Ruth Owen)

Diolch i Mared a Glyn am eu safbwyntiau, ac mae un peth yn sicr felly, mae pawb yn aros yn eiddgar at weld y sioeau yn ail gychwyn eto. Gobeithio daw yna haul ar fryn ar ein sioeau bach a mwy. Amdani yn 2022!

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "Looking forward to the return of the shows."

Codi pryderon am gytundeb Awstralia gyda'r gweinidog masnach

MAE UAC wedi tynnu sylw at amrywiaeth o bryderon difrifol ynghylch effeithiau cytundeb masnach anfaiteisio ag Awstralia mewn cyfarfod â Gweinidog Polisi Masnach y DU, Greg Hands.

Wrth siarad ar ôl y cyfarfod ddydd Mercher (19 Mai), dywedodd Llywydd UAC, Glyn Roberts: "Cytunodd y gweinidog a minnau'n llwyr ei bod yn bwysig ein bod yn ceisio cyfleoedd masnach newydd ar gyfer amaethyddiaeth a diwydiannau eraill y DU.

"Fodd bynnag, gwnaethom ein pryderon ynghylch effeithiau niweidiol cytundeb rhydd ag Awstralia yn glir iawn."

Dywedodd Mr Roberts y trafodwyd lluo o faterion yn ystod y cyfarfod, gan gynnwys y buddion posibl i amaethyddiaeth Cymru o aelodaeth y DU o'r Cytundeb Cynhwysfawr a Blaengar ar gyfer y Bartneriaeth Traws-Môr Tawel (CPTPP), y mae'r DU yn ei geisio ar hyn o bryd.

"Y gwir amdani yw y bydd cytundeb sy'n cynnig mynediad rhydd i farchnad y DU ar gyfer cig eidion a chig oen Awstralia yn benodol yn cyfateb i ostwng safonau ac yn arwain at ganlyniadau niweidiol i ffermwyr y DU.

"Er efallai na fydd hyn yn bryder uniongyrchol o ystyried allforion cyfredol i'r DU, mae'n rhaid i ni edrych ar yr hyn a allai ddigwydd yn y dyfodol - wedi'r cyfan, pe na bai Awstralia'n credu y byddent yn cynyddu allforion bwyd i'r DU yn sylweddol ar ryw adeg, ni fyddent yn ymladd mor galed i sicrhau ei fod mewn cytundeb masnach."

Dywedodd Mr Roberts fod yr Undeb hefyd wedi tynnu sylw at y gagendor rhwng y safonau sy'n ofynnol gan ffermwyr yng Nghymru a'r DU, a'r safonau llawer is sy'n ofynnol yn Awstralia.

This article is in English on the FUW website: "FUW raises Australia deal concerns with trade minister."

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Can you afford to lose £10,500 from your profit?

by Tony Succamore, Operations Manager, FUW Insurance Services Ltd



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Survey highlights digital urban-rural divide

A SURVEY on digital connectivity has highlighted a gaping hole between urban and rural areas when it comes to access and stability of broadband and mobile phone reception.

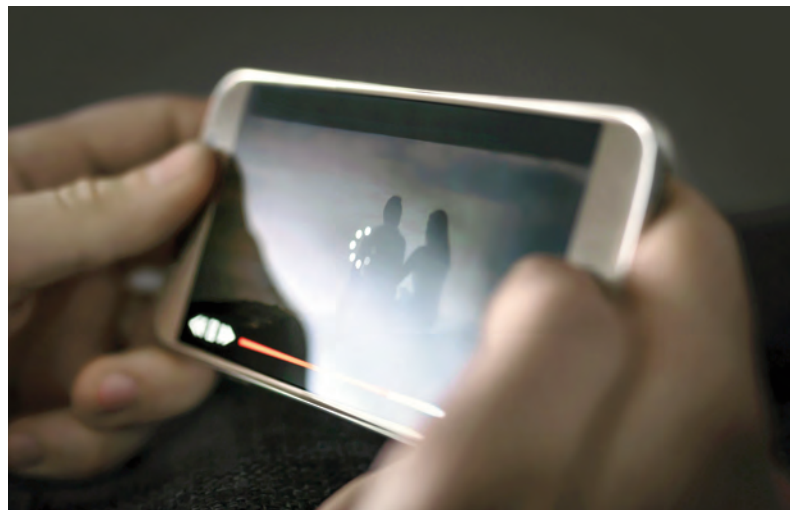
The survey, run by the National Federation of Women's Institutes-Wales, CLA, Farmers' Union of Wales, NFU Cymru and Wales YFC, showed that over 50% of respondents from a rural area felt that the internet they had access to was not fast and reliable.

Indeed, less than 50% of those who lived in rural areas stated they had standard broadband and only 36% had superfast broadband, with 66% stating that they or their household had been impacted by poor broadband. In comparison, 18% of their urban counterparts said they had access to standard broadband and 67% had superfast broadband.

Commenting on the broadband situation, one respondent said, *'broadband drops out regularly and it is regular for outages to last for many hours/days. It is unreliable for online video meetings and at its best we get 11-12 mb. This does not support 3 people working online but often it is much less and we cannot rely on it.'*

Another said, *'Fibre is available in some villages I think, but anyone who lives outside those has a very small group of companies willing to provide a service. Fibre and a reliable connection is important for all homes for the sustainability of the Welsh economy.'*

Whilst 80% of participants used their mobile phone to access the internet, just 68% of those with a smartphone had access to a 4G or 5G mobile network. Describing the mobile signal in their house, 57% of those from a rural area stated that their signal was 'unreliable' and 49% of



those from a rural area stated that their signal was 'unreliable' outdoors.

One respondent stated, *'We are a farm and mobile phones do not work in the house, we have to either go 100 yards up a bank or a mile out on the road for connection'*.

While another said, *'I have no phone signal, which makes working at home difficult. I use WiFi calling but the internet is too unreliable for this to be a success. It makes working from home difficult and I feel I am not progressing due to limitations in what I can do. I cannot take on my usual workload. There is no mobile phone signal and I have to travel 15 minutes one direction or 25 minutes in the other direction before I can make or receive a call. This is then not even 3G to pick up emails.'*

Respondents to the survey were clear that the challenges of working from home and for children accessing education was especially difficult and frustrating during the Covid-19 pandemic due to poor connectivity.

In a joint statement, the organisations said: "The range of services and opportunities which are exclusively available through the internet has grown significantly over the past decade, and access to broadband is now regarded as a necessity by the majority of UK businesses and households. This has become particularly visible during the Covid-19 pandemic as many have relied upon access to broadband for keeping in contact with friends and family and to work virtually from home.

"The findings of our survey are therefore a real cause for concern and it has become clear that despite many UK and Welsh Government promises made over the years, the digital divide between rural and urban areas has not been addressed.

"Poor digital connectivity evidently impacts directly on our rural communities. It is essential that the next Welsh Government further invests in rural infrastructure to enable rural families, farm businesses and others to capitalise on digital connectivity opportunities and not be left behind, increasing the digital divide between urban and rural areas. Broadband and mobile phone signal are an essential public service in Wales and must be recognised as such."

The organisations have jointly written to the First Minister and relevant Cabinet Ministers outlining the survey findings. They have also requested a meeting to discuss the Welsh Government's vision and roadmap to providing everyone with access to fast and reliable connectivity.

"The findings of our survey are therefore a real cause for concern and it has become clear that despite many UK and Welsh Government promises made over the years, the digital divide between rural and urban areas has not been addressed."

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*references available on request

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Nature theme for Mental Health Awareness week

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

LAST month saw the return of Mental Health Awareness week, a campaign run by the Mental Health Foundation, with this year's theme being nature. Spending time in nature is a great way to deal with many poor mental health triggers, such as stress, anxiety and depression.

Connecting to our surroundings consciously, be that through a walk in the park, a stroll over the fields, going for a run, participating in a spot of gardening or just sitting to listen to the birds, can help destress us and be effective in protecting our mental health.

The FUW is a long standing supporter and advocate of good mental health in our rural and farming communities and putting our money where our mouth is we have made sure that our staff have undergone mental health first aid training with the DPJ Foundation, giving us the tools to help those in need of support.

Over the years we've noticed a positive change in attitudes towards what was once a complete taboo subject. The stiff upper lip is gradually fading away, with many in rural and farming circles being increasingly honest with themselves and their families and friends about the state of their own mental health. There is now also much more support available through charities like the DPJ Foundation, FCN, Tir Dewi, RABI and other like minded organisations. However, there are still issues that need addressing, and talking about our mental health and identifying what triggers poor mental health must remain in the spotlight. The problem is far from fixed.

With this in mind, advocating greater access to the countryside and spending time outdoors seems like an excellent way to address a disconnect to nature in urban areas, but if not done

Reports of visitors trespassing by wandering off recognised footpaths, livestock worrying, unclosed gates leading to animals escaping, littering and abusive antisocial behaviour have been more common than ever during the pandemic.



carefully such proposals could have serious negative impacts on our rural and farming communities and their mental health. We support the responsible use and access of Wales' countryside and understand the important role that access to outdoor spaces can play in maintaining good health and well-being as well as its contribution to the rural economy.

However, the sharp increase in visitor numbers to the countryside and those using public rights of way during the Covid-19 pandemic has raised major concern across the rural and farming communities.

While Welsh Government restrictions on travelling to beauty hotspots helped to reduce such concerns in particular locations, many public footpaths running through farm holdings and near urban areas continued to see far greater use by members of the public, potentially increasing the spread of the disease by touching styles and gates, many of which were and are used by farmers to go about their daily business. This became a particular worry for those farming families who had a shielding member within their household.

Reports of visitors trespassing by wandering off recognised footpaths, livestock worrying, unclosed gates leading to

animals escaping, littering and abusive antisocial behaviour have been more common than ever during the pandemic, while the Wildlife in Lockdown study found that wildlife flourished during the lockdown in areas where public access was restricted during the pandemic.

Fresh air and exercise have long been known to be good for the body and soul, but despite a threefold increase in access rights since 1998 and the opening of 4,700 miles of Welsh rights of way under improvement plans there has been no measurable impact on standards of health in Wales, and levels of obesity have actually increased.

Such facts and experiences make it clear that we need to encourage more responsible use of existing rights of way, and reduce the problems caused to farmers, authorities and wildlife by people flocking to certain popular areas.

The previous Welsh Government aggressively pursued an agenda aimed at increasing access rights for visitors to Wales wishing to pursue middle class activities such as horse riding, canoeing and paragliding, while ignoring the need to increase responsible use of existing access by Welsh people most at risk of physical and mental health problems.

With visitor numbers expected to reach record levels in Wales over the summer, let us hope that the evidence of the last 12 months makes the new Welsh Government realise that we must not compromise our landscape, our wildlife nor the mental health of those who live and work in the countryside in order to cater for certain sections of society.

Farming charity urges people to get talking

WELSH charity the DPJ Foundation is encouraging people in agricultural and rural communities to get talking to improve their wellbeing.

The DPJ Foundation was set up in Pembrokeshire in July 2016 following the death by suicide of Daniel Picton-Jones. Daniel's death was a tragedy, but it led to his wife Emma establishing the DPJ Foundation in Daniel's name. In the 4 and a half years that the DPJ Foundation has been running, the charity has grown to cover the whole of Wales and has provided more than 350 people with professional counselling through its Share the Load service. More than 1,500 people have benefited from learning more about mental health and how to start a conversation with someone they are concerned about.

Charity Manager Kate Miles said: "We know that the past year has been isolating for so many people and we have become more used to being in our own little bubbles. We might have got out of the habit of talking to one another. Speaking to a friend, your family or a professional can help your wellbeing and improve your mental health. We know that talking really does help which is why we are encouraging everyone to start a

conversation today. Just asking someone how they are and what they have been doing can be enough to show you are thinking about them and that you care.

"At the same time, it can sometimes be easier to speak to someone you don't know and that is where our Share the Load service comes in. Our confidential support line is always open and our trained volunteers are there to listen and to help. If you feel that speaking to a counsellor will help, then we can arrange that to happen quickly. You don't even need to tell us your full name."

Share the Load is available on 0800 587 4262 or by text on 07860 048 799 and there is no cost for accessing the service. The freephone helpline is open 24

hours a day, everyday and is completely confidential. The DPJ Foundation also delivers Mental Health Awareness training that helps equip those working with farmers to have constructive conversations about mental health and to offer support.

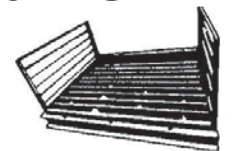
For more information about the DPJ Foundation please contact Kate Miles, Charity Manager on kate@thedpjfoundation.co.uk or 07984 169652 or visit the website: www.thedpjfoundation.co.uk



"Speaking to a friend, your family or a professional can help your wellbeing and improve your mental health. We know that talking really does help which is why we are encouraging everyone to start a conversation today."

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Green recovery must have sustainable red meat production at its heart - FUW launches environment campaign



by Ian Rickman, FUW Deputy President

FOR years the farming industry and our red meat and dairy produce have come under fire from every corner and camp conceivable. The science to back claims that livestock production is destroying habitats and pushing climate change along, and that eating red meat and dairy products is making us sick, is as changeable as the weather in Wales - and about as reliable.

The narrative pushed by the anti-livestock lobby however has been steady and is gaining momentum. Decision makers at all government levels, from Welsh Government right up to the United Nations, are listening. And so are our consumers. Some might struggle to see past the smoke and mirrors, created in part by those who have moral objections to keeping livestock and some who have a vested interest in boosting sales of non-meat food products.

The FUW has consistently recognised the threat

represented by climate change and the need to take action. This is clear from a cursory look at our manifestos and policy documents published over the past twenty years. We know that farming is already responsible for a critical carbon resource in soils, woodland and semi-natural habitats.

We understand that Welsh farmers have delivered positive environmental outcomes for the nation for centuries, and as such must be fairly rewarded for what they have already delivered, continue to deliver and will deliver in the future. Future targets must therefore work alongside sustainable and viable food producing businesses, not against, to ensure the environment continues to be managed appropriately.

Historically, Wales has been seen as an exemplar country in terms of rewarding farmers for delivering public and environmental goods through schemes such as Tir Gofal which were developed following successful pilot projects. We

now have the opportunity to build upon previous experience and knowledge by ensuring that you, our farmers, are better rewarded for what you deliver for society. This should, the Union has stressed repeatedly, be achieved through an additional scheme which complements the key policy of providing stability through direct support to food producing family farms.

2021 we know is an important year for these types of conversations. Knocking on our door are the United Nations Food Systems Summit and COP26. The FUW has been engaging with these conversations at an international level and shares some concerns with other industries across the globe about the wider narrative and ambitions set out in inconspicuous looking documents and plans that aim to tackle climate change and perceived unsustainable food production methods.

The UN narrative

Speaking at a recent stakeholder meeting which discussed the United Nations Food Systems Summit, Brussels food microbiologist Professor Frédéric Leroy highlighted that: "Action Track 2 has been set to defend the EAT Lancet diet and is infiltrated by the Good Food Institute. They want to reduce livestock considerably and fill the gap with imitation products."

Eric Mittenenthal, vice president of the North American Meat Institute (NAMI), added that: "Any recommendation that is specific to reducing animal protein is inappropriate and a bad outcome. Right now, I think the possibility of this happening is 50/50."

An update from the Global Meat Alliance drew attention to a recent United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) Action Track 2 Public Forum, which provided an update on solutions so far and a chance to pose questions and provide feedback. The session was chaired by Ajay Vir Jakhar, Action Track 2 Vice Chair and a citrus fruit farmer. After a short update from Action Track 2 Chair, Gunhild Stordalen, founder of Eat Lancet, the meeting heard from a number of panelists via a lightning round of updates.

Within these updates, it was stated that 86% of dairy and meat companies are not reporting their emissions and that 70% are at risk for exposing us to the next pandemic. A participant requested, via the chat, the source of this information with this link -<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/02042021/meat-dairy-lobby-climate-action/> - given as a response. Reduced meat consumption was mentioned at various times throughout these updates, more so than any other specific action.

What should strike the industry as a particular concern was a solution that is extremely popular and gaining a lot of traction otherwise known as A Just Rural Transition. This is being described by other stakeholders as essentially 'a just transformation away from livestock production to solve the climate crisis and bring about numerous environmental, health and socio-economic benefits.' This would see a significant reduction in animal protein production and consumption with those working in the existing supply chains converting to growing plant-based foods. This was presented by Lasse Bruun (50by40 CEO) who explained he floated this idea at COP in 2015 and at the time was pretty much considered a 'laughing stock'. 50by40 is a coalition of organisations dedicated to cutting the global production and consumption of animal products by 50% by 2040. However, as claimed by Lasse, today this idea is a welcome answer to tackling the problems the UNFSS is aiming to solve.

That sounds problematic to us to say the least, but should also be a major concern for those who care about the Welsh economies, landscape and environments which rely on livestock farming.

Members will know that the FUW has long stressed that Wales' food producers adhere to a plethora of costly regulatory requirements relating to environmental, food and animal health standards. Future plans or targets which place Welsh producers at a disadvantage - or which are met at the expense of food production - will inevitably offset the efforts made by the agricultural sector towards mitigating climate change. Why? Because making Welsh food more expensive will simply lead to the UK importing more food, thereby intensifying environmental issues elsewhere whilst undermining the viability of farm businesses here in Wales.

Many green recovery proposals, including what's currently being mooted at UN level, suggest reduced stocking levels. However, numerous studies have documented that reductions in grazing and the subsequent loss in vegetation structure can result in adverse impacts for bird species such as the golden plover and curlew - now considered the most pressing bird conservation priority in the UK.

Moreover, research has shown that reductions in sheep numbers are associated with declines in both golden plover and wheatear numbers, while a more recent study found that trebling sheep numbers led to the largest increase in species diversity on hill land in comparison to the removal of livestock.

Similarly, analysis by Plantlife has shown that more than half of all wild plants require regular management or disturbance to thrive and that 39.6 per cent of species would decline within a decade if the land on which they grow was abandoned, while 16.4 per cent would decline within 1 to 3 years under such conditions.

Consumer attitudes

The narrative for going green should have the farming community seeing red. Examining consumer attitudes towards farming and food production, AHDB research published in January 2021, highlighted that in 2020 their research found a landscape where trust in the food system was generally present but with concerns in some areas. The key concerns of the day were Brexit and the emerging issues of plastic pollution. Although issues such as animal welfare and the environment were growing in salience, the majority of consumers were positive towards agriculture. Farmers were by far the most trusted part of the food supply chain.

In 2019, the biggest perceived future disruption to farming was the potential shift towards plant-based meals. As the political landscape has changed drastically over the past 12 months, we have seen world wide efforts to push the environment to even greater prominence on the global agenda. With the UK hosting the next major UN climate change summit, COP26, in Glasgow this November, the environment has rapidly returned to being one of the top issues.



AHDB KEY FINDINGS:

- 2020 has deepened consumer trust in the food supply chain - retailers and foodservice operators have been the key beneficiaries
- Farmers continue to command the deepest trust, driven by expertise and demonstrating shared values around caring for animals and the planet
- Coronavirus, and associated economic damage, has displaced Brexit as the top consumer concern, but environmental factors continue to deepen
- Consumers are more concerned about global environmental farming issues, like climate change and deforestation, than local issues
- UK farming is seen as environmentally beneficial and consumers support net zero initiatives
- Plastic packaging remains a key concern, and recycling is the most common way for consumers to mitigate their own impact
- Key ways for farmers to demonstrate environmental stewardship are tree planting, labelling and boosting efficiency

FUW's 'Guardians of the Welsh Land' campaign

With this in mind, members will want to know what the FUW is doing to address this from a political and consumer perception point of view. I'm pleased to therefore announce that this month sees the launch of the FUW's environment campaign - 'Guardians of the Welsh Land'.

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

There is no question in our mind that we need to counteract the continuation by the anti-farming lobby of their campaign to vilify and belittle domestic food producers. These attacks are corrosive, negatively influencing consumer perception of the industry and influencing political agendas on a global scale.

The first part of the campaign introduces four case studies to help us tell the positive story of farming: Carmarthenshire organic sheep farmer Phil Jones, The Roberts family from Llanymawddwy, Ceredigion dairy farmer Lyn and Lowri Thomas and we are also exploring what FUW President Glyn Roberts and his daughter Beca do to combat climate change and care for the environment at Dylasau Uchaf in Snowdonia.

The campaign further highlights that Welsh farmers are rising to the challenge of improving soil health and increasing organic matter in soils, improvements which represent further opportunities for sequestering more carbon.

These improvements, the campaign will highlight, are achieved through specific livestock grazing patterns and rest periods. The campaign is also clear that the correct options, guidance and rewards are required to encourage more farmers to adopt such systems.

Soil, the campaign stresses, is a long term investment and it is unlikely to be improved or maintained correctly given the current uncertainties.

At present, around 410 million tonnes of carbon is stored in Welsh soils and 75,700 hectares of Wales' woodland (25%) is on farmland, representing an important and growing carbon sink.

As acknowledged in Natural Resources Wales' State of Natural Resources Report, using land for food production is an essential part of natural resource use and management. Whilst we acknowledge that agricultural intensification has undeniably had negative impacts on some species and ecosystems, there is overwhelming evidence that other factors, including reductions in agricultural activity and afforestation, have also had severe negative impacts.

As farmers are the most trusted link in the supply chain, they are best placed to communicate their stories helping to address consumer concerns and influencing political agendas.

Our case studies for the month of June are being shared with the press over the course of the month and on the members section of the FUW website.

Videos featuring our environment champions are also being released on our social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter.

The next four weeks will further see us meeting with politicians from all parties across Wales on farms. This will strengthen our argument that farming matters to the environment.

These visits will help the Union in our efforts to fully explain that a future agricultural support scheme focussed solely on a Public Goods and environmental outcomes based on poorly understood and complex environmental factors would be a mistake.

Such an approach risks exacerbating species and biodiversity declines, reversing the work undertaken towards tackling climate change and improving the environment, and undermining the importance of food production to our rural economy.

It is an approach that ignores the contribution of family farms to Wales' rural communities, our economy and our culture but it will also fail to achieve the environmental outcomes that we all wish to see.

Members can also look forward to a variety of webinars over the coming months, which will focus on the different challenges ahead for the industry.

If you would like to join the FUW's campaign and help us tell the positive story of farming, contact Anne Dunn - anne.dunn@fuw.org.uk for more information.

Background information:

WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT (UNFSS)?

The mission of the summit is to align our food systems, globally, with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), resolving not only hunger, but diet-related disease, and heal the planet.

WHAT'S THE CONCERN?

When looking at the structure of the UNFSS, many involved are aligned to the EU's 'Farm to Fork' strategy and EAT Lancet report, which points towards a particular outcome - It is likely that UNFSS leaders will push for the United Nations to set global targets that align with restrictive diets and policies for altering food production and consumption, including a reduction of animal protein.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Five areas of work which align with the UNFSS objectives have been established and named Action Tracks (AT). A working committee, including Chair, Vice-chair and Youth Vice-chair have been appointed to each AT by the UN Special Envoy. These committees have been tasked with identifying Game Changing Solutions which contribute to solving the AT objectives. The AT committees build these ideas via inputs from the Summit Dialogues, Public Surveys and Leadership Groups. These are then fed into the Pre-Summit and Summit, itself.

Further information:

<https://justruraltransition.org/>

<https://twitter.com/bruunlasse?lang=en>

<https://twitter.com/50by40>

<https://www.globalmeatalliance.org/blog/unfss-action-track-2-update>

Meet our case studies for this month



Gwella'r tir ar fferm ddefaid organig



Dairy farming family highlight benefits of knowing your farmer



Cynhyrchu bwyd ac edrych ar ôl yr amgylchedd yn mynd law yn llaw ar fferm Pennant



Farming father and daughter highlight importance of on-farm carbon auditing



Gofalu am yr amgylchedd a chynhyrchu bwyd cynaliadwy - sut mae ffermwr yn gwneud y ddau



WEDI'I leoli yn nyffryn Gwili, ar gyrion Llanpumsaint, Sir Gaerfyrddin, mae Clyttie Cochion. Mae'r fferm organig 150 erw yn gartref i Phil Jones, (**gweler uchod**), a 350 o ddefaid. Yn Ddarlithydd rhan amser yng Nghelli Aur, mae addysgu'r genhedlaeth nesaf yn golygu llawer i Phil - nid yn unig y rhai y mae'n eu dysgu yn y coleg ond defnyddwyr y dyfodol sydd â llawer o bryderon ynghylch sut mae bwyd yn cael ei gynhyrchu.

Wrth gerdded ar draws ei gaeau, dywedodd Phil: "Mae llawer o gamdybiaethau'n parhau ynghylch yr effaith y mae ffermio yn ei gael ar yr amgylchedd ac yn aml mae pobl yn ddryslyd ynghylch arddulliau ffermio mewn rhannau eraill o'r byd ac yma gartref. Nid yw'n wir yn gyffredinol bod ffermwyr yn llygru ac yn dinistrio'r amgylchedd. Yma ar y fferm mae gennym agwedd 'gofal hawdd' o fugeilio ac agwedd gofal hawdd tuag at ofal y ddaear hefyd. Dim ond yr hyn y bydd y ddaear yn ei roi i ni y byddwn ni'n cymryd o'r ddaear ac nid yw hynny'n beth drwg."

Mae deall y pridd, patrymau tywydd a thopograffeg yr un mor bwysig mewn ffermio â hwsmonaeth da byw. Er bod y daliad hwn yn cael ei ystyried yn fferm iseldir, yn 350 troedfedd, mae'r amgylchedd yn debycach i dirwedd mynydd gyda thir diffaith wedi'i orchuddio â brwyn ac ychydig o ddefaid. Mae hyn yn cyflwyno heriau i Phil gan ei fod eisieu sicrhau bod ei dir a'r anifeiliaid yn ffynnu. Er mwyn bwydo'r defaid, sy'n cael eu cadw yn yr awyr agored trwy gydol y flwyddyn, mae gorchudd da o borfa a phridd iach yn hanfodol. Mae'r gorchudd brwyn yn gwneud pethau'n anodd.

"Yn ddelfrydol, bydd gen i seibiant o gnydau bresych cyn i ni fynd i borfa ond oherwydd y gaeaf gwlyb byddai yna dir noeth, sy'n arwain at erydiad pridd. Felly, trof y tir ym mis Gorffennaf, fel bod gennym ail-had da ym mis Awst. Gyda thywydd a glaw trymach o fis Medi ymlaen, nid oes gennym dir noeth ac yn osgoi erydiad pridd. Mae uwchbridd yn brin iawn. Mae wedi cymryd miliynau o flynyddoedd i'w greu a gellir ei olchi i ffwrdd mewn un storm drom ym mis Hydref; felly mae'n rhaid i ni fod yn geidwaid gofalu iawn o'n huwchbridd. Rydyn ni'n mynd am wyndwn tymor hir a gobeithio y byddant yn llwyddiannus. Os ydyn ni'n eu rheoli'n iawn dylen nhw bara," meddai.

O ran delio â brwyn, planhigyn sy'n ffynnu mewn amodau gwlyb ac sydd ddim yn cynnig llawer o fudd maethol fel porthiant neu ar gyfer iechyd y pridd, mae Phil yn gwybod na all droi'r tir, sef clai trwm gydag uwch gleibridd ysgafnach, oherwydd byddai'n troi fyny miliynau o hadau brwyn diangen.

"Rwy'n gobeithio, trwy aredig, y bydd llai o hadau brwyn yn cael eu troi i fyny a dyna pam mae gwir angen i mi edrych ar ôl yr hyn sydd gen i. Os bydd yn rhaid i ni ail-hadu ymhellach yn y dyfodol, bydd yn rhaid i ni feddwl am drin y wyneb, fel arall byddwn yn creu problemau i ni'n hunain. Hyd nes y bydd y cyfnod sych yn cychwyn a bod yr amgylchedd cyfan

"Byddwn i'n dweud y byddai'n rhaid i chi gymryd golwg ddetholus iawn o'n diwydiant a'r byd hwn pe byddech chi'n dod i'r casgliad bod ein ffermydd teuluol yng Nghymru yn ddrwg i'r amgylchedd."

yma yn wahanol, bydd y brwyn yn broblem y mae'n rhaid i ni gadw ar y blaen ohono," ychwanega.

Mae un peth yn glir - oni bai am amaethwyr y tir fel Phil, byddai'r tir yn bla o frwyn, gan ei wneud yn llanast ecolegol ac yn anaddas ar gyfer bwydo ei ddefaid. "Nid oes llawer o amgylcheddwyr, os o gwbl, a fyddai'n cydoddef brwyn neu redyn pur. Nid yw'n dda oherwydd eu bod yn dominyddu'r pridd ac nid oes cyfle i unrhyw beth arall ddod i'r golwg o gwbl. Felly rydym yn rheoli'r tir mewn ffordd sy'n sicrhau bod gennym ecosystem iach. Nid yw'r defaid rydyn ni'n eu cadw yma yn ecsbloetiol chwaith. Nid oes yn rhaid i ni gymryd llawer o doriadau o silwair er mwyn eu bwydo dros y gaeaf.

"Trwy beidio â chymryd llawer o doriadau o silwair rydym yn sicrhau bod ein lefelau potash yn iawn a bod y ddaear yn iach. Rwy'n credu bod yn rhaid i'n hól troed carbon fod yn eithaf isel. Mae bron mor gynaliadwy ag y gall fod," meddai.

Er mwyn gwella'r tir ymhellach a chreu cynefinoedd bach unigryw, mae Phil wedi plannu 8 erw o Werni. "Roedd y ddaear a ddefnyddiom ar gyfer plannu coed yn rhy wlyb i fynd ato ac roedd y brwyn yn mynd yn bla. Ni allem ei dorri yn ystod misoedd yr haf oherwydd nid oedd byth yn ddigon sych ac nid oedd unrhyw gymhelliant i dda byw fynd i mewn yno. Nawr mae'r ddaear yn gwneud rhywbeth defnyddiol iawn. Rydyn ni wedi plannu Gwerni yn bennaf oherwydd ei fod yn ymdopi'n dda iawn â thir gwlyb. O'r blaen nid oedd yn werthfawr iawn yn amgylcheddol. Nawr gyda choed ynddo, bydd y tir yn sychu ac mae llawer mwy o amrywiaeth o rywogaethau yno nawr, na fyddai wedi goroesi ynghanol brwyn," esboniodd.

Mae'n amlwg fodd bynnag bod yn rhaid creu coetir mewn ffordd synhwyrol. "Ni allwch blannu coed yn unrhyw le yr hoffech chi. Rhaid iddo wneud synnwyr i'r ddaear, y system ffermio a rhaid i ni ystyried y mathau o goed sy'n cael eu plannu hefyd. Ac yn fwy pwysig na dim, mae'n rhaid i ni gofio am gynhyrchu bwyd cynaliadwy."

Mae'r diwydiant ffermio yng Nghymru yn deall bod angen



archwilio olion traed carbon a bod gan bawb ran i'w chwarae wrth ei leihau. Yn wir, mae ffermydd teuluol bach yng Nghymru fel Clyttie Cochion yn arwain y ffordd o ran bod yn gyfeillgar i'r amgylchedd ac maent eisoes yn gyfrifol am adnodd carbon hollbwysig mewn priddoedd, coetir a chynefinoedd lled-naturiol. "Rhaid i ni i gyd wneud ein rhan, does dim cwestiwn yn ei gylch. Rwy'n ceisio rheoli'r lle hwn bron fel y gwnaeth fy nhad - gan ei gadw'n fach. Ac rydym yn gwybod bod llawer o gynigion adferiad gwyrdd yn awgrymu lefelau stocio is.

"Fodd bynnag, mae nifer o astudiaethau wedi nodi, os ydym yn lleihau anifeiliaid sy'n pori, ein bod yn cael effaith negyddol ar strwythur llystyfiant. Gall hynny wedyn arwain at effeithiau andwyol ar rywogaethau adar fel y Cwtiad Euraidd a'r Gylfinir. Ar ben hynny, mae ymchwil wedi dangos bod gostyngiadau yn nifer y defaid yn gysylltiedig â gostyngiadau yn nifer y Cwtiad Euraidd a Thinwen y Garn, tra bod astudiaeth fwy diweddar wedi canfod bod treblu nifer y defaid wedi arwain at y cynnydd mwyaf yn amrywiaeth rhywogaethau ar dir mynydd o gymharu â chael gwared ar dda byw.

"Rydyn ni bron fel rhyw fath o Barc Safari yma. Pa mor wahanol ydyn ni i Serengeti neu warchodfa natur yn Ne Affrica lle mae yna lwyni a chynefin jyngl nodweddiadol? Mae yna eliffantod, jiraffod a'r holl dda byw eraill yno ac mae'r amgylchedd hwnnw'n cael ei gynnal gan yr anifeiliaid hynny. Pan fydd rhai anifeiliaid yn cael eu tynnu allan, mae'r amgylchedd fel arfer yn newid am y gwaethaf. Mae rhai anifeiliaid yn angenrheidiol, hyd yn oed yn y jyngl er mwyn iddo oroesi."

Felly nid yw Phil eisieu gweld gostyngiad yn nifer ei ddefaid. "Mae angen i mi gadw fy lefelau stocio ar y gyfradd gyfredol. Mae arnom angen y maetholion y mae'r defaid yn eu cynhyrchu ar y ddaear. Oherwydd ei bod yn system o 'ofal hawdd' mae ein defaid allan cymaint â phosibl ac maen nhw'n gallu gofalu amdany'n nhw eu hunain ac mae maetholion yn cael eu rhyddhau i'r ddaear yn raddol. Mae hon yn system mor gynaliadwy ag y gallwn ei rhedeg, yn enwedig gan nad yw ein cyfradd stocio fwy na 3 dafad i'r erw. Nid yw hynny'n gynaliadwy yn nhermau ariannol ond yn o ran yr hyn y gall y ddaear ei gario," meddai.

Mae ffermwyr Cymru yn ymateb i'r her o wella iechyd pridd a chynyddu deunydd organig mewn priddoedd, gwelliannau sy'n cynrychioli cyfleoedd pellach i storio mwy o garbon, tra hefyd yn cynhyrchu bwyd cynaliadwy, maethlon.

"Wrth edrych ar sut rydyn ni'n ffermio yma - ar raddfa fach ac yn unol â'r amgylchedd, byddwn i'n dweud y byddai'n rhaid i chi gymryd golwg ddetholus iawn o'n diwydiant a'r byd hwn pe byddech chi'n dod i'r casgliad bod ein ffermydd teuluol yng Nghymru yn ddrwg i'r amgylchedd," meddai.

This article is in English on the FUU website: "Looking after the environment and producing sustainable food - how one organic sheep farmer is doing both."

Ceredigion dairy farming family believe getting to know your farmer is of paramount importance



KNOWING your farmer, being able to ask questions about their produce and how they look after the land is of paramount importance to Ceredigion dairy farming family the Thomas's. The third generation to farm at Pantfeillionen, Horeb, Llandysul, Ceredigion, are Lyn and Lowri Thomas. Lyn has been farming since he was 16 and celebrates just over 32 years in the industry this year. The family looks after 170 acres and rents a further 100 acres, with the land down to grass. 70 dairy cows, a few sucklers and calves which get sold on as store cattle, call these green hills home.

Farming, the couple say, has changed a lot in the last few decades and the industry has moved with the times. The way forward for the family is to maintain the small-scale ethos of the family farm and connect on a personal level with their customers who buy raw milk directly from the farm.

Describing their farming system, Lyn says: "We do all our own silage and everything is done in house. We don't use a lot of fertilizer, some yes, but we can't use too much because of the nature of the ground. We're farming on rock so that means we need to be careful otherwise our grass would burn on the south facing slopes.

"There's not a lot of topsoil here so we have to use some fertilizer to keep the grass growing but usually no more than a bag an acre is used for silage with some slurry. We don't go overboard with slurry. Slurry is restricted to about 1700-2000 gallons an acre."

Lowri adds: "Our earth worm population is very healthy. We try to compost farm yard manure and like to keep it for more than a year, but of course with the new NVZ regulations that won't be possible going forward. It's better for the ground if it has been composted for 2 to 3 years but that's a different story. We try and do things as sustainably as we can here, we don't buy a lot of stuff in and try to grow what we need ourselves."

The cows get fed some cake but most of it is milk from grass and silage in the winter, explains Lyn. "We look after our cows, if we don't look after them - they won't look after us. We see them every day and if something is wrong then it gets dealt with straight away. The foot trimmer comes in every six weeks, the vet is here monthly for a routine fertility visit where we can chat about the herd's health at the same time. We milk record monthly with NMR, this is when

"We're not horrible people, farmers have been portrayed as polluters and not fit to look after their animals. It's time we tell them how well we look after our lands and animals."

Johne's testing is done, and we try to keep the cows as healthy as possible. The healthier our cows are, the more productive they are and that also hinges on the health of the environment around them," he adds.

"We haven't got a large herd, we know every cow, some even have names thanks to the kids. Because we milk them ourselves, we see them twice a day. They have little groups and we know which cow belongs to which group of friends. They have access to the sheds, all through the year, so they can go in and out as they wish over spring and summer. If they're coming in we know that's where they want to be. They have 2 safe places," explains Lowri.

The family has started a raw milk by the bottle business, which customers can buy directly from the farm. It started with neighbours asking if they could buy some and after a bit of deliberations in 2018 they set up the business, registering with the FSA and local authority, and the ball was set in motion.

"Milk started being sold directly to customers in March 2019 on a small scale and low key way to help build the business up gradually. We know all of our customers, and didn't install a vending machine on purpose.

"We want to know who our customers are and speak to them and it's good for them to know who we are as well. It gives us a chance to explain how we farm and look after the environment and the cows. When Covid hit last year, people became more aware of where their food was coming from and what was around them. We picked up more customers through that as well. It's absolutely fantastic and more and more people now look for local food products, conscious of where their food comes from and how it's produced," said Lowri.



Lyn is passionate about the ground that feeds his cows, understanding the direct link between the environment and the health and welfare of the cattle. He says: "We don't push the land too much. We farm it sustainably, it gives enough grass for the cows but it's not overstocked. We could keep more stock but then we'd need more fertilizer and more food for the cows. I'd rather not do that. We have about 0.8 cows per acre here, which is below average. But with more stock to feed, we'd have to reseed the grass more often.

"I haven't reseeded a field here in 7 years and then it was only because it was old ground when we bought it. It's still going and we have grass here that's been going for 25 years. So that's storing a fair bit of carbon. We aerate the fields, cut slots in to drain the water off and keep fertilizer application to a minimum - it all helps to maintain a healthy environment and soil that stores tonnes of carbon."

"When the cows come in over the winter, we drip feed the fields with slurry. The first grazing



here in March is excellent, the grass is ready to go because it's been drip fed over the winter. We apply only a small amount every now and then and it works wonders. We're therefore quite concerned about the NVZ regulations which won't allow us to carry on looking after the land that way," Lowri adds.

The wildlife on the farm is plentiful with kites, buzzards, owls, herons, woodpeckers, bats, frogs and foxes, rabbits and badgers as well as deer inhabiting the hedgerows and land that can't be accessed with hedge cutters.

"There is plenty of undergrowth and habitat here for the wildlife to flourish. We've certainly seen an increase in wildlife since the lockdown and it's a joy to see," says Lowri.

The family have also planted some trees at the start of the year to fill in gaps in hedgerows. Taking part in a community growing project in Llandysul, Lowri received a surplus of 100 native trees which include oak trees, crab apples, cherry trees, dogwood, willow and birch. Lowri is looking forward to seeing how they grow in years to come.

"We chose random places to plant the trees, mainly where we had gaps in hedges and on ground that's too wet for the livestock. All of this will provide extra habitats for wildlife in years to come. Blackthorn hedges were also planted along fields that have been amalgamated and will provide wind shelter for the cows and also nesting habitats for farmland birds," said Lowri.

Lyn and Lowri are proud to produce food and look after the environment they call home but get disheartened with the negative stories surrounding the industry. Lyn says: "A lot of the information put out now is referring to farming on a global level. Large scale and intensive farming. And in some parts of the world that's true. But our farming systems here in Wales are different - we farm with the environment.

You've still got your traditional small family farms, looking after the land. Because if you look after the land the land looks after you. That's an important distinction. People also need to ask where their food comes from and how it's produced and farmers in Wales have a great story to tell."

"We're not very good at telling people how we produce food. I understand how food is produced through my background of being a vet. So when I go into the supermarket and look where the food is coming from - I know what to look for and I distinguish between packaged locally and produced locally. But to be really sure - go to your local butcher, green grocer and small shop or farm shop and that way you can be sure, as a consumer, that your food has been sustainably produced and it's farmed in harmony with the environment.

"We're not horrible people, farmers have been portrayed as polluters and not fit to look after their animals. It's time we tell them how well we look after our lands and animals," Lowri said.

Mae cynhyrchu bwyd ac edrych ar ôl yr amgylchedd yn mynd law yn llaw meddai teulu ffermio o Ogledd Cymru



MAE teulu ffermio o Ogledd Cymru yn arwain y ffordd wrth edrych ar ôl yr amgylchedd a chynhyrchu bwyd, ar ôl ymgymryd â gwaith adfer helaeth o fawndir ar eu fferm yn ddiweddar ar y cyd ag Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri a Phrosiect Cynllun Rheoli Cynaliadwy (CRhC) Mawndiroedd Cymru i ddatblygu'r prosiect Cod Mawndir cyntaf yng Nghymru.

Mae'r teulu Roberts, sydd wedi ffermio yn Fferm Pennant, Llanymawddwy ers sawl cenhedlaeth, yn cadw gwartheg biff a defaid, defaid mynydd yn bennaf a rhai croesfridiau. Maent hefyd yn cadw buches sugno fach a defaid croesfrid ar dir isel ac mae'r teulu wedi arallgyfeirio i lety gwyliau. Mae yna ymdeimlad cryf o gyfrifoldeb o ran edrych ar ôl yr amgylchedd a chreu cynefinoedd bioamrywiol, yn ogystal â chynhyrchu bwyd.

Wrth wireddu eu huchelgeisiau amgylcheddol, aeth aelodau Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru, Lisa a Sion Roberts, ati i wneud gwaith adfer i ail-broffilio a chau torlannau mawn a rhigolau ar draws safle Bwlch y Groes, a contractwyr mawndir profiadol fu'n gyfrifol am y gwaith ar ddiwedd 2020 a dechrau 2021.

Trwy adfer y safle amcangyfrifir y bydd 2,335 tonn o allyriadau carbon yn cael eu hatal rhag cael eu rhyddhau dros y 35 mlynedd nesaf, sy'n fras yn gyfwerth â'r cyfaint o garbon deuocsid a gynhyrchir wrth losgi llong 632* tanc domestig o olew. Ar hyn o bryd mae'r allyriadau o fawndiroedd diraddiedig yn y DU yn cyfrif am 4% o gyfanswm yr allyriadau cenedlaethol, gan wneud adfer mawndir yn hanfodol bwysig ar gyfer targedau hinsawdd genedlaethol.



Mae Lisa Roberts, yn esbonio hanes y prosiect: "Roeddwn i ar gyfnod mamolaeth gyda'n hail blentyn, ac yn meddwl bod yn rhaid bod rhywbeth y gallwn ei wneud gyda'r mawn sydd gyda ni ar y mynyddoedd, yn yr un modd â chod carbon y coetir. Edrychais i mewn iddo a darganfod bod prosiect ar y gweill gyda'r Parc Cenedlaethol. Hwn oedd y cyntaf o'i fath ac yn gynllun peilot. Ar ôl llawer o ymchwil, achubwyd ar y cyfle a chychwynnodd y broses.

"Nid yw ffermwyr yn gyfrifol am ddiwrio'r amgylchedd. Yn gyffredinol, pan gewch yr ystadegau mawr hyn, cewch olwg gyffredinol fyd-eang ar amaethyddiaeth ac mae ymhell o'r hyn sy'n digwydd yma yng Nghymru."

Heddiw, mae'r prosiect adfer mawndir 65.77 hectar wedi'i gwblhau'n llwyddiannus yma ar gyrion Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri."

Yn rhedeg ar hyd ymyl ddwyreiniol Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri, mae ardal y prosiect o fewn y Berwyn a Mynyddoedd De Clwyd, sydd, yn 2,209 ha, yn un o'r ardaloedd mwyaf o rostir yr ucheldir yn Ewrop. Mae safle adfer mawndir Bwlch y Groes yn gors helaeth wedi'i lleoli mewn bwlch i'r gorllewin o Lyn Efyrrnwy sy'n swatio rhwng Aran Fawddwy a mynyddoedd Berwyn yn ne Eryri.

Dyweddodd Lisa: "Roeddem yn ffodus iawn o'r gefnogaeth a gawsom ar gyfer y prosiect hwn oherwydd bod gennym y Parc Cenedlaethol, roeddent yn rhan o'r prosiect ac yn awyddus iddo weithio. Cawsom gefnogaeth o'r dechrau - cael y cyllid, dechrau'r gwaith adfer i werthu'r credydau carbon. Fy mhrif bryder yw y bydd y ffermwr cyffredin, nad oes ganddo gefnogaeth Parc Cenedlaethol, yn ei chael hi'n anoddach gwerthu'r credydau carbon. Mae'n brofiad newydd. Mae angen i chi sicrhau eich bod chi'n ei gael yn iawn os ydych chi am gael y cyllid carbon hwnnw ar y diwedd. Mae'n rhaid ei ddilysu ac mae'n rhaid i chi ofalu amdano am o leiaf 30 mlynedd. Mae'n ymrwymiad mawr ond y gellir ei gyflawni gyda'r gefnogaeth gywir ar gael."

Mae cyllid i gyflawni'r prosiect wedi dod o gyfuniad o gefnogaeth gan Gynllun Rheoli Cynaliadwy (CRhC) Mawndiroedd Cymru a chyllid gan Gymunedau Gwledig Llywodraeth Cymru - Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020), ochr yn ochr ag incwm carbon o werthu credydau carbon.

Mae'r ardal amgylchynol yn cynnal y darn helaethaf trwy Gymru o gors sydd fwy neu lai'n gwbl naturiol, a hefyd yr ardal ucheldir pwysicaf ar gyfer adar sy'n magu, yn cynnwys amrywiaeth eang o rywogaethau o bwysigrwydd rhyngwladol.

Mae safle'r prosiect yn gorwedd o fewn nifer o ardaloedd ACA, AGA a SoDdGA dynodedig. Yn ogystal ag atal colli carbon o'r safle a diogelu'r storfa sylweddol o garbon sydd yn y mawndir, rhagwelir daw buddion eraill yn sgîl y gwaith fel gwell ansawdd dŵr, llif dŵr mwy cyson, mwy o fioamrywiaeth, a gwella amodau cynefin ar gyfer infertebratau dŵr croyw. Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n alwad am gael gwared â da byw o'r mynydd.

"Mae ffermio da byw ac edrych ar ôl yr amgylchedd yn mynd law yn llaw yma. Rydym wedi cadw defaid a gwartheg yma ar y mynydd. Maent yn rhan hanfodol o gadw'r fioamrywiaeth i ffynnu yma ar y mynydd. Dydwn i ddim eisau meddwl sut olwg fyddai arno pe na baent yma, unllystyfiant fyddai yma i raddau helaeth. Mae'n ymwneud â rheoli, nid gor-stocio.

Mae angen i ni reoli'r hyn sydd gennym a'i reoli'n dda i hyrwyddo'r fioamrywiaeth honno ar y mynydd hwn. Mae'r gwartheg sydd yma wedi gwella'r tir, wedi agor y glaswelltau ac yn helpu i reoli brwyn a chorlwyni fel grug sy'n sychu'r mawn. Mae'r cyfan yn rhan o'r ecosystem a sut y cafodd ei reoli ers canrifoedd," esboniodd Lisa.

Yn ymwybodol o ganfyddiad y cyhoedd o ffermio a'r pryder sylfaenol ynglŷn â newid yn yr hinsawdd, mae Lisa a Sion yn glir bod ffermio yma yng Nghymru yn chwarae rhan hanfodol wrth fynd i'r afael â phryderon o'r fath. "Mae pobl yn fwy craff nawr ac yn gofyn o ble mae eu bwyd yn dod. Maent yn poeni mwy am ôl troed carbon y cynnyrch. Mae mwy o bwysau ar y diwydiant, fodd bynnag, mae angen i ni weiddi ychydig yn uwch am y gwaith da rydyn ni'n ei wneud. Mae hon yn enghraifft dda o hynny ac mae yna lawer o waith da arall yn digwydd ledled y wlad," meddai Sion Roberts.

"Nid yw ffermwyr yn gyfrifol am ddiwrio'r amgylchedd. Yn gyffredinol, pan gewch yr ystadegau mawr hyn, cewch olwg gyffredinol fyd-eang ar amaethyddiaeth ac mae ymhell o'r hyn sy'n digwydd yma yng Nghymru. Rydym ar y blaen i lawer o wledydd eraill o ran edrych ar ôl yr amgylchedd.

Byddai'n braf gweld trwy gynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd

fel Glastir faint o wrychoedd sydd wedi'u plannu a choetiroedd sydd wedi'u creu eisoes.

Byddai'r ystadegau hynny'n eithaf anhygoel. Mae angen i ni fod yn well am gipio a chyhoeddi'r wybodaeth honno. Mae cymaint o ffermwyr hefyd bellach yn ceisio gwella effeithlonrwydd ffermydd trwy leihau diwrnodau i dorri a gwneud gwell defnydd effeithiol o laswellt, mae'r cyfan yn helpu pan ddaw at ein hól troed carbon fel diwydiant," ychwanegodd Lisa.

Mae'r teulu bellach hefyd yn edrych ar blannu coed i wella eu hól troed carbon ymhellach. "Nid ydym wedi penderfynu ar faint eto ac nid ydym yn mynd i blannu'r fferm gyfan yn llawn coed. Ar hyd o bryd rydym yn ystyried rhannau serth y tir, lle na allwn gael y tractor i, a lle na allwn bori llawer o dda byw a lle mae wedi'u gorchuddio â rhedyn. Rydyn ni wedi nodi rhai parseli bach o dir lle rydyn ni'n meddwl nad ydyn nhw'n gynhyrchu iawn o ran cynhyrchu bwyd ac rydyn ni'n gobeithio eu troi'n borseli coetir bach a gwerthu'r credyd carbon neu eu rheoli at ein dibenion ein hunain," meddai Lisa.



Nid yw uchelgeisiau i leihau ffermio da byw dan ffurf atal newid yn yr hinsawdd mewn sefyllfa dda yn ôl teulu Roberts. "Trwy wahanol gynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd fel Glastir bu'n rhaid i ni leihau nifer y da byw yma ond yn sicr ni allent fynd unrhyw is. Mae'r da byw yn chwarae rhan hanfodol wrth reoli'r dirwedd a'r amgylchedd hwn. Maent yn gwella bioamrywiaeth ac mae'n creu cynefinoedd. Mae hon yn ardal SoDdGA ac mae gennym amrywiaeth enfawr o rywogaethau yn ffynnu ar y tir. Rydym yn monitro hynny fel rhan o'r SoDdGA. Mae pori yn hanfodol ar gyfer y fioamrywiaeth honno. Nid yw'n ymwneud â lleihau nifer y da byw, mae'n ymwneud â gwella effeithlonrwydd cynhyrchu," ychwanegodd Sion.

"Mae'n syniad da i feddwl y tu allan i'r bocs lle gallwch chi gwthio'ch busnes ymlaen. Ffactor sy'n cyfyngu ar fferm fynydd fel hyn yw cynyddu nifer y da byw. Nid oes gennym y tir i ehangu da byw heb lawer o iseldir ar gael i ni. Felly roedd angen i ni edrych ar ffyrdd eraill fel hyn, sydd wedi caniatáu i ni wella ein perfformiad amgylcheddol. Ffermio yw ein bywyd. Cefais fy magu ar fferm, priodais ffermwr ac yn ystyried fy hun yn ffermwr - nid gwraig ffermwr yn unig. Rwy'n angerddol am ffermio ac mae angen i bobl ddeall y gallwch gynhyrchu bwyd law yn llaw â'r amgylchedd. Mae angen herio canfyddiad y cyhoedd bod cynhyrchu bwyd yn ddrwg i'r amgylchedd ac mae hon yn un enghraifft, fel llawer o rai eraill yng Nghymru, o sut y gall weithio gyda'i gilydd," meddai Lisa.

* Cyfrifiadau yn seiliedig ar ffigurau Defra (2007) bod 2.96kg o garbon deuocsid yn cael ei gynhyrchu ar gyfer pob litr o olew llosgi

This article is in English on the FUW website: "Food production and looking after the environment goes hand in hand says North Wales farming family."

Snowdonia beef and sheep farming father and daughter team highlight importance of carbon audits on farm



DYLASAU Uchaf, a National Trust tenant farm, is home to the Roberts family. Glyn and his daughter Beca keep a watchful eye on the land and livestock here in the Eidda valley, hidden away between the upper Conwy and the Machno. The sheep and beef farm is about 4 miles from Betws y Coed and 3 miles from Ysbyty Ifan.

A lot has changed up here in the last 5 years, says Glyn Roberts, who takes his responsibility of producing food and looking after the land seriously. Working with Bangor University and Hybu Cig Cymru-Meat Promotion Wales (HCC) a carbon audit was carried out on the farm highlighting where the business is doing well and where there is room for improvement when it comes to reducing carbon emissions.

Using the result of the carbon audit the family hopes to be in a better position to highlight areas of improvements and lower their carbon footprint by increasing efficiency, lowering feed cost and increasing growth rate, less days to slaughter, reduced burden of disease, reducing the use of fertilizer by knowing the farm's needs and also using less fuel, are all things that are now being taken into consideration.

Glyn said: "We've had a carbon audit done here at the farm and taking some of the results into account we had to look at how and where we can improve the way we farm. The results from the audit show that the cattle are better than average in their carbon footprint for this type of farm and the sheep are performing at about average. It makes sense that we are better than average with the cattle because in the last 5 years we've changed the breed and nature of the cows we keep here.

"We now keep a much smaller, more efficient cow, and have moved away from the continental breeds which weighed about 800kg to 900 kg. The smaller breeds we keep now are about 550kg to 600 kg. The ratio of weaning weight of progeny and live weight on the cow is now also much better," he explains.

Glyn is clear that there are many other efficiency factors which contribute to the carbon footprint and emissions. "At the moment all our cows calve as heifers at 2 years old, and that's a big help. The continental cows would calve at 2.5 to 3 years old. So we would have an extra 12 months of emissions on the farm - that's now being addressed.

"We're also looking at breed values from the bulls we buy in, taking into account calving ease, feed efficiency, and growth rate. For example, you could feed an animal 10 kg of concentrate and that would result in 1.5 kg of live weight gain, but there are some figures to show that it's possible to gain 1.5kg in weight by feeding 8kg instead. If we're looking at the emissions and carbon footprint, we consider the amount of feed that the animal gets and how long it takes for it to grow. If you can reduce the feed and the time that animal is on the farm, it's all plus plus," he said.

Beca, who farms alongside her father, said: "We also consider how much fertilizer we're using and have taken a new approach to our grazing system over the last 2 years and started rotational grazing. That means paddocks are separated and split into

sections. The sheep and cattle go into one section for 2 to 3 days before being moved to the next one.

"The stock goes in to graze at 2600 kg of dry matter per hectare and out at 1500kg of dry matter. I go round the fields and measure the grass height with a plate meter weekly and then I know what grass I have available for the stock. When they go into a field I know exactly how many days of grazing I have there for them in that field before they move to the next section."

Allowing the livestock only 3 days on that grass, means there is a 30 day rest period before the stock goes in there again.

"Doing it this way means we can grow more grass, with less concentrates on the farm," Beca explains.

"By doing the rotational grazing, evidence has shown, the roots of the grass get stronger and deeper. The deeper the root is, the better it opens the soil up so it naturally aerates the ground and more carbon can be stored," adds Glyn.



Beca has also started monitoring how the cattle grazing on the mountain is affecting biodiversity and is using electric fencing for rotational grazing there too. "We divided the area into four lots on the mountain and then did the rotation with the cattle. Before the cattle went in I did an analysis of the plant species and then again after the cattle moved out. There was a considerable change and we increased the variety in plant species and biodiversity. The cattle are certainly going back up again this year to keep improving that vegetation," she said.

Agriculture, Beca thinks, has a lot of things to work at, like every other industry. Beca said: "Every farm has the responsibility to know their carbon footprint and then work to reduce it. We've seen our carbon footprint so we know what's right and what we need to work at to improve our carbon footprint. We've got a lot more positives in the agricultural industry than there are negatives. But we need to change, and a lot of farms will need to change to be more efficient when it comes to livestock farming and utilizing grass.

With the new grazing regime in place, Glyn and Beca soon realised that getting water to the cattle and sheep created another challenge. Glyn highlights: "With the change in our grazing regime we realised we had to pipe water from a reserve. We now have a 4,000 litre tank that brings water by gravity to the fields in tanks through a pipe. Because we've expanded on the water tank, we've been able to fence off corridors next to the water courses so the livestock can't get in and make the water dirty.

"Some of those corridors have now also been planted with hedges. We've just completed a half a mile corridor on that. It stops the animals from polluting the water and it stops soil erosion as well."

The father and daughter team hasn't stopped there either and further improvements to the farming system included blocking some of the ditches on the ffridd on the mountain, restricting water run-off into the Conwy river, and addressing potential soil erosion they have put in place hard standings for the livestock feeding stations in the fields. Culverts were also created to go over ditches so that the tractor doesn't have to drive through them and dirty the water. In the last

25 years the family have planted 4.5 miles of hedging on

"In agriculture we have three important resources: land, labour and capital. The most important one is the land. If we don't look after the land we can't farm that land so it's important we look after it."

the farm and this year have also planted about 300 trees in patches across the farm. "They are native deciduous varieties such as oak. Choosing where to plant them was done in cooperation with the National Trust warden to make sure they are in the right places and somewhere where they would work," explains Beca.

Addressing potential water pollution problems on the farm 30 years ago, Glyn worked with the National Trust and Water Agency (now NRW) to put measures in place that would see the establishment of a Willow tree water filtration system. He explains: "We had a problem with dirty water here on the yard and I wasn't sure how to address the situation. The solution we chose was to separate the dirty water from the clean water through a natural filtration system.

"The clean water from the gutters went back into the streams and the dirty water from the yard is piped into a small pond. Under that pond we've planted willow trees - the principal is that the dirty water provides nutrients for the trees to grow. From the pond there is a zigzag draining system, next to which there are also willow trees to extract the nutrients and other particles from the water. Once the water has gone down to the bottom of the plantation, it gets pumped back up into the pond to go through the plantation twice.

"This solution works extremely well. The willow gets cut every 7 years, and some of them are being used as bedding for the cattle after chipping and the others are used as firewood here in the house. We're also experimenting with the willows to see if we can stop erosion in the Conwy river by adding a bank of willow cuttings in the natural bends of the river."

Glyn and Beca feel strongly that farmers look after the environment, and that it's not true that farmers abuse the environment. Glyn says: "At the end of the day, in agriculture we have three important resources: land, labour and capital. The most important one is the land. If we don't look after the land we can't farm that land so it's important we look after it."

"In years to come we'd like to put solar panels on the sheds. Electric cars, pickups and tractors will come in the end - so if we can produce our own electricity in a renewable manner and be eco friendly, that will be beneficial for the farm and the environment. Why move to electric cars if that power is dirty power. It has to be renewable. Overall, we're quite clear - everything should work and fit together like a jigsaw. You can't have a piece of that puzzle missing.

"As farmers we are not a threat to global warming. We are the answer. Let us work together with the government, stakeholders and the public to reach mutual aims of reducing global warming for a better, cleaner and healthier future," said Beca.



“My passion for agriculture and the countryside started at a young age”

Megan's view on the future of farming

HELLO readers of *Y Tir!* My name is Megan Alice Stevens and I'm from Carmarthenshire which is a mainly grass based and livestock agricultural area and this is where my passion for the countryside and what it has to offer has originated. I'm currently a GCSE student in my last weeks of school.

I study Agriculture, Sports and Religious Studies in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myddin, but I'm hoping to move away in September to Hartbury College in Gloucestershire to study Agriculture and play for the Women's Rugby Academy.

I don't have a massive background in Agriculture, but I live on a 23 acre smallholding with my family. Even though we don't farm animals ourselves on the land we do have sheep that graze it. My passion for agriculture started from a young age and due to this passion I decided to study agriculture as a GCSE subject to gain more knowledge and understanding of the farming industry.

I am also a keen member of my local young farmers club and can honestly say that I have learnt many things from attending and I'm sure I will continue to develop skills. I have loved everything from public speaking to get me ready for job interviews or speaking to crowds and people I'm not so comfortable with. I have also enjoyed doing stock judging to increase my learning and to grow my confidence.

In years to come I hope to have a job as an Agricultural Consultant working for a Welsh Farm Consultancy group hopefully. As I see many small farms get smaller and bigger farms only get



bigger I want to help farmers develop their businesses and plan for a secure future whatever it is they decide to do.

With new laws always coming into force I'm always interested in expanding my knowledge and help others come to terms with changes to their lifestyles. There is a growing need for specialists in the farming industry such as nutritionists and soil scientists and I might find a future for myself here somewhere!

But I do see that there will be the need to diversify with so many uncertain things going on in the future as within a couple of years the Single Farm Payment will be phased out and at the moment nobody knows how any future scheme will work.

Everyone will need a second income stream to fall on, be it a good education, going down into tourism or manufacturing products, to always have that steady income because you never know when it might be needed.

“As I see many small farms get smaller and bigger farms only get bigger I want to help farmers develop their businesses and plan for a secure future whatever it is they decide to do.”

Croeso i'r byd Gwenllian a Tirion



Llongyfarchiadau i Reolwr Aelodaeth a Gweithrediadau UAC, Caryl Gruffydd Roberts a'i gŵr Owen ar enedigaeth eu gefeilliaid Gwenllian Erfyn a Tirion Symlog a anwyd ar Ebrill 16 2021.

Tra bod Caryl ar gyfnod mamolaeth mae Karen Royles wedi cymryd ei rôl, ei chyfeiriad e-bost yw: karen.royles@fuw.org.uk

Congratulations to the FUW's Membership and Operations Manager, Caryl Gruffydd Roberts and her husband Owen on the birth of their twin girls Gwenllian Erfyn and Tirion Symlog born on April 16 2021. Whilst Caryl is on maternity leave Karen Royles has taken over her role, her email address is: karen.royles@fuw.org.uk

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Amaeth yn cael ei adnabod fel y diwydiant peryclaf ym Mhrydain - sut fedrwn ni wella'r sefyllfa?

gan Alun Edwards, Llysgennad y Bartneriaeth Diogelwch Fferm

FAINT ohonoch chi sy'n adnabod rhywun sydd wedi dioddef damwain ar y ffarm? Pob un, fentra i awgrymu, a nifer wedi colli perthynas neu gyfaill. Mae'n digwydd er gwaethaf yr holl gyrsiau hyfforddiant sydd ar gael, yn rhad neu ddigost yn aml, a'r ymdrechion cyson i godi ymwybyddiaeth o'r peryglon sydd ynghlwm a gyrfa amaethyddol.

Felly be nesa? Sut fedrwn ni wella'r sefyllfa ble mae amaeth yn cael ei adnabod fel y diwydiant peryclaf ym Mhrydain?

Un peth sy'n sicr, mi fydd y dyfodol yn cynnwys mwy o gofnodion. Mi fydd angen asesiad risg cyn dechrau gwaith, a thechnoleg i gofnodi hynny. Pan dwi'n mynd allan i ffillmio ar gyfer Ffermio, mae hynny'n orfodol yn feunyddiol. Mae'n dempled syml, ond mae angen ei ddiweddarau o dro i dro drwy fynychu cwrs, ac ym maes amaeth mae dirfawr angen gwell cyfathrebu a chydymdeimlad o dy'r darparwyr yn y cyd-destun yma.

Mi fydd contractwyr angen cofnod o asesiad risg cyn cynnig gwasanaeth i chi, drwy drafodaeth a falle ymweliad ar ffurf recce. Cost ychwanegol medde chi. Os na fedrwn ei fforddio, fedrwn chi fforddio canlyniad damwain fydd yr ymateb.

Mi fydd yswirwyr yn cynyddu'r defnydd o foronen a ffon; yn galw am dystiolaeth o gymhwyster hyfforddi cyn yswirio tractor, cwad a tharw, yn gofyn am brawf o bryniant helmed, ac wrth gwrs yn cynnig disgownt am leihau'r risg yn sgil hynny.

Mi fydd F.A.W.L. yn gofyn am dystiolaeth debyg cyn achredu'ch busnes, ar ffurf uwchsgilio drwy ennill cofnod sgiliau Cyswllt Ffermio o bosib.



dydyn ni ddim yn unigryw yn hynny o beth cofiwch. Diolch am eich sylw ac o ddifri, cadwch yn ddiogel.

Mi fydd rheoleiddwyr yn edrych o ddifri ar M.O.T. ar gyfer tractorau. Mae'n anghredadwy nad oes angen un ar gyfer gwaith ffordd yn barod, a chwarae teg dwi'n nabod sawl ffarmwr sy'n mynd trwy'r broses yn wirfoddol er mwyn cael tawelwch meddwl.

Mi fydd sgwrs gynyddol am ddiogelwch yn y gwaith fel "nwyddau cyhoeddus". Os ydi Llywodraeth yn gorfodi mwy o storfeydd slyri arnom, beth yw'r peryglon o gynyddu hydrogen sylffid, methan a charbon deuocsid yn y gweithle, heb sôn am y drosedd annelwig o lygru awyr?

Mae'r cysyniad o drwydded i ffermio wedi'i grybwyll ers blynnyddoedd, a record iechyd a diogelwch diffygiol y diwydiant yn prysuro dydd ei gyflwyno. Arnom ni fel ffermwyr mae'r cyfrifoldeb i wella'n amodau gwaith. Mae newid mawr ar droed dros y blynnyddoedd nesa ac mae'n rhaid i ni ymateb yn gadarnhaol, neu orfodaeth fydd ei diwedd hi. Ac mae'n rhaid i ni fod yn ymwybodol o'n delwedd ehangach drwy arddangos ymarfer da ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol.

I orffen ar nodyn personol, er gwaethaf fy mhenodiad fel llysgennad y Bartneriaeth Diogelwch Fferm, mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r galwadau dwi'n ei derbyn yn ymwneud ag iechyd meddwl gwael ymysg ffermwyr. Mae'n epidemig o fewn y diwydiant, ac unwaith eto, mae'n rhaid i ni ymateb; mae 'na ofynion lu, ond

Funding helps Wales Farm Safety Partnership save lives

MENTER A BUSNES has been awarded funding to work with the Wales Farm Safety Partnership (WFSP) to help reduce deaths and injuries on farms in Wales.

Established in 2012, the Wales Farm Safety Partnership (WFSP) is a collaboration of key agricultural stakeholder organisations* working to highlight farm safety and promote good practice.

The WFSP's strategic aim is to deliver year-on-year reductions in the number of deaths and serious injuries on farms in Wales.

Agriculture has the worst rate of fatal worker injury (per 100,000) of the main industrial sectors. Figures published in the Health and Safety Executive's report 'Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain 2019/20' show three people in Wales were killed due to farming and other agriculture-related activities. While during that period, there were 21 deaths in the sector across Wales, Scotland and England.

Menter a Busnes Director, Eirwen Williams said: "While it is encouraging that the number of fatal injuries has reduced in Wales during 2019/20, the figure remains too high and much more work needs to be done to bring that figure down.

"The Welsh Government funding will have a positive impact on the WFSP's strategic aim of "driving down the unacceptable number of serious accidents and deaths that occur on farms across Wales each year."

"By working together, we are creating a cohesive message to raise awareness of the issue of health and safety on farms in Wales. This award of £69,000 to promote the WFSP's work will make a real difference and enable it to spread that message even wider through a programme of activities across Wales.

"A dedicated Health and Safety Officer will also be appointed. They will help the Partnership and its affiliated organisations continue in its drive to encourage farmers to pause, stop and think before taking unnecessary risks."

Through the Partnership, a series of activities are planned to promote farm safety and provide advice

"We are trying to impress on people that ultimately, safety is in their hands. They need to take their time, plan the job, and not take risks. If necessary, they should get an extra pair of eyes to take a look, as they may pick up on a potential hazard that's been missed."

and guidance in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive.

Eirwen said: "A farm is a home as well as a place of work, and in addition to highlighting safe working practices, we want to promote health and safety to children and schools."

Helping to get the WFSP message across to the broader agricultural community are two Farm Safety Ambassadors - farmer and presenter of S4C's Ffermio farming programme Alun Elidyr and Glyn Davies, who farms at Llanrhystud.

Alun Elidyr said: "In terms of multi-skilling, farming is the most demanding of jobs. There is an element of pride too, and as farmers, we think we can do everything.

"One minute you're a tractor driver, next a vet, then a builder working at height. There's the adversity of the weather too, and a situation can quickly become hazardous - no matter how experienced you are.

"Farmers are admired for having a work ethic that's second to none. But the number of farm accidents is increasing, so we have to ask ourselves, 'are we working safely enough?'"

"We need to alter people's mindset. It only takes a moment to stop and consider what you are doing - and it could mean the difference between life and death."

Glyn Davies welcomed the funding, as it gives the Wales Farm Safety Partnership more resources to spread its message.

He said: "We need to get the message across to people that farm safety needs to be improved. I think the pandemic has also been a factor, as more people have been taking risks by trying to do things themselves on the farm rather than get someone in to help.

"We are trying to impress on people that ultimately, safety is in their hands. They need to take their time, plan the job, and not take risks. If necessary, they should get an extra pair of eyes to take a look, as they may pick up on a potential hazard that's been missed."



*Wales Farm Safety Partnership Stakeholder Organisations

Welsh Government
Country Land and Business Association (CLA)
Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales
Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI)
Farmers' Union of Wales
National Farmers Union Cymru
NFU Mutual
Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Lantra
Farming Connect /Menter a Busnes
Farming Community Network (FCN)
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society
Wales Young Farmers' Clubs (YFC)
The Farm Safety Foundation
Health and Safety Executive (HSE) (advisory role)



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MEAT MATTERS

Welsh Beef traceability backed by leading food technology

by Gwyn Howells, HCC Chief Executive

WELSH Beef is set to benefit from new technology which will help ensure its traceability from farm to fork, by using the naturally-occurring elements the animals absorb from the outstanding environment we have in Wales.

A new partnership with scientific traceability specialists Oritain, building on a successful similar venture with Welsh Lamb in 2018, will therefore help Welsh Beef to get a foot in the door with retailers and foodservice suppliers who are looking for a strong story of sustainable production and evidence that the supply chain is robust and free from lower-quality imitation.

Working in accordance with Mother Nature, Oritain analyses the naturally-occurring isotopes and trace elements that animals absorb from their environment - from the water they drink and the grass that they eat. This creates a 'fingerprint' of origin, which can be compared against a database to assess if the beef came from Wales.

This forensic science is the same science that's been used in the criminal investigations field for over 40 years. It is incredibly accurate and robust, and doesn't rely on extra barcodes or packaging - the product can be tested at any point in the supply chain.

The partnership between Welsh Lamb and this remarkable technology proved that our lamb supply chain is very strong. In recognition of this world-leading innovation, the partnership won a leading food technology award in 2019.

Extending the partnership to Welsh Beef will provide an extra layer of reassurance to an already strong system of audit and traceability. This also helps us to prove the link between our quality meat and the sustainable, low-intensity agriculture based on the country's outstanding natural environment in which it is reared.

Over the next few years, food producers will be

increasingly asked by retailers and foodservice clients to prove what they claim. From nutritional information to sustainability credentials and claims of origin, products that can provide robust evidence will be in the strongest position.

We've been delighted with the results of our partnership with Oritain so far; this innovative technology will help us prove to prospective customers the world over that if it's high-quality, sustainable Welsh meat you want, that's what you'll get.

There's more information on the traceability of Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef, and the extra layer of scientific reassurance that Oritain provides, on the HCC website.



Disgwylir i Gig Eidion Cymru elwa o dechnoleg newydd a fydd yn helpu i sicrhau ei bod yn gallu cael ei olrhain o'r fferm i'r fforc, trwy ddefnyddio'r elfennau sy'n digwydd yn naturiol y mae'r anifeiliaid yn eu hamsugno o'r amgylchedd rhagorol sydd gennym yng Nghymru. Felly bydd partneriaeth newydd gyda'r arbenigwyr olrhain gwyddonol Oritain, sy'n adeiladu ar fenter debyg lwyddiannus gyda Chig Oen Cymru yn 2018, yn helpu i amlygu Cig Eidion Cymru gyda manwerthwyr a chyflenwyr gwasanaeth bwyd sy'n chwilio am stori gref o gynhyrchu cynaliadwy a thystiolaeth bod y gadwyn gyflenwi yn gadarn ac yn rhydd o ddyddwarediad o ansawdd is.

PROPERTY MATTERS

What are the opportunities and restrictions for tenant farmers?

by Philip Meade, Davis Meade
Property Consultants

IT will have been hard to miss the recent almost exponential growth in interest in carbon offsetting and biodiversity, although most of the activity and advice seems to centre around the opportunities for farmers and landowners who own their land rather than rent it. So what are the opportunities and restrictions for tenant farmers?

The answer to that question depends very much on the terms of the tenancy agreement. Despite the overriding impression that carbon offsetting and biodiversity involves permanent changes to land and land use, such as rewilding or planting trees, this is not necessarily the case and it is the more subtle changes such as changes in farming practice where most opportunities lie for tenants.

The first step, before considering any changes in the way you farm, is to check that the tenancy agreement does not prevent you from doing what you are planning to do.

Most tenancy agreements (both under the Agricultural Holdings Act and the Agricultural Tenancies Act) will limit the use of the land to agricultural use only. The majority of tenancies also require the tenant to farm in accordance with the Rules of Good Husbandry.

The net result will mean that planting trees and rewilding will pretty much not be on the agenda anyway. As carbon offsetting and biodiversity become more and more relevant to increasingly smaller businesses (it is only the very large companies that have to account for their carbon at the moment) farmers and landowners will see more and more opportunities come their way.

The opportunities are therefore likely to lie in the way the farm is farmed and how the Natural Capital of the holding can be best utilised.

Natural capital covers a multitude of things including soil, air, water and other environmental aspects. Even something as elusive as the views and location (dark skies for astronomy, peace and quiet for a day retreat for stressed out city executives) should be seen as an asset.

There are numerous examples and possibilities, but the sort of things that are unlikely to be in breach of a tenancy include reducing use of nitrogen, changing cropping rotations (switching from Winter wheat to Spring barley has significant carbon savings), minimum tillage operations and changing grassland and/or soil management.

It is always preferable to discuss any major changes with you landlord first (even if the changes do not appear to be restricted by the tenancy agreement), although the likely reaction is to be to seek an increase in rent.

To some extent that may be acceptable if capital investment is required and the landlord is prepared to contribute, but if all you are doing is planning to replace the loss of income from the phasing out of the Basic Payment Scheme, then the rental value is unlikely to increase dramatically, although every case will be different.

It is impossible to cover or convey the full extent of what might or might not be possible in a short article, but the general message is that, subject to checking your tenancy agreement first, the Natural Capital revolution which is coming need not be dismissed by farmers just because they do not own the land that they farm.

Mae yna ddiddordeb mawr mewn gwrthbwysio carbon a bioamrywiaeth, er ei bod yn ymddangos bod y rhan fwyaf o'r cyngor yn canolbwyntio ar y cyfleoedd i ffermwyr a pherchnogion tir sy'n berchen ar eu tir yn hytrach na'i rentu. Felly mae Davis Meade yn edrych ar y cyfleoedd a'r cyfyngiadau i ffermwyr tenant.

MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Mis Mai prysur i Ferched y Wawr

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

ROEDD sialens mis Ebrill i Guro'r Corona'n Camu wedi profi yn boblogaidd iawn, gyda'r aelodau. Darganfuwyd llwybrau cerdded newydd a thipyn o hanes ein cymunedau lleol. Fe wnaeth 540 o aelodau gofnodi a llwyddwyd i gerdded 145,144,798 o gamau - roedd amryw o wragedd fferm ar y brig a dywedont fod amser wyna yn galluogi iddynt gerdded llawer i'r caeau a'r siediau.

Yna mis Mai cynhaliwyd Sadwrn Siarad Mwya'r Byd gyda'r Ganolfan Gymraeg Genedlaethol a braf iawn oedd gweld brwdfrydedd yr aelodau o bob rhan o'r Byd yn siarad gyda'r aelodau.

Yna'r Sadwrn canlynol fe gafwyd Gŵyl y Rhanbarthau gan wrando ar ddringwr mynyddoedd, perchennog siop, Arlunydd a oedd wedi cael eu hysbrydoli i greu celf gan nodau clust ac yna orig o adloniant gan Meibion Jacob. Cyhoeddwyd rhifyn arbennig o gylchgrawn "Y Wawr" a phodlediadau a chopi clywedol sydd ar gael trwy lyfrau llafar Cymru.

Ac wedyn ar y 15fed o Fai, cynhaliwyd ein cyfarfod blynyddol a'n Gŵyl Haf rhithwir. Cafwyd araith gofiadwy iawn gan Rhuanedd Richards a chyfarchion gan y Prif Weinidog Mark Drakeford.

Roedd cystadlu brwd a gwelwyd gwobrau yn mynd i bob ardal yng Nghymru gydag un o'r dysgwyr yn dod o Dubai. Mae'r aelodau yn paratoi ar gyfer y Sioe rithwir yn awr. Diolch i bawb am eu brwdfrydedd.

May has been a very busy month for Merched y Wawr, with the members taking part in all sorts of various activities including their Virtual Summer Festival. Rhuanedd Richards gave a very memorable speech and the First Minister Mark Drakeford also sent his best wishes. Members are now busy preparing for the Virtual Royal Welsh.





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Pen-blwydd Arbennig

Dyma Mr Gwilym Roberts, Chwipin, Llangaffo a ddathlodd ei ben-blwydd yn 90 yn ddiweddar. Ers ymaelodi â UAC yn 1972, treuliodd Mr Roberts gyfnod yn Gadeirydd ar Bwyllgor Llaeth yr Undeb a chymerodd sedd Llywydd Sirol dwywaith.

Heddiw, mae Mr Roberts yn parhau i fod yn aelod gweithgar o Bwyllgor Gwaith y Sir a mawr yw'r diolch iddo am ei gefnogaeth barhaus i'r Undeb. Dymuniadau gorau i chi Mr Roberts ar ddathlu eich Pen-blwydd arbennig.



Pictured is Mr Gwilym Roberts, Chwipin, Llangaffo who recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Since joining the FUW in 1972, Mr Roberts has served as Chairman of the Union's Dairy Committee and has been County President twice. Mr Roberts remains an active member of the County Executive Committee and we thank him for his continued support of the Union. Best wishes to you Mr Roberts on celebrating your special Birthday.

Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol

Am y tro cyntaf mewn hanes bydd Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol y Sir yn cael ei gynnal ar-lein drwy gyfrwng Zoom, a hynny ar nos **lau'r 10fed o Fehefin am 7.30yh.**

Rydym yn falch o gyhoeddi y bydd dau siaradwr gwadd yn ymuno a ni ar y noson, sef Mr Guto Bebb, Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Grwp UAC ynghyd â Mr Keith Owen o Gwmni KeBek fydd yn sgwrsio am y rheoliadau NVZ. Estynnwn wahoddiad cynnes iawn i chi fynychu, cysylltwch â ni ar 01248 750 250 ar gyfer y manylion i ymuno.

The County's AGM will be held online via Zoom on Thursday 10th June at 7.30pm. The two guest speakers will be Mr Guto Bebb, FUW Group Managing Director along with Mr Keith Owen of KeBek company who will be talking about the NVZ regulations. We warmly invite you to attend, please contact us on 01248 750 250 for the joining details.

CAERNARFON

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Pwyllgor Gwaith

Dros y tri mis diwethaf rydym wedi bod yn cwblhau eich Ffurflenni Taliad Sengl gyda dros 500 wedi eu cwblhau yn y sir. Mae wedi bod yn gyfnod prysur iawn! Yn y Pwyllgor Gwaith diwethaf etholwyd John A Hughes o fferm Mur Clwt Lloer, Chwilog yn Gadeirydd y Sir, Rhydian D Owen o fferm Trewen, Botwnnog yn Is-Gadeirydd a Dafydd M Williams yn Llywydd y Sir.

Yn ogystal, cafwyd adroddiad gan Gareth Parry o adran Bolisi'r Undeb ar y rheolau 'NVZ' newydd sydd wedi cael eu cyflwyno ers y 1af o Ebrill eleni. Hoffwn ddiolch ar ran aelodau a staff cangen Sir Gaernarfon i Dafydd M Williams am ei holl waith dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf fel Is-Gadeirydd ac yna fel Cadeirydd y Sir.

Over the last three months we have been completing your Single Application Forms with over 500 completed in the county. It's been a very busy time! At the last Executive Committee John A Hughes of Mur Clwt Lloer Farm, Chwilog was elected as County Chairman, Rhydian D Owen of Trewen Farm, Botwnnog as Vice Chairman and Dafydd M Williams as County President. Gareth Parry from the Union's Policy department also reported on the new 'NVZ' rules that have been introduced since April 1st this year. On behalf of members and staff of the Caernarfonshire Branch I would like to thank Dafydd M Williams for all his work over the past five years as Vice Chairman and then as County Chairman.

CEREDIGION

ceredigion@fuw.org.uk

01570 424515

Agricultural Hustings

A week before the Senedd elections, an Agricultura Hustings was held jointly by Ceredigion FUW, YFC and the NFU. Present were Amanda Jenner, Conservatives; Harry Hayfield, Green Party; Dylan Lewis-Rowlands, Labour; Cadan ap Tomos, Liberal Democrats and Elin Jones, Plaid Cymru.

The evening was Chaired by Morys Ioan, and a warm welcome was extended by Glyn Davies, NFU and the vote of thanks given by Bleddyn Davies, YFC. A number of pressing agricultural issues were discussed, namely TB, NVZ rules and regulations etc.

Enillwyr Clwb 200

Llongyfarchiadau i enillwyr Clwb 200 mis Mai / **Congratulations to the May 200 Club winners:**

176: Taylor, Gwerhyrefail

109: Williams, Blaenafon

111: Davies, Brynmorwel

Rhifau ffôn swyddfeydd / Office phone numbers

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Meirionnydd/Merioneth:	01341 422298
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Sir Benfro/Pembrokeshire:	01437 762913

CARMARTHEN

carmarthen@fuw.org.uk

01267 237974

Positive news for Carmarthen mart



Carmarthenshire County Council has secured the future of Carmarthen Mart, signing a new leaseholder with the promise of new investment and new jobs for the area.

Nock Deighton Agricultural LLP, which runs the successful Newcastle Emlyn Livestock Market, has won the tender to run the mart at Nantyci.

FUW Deputy President and Carmarthenshire sheep farmer Ian Rickman said: "The closure of the market has been a concern raised regularly in our Carmarthenshire FUW meetings and we have been in regular correspondence with the Council regarding developments. Farmers across Carmarthenshire and much further afield will therefore be breathing a sigh of relief as they welcome this very positive news."

New role for Vice Chairman

FUW Carmarthen Vice Chairman Cllr Ann Davies, (pictured right), has been named Executive Board Member for Communities and Rural Affairs, following the departure of Cllr Cefin

Campbell who has been elected Member of the Senedd for the Mid and West Wales region.

Cllr Davies, a member of the Plaid Cymru group, has served Carmarthenshire County Council as a councillor for Llanddarog ward since 2017.

In that time she has sat on the council's licensing committee, communities scrutiny committee and represented Carmarthenshire on the Community Health Council.



DENBIGH & FLINT

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Cyfarfod Hystings

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod hystings ar nos Lun Ebrill 26 dros Zoom ar gyfer aelodau Sir Fflint.

Roedd 3 ymgeisydd yn rhan o'r drafodaeth, sef Barbara Hughes, Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, De Clwyd a Gogledd Cymru; Llyr Gruffydd, Plaid Cymru, Gorllewin Clwyd a Gogledd Cymru a Tim Sly, Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, Wrexham.

Trafodwyd nifer o bynciau yn cynnwys taliadau i gefn gwlad; NVZ; mynediad agored; iechyd ac addysg; datganoli a chyfrifoldebau; hybu cynnyrch Cymreig a masnachu cynnyrch.

A hustings meeting for Flintshire FUW members was held on Monday April 26 over Zoom. Three candidates were involved in the discussion, Barbara Hughes, Welsh Conservatives, Clwyd South and North Wales; Llyr Gruffydd, Plaid Cymru, Clwyd West and North Wales and Tim Sly, Welsh Liberal Democrats, Wrexham. A number of topics were discussed including rural payments; NVZ; open access; health and education; devolution and responsibilities; promotion of Welsh produce and trading of products.

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GLAMORGAN & GWENT

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01341 422298

MEIRIONNYDD

Good luck Rachel

Glamorgan County Executive Officer Rachel Saunders has left the FUW to focus on a Pick your Own venture on the family farm.

Rachael said: "I have really enjoyed my 9 years working for the FUW

which has literally flown by, I will miss all my colleagues and I have loved working in the Cowbridge office with a great team of people.

"Our FUW Glamorgan members are so loyal and I have always felt fully supported by them. Thank you so much for all the kind words and lovely gifts that I have received from colleagues and members, I am overwhelmed by everyone's generosity and I am sure I will see most of you in the usual farming circles." Good luck with the new venture Rachel!



Rachel Saunders with Glamorgan County Chairman Richard Walker.

Christine retires



From left, Christine Anstee, Richard Walker and Rachel Saunders.

Glamorgan Administrative Assistant Christine Anstee retired on June 4 after 18 years of working for the FUW. She was always helpful and supportive and members and staff are going to miss her.

Christine said: "I have really enjoyed my time with the FUW and will miss our members in Glamorgan as well as Rachel, Ash and Lucy in the Cowbridge office. I would like to thank everyone for the gifts I have received. Hopefully, when things get back to normal I'll see some of you at the local shows." Happy retirement Christine!

As Glyn retires, there's a new team for both counties

Gwent County Executive Officer Glyn Davies retired at the end of May after working for the Union for 14 years, he will be sorely missed by colleagues and members.

The new County Executive Officer for Glamorgan and Gwent branches is Sharon Pritchard and Helen Thomas is Deputy County Executive Officer.

Sharon joins us bringing with her a significant background in agriculture being involved on the family farm in Talgarth, Brecon and also some twenty years of experience working with McCartneys in Brecon and Builth.

Helen has been a loyal and respected part of the Gwent team for years and has also worked with the members in Glamorgan. Congratulations both.



Sharon Pritchard.



Helen Thomas.

Pwyllgor Sirol

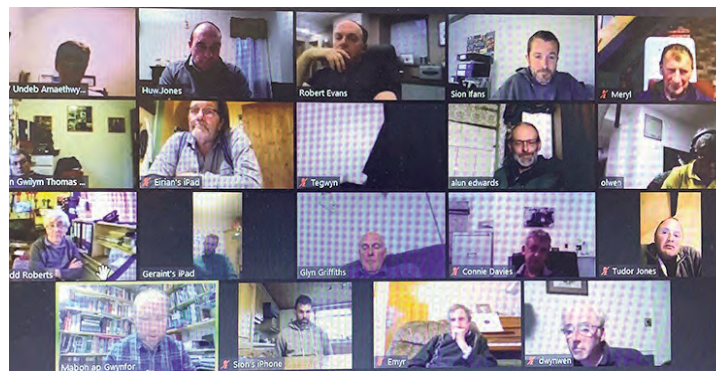
Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Sirol ar ddiwedd mis Mai drwy gyfrwng Zoom unwaith eto, ac roedd nifer dda wedi ymuno.

Mabon ap Gwynfor, yr Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Ddwyrfor Meirionnydd a etholwyd bythefnos ynghynt oedd y gŵr gwadd, a bu yn gyfle i'w longyfarch yn galonnog ar ei lwyddiant. Sion Ifans ein Cadeirydd sirol oedd yn arwain y drafodaeth.

Cafwyd cyflwyniad gan Mabon ap Gwynfor yn gyntaf, ac yna symud ymlaen i gwestiynau a sylwadau. Ymysg y pynciau oedd y diweddaraf gyda deddfwriaeth NVZ, y pryder difrifol am gytundeb masnach rydd gydag Awstralia, dyfodol y gyllideb i amaeth yng Nghymru, a newid hinsawdd.

Dywedodd Mabon y byddai yn barod i gael cwestiwn gennym fel Cangen Sirol yn weddol reolaidd i'w roi gerbron y Senedd, a diolchwyd yn fawr iawn iddo am ei barodrwydd i gydweithio yn agos gyda ni fel Cangen Sirol. Eglurodd ei gyfrifoldeb fel llefarydd dros Dai a Chynllunio.

Diolchwyd yn fawr iawn i Mabon am noson hynod ddiddorol.



A county executive meeting was held at the end of May, again via Zoom, and a good number of members joined. The guest speaker was Mabon ap Gwynfor, Member of the Senedd for Dwyfor Meirionnydd who was elected two weeks earlier, and it was an opportunity to congratulate him wholeheartedly on

his success. Sion Ifans, our county Chairman led the discussion. Firstly, Mabon ap Gwynfor gave a presentation, then moved on to questions and comments. Topics included the latest with the NVZ legislation, the serious concern about a free trade agreement with Australia, the future of the Welsh agriculture budget and also climate change. Mabon said that he would be prepared to have a question from us as a County Branch on a fairly regular basis to put before Parliament, and he was greatly thanked for his willingness to work closely with us as a County Branch. He explained his responsibility as spokesperson for Housing and Planning. Mabon was thanked very much for a very interesting evening.

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PEMBROKESHIRE

2021 SAF Preliminary Checks

Rural Payments Wales will undertake initial checks on your submitted SAF to identify any differences between what you have declared and their mapping database and also to check if any of the land which you have declared has been declared by another claimant.

If they do come across any discrepancies during these checks they will issue a 'Preliminary Checks Letter', which will be added to your RPW Online account around the beginning of June. It is therefore essential that if you receive any notification of a new message on your RPW Online account that you access your account as soon as possible.

If a preliminary check letter is on your account you will need to read it and advise RPW of any changes that you may wish to make by return as you will only have until June 21 2021 to do so. Any replies received after this date cannot be accepted and penalties may be applied. If you require any assistance with checking and responding to the letter please get in touch with the county office, as soon as you receive notification.

Upcoming EOI window details

Scheme	Summary	Window closes
Farming Connect Training Window	The next funding application window for training opened on Monday, 3 May until Friday, 25 June 2021. Those registering for the first time during the above skills window in order to apply for a funded training course or need to update their account details, please contact Farming Connect before 5pm on Monday 21 June 2021.	25 June 2021
Farm Business Grant - Yard Coverings	The second round of the Farm Business Grant - Yard Coverings scheme opened on May 18 and will close on June 25 2021. The Farm Business Grant Yard Coverings scheme seeks to support farmers to improve their current infrastructure for yard coverings - covering feeding areas, slurry pits, silage stores etc - where rainwater can be separated. Local FUW County Executive Officers will be able to explain the scheme requirements to members.	25 June 2021
Glastir Woodland Restoration	The 9th Expression of Interest window is now open for the Glastir Woodland Restoration scheme. GWR provides capital works for restocking, fencing and associated operations on sites containing larch and up to 50% non-larch species. Applicants will have to submit their supporting felling licence or felling licence application when expressing an interest. Welsh Government will not consider any documents that were submitted in a previous GWR window.	25 June 2021
Glastir Small Grants Landscape and Pollinators	The current window of the Glastir Small Grants Landscape and Pollinators scheme opened on May 18 and will close on June 25 2021. There is a programme of capital works available to farming businesses across Wales to carry out projects that will help to improve and maintain traditional landscape features, and provide habitat linkage for pollinating insects.	25 June 2021

“Mae'n bwysig i lais yr aelodau gael eu clywed”

Mae Dafydd Gwyndaf yn Gynrychiolydd o UAC Sir Gaernarfon. Yn ffermwr drydedd genhedlaeth, mae'n ffermio defaid mynydd Cymreig a buches o wartheg duon ar fferm fynyddig yn Nyffryn Machno, sydd yn rhan uchaf Dyffryn Conwy.

Mae Dafydd Williams wedi bod yn Is-Gadeirydd, yn Gadeirydd y Sir ac wedi cael ei ethol yn Llywydd y Sir yn ddiweddar. Mae'n byw yn Ystumcegid Isaf, Cricieth hefo'i wraig Miriam a'u plant, Catrin a Robot. Yn bedwaredd genhedlaeth i ffermio'r fferm sydd oddeutu 380 o erwau, maent yn cadw buchod magu ac yn gwerthu gwartheg stores oddeutu 18 mis oed ym marchnad Bryncir. Maent hefyd yn cadw defaid Cymreig Tregaron sydd yn cael eu croesi hefo hyrddod Tregaron a Texel.

Isod mae'r ddau yn rhoi mewnwelediad o sut brofiad yw bod yn Gynrychiolydd a Llywydd Sir UAC.



Dafydd Gwyndaf, Cynrychiolydd Sir Gaernarfon

Pam UAC?

Y teulu wedi bod yn aelod o Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru ar hyd eu hoes, gan hwn ydi'r Undeb sy'n cynrychioli amaethwyr Cymru.

Barn ar y dyfodol? Beth yw'r prif heriau a chyfleoedd yn eich barn chi?

Mae hwn yn gyfnod heriol i amaethwyr, gyda newidiadau yn y taliadau, effaith Brexit, trafodaethau ynglŷn â newid hinsawdd yn parhau i fudferwi. Rhaid i ni fod yn barod i amddiffyn ein ffermydd teuluol a chefn gwlad.

Beth ydych chi wedi'i ddysgu o fod yn gynrychiolydd sir?

'Rwyf wedi dysgu llawer wrth fod yn gynrychiolydd sir. Mae wedi rhoi'r cyfle i mi ddod i adnabod cynrychiolwyr eraill ac i weld sut mae'r Undeb yn gweithio ac i fedru mynegi barn yn y cyfarfodydd cenedlaethol.

A fydddech chi'n argymhell aelodau eraill i ddod yn gynrychiolydd sir a pham?

Buaswn - mi fuasai yn braf cael gweld aelodau ieuengach yn ymgymryd â'r gwaith yma ac i fynd ar Undeb yn ei blaen.

Sut ydych chi'n gweithio gyda'r swyddfa sirol? Faint o fewnbwn sydd gyda chi trwy'r strwythur sirol?

Cydweithio yn dda gyda staff y swyddfa sirol yng Nghaernarfon, a'r swyddfa yn Llanrws. Cynrychiolwyr bob amser yn barod i ateb problemau a thrafferthion sy'n codi. Cyfarfodydd

misol wedi bod ar 'Zoom' yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf - ac er yn colli'r gwmniaeth wyneb i wyneb, mae wedi bod yn llwyddiannus iawn.

Dafydd Williams, Llywydd Sir Gaernarfon

Pam UAC?

Roedd fy nhaid yn gyn cadeirydd yn sir Gaernarfon a'r teulu wedi bod yn aelodau ffyddlon o'r undeb ers hynny. Rwyf hefyd yn rhannu'r un farn a'r undeb ar lawer i bwnc ac yn teimlo ei bod yn gwneud ei gorau dros ffermwyr Cymru.

Barn ar y dyfodol? Beth yw'r prif heriau a chyfleoedd yn eich barn chi?

Mae dyfodol amaethyddiaeth yn anodd iawn i'w ddarogan yn fy marn i, mae 'na lawer iawn o newid ar y gweill rhwng Brexit, y papur gwyn ac yn y blaen, mae heriau mawr o'm blaenau hefyd hefo rheolau newydd yr NVZ. Er gwaetha' hyn rwyf yn sicr bydd cyfleoedd ar gael yn y dyfodol er pa mor anodd mae hyn yn edrych ar hyn o bryd.

Ydych chi'n edrych ymlaen at eich rôl newydd o fod yn Llywydd y Sir ar ôl cyfnod fel is-gadeirydd a chadeirydd y Sir?

Rwyf wedi mwynhau fy amser yn is gadeirydd ac yna yn gadeirydd sir Gaernarfon yn fawr iawn ac wedi dysgu llawer iawn o'm mhrofiadau, hefyd wedi cyfarfod llawer iawn o bobol dros y blynyddoedd. Rwyf yn edrych ymlaen at fod yn Llywydd y Sir nawr a'r heriau gwahanol y daw hefo'r swydd hon.

Beth fydd yn wahanol i chi yn y rôl yma?

Rwyf yn credu fod fy rôl newydd fel Llywydd y Sir yn rôl bwysig iawn, mi fyddaf yn gymorth i'r cadeirydd a'r is-gadeirydd ac yn llais i'r Undeb.

A fydddech chi'n argymhell aelodau eraill i ddod yn rhan o'r tîm sirol a pham?

Rydyn fel pwyllgor gwaith yn annog aelodau newydd i ymuno a ni ac mi fuaswn yn cynghori aelodau i fynd ymlaen i fod yn gynrychiolydd sir ar bob cyfri, mae'n bwysig i lais yr aelodau gael eu clywed ac mae hyn yn ffordd o wneud hynny. Mae'r profiadau rydw i wedi cael yn bersonol wedi bod yn help mawr i mi hefyd. Mae'r hyder wedi cryfhau drwy siarad cyhoeddus a mynychu cyfarfodydd.

Sut ydych chi'n gweithio gyda'r swyddfa sirol? Faint o fewnbwn sydd gyda chi trwy'r strwythur sirol?

Mae gennyf berthynas dda iawn hefo'r swyddfa sirol, mae'r staff wedi bod yn gefn mawr i mi yn fy rôl dros y blynyddoedd, roeddwn yn cael rhoi fy mewnbyn ac yn teimlo fod y staff sirol yn gwerthfawrogi fy marn. Mae'r strwythur sirol yn holl bwysig i lais ein haelodau gael eu clywed lawr yn y brif swyddfa yn Aberystwyth.



The above Q&A is available on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "It's important for the members' voice to be heard."

Changes to producer haulage charges

AS we head into the start of the new shearing season, British Wool have announced changes to their producer haulage charges for the 2021 season.

British Wool have confirmed, in order to further support producers they're enhancing the service offering with **onward carriage fees at all approved collection sites from this season, being abolished.**

Andrew Hogley, CEO said: "Throughout the pandemic British Wool's depots and collection sites remain open in a Covid secure manner and we continue to accept all types of wool from all producers, a principal which lies at the core of our cooperative ethos. Abolishing the onward carriage fees for approved collection site demonstrates our commitment at British Wool in delivering a high level of service and also enhancing our service offer to producers.

"A small number of producers chose to hold on to their wool last year. This meant we handled less wool which had a negative impact on our operating cost per kilo. The more wool we handle the more cost effective our operations become which in turn allows us to return more value to all producers. With this in mind please encourage your colleagues in the farming community to support British Wool and deliver their wool this year.

"The restructuring programme announced earlier in the year is nearly complete - this will have no negative

impact on the service we offer producers and we have opened a number of new collection sites this season. British Wool's shearing courses are also resuming this year. We see this as an essential part of the support we provide for our industry."

Producers will be communicated with directly on any changes to the drop off arrangements in their local area. Details on producer payments and the 2021 Producer Information & Wool Values Booklet is on the British Wool website.



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11/61 HONDA CRV-ES 5 DOOR AIR/CON LEATHER ETC 6 SPEED 148 BHP 2.2 TURBO/D 48000 MLS
10/10 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE S LIMITED (AUTOMATIC) LEATHER ETC 237 BHP 3.0 LTR TURBO/D 72000 MLS
09/09 CITROEN C-CROSSER VTR HDI 7 SEAT LEATHER A/CON ETC 156 BHP 2.2 TURBO/D 56000 MLS
07/57 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 3 GS 7 SEAT AIR/CON ETC 188 BHP 2.7 TURB/D 91000 MLS
07/56 DAIHATSU TERIOS S 5 DOOR AIR/CON ETC 1.5 PETROL ONLY 47000 MLS
06/56 DAIHATSU TERIOS S E AUTOMATIC 5 DOOR AIR/CON ETC 1.5 PETROL ONLY 42000 MLS
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11/60 FORD RANGER WILDTRACK DOUBLE/CAB A/CON 156 BHP 3.0 LTR TURBO/D 71000 MLS
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NVZ a bad idea dreamt up by a lazy government

Dear Editor,

Richard Walker is right to be annoyed about the draconian NVZ legislation and their decision to give up cattle is entirely understandable (*Y Tir May 21*). I have heard many farmers say that the cattle will have to go if these regulations are fully implemented. The consequence for biodiversity in Wales will be catastrophic. I say that as a lifelong conservationist. Cattle are much better than sheep for encouraging wildlife on grassland. The longer grass, that cattle can cope with but sheep can't, allows butterflies to complete their life cycle and flowers to set seed. Sheep keep grass very short. Cattle also require indoor feeding in winter with conserved grass. For wildlife late cut hay or haylage is ideal for the same reason. Curlews want long grass not land heavily grazed by sheep.

The NVZ regulations are disproportionate and though they are appropriate for the catchment areas of oligotrophic lakes when the gradual build-up of Nitrate and Phosphate can cause eutrophication, they are not needed for 90% of Wales. Using a one size fits all that happened to be available is a sign of lazy government.

Better to stop the water companies discharging raw sewage into the rivers every time it rains heavily. There are really two issues: firstly, the irresponsible spreading of slurry or poultry manure near water courses causing a river pollution incident and secondly the gradual leaching of Nitrate and Phosphate into ground water which is a long-term problem.

The first can be tackled by legislation. Give the NRW more money to police pollution incidents and prosecute offenders. The second has to be carrot rather than stick. Organic farming should be encouraged with financial incentives. Organic farmers in general compost straw manures and don't use artificial fertilizers. The certification process will ensure compliance. Measures to discourage artificial fertilizer use can be justified on climate change grounds as the process that creates nitrogen fertilizer is very energy intensive.

There is a particular issue with industrial poultry units. These are only on farms as the farm provides a place to spread the manure. The manure reduces the need for artificial fertilizer. The British public consume about a billion chickens a year and making life difficult for poultry farmers in Wales only moves the problem elsewhere.

I can see most Welsh IPU's taking their chicken manure to England as the most cost-effective way of disposing of it. There is no blanket NVZ in England. The waste from IPU's needs to go somewhere and as long as you have a couple of chicken sheds on a big farm and not a huge number of sheds on a small farm then there should be room to spread the waste. It needs to be spread responsibly. It should not be spread for example on semi natural grassland.

For most beef farmers keeping less than 100 cattle, using straw for bedding and keeping the manure in a sensible place before spreading in early summer there should not be any need to do the calculations. The additional capital expense and bureaucratic nightmare of an NVZ is not warranted. By all means the ministry should discuss with the bigger dairy farms about slurry spreading best practice and help financially with any improvements, but don't put them further into debt.

The long-term problem of Nitrogen and Phosphate leaching into the water table is probably best solved by encouraging composting animal manures with straw and other crop wastes. It provides an opportunity to restore the organic matter of soil on arable farms, which has very beneficial consequences in terms of carbon retention, water retention, prevention of soil erosion and reducing the need for artificial fertilizer.

This is where the IPU's should be and instead of burning straw in power stations it should be used for composting poultry manure for spreading back on arable land.

Yours sincerely
Simon Spencer (Dr)

Full support

Dear Editor,

I fully support everything Glyn Roberts has said regarding the new proposals by the Welsh government. I feel they are in the process of destroying the family farms in Wales.

I'm all in favour of planting extra trees, and no doubt, not enough was done in the past but the new proposals seem to be designed to kill off family farms which they pretend to support.

Anyway well done Glyn, I hope you can get the message through to the Welsh government.

Kind regards
Trevor Davies
Pontypool

Long time FUW member

The Editor welcomes correspondence on any issues but reserves the right not to publish correspondence in full or in part

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FORD RANGER, WILDTRAK, 2.0, 10 SPEED AUTO, FULLY LOADED WITH EXTRAS.

19 MITSUBISHI WARRIOR, ONLY 19,000 MILES, WARRANTY UNTIL 2023, AS NEW.

70 NISSAN NAVARA NP300 TEKNA, MANUAL, 5 YEAR WARRANTY, 3.5 TONNE TOWING CAPACITY.

70 FORD RANGER, LIMITED 2.0 ECOBLUE AUTO, ONE OWNER, ONLY 8,000 MILES.

14 VOLKSWAGEN AMAROK CANYON, A32 SPECIAL EDITION 28,000 MILES, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY.

14 NISSAN NAVARA, TEKNA, ONE OWNER + OUR DEMO, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONLY 36,000 MILES.

61 ISUZU RODEO, 3.0 TD DENVER MAX, ONLY 39,000 MILES, ONE LOCAL OWNER + DEMO.

HOME OWNERS - TENANTS - LANDLORDS - LETTING AGENTS

ARE YOU FED UP

WITH HIGH ENERGY COSTS?

**STORAGE HEATERS - ELECTRIC ROOM HEATERS
LPG BOILERS - AGAs - RAYBURNS, ETC.**

WE CAN HELP YOU ACCESS ECO3 FUNDING TO EITHER UPGRADE YOUR CURRENT HEATING SYSTEM OR HELP YOU INSULATE YOUR HOME AND MAKE IT MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT.

WE ARE OFFERING A FREE ENERGY EFFICIENCY HEALTH CHECK TO PROPERTIES IN THE PEMBROKESHIRE, CARMARTHENSHIRE AND CEREDIGION AREAS.

QUALIFY EITHER THROUGH YOUR POSTCODE. PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE DIFFERENT CRITERIA OR IF YOU ARE IN A RECEIPT OF A QUALIFYING INCOME BASED BENEFIT AND WANT TO FIND OUT HOW TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY SPEND PLEASE USE THE CONTACT DETAILS BELOW.

IF YOU ARE HEATING YOUR PROPERTY WITH ELECTRIC - THAT IS ELECTRIC BOILER - STORAGE HEATERS - GROUND OR AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP WE NOW HAVE PARTIAL FUNDING FOR SOLAR PV (ROOF ORIENTATION CRITERIA TO MEET) - AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE ON YOUR ENERGY COSTS

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We take a Holistic approach

with our energy efficiency health checks so it's always insulation first, then heating.

- ⦿ Loft - Room in Roof - Internal or External Wall Insulation
- ⦿ Heating
- ⦿ First time Central Heating Grants
- ⦿ Renewables - Ground Source & Air Source Heat Pumps - Solar pv
- ⦿ Lpg Boilers

FIND OUT IF YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE BOILER/1ST TIME CENTRAL HEATING FUNDING



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