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MPs must block changes that would break international law

“It is essential that our Members of Parliament from across the political spectrum prevent the Government from progressing with such a short-sighted, humiliating and damaging move.”



THE FUU says Members of Parliament must ensure the UK Government is prevented from introducing proposed changes to law which would breach the EU withdrawal agreement and break international law.

The demand came following Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis's confirmation that a UK internal market bill the UK Government planned to introduce to Parliament would break international law by overriding the section of the EU Withdrawal Agreement relating to Northern Ireland.

Responding to a question in the house of commons on September 8, Mr Lewis admitted to MPs that the change to the international treaty signed just seven months ago would *“...break international law in a specific and limited way.”*

FUU Deputy President Ian Rickman, *(pictured above right)*, said: *“To propose legislation which would breach an international treaty signed just months ago puts us in the same category as countries that are generally considered to be backwards and untrustworthy, and to do this at a time when we are negotiating trade deals with a long list of countries beggars belief.”*

Mr Rickman said it was essential that Members of Parliament from all parties stood in the way of such a humiliating move that would undermine the UK's standing on the world stage at such a critical time.

The Government plan led to Government Legal Department

permanent secretary Sir Jonathan Jones announcing his resignation, while former prime minister Theresa May asked the Northern Ireland secretary *“How can the Government reassure future international partners that the UK can be trusted to abide by the legal obligations of the agreements it signs?”* if it went ahead with the plans.

“The current Government campaigned in the 2019 election on a platform supporting the signing of the withdrawal agreement treaty, which it did as soon as it came to power,” said Mr Rickman.

“As such, and however much the Government now disagrees with sections of it, they do not have a mandate to make such a U-turn, and they certainly do not have a mandate to break international law in a way that would cause such damage to our international reputation.”

“It is essential that our Members of Parliament from across the political spectrum prevent the Government from progressing with such a short-sighted, humiliating and damaging move,” he added.



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The Agriculture Act must be amended to make illegal the importation of substandard food imports

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

“Trust in the UK’s honour and honesty has been diminished around the world, much to the embarrassment of MPs from across the political spectrum, including those who support the Government.”

THE need to prevent the importation of food produced to animal health and welfare, environmental and social standards which fall short of those required of Welsh and UK producers is one which has united farmers, environmentalists, animal rights campaigners and others in recent months.

After all, not only do we want to maintain standards which protect our animals, plants, environment and people, but also why should we as farmers be expected to bear the costs of workers rights, strict environmental restrictions and endless regulations while competing against those who treat their workers, animals and environment with disdain and save massive amounts of costs in the process.

It is often argued that even if we do allow such products into the UK, consumers will solve the problem by seeking out our higher quality products, but this is either a naive view held by the types of politician and civil servant who shop in Waitrose or a disingenuous argument put forward by those who in reality wish to see trade liberalisation whatever the costs.

The truth is that while there are those consumers who will seek out better quality Welsh and UK products produced to higher standards, and supermarkets that will at times be very supportive, the amount of such support depends upon exchange rates and the economy, while a great deal of the products found in the service sector (pub grub etc.) and processed food contain ingredients that no one really knows or cares anything about and could come from anywhere - as highlighted during the horsemeat scandal.

Of course, if you ask people on the way into a supermarket about support for standards and UK products, large numbers will tell you that they always buy free range, British, Farm Assured etc. etc. - but when you examine their shopping trolleys on the way out you get a different story, especially when there is a *two-for-the-price-of-one* offer on pizzas containing products from ‘more than one country of origin’.

At the moment, that ‘country of origin’ is likely to be an EU country with baseline standards which have to be the same as ours, or possibly a non-EU country that has had to follow strict rules equivalent to our own to get a trade deal with the EU.

But if a liberal trade deal without such strict standards of equivalence is reached with the likes of the USA or Australia, this will merely increase unfair competition and lower standards, while also threatening a trade deal with the EU or increasing costly checks at the EU border, since the EU’s priority is to protect its consumers, producers and borders by making sure nothing that has entered the UK that does not meet its standards makes it onto the EU market.

This is why the FUW supported Neil Parish and the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee’s ‘New Clause 2’ amendment to the Agriculture Bill, as it would have prevented substandard food products being included in any trade agreement - and we have also been proactive in supporting the introduction of similar protections into the Bill by the House of Lords.

In his National Food Strategy report, published in July, Defra Board Member Henry Dimbleby argues for an alternative to a blanket ban on imports which do not meet our standards, saying that we should instead keep food import tariffs high for all countries with which we do not have a trade deal, and only sign deals and reduce tariffs for food which does meet our standards.

If, for whatever reason (most likely a UK Government block) we cannot get a blanket ban on substandard imports into the Agriculture Bill, this is a sensible fallback position which the FUW supports. However, it relies on us having high tariffs that make importing food into the UK outside a trade deal uneconomical.



The UK Government announcement in May of high post EU withdrawal tariffs effectively matching those of the EU was therefore welcomed by the FUW. However, there are now concerning rumours that some Government advisors or ministers are arguing for these to be slashed to allow cheap food in from anywhere after December - a move that would not only be damaging to farmers and food security, but would also throw away negotiating capital in the current trade negotiations.

Conservative MPs who opposed Neil Parish’s amendment to the Agriculture Bill have come under huge pressure from FUW members and others to reconsider their positions, and their response has been to assure constituents that the Government will stand by last year’s Conservative manifesto commitment to maintaining standards.

Unfortunately, the track record of politicians from all parties is not great when it comes to sticking to pledges and manifesto commitments, and we have in recent weeks seen a broken promise on a monumental scale: In the run up to the November 2019 general election, Boris Johnson was heralding the ‘oven-ready’ EU withdrawal deal his Government negotiated with the EU in October 2019 and was published that same month.

By December, the deal had become the subject of a Government Bill which was ultimately voted for in January by an overwhelming majority of MPs who had had months to read and understand its terms

and implications - it was, after all, being discussed endlessly at the time, especially in the context of the Good Friday Agreement which was the focus of the changes made to what is otherwise just a revamped version of Theresa May’s original EU withdrawal deal.

Yet despite this, the promise (made in full knowledge of the facts - unless any MPs wish to come clean and admit they didn’t read or understand what they were voting for) has now effectively been broken through the bringing forward of the Internal Market Bill, which goes back on the agreement voted for just eight months ago - with the UK Government and its advisors claim they have only just noticed a fatal flaw in the smallprint that everyone else who had read the document regarded as being written on the front in thick felt pen.

The truth is that the section of the withdrawal agreement the Government is now trying to backtrack on was being discussed by the FUW as a likely outcome even before the referendum took place, and always seemed a likely outcome in harder Brexit scenarios if the peace secured by the Good Friday Agreement was to be maintained.

But whether or not you believe the official version - which boils down to the Government either not read their papers properly at the time or conspiring to mislead MPs into voting for something they knew they didn’t agree and would oppose in future - the result is that trust in the UK’s honour and honesty has been diminished around the world, much to the embarrassment of MPs from across the political spectrum, including those who support the Government.

Such a blatant demonstration - on the international stage no less - of the Government’s willingness to go back on its word highlights why we cannot just rely on the assurances given in the Conservative Manifesto and need MPs to ensure that the Agriculture Act is amended to make illegal the importation of substandard food imports which undermine our family farms.

Mae’r erthygl yma yn Gymraeg ar wefan yr FUW - Newyddion - Newyddion Y Tir: “Rhaid diwygio’r Ddeddf Amaethyddiaeth i wneud mewnforio mewnforion bwyd is-safonol yn anghyfreithlon.”

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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FUW Webinar: Land use, conservation and cultural clearances - lessons for Wales and the UK from around the world



FOR more than five decades the charity Survival International has worked with tribal and indigenous peoples around the globe to protect them against racism, land theft, forced development and genocidal violence - often at the hand of so-called conservation groups or governments implementing sweeping land use changes.

On October 12 the organisation's Director Stephen Corry and Research and Advocacy Officer Fiore Longo will join speakers from Wales and the north of England to consider how land use policies and conservation can become a cover for colonialism and the oppression of local populations - and why we shouldn't consider this as just an issue for the Global South - once called the "Developing World".

"Conservation groups are now openly calling for huge areas of land to be 'protected' from 'human intervention' (except theirs), without taking into account how traditional land users have shaped landscapes for countless generations - to the benefit of both human survival and biodiversity.

"They want to end the self-sufficiency of millions of people and push them off the land and into dependence on factory-farmed or produced food. This will be a disaster for people and the planet." - Stephen Corry, Director, Survival International.

Those interested in joining the webinar should contact FUW Policy Communication Officer Gareth Parry via email: gareth.parry@fuw.org.uk or telephoning 07872 903641.

Why being part of the FUW machine is worth it

by Anwen Hughes, Vice Chairman, FUW Younger Voice for Farming Committee



AT the age of 25 I took over the family farm through the loss of my father. My father had never done much with the Union apart from having help filling in the farming entitlements and the insurance.

When I took over the farm there were many new schemes that you could apply for and the single farm payment scheme was coming into place. I attended an open meeting regarding the SPF with the Union and it helped me to prepare our business for the future. It made me realise that there was more I could learn from the Union about the future of our business and also the future of my young family at the time.

But most importantly, I got to have my voice heard when it came to Government agricultural consultations and over the years I have had the chance to meet civil servants and politicians to help the FUW lobby for our industry.

Some of you might say "what's the point in answering these consultations", "I can't afford to lose a few hours of work", or maybe you have something better that you wish to do than sit in a room to discuss the policies that will come in - some may say that the Minister has already made her mind up to bring in certain legislation anyway, right?

What I have learnt over the many years of being a county member, a member of the Education and Training committee and also my involvement with the Younger Voice for Farming committee, is that our voices

count. This is our future, but also - we help to determine the future of the next generation.

With Brexit and the ending of the SPF and the Government looking more to the environmental side of schemes, it is up to us the younger members of the Union to join forces and to have our voices heard - to shape those policies and give direction from the grassroots level that the Union prides itself on. We must be louder and smarter than ever and what better way than to do this than in a committee of young, like minded members - with the backing of a top team?

There are many benefits to being a part of a committee, for example, I have always had a heads up about any future schemes, giving me more time to prepare our business for the future. Look at the potential NVZ regs coming in - by being part of the machine that is the FUW, we had information in greater detail and possibly earlier than others and have adapted our business ahead of the regulations being enforced.

So I ask you - what are you waiting for? If you are not involved with a committee, locally or as part of the FUW's standing committees - join us! If you don't tell us what you want us to fight for, and help us achieve the many things we have the potential to do - then how can we be better than we were yesterday? Your Union needs you now as much you need them.

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Policy department update

by Gareth Parry, FUW Policy Communications Officer

UK Internal Market Bill

Ever since the Brexit vote in 2016, the FUW has highlighted the likelihood of a 'perfect political storm' in the lead up to the final EU exit date due to possible divergences between standards and rules in different parts of the UK - and the need to reach agreement and put in place mechanisms that respect devolution early on to avoid this happening.

With December 31 fast approaching, the anticipated 'perfect storm' is now upon us, with devolved administrations and the UK Government at each other's throats following the publication of the UK Internal Market Bill - all against a background of uncertainty over future trade deals, stricter regulations, the loss of farm payments and now, the Covid-19 recovery process.

In August, the FUW responded to the consultation on the UK Internal Market White Paper, highlighting that while divergence between regulations in different parts of the UK could cause market distortion, this could also be caused by differences between agricultural support.

We also highlighted that market distortion and unfair competition will place where divergence occurs between our own rules and farm support and what

happens in the EU under the next Common Agricultural Policy, since there will inevitably be some degree of trade to keep food chains operational, even in harder Brexit scenarios.

The FUW's Filling the Void document, published in 2018, makes clear that the solution is to introduce Frameworks that allow flexibility within thresholds - whether these are financial or regulatory - and states that "reaching agreement on such thresholds will not be easy, meaning there is a temptation to ignore the issue".

Despite there having been some government working groups looking at frameworks, this is largely what has happened, with the matter being left to the last minute before the introduction by the UK Government of a heavy handed approach which implies dictation of rules and regulations by London in spite of devolution.

In the same Bill, the UK Government attempts to make a U-turn which would break international law by overriding the section of the EU Withdrawal Agreement relating to the Northern Ireland Protocol, despite the implications of this having been well understood at the time and discussed endlessly since before the referendum.



Trade Deals

The UK Government argues that the breach of the Northern Ireland Protocol will be necessary and only enacted if a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the EU isn't agreed and finalised before the European Council meeting on October 15 - yet the Protocol, which was signed off by Boris Johnson in October last year, is designed precisely to prevent what the Government is now proposing to make law.

In response, the EU has stated that it will withdraw from all UK FTA negotiations if the amendment to the Bill is agreed.

The UK Government is clearly playing a game of chicken with the EU while seeking to break international agreements in the full view of countries with which we hope to reach similar international agreements over trade.

If they pull it off then, aside from any blemishes to our international reputation as an honourable country, we will retain access to the EU's market of 450 million and probably the scores of other countries around the globe the EU has trade deals with. If they don't, we will lose access to that market, and the EU will lose access to our own 66 million people - and who knows whether the troubles in Northern Ireland will start to escalate, that is, after all, the whole point of the Northern Ireland Protocol - to maintain peace.

Meanwhile, the first major UK post-Brexit trade deal was agreed in principle with Japan on September 11. If signed off by the UK and Japanese Parliaments it could secure access for as many as 70 products with Geographical Indicators, including products such as Welsh lamb and beef - although these would still be subject to import quotas.

But confusingly the deal also agrees to replicate the restrictions on subsidies as set out in the EU-Japan agreement, implying tougher restrictions on State Aid, while at the same time the UK Government is arguing for total freedom over State Aid and future subsidies in its negotiations with the EU - an ask that has become a major obstacle during the negotiations as the EU demands for these rules to remain in line with their regime. So it seems that the Japan deal inadvertently gives the EU what it wants while the UK Government is still arguing about the issue in its negotiations.

Despite the UK Government's claim that the State Aid element of the deal is "just a standard clause in any free trade agreement", the FUW will continue to seek clarity on the matter.

A Future Market For British Wool?

The FUW has welcomed Welsh Government's recent comments relating to using more British wool in public buildings in an attempt to support the industry following acute impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic, and has discussed the issue with Minister Lesley Griffiths.

However, we remain concerned that the commitment needs firming up, given it is a commitment "...to consider the more widespread use of wool in our estate in future, subject to the required compliance testing and certification."

Over recent months the FUW has discussed the issue with and written to the Welsh and UK Ministers after the global market for crossbred wool was closed at the beginning of the pandemic, resulting in around seven million kilos of unsold stock out of a total twenty-seven million from the 2019/20 clip.

As British Wool pay producers an advance payment for the current year and a balance payment from the previous years clip, the average payment is around 17 pence per kilogram for the 2019/20 season - some 70% lower than last year's payment - with the likelihood of delayed balance payments next year due to unsold stocks.

Furthermore, British Wool is treated as a public body - despite being a self-funded, independent business operating in a competitive market and owned by around 40,000 sheep farmers - therefore has repeatedly been refused financial support through the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) unlike its competitors.

It is welcoming to see that Welsh Government has become the first in the UK to look into the matter proactively and we have sought a firm commitment that this will be genuinely taken forward, and not just turn out to be written in the sand.

RDP projects to receive extra funding

The Welsh Government has announced a further £106 million in funding towards hundreds of projects as part of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) over the next three years.

The extra funding will come from the EU RDP 2014-20 budget - including the 15% transferred from farmers' Basic Payments - and from Welsh Government's own funds.

The Welsh Government says schemes which are considered to underpin Wales' rural economy, biodiversity and environmental priorities are to receive continued support, as well as new schemes designed in response to current and upcoming challenges. A proportion of the budget will also be used towards the sustainable management of Wales' natural resources.

Welsh Government priorities will include:

- Woodland creation and restoration
- Building resilience into Wales' natural resources and improving biodiversity,
- Helping food businesses to improve their supply chains, business resilience
- Supporting farm businesses to help ensure their sustainability
- Delivering food and drink sector Covid-19 Recovery Strategy

Despite confirmation that 17% of the budget will be used for new windows of the Glastir Woodland Creation and Restoration (9%) and Small Grants schemes (8%) being welcome, the fact that the second largest allocation in the announcement (£16.5 million - 15%) relates to "Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing Supports projects that make improvements to natural resources in residential areas" raises major concerns about the direction of travel.

Similarly, the Welsh Government revelation in a written answer to shadow agricultural spokesman Llyr Huws Gruffydd that the total funding committed to Sustainable Management Scheme projects comprises £2,836,260 (18%) for capital and £13,092,091 (82%) for revenue (i.e. salaries etc.) hardly fills us with confidence about how funding will be spent in future.

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Dwi'n cydweithio'n agos iawn gyda staff y swyddfa yn Nolgellau. Mae'r cyfrifoldebau yn amrywio o gadeirio'r pwyllgor Sir yn ogystal â chyfrannu at drafodaethau gyda gwleidyddion a chynrychiolwyr o fewn y diwydiant. Ers bod yn gadeirydd dwi wedi dod i ddeall yn well sut mae'r Undeb yn gweithredu ac wedi sylweddoli pwysigrwydd y gwaith y mae'r adran bolisi yn ei wneud.

Wrth gyfathrebu gyda'r swyddfa sirol yn ogystal â'r adran bolisi mae'r holl ddatblygiadau diweddaraf am ddyfodol polisïau amaeth ac amgylcheddol yn fyw iawn ar yr agenda.

Mae hyn yn wir am yr ymgynghoriad diweddaraf sef y trydydd ymgynghoriad *Ffermio Cynaliadwy a'n Tir - Symleiddio Cymorth Amaethyddol ar gyfer Ffermwyr a'r Economi Wledig*. Yn gryno, ymgynghoriad am gynllun rhwng cynlluniau ydy hyn, **ond mae angen ymateb iddo.**

Does dim dwywaith yn fy marn i, ers i'r ymgynghoriad cyntaf ddod allan yn 2018, mae rhyw geisio am awgrymiadau y mae Llywodraeth Cymru ar beth fyddai'n gweithio o ran cynlluniau cymorth. Mae hyn yn amlygu'r gwirionedd bod diffyg profiad a dealltwriaeth o fewn adrannau perthnasol Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae'n hynod bwysig felly ein bod yn eu rhoi ar ben ffordd a'n bod yn ymateb mewn rhyw ffordd, boed hynny yn unigol neu drwy gyfrannu i ymateb Sirol.

Fel gair bach olaf, cofiwch i fachu ar unrhyw gyfle ddaw o fod yn aelod o'r Undeb. Mae eich barn yn bwysig ac mae angen ei leisio!

“Cofiwch i fachu ar unrhyw gyfle ddaw o fod yn aelod o'r Undeb. Mae eich barn yn bwysig ac mae angen ei leisio!”

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: “Jump at the chance.”

Llythyr i'r Golygydd

Da iawn Mr Glyn Powell, o'r diwedd anrhydedd llawn haeddiannol. Mae'n amlwg os gwnech enw i'ch hun ar lwyfan fel canwr, trwy gyfrwng barddoniaeth neu ar gae chwaraeon, fe gewch anrhydedd yn ifanc iawn.

Ond am waith yn y gymuned, mae'n amlwg bod rhaid aros yn hir iawn, ond gwell hwyr na hwyrach.

Llongyfarchiadau i Glyn, mi roedd yn fraint a phleser mawr iawn cael treulio amser yn eich cwmni a dysgu llawer o arddull y dyn doeth a hynod yma.

Cofion cynnes iawn i chi Glyn.

Gareth Vaughan, Cyn-Lywydd UAC



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References: 1. Philippe-Reversat *et al.* (2017) *Acta Vet BRNO*. 86: 325–332 2. Metcalfe *et al.* (2020) Registration study BovIN.MDA.69007 accepted for publication. BIAH, 2018 3. Ellis *et al.* (2018) *Can Vet J*. 59: 1311–1319 4. Woodland (2004) *TRENDS in Immunology* 25(2): 98–104

*Terms and conditions apply. Go to bit.ly/bovalto-boost for more information.

Bovalto® Respi Intranasal, nasal spray, lyophilisate and solvent for suspension contains Bovine parainfluenza 3 virus (PI3V), modified live virus, strain Bio 23/A 10^{5.0} – 10^{7.5} TCID₅₀ and Bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV), modified live virus, strain Bio 24/A 10^{4.0} – 10^{6.0} TCID₅₀. Bovalto® Respi 3 Suspension for Injection and Bovalto® Respi 4 Suspension for injection contain inactivated bovine respiratory syncytial virus, strain BIO-24, inactivated bovine parainfluenza 3 virus, strain BIO-23 and inactivated *Mannheimia haemolytica*, serotype A1 strain DSM 5283. Bovalto® Respi 4 also contains

inactivated bovine viral diarrhoea virus, strain BIO-25. UK: POM-V IE: POM (E). Advice should be sought from the prescriber. Further information available in the SPCs or from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd, RG12 8YS, UK. Tel: 01344 746960 (sales) or 01344 746957 (technical), IE Tel: 01 291 3985 (all queries) Email: vetenquiries@boehringer-ingelheim.com. Bovalto® is a registered trademark of the Boehringer Ingelheim Group. ©2020 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd. All rights reserved. Date of preparation: Aug 2020. BOV-0177-2020. Use Medicines Responsibly.

What you need to know about becoming a landlord

by Jackie Burrows, Business Development Manager, FUW Insurance Services Ltd



Thinking of letting out your property? Here's what you should consider before you do.

Flexibility

Being a landlord gives you the flexibility of organising your own work schedule. To make sure you're prepared for anything, you're going to need a strong network of contacts in the area.

Know the right people

As a landlord, you will need to know some reliable handymen and trade workers, including those who can complete plumbing and professional electrical work. Even if you're handy in the home, no-one is skilled in all areas so there will always be a time you need to

call upon expert help. Make sure you know the right people before an emergency occurs.

Regulations

Landlords have rules and regulations to adhere to, from how to correctly handle the tenant's deposit through to ensuring safety standards are adhered to in the home and correctly evicting tenants. Make sure you keep up-to-date with your legal requirements to ensure that everything is done by the book. That way, you can maintain a great reputation and ensure the safety of your tenants.

Find the right tenant

First, you need to decide who you want to rent to. Think about what you would and wouldn't accept in your buy-to-let property. Do you want to rent to students or are you targeting professionals? Are you looking to draw in families or is your focus on single tenants? Think about whether you will accept pets, smokers and DSS applicants. You have every right to decide who you wish to let your property to, but it doesn't hurt to be flexible to draw in the right tenant.

Get specialist insurance

Standard home insurance just won't suffice if you are a landlord as you need specialised cover which will protect you, your business and your tenants. With Property Owners Insurance, your property will be protected against the standard risks such as fire, flood and storm damage, as well as your personal contents if you choose. Additionally, it will cover your business against liability claims, loss of rent, alternative accommodation for your tenants as well as optional malicious damage by tenants.

To find out more about Property Owners Insurance, get in touch with your Account Executive at your local FUW Insurance Services office - telephone numbers on the right - or contact us by any of the following: info@fuwinsurance.co.uk / www.fuwinsurance.co.uk



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Caernarfon	01286 675136
Lampeter	01570 422556
Carmarthen	01267 222570
Ruthin	01824 702912
Cowbridge	01446 773108
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Llanrwst	01492 642683
Dolgellau	01341 421290
Newtown	01686 623093
Haverfordwest	01437 783969



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CORNEL CLECS

Yr ysbrydoliaeth i goginio ynghanol y cyfnod clo

gan Angharad Evans, Golygydd y Gymraeg

ROEDD wythnos Mawrth 16-20 yn anarferol iawn eleni, braidd yn iasol i ddweud y gwir, wrth i'r byd cyfan blymio mewn i ansicrwydd nas gwelwyd erioed o'r blaen.

Roedd panig yn lledaenu ar raddfa gyflym wrth i Coronafeirws dynhâr gafael ar y byd. Ni feddyliais, na chi chwaith mae'n siŵr, y byddai'r gair yna'n parhau i ddominyddu'r sgwrs ddyddiol erbyn heddiw.

Ond, er yr holl dristwch ac ansicrwydd yn sgil y pandemig, mae yna bethau da wedi dod allan o sefyllfa wael. Yn fuan ar ôl dechrau'r cyfnod clo, sefydlodd dwy o aelodau Merched y Wawr, Angharad Fflur a Gwerfyl Eidda, y dudalen Facebook Curo'r Corona'n Coginio er mwyn annog pobl i rannu eu ryseitiai a'u cynghorion. Ymhen rhai wythnosau roedd 15,000 wedi ymaelodi â'r grŵp, gan greu cymuned gyfeillgar sy'n ymestyn ar draws y byd.

Roeddwn i yn un o'r 15,000 hynny, ac yn edrych ymlaen yn eiddgar bob dydd i weld pa brydiau gwahanol a rhydd mae rhai eraill yn paratoi.

Does neb yn tŷ ni yn llwgu, rwy'n gallu coginio'r hanfodion, ond fi yw'r cyntaf i gyfaddef, nad wyf yn gogydd o bell ffordd! Ond roedd gweld y prydiau o fwyd cartref lliwgar, yn cynnig ysbrydoliaeth. Ond yn fwy pwysig na dim, roedd y cynhwysion, mwy neu lai ar gael gan bawb yn y cwpwrdd ar adeg pan nad oedd yn dasg rwydd iawn i siopa.

Er bod y byd wedi dechrau ail gydio mewn rhyw fath o 'normalrwydd', nid dyna ddiweddd hanes y dudalen ar Facebook. Penderfynwyd cynhyrchu llyfr ryseitiai, gyda chefnogaeth gan Hybu Cig Cymru a Cywain, i gyflwyno cyfran fechan yn unig o gynnwys y dudalen, gan ddathlu creadigrwydd ceginau Cymru a gosod y pwyslais ar ddefnyddio cynnyrch Cymreig gwych yn y gegin.

Yn ogystal â ryseitiai, mae'r gyfrol yn cynnwys detholiad o luniau'r cacennau dathlu bendigedig a ymddangosodd ar y dudalen, a lluniau plant yn coginio tra oedden nhw adref o'r ysgolion - hwb arall i ennyn diddordeb y genhedlaeth iau mewn coginio a'u hannog i baratoi pryd o fwyd o'r cychwyn cyntaf.

Ond mae'n fwy na llyfr ryseitiai. Mae'n symbol o gymuned wedi dod at ei gilydd mewn cyfnod anodd, yn ysbrydoliaeth i nifer. Roedd llawer yn gofyn am gyngor ac yn gofyn cwestiynau difyr. Mae llawer o sylwadau hefyd wedi cyfeirio at y ffaith fod y dudalen yn helpu iechyd meddwl unigolion yn ystod y cyfnod clo, gan roi rhywbeth i ffocysu arno'n ddyddiol.

Wrth i'r llyfr ryseitiai gyrraedd ceginau ledled Cymru, dywedodd Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwr Cenedlaethol Merched y Wawr: "Diolch o galon i bawb sydd wedi cyfrannu ac yn parhau i wneud at dudalen Curo'r Corona'n Coginio. Diolch yn fawr i bawb sydd bellach yn prynu'r llyfr, mae yn atgof arbennig a chadarnhaol o gyfnod anodd a heriol ym mywydau nifer. Roedd cydweithio gyda Cywain a Hybu Cig Cymru yn fraint a gobeithio y bydd pawb yn cael mwynhad o ddefnyddio cynnyrch lleol o ansawdd gwych ac yn ychwanegu at fwrlwm y dudalen."

Longyfarchiadau i Ferched y Wawr, ac i'r criw i gyd sydd wedi bod ynghlwm a hyn, o'r dudalen ar Facebook i'r gyfrol lliw llawn, 150 tudalen, wedi ei rwymo â sbiral er mwyn sicrhau y bydd yn aros yn agored ar fwrdd y gegin - mae'n brawf bod modd canfod positif i bob anhawster.

Mae Curo'r Corona'n Coginio ar gael nawr mewn siopau llyfrau ledled Cymru, ar y we drwy wefan y wasg www.carreg.gwalch.cymru a gwefan y Cyngor Llyfrau www.gwales.com am £10.00, gyda'r elw a wneir o werthiant y gyfrol yn mynd i elusen Merched y Wawr, i gefnogi eu gwaith ar draws Cymru.

I roi blas o'r hyn sydd yn Curo'r Corona'n Coginio, ewch i dudalen 15 a rhowch gynnig arni - mwynhewch!

*This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News:
"The cookery inspiration during lockdown."*



CURO'R CORONA'N COGINIO

CASGLIAD O RYSEITIAU, LLUNIAU A CHYNGHORION
ODDI AR GRŴP FACEBOOK POBLOGAIDD
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"Dw'n cael plaser mawr o weld yr holl ddantellion...
mae'n amlwg bod cyfoeth o dalent pobl yng Nghymru!"
Eliw Gwawr



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Parasite Matters – Autumn 2020



Elanco

We've had a warm and dry spring, wetter June/July (but not everywhere) and the first half of August was warm, wet and humid. What impact is this likely to be having on parasite challenges as we move into the late summer and autumn?

The NADIS blowfly risk has moved to "Severe" for the entire country.

Despite the cooling temperatures, extremely high blowfly populations and damp conditions mean that strike risk remains severe across the UK and is likely to remain high for the next few weeks. Since treatment applied to ewes after shearing may now be nearing the end of its period of active protection, considerable care is needed to avoid serious cases of strike.

Richard Wall, Professor of Zoology (Ectoparasite Specialist).

As fly numbers peak any gaps in application will be exploited by the high fly numbers. View the latest risk forecast at: <https://alerts.nadis.org.uk/>

After a largely dry year in the South, the wet and humid conditions in the first half of August is likely to lead to a rapid rise in worm challenge. Monitor worm egg counts and think about timings for mid/late season Zolvix break dose. Find out more at: www.scops.org.uk/news/5221/sheep-farmers-encouraged-to-use-newer-wormers-as-a-mid-season-lamb-dose-this-summer/

Liver fluke – last year was a generally low challenge year for liver fluke which came later in the season. The dry spring and wetter summer this year could give very localised areas of high challenge, while leaving other areas with little or no fluke challenge until much later in the season. Checking for liver fluke antibodies in lambs (or calves) will tell you if the fluke challenge has started on your farm. Watch the experts discuss: www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk/webinars

Get the latest parasite updates direct to your inbox.

Sign up to our Enewsletter: www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk/sign-up



Matthew Colston

Ruminant Technical Consultant, Elanco

For further information call Elanco Animal Health on +44 (0)1256 353 131, or write to Elanco UK AH Limited, Form 2, Bartley Way, Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook, RG27 9XA.

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Precision Technologies - Environmental benefits?

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

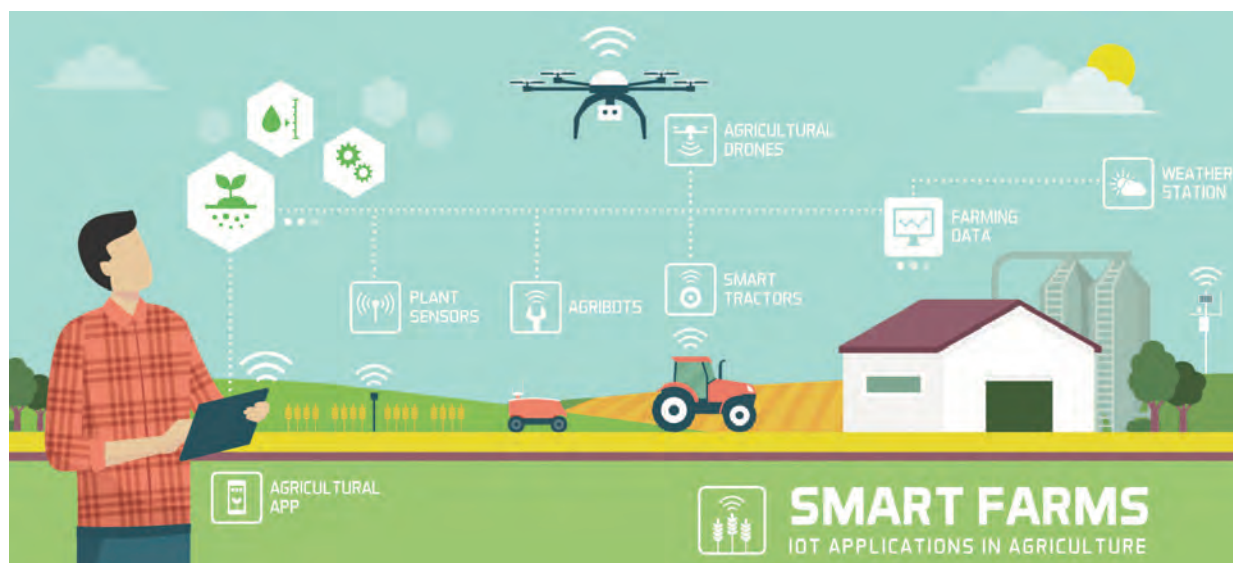
THE farming sector is becoming increasingly pushed to consider the environmental impacts that its practices are having both locally and globally. Agriculture and other land-use factors, including forestry, account for up to a quarter of all human-related greenhouse gas emissions globally, with a tenth of all emissions being agricultural in the UK.

As such, discussion and policy changes are occurring surrounding this topic, with the recent agriculture bill stating the availability of financial assistance for improving/protecting and facilitating public understanding and enjoyment of the environment.

There are several agricultural climate mitigation strategies with potential, including; mixed species swards, organic farming and agroforestry to name just a few. One interesting, and already rapidly developing area, which could benefit direct and indirect emissions, involves using precision technologies within farming systems. Currently, systems such as variable-rate application for crops and robotic milking or feeding for livestock are well utilised, providing quantifiable productivity and efficiency benefits.

Improving productivity and efficiency inherently mitigates environmental impacts when considering emissions per product output, however, many of these systems are noted to have further potential in mitigation.

Variable-rate application (current UK uptake is only 21%) can directly reduce nitrogen added to pastures leading to reduced nitrous oxide emissions, which per molecule are the highest



impacting emission within agriculture. Machine guidance/auto-steering systems allow more controlled pass over of fields, reducing fuel consumption emissions directly and reducing soil compaction, where healthier soils require less fertiliser and produce less nitrous oxide.

Tasks which required heavy machinery are being optimised for robots or aerial drones which utilise electricity as a power source, with higher energy-efficiency and potential for energy provided being renewable.

Controlled environment farming in livestock increases energy use and, therefore, emissions due to controlling for temperature, ventilation etc. However,

integration of precision systems can allow real-time monitoring of emissions, improving the ability to determine which automation or management practices reduce these most efficiently.

Furthermore, precision feeding and oestrus and lameness detecting systems have all demonstrated potential in reducing emissions, with up to 20% reductions per herd suggested in certain studies.

Technologies could offer a way forward in future. Whether policy changes and financial incentives will prove sufficient to overcome barriers to the previous adoption in the UK (including 'ease of use', demonstrable cost-efficiency, initial equity requirement and lack of specific skills) is yet to be seen. However, informing farmers of the potential benefits technologies could have is vital.

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Remember, remember - livestock and pets don't like 5th November

WITH bonfire night fast approaching, the FUW has urged people to remember the distress fireworks and sky lanterns can cause to livestock and pets and reminds them of the dangers posed by bonfires.

"We call on people to stick to the firework safety code at all times, especially over the bonfire and Halloween season, to minimise the risk to livestock, pets and humans," said FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman.

"This time of year poses many dangers to animals and children - so don't let negligence and ignorance be the cause for a real-life horror," he added.

Animals in general are not fond of the noise of fireworks and can become quite anxious during this time of year. Therefore, the FUW urges people to be considerate and not let them off near livestock.

"It is also a good idea to make sure that your pets have been micro-chipped by a vet and that the details on the chip are up-to-date prior to bonfire night, just in case they go missing," said Ian Rickman.

The FUW recommends that if you are having a display at home please make sure you follow the firework code at all times to minimise the stress for farm animals and children. It is also advisable to give neighbours a few days notice of your firework display, particularly if they are elderly, have young children or pets.

"We also remind people that sky lanterns have been banned on all public land by all councils across Wales, as they pose significant dangers to livestock and are, of course, a considerable fire safety risk," he added.



"This time of year poses many dangers to animals and children - so don't let negligence and ignorance be the cause for a real-life horror."

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FUW hosts virtual All Wales Mental Health Conference

“This conference will go beyond the usual points of discussions and explore the subject further. It is an open event and anyone with an interest in mental health is welcome to join us virtually on the day.”

POOR mental health and suicide in rural and farming communities is sadly an increasing problem and one that the FUW has made a commitment to tackle.

Approaching the fourth year of awareness raising and doing everything it takes to help break the stigma, the Union is hosting a virtual All Wales Mental Health Conference on Friday October 9 2020 via Zoom, ahead of World Mental Health Day.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: “The FUW understands that mental health problems can affect a person’s ability to process information and solve problems, deplete their energy and motivation, and increase impulsive behaviour. Whilst the symptoms are being treated, the root causes of these issues are not so frequently addressed.

“This conference will therefore go beyond the usual points of discussions and explore the subject further. It is an open event and anyone with an interest in mental health is welcome to join us virtually on the day.”

New Zealand farmer and mental health champion Doug Avery is supporting the event with a video message sharing his experience of mental health and a preview to his up and coming book following the huge success of his book *The Resilient Farmer* (www.resilientfarmer.co.nz/).

The morning session will explore the wider context of poor mental health in rural communities and what steps need to be taken by Government, decision makers and policy shapers to address the situation, especially as Covid-19 has put further pressure not just on people’s mental health but also their finances.

The conference is an open event and those wishing to join the can register here:

<http://tiny.cc/otnxsz> (URL has been shortened)

Alternatively, please contact Anne Dunn, FUW Press Officer - anne.dunn@fuw.org.uk

Speakers for the morning session, which starts at 10.30am and is chaired by Farmers Guardian Chief Reporter Abi Kay, include:

- **Cath Fallon**, Head of Enterprise and Community Animation Enterprise Directorate, Monmouthshire County Council
- **Sara Lloyd**, Team Leader, South Ceredigion Community Mental Health Team
- **Lee Philips**, Wales Manager, Money and Pensions Service

- **John Forbes-Jones**, Corporate Manager Mental Wellbeing Services, Ceredigion County Council

- **Vicky Beers**, National Partnerships Manager, The Farming Community Network

The afternoon session, which starts at 2pm, will take a practical approach and hear from various dedicated mental health charities offering hands-on advice for those who are supporting a loved one going through mental issues as well as those who are currently experiencing poor mental health.

Speakers for the afternoon session, which is chaired by well known TV Presenter Alun Elidyr, include:

- **Gareth Davies**, Chief Executive Officer, Tir Dewi
- **David Williams**, Wales Regional Director, The Farming Community Network
- **Kate Miles**, Charity Manager, The DPJ Foundation
- **Linda Jones**, RABI Regional Manager, Wales

Tir Dewi launches in North Wales



FOLLOWING hot on the launch of Tir Dewi into Powys at this year’s Royal Welsh Show, Tir Dewi has launched into three counties of North Wales. Since Wednesday September 23, farmers and their families in Gwynedd, Conwy and on the Isle of Anglesey have full access to Tir Dewi’s Helpline and on-farm support service.

Prior to its launch, Tir Dewi conducted an online survey of farmers in the area to try to gain an understanding of the problems there. “The results were remarkably similar to the survey which we did in Powys,” remarked Elen Skyrme who designed and led the exercise. “What is clear is that farmers aren’t struggling with a single issue but combinations of several problems, one on top of the other.” The most common problems included general issues like financial concerns and mental health worries, but also very specific ones such as Rural Crime, Succession Planning and bTB.

One of the results which both surveys showed particularly concerned Gareth Davies, Chief Executive of Tir Dewi, he commented: “The list of problems that farmers were struggling with makes depressing reading, but the fact that up to 74% of farmers said they wouldn’t seek help for fear of embarrassment, shame or other concerns over confidentiality is awful! Farmers and their families need to know that all of our help is completely confidential and we will never judge a farmer.”

Leading Tir Dewi’s service in the area, Delyth Owen from Anglesey said: “If you are a farmer in North Wales who is struggling, or if you know one, then please call us. We know that making the call can be difficult, but talking is the first step towards finding a solution.”

Contact Tir Dewi on: 0800 121 4722 / mail@tirdewi.co.uk / @DewiTir

For further information contact:
Gareth Davies: gareth@tirdewi.co.uk / 07970 180408

Delyth Owen: delyth@tirdewi.co.uk / 07483 399937

“Farmers and their families need to know that all of our help is completely confidential and we will never judge a farmer.”

All Wales Mental Health Conference - Cynhadledd Iechyd Meddwl Cymru Gyfan

Friday 9th October - Dydd Gwener 9fed Hydref

Find out more about the speakers and sessions at www.fuw.org.uk

Am fwy o wybodaeth ynglŷn â'r siaradwyr a'r sesiynau,
ewch i www.fuw.org.uk

Iselder a hunanladdiad - Prif achosion marwolaethau mewn cymunedau ffermio yn y DU

gan Hywel Llyr Jenkins, Aelod o Dîm Rheoli meddwl.org



YN ôl 84% o ffermwyr o dan 40 mlwydd oed, iechedd meddwl yw'r peryg mwyaf sy'n wynebu'r diwydiant heddiw. Mae 85% o ffermwyr ifanc yn credu bod cysylltiad penodol rhwng iechedd meddwl a diogelwch cyffredinol ffermwyr.

Iselder a hunanladdiad yw prif achosion marwolaethau mewn cymunedau ffermio yn y DU, yn ôl ymgyrch Amser i Newid Cymru. Does dim syndod felly bod mwy a mwy o alw yn ddiweddar ar gymunedau cefn gwlad i

drafod iechedd meddwl yn fwy agored. Mae'r diwydiant amaeth yn wynebu llawer o bethau sy'n achosi straen, ac yn gosod pwysau cynyddol ar weithwyr, megis gweithio oriau hir, pwysau ariannol, clefydau anifeiliaid, cynyau gwael, unigedd ac unigrwydd, yn ogystal â ffactorau gwleidyddol megis Brexit a pholisïau sy'n golygu eu bod mewn mwy o beryg o brofi anawsterau iechedd meddwl. Felly, mae rhoi sylw i'ch iechedd meddwl yn hollbwysig yn y diwydiant.

Rydym yn falch o glywed bod FUW wedi gosod nod amlwg o geisio codi ymwybyddiaeth o iechedd meddwl mewn cymunedau cefn gwlad. Mae stigma yn bodoli ynglŷn â siarad am ein hiechedd meddwl, a tan ein bod yn barod i herio'r stigma hwn, mae perygl na fydd pobl yn cael y cymorth maent yn haeddu cael a wirioneddol ei angen.

Mae hi'n iawn i siarad am ein teimladau, does dim i'w hofni o wneud. Dydy e ddim yn wir fod siarad allan yn arwydd o wendid. Yn wir, mae'n aml iawn yn arwydd o gryfder sy'n ennill parch gan eraill yn y gymdeithas ac yn gymorth i eraill. Byddwch yn siŵr o ffeindio bod sawl un yn teimlo'r un fath a chi. Ar ddiwedd y dydd rydym yn aml yn wynebu'r un heriau a'n gilydd.

Y newyddion da yw nad oes angen dioddef ar ben eich hunan, boed yn rhywun sy'n ffermio neu'n unrhyw un sy'n byw yng nghymdeithas cefn gwlad. Mae cymorth ar gael gan eich meddyg teulu a'r sefydliadau Tir Dewi a'r DPJ Foundation ymysg eraill. Gellir ffeindio rhagor o wybodaeth am ble i gael cymorth ar ein gwefan (meddwl.org/cymorth).

Mae meddwl.org hefyd yn falch iawn o'r gwaith rydym wedi gwneud eleni gyda Chlybiau Ffermwyr Ifanc i ddatblygu adnodd o'r enw 'Mae'n iawn i beidio â bod yn iawn'. Mae'n adnodd sy'n cynnig awgrymiadau am sut i siarad ag eraill am eich iechedd meddwl, neu sut i helpu rhywun sy'n cael argyfwng iechedd meddwl.

Mae salwch meddwl yn salwch cudd, gallwch fod ddim yn teimlo'n dda, ond yn ansicr o beth sy'n bod. Dyma rhai pethau i edrych mas amdanynt:

- Newid mewn archwaeth, arferion bwyta neu bwysau

- Newid yn lefel egni a phatrymau cwsg

- Meddyliau cyson am farwolaeth neu hunanladdiad

- Canolbwyntio a gwneud penderfyniadau

- Aflonyddwch neu anniddigrwydd amlwg

- Colli diddordeb neu fwynhad mewn gweithgareddau

Os ydych yn teimlo fod angen help arnoch chi siaradwch â rhywun rydych yn ymddiried ynddynt. Yn aml, rhannu problem yw'r cam cyntaf tuag at wellhad. Os bydd eich cyflwr meddyliol neu emosiynol yn gwaethygu'n gyflym, neu os ydych chi'n poeni am rywun chi'n ei adnabod - cofiwch fod help ar gael. Rydym yn edrych ymlaen at barhau a'r drafodaeth.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "Depression and suicide - the leading causes of death in UK farming communities."

"Mae stigma yn bodoli ynglŷn â siarad am ein hiechedd meddwl, a tan ein bod yn barod i herio'r stigma hwn, mae perygl na fydd pobl yn cael y cymorth maent yn haeddu cael a wirioneddol ei angen."

How the DPJ Foundation service works

by Kate Miles, DPJ Foundation Charity Manager



As I have been talking to people about my new job at the DPJ Foundation, there are a few questions that have come up. I thought sharing these might help you better understand how our service works.

Why does mental health matter?

As farmers, we would never question the importance of physical health: the flu last winter that made every job so much harder or the accident that set you back a few weeks. We know that these are a nuisance and that they cause problems on farm. The same is true of poor mental health. Feeling like you are dragging another weight around with you or that you are knotted by the anxiety of life or certain situations can be equally disruptive.

Worries and stress are perfectly normal, but when they start to dominate your life and thoughts, that is the time to get help. Living with a farmer, I know that the doctor, hospital or dentist is often the last resort (after self-treatment fails). However, sometimes it is essential to get that expert support - whether it is for a course of antibiotics or a course of counselling. We can help with the latter.

Will people find out?

The short answer is "no". Whilst we think that it shouldn't matter that someone is getting professional help, it still does to many people. However, to reassure you, our service is confidential and there is no reason why anyone within your community would ever know (unless you choose to tell them yourself). As Charity Manager, I don't even know the identity of callers to our 24/7 "Share the Load" line, which is important to maintain trust in our service.

What do people want to talk about?

We have taken a range of calls to our line. Callers to the line do not need to give their full name, nor their address. In the last 6 months we have taken calls from farmers with a range of concerns. These include:

- Loneliness and the anxiety that it brings
- Family fall outs, relationship breakdown or maintaining contact with children
- Bereavement and dealing with grief
- Struggles to maintain family business under increasing financial pressures
- General financial worries
- Fear of bad weather affecting the farm
- Poor health and no one to help out with jobs or fear of getting ill
- Finding it difficult to keep on top of workload on the farm, leading to issues such as exhaustion or animal welfare problems
- Stress of a family member having poor mental health
- Feeling angry
- Feeling suicidal

As you can see, these are a wide range of issues and they can affect anyone. Making that phone call can be the first step to sharing the weight on your shoulders, which in turn can help you find a way to get back to being yourself.

If I call the line do I have to have counselling?

No, many callers to Share the Load just want to talk and that is fine. We are there to help you as you need, at your pace.

If you or someone you know would like our support, please call 0800 587 4262 or text 07860 048799.

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



DPJ Foundation:
Call 0800 587 4262
/ Text 07860 048799



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



FCN:
03000
111 999



RABI:
0808 281
9490



Tir Dewi:
0800 121
4722



Importance of EU trade deal and maintaining food standards stressed to Trade Minister

"I made it very clear that we must continue our trading relationship with Europe and that if we lose that the consequences for our industry would be devastating."

THE FUW has highlighted the importance of a trade deal with the EU at a meeting with Minister for Trade Ranil Jayawardena MP and Montgomeryshire MP Craig Williams.

The round-table discussion, which included representatives from the FUW and NFU Cymru officials, at Pickstock Farm in Llanfechain was arranged by Craig Williams MP.

Speaking after the event, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "We had a good meeting with the Minister and a lively debate around the dangers of allowing cheap substandard food imports after the Brexit withdrawal period."

Mr Roberts highlighted that food in other non-EU countries was produced to lower animal health and welfare, environmental and social standards than those legally required in Wales and the UK.

"I made it very clear that we must continue our trading relationship with Europe and that if we lose that the consequences for our industry would be devastating."

Mr Roberts added that we have seen the impacts that the overnight closure of export

markets can have on farm incomes and supply chains and reminded the Minister of the impacts of BSE in 1996, FMD in 2001 and the collapse in wool prices following the loss of the China market earlier this year.

He added: "It must also be noted that if we do have a trade deal, the domestic policies we apply to our own producers must be developed with the policies applied for our main competitors in the EU in mind."

Whilst reassurances were made by the Minister regarding food standards being maintained, Mr Roberts stressed that incoming food products to the UK market must comply with the same standards and regulations as our food producers.

"We will not stand for a race to the bottom when it comes to standards and I took the opportunity to remind the Minister that we supported Neil Parish's New Clause 2 amendment and have advised Lords on similar amendments that would have the same effect. It is essential that what is included in a trade deal is subject to our standards," he said.



FUW President Glyn Roberts (left) with Montgomeryshire MP Craig Williams, Minister for Trade Ranil Jayawardena MP and representatives from the FUW and NFU Cymru.

Get your ducks in line for slurry storage



NOW is the time to get the ball rolling if you are considering extending or modifying your farm buildings, yard areas, silage clamps and slurry stores, as the Welsh Government have recently announced that financial support can be applied for, to reduce the risk of causing pollution.

Thinking about changing your farm buildings and stores? Contact us at FUW for free and confidential expert advice. This will help you to decide on the most appropriate and cost effective action to future proof your farm business.

Keith Owen at KeBeK says: "We've worked with many farmers on slurry management and storage design and found that over 90% of the farms that are looking for better ways to manage their slurry, have a rainwater problem and not a slurry storage problem. When considering increasing the slurry storage capacity on a farm, it is common to think that building the biggest slurry store possible, as a belt and braces approach, is the best way to manage slurry and safe guard against causing pollution. However, building a large slurry store is very expensive and can often lead to far more slurry being generated."

Covering dirty yard areas is the first step in reducing the volume of slurry and will also help you to meet the proposed 5 month slurry storage requirements under the Agricultural Pollution Regulations for Wales, commonly referred to as the "NVZ regs" (Nitrate Vulnerable Zones).

A key factor to reduce the volume of slurry that must be collected and stored, is to cover dirty yard areas. Roofing over dirty yards will prevent clean rainwater from being contaminated with slurry. Intercepting clean rainwater will also save your farm costs for slurry storage and associated costs of applying slurry to land.

Financial support to cover yard areas will be made available under the Farm Business Grant. The application window will be open on November 9 2020 until December 18 2020, with a subsequent application window opening May 18 2021 to June 25 2021.

The Sustainable Production Grant (SPG) Expression of Interest application window will open on February 1 2021 and close March 12 2021. The focus of the SPG will be to reduce the risk of causing diffuse pollution. At the time of writing this article the list of items that would be eligible under the SPG grant had not yet been released by Welsh Government - we will keep you updated as further details are released.

Help and advice is available from KeBeK to improve your clean and dirty water separation and calculate your slurry storage. This can be funded through Farming Connect. Contact the FUW on 01970 820820 for referral to the FUW helpline.

"The Welsh Government have recently announced that financial support can be applied for, to reduce the risk of causing pollution."

Recruiting Reps - See website for details

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Ar ôl darllen hanes y llyfr ryseitiai 'Curo'r Corona'n Coginio' yn Cornel Clecs ar dudalen 9 dyma blas o'r hyn sydd ynddo er mwyn eich hudo i'r gegin i baratoi pryd bach o fwyd cartref, Cymreig. Diolch yn fawr i Meinir Edwards am adael i ni gynnwys y rysait Pastai ffowlyn a ham Mam-gu yn *Y Tir*, ac fe'i gwelir ar dudalen 36-37 o'r llyfr, ynghyd a llwyth o brydiau blasus arall. Mwynhewch y coginio, a mwy pwysig, y blasu a'r bwyta ar y diwedd!

Pastai ffowlyn a ham Mam-gu

Cynhwysion y crwst

450g / 1 pwys blawd plaen
200g / 8 owns menyn
2 ŵy wedi'u curo
Hanner llwy de halen

Dull y crwst

- 1) Cymysgwch y blawd, yr halen a'r menyn mewn powlen i greu briwsion
- 2) Ychwanegwch yr wyau a chymysgwch y cyfan i wneud toes
- 3) Gadewch y toes i orffwys am awr cyn ei rollo

Cynhwysion y llenwad

12 owns cig cyw iâr wedi'i goginio a'i dorri'n giwbiau
12 owns ham wedi'i frewi a'i dorri'n giwbiau
1 winwnsyn wedi'i sleisio'n denau
4 owns menyn
2 owns blawd plaen
1 peint llaeth
Cwarter peint hufen
2 lwy fwrdd o bersli wedi'i dorri'n fân
Papur a halen
1 ŵy wedi'i guro i'w frwsio ar y crwst

Dull y llenwad

- 1) Toddwch y menyn mewn sosban neu badell ffrio ddofn
- 2) Ffriwch y winwns nes eu bod yn feddal ac ychwanegwch y blawd. Coginiwch am funud cyn ychwanegu'r llaeth fesul dipyn er mwyn creu saws gwyn heb lymphiau.
- 3) Ychwanegwch y cig a'r hufen a'u cymysgu'n dda
- 4) Ychwanegwch y persli, y pupur a'r halen

- 5) Rholiwch hanner y toes i greu gwaelod 6mm (cwarter modfedd) o drwch i'r bastai. Iwrch ddsygl bastai 10 modfedd ag ychydig o fenyn cyn gosod y toes arno
- 6) Brwsiwch y toes ag ŵy wedi'i guro a rhowch y llenwad ar ei ben. Rholiwch y toes sy'n weddill a gorchuddio'r bastai â hwnnw
- 7) Brwsiwch ragor o ŵy ar y top cyn ei goginio ar dymheredd o 200°C/400°F/nwy 6 am 30-35 munud
- 8) Mwynhewch!



This recipe is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News - October recipe

ARLOESI AC ARALLGYFERIO

RHITHIOL >>>>>>

19.10.2020 - 23.10.2020

Ychwanegu gwerth at eich busnes,
buddsoddi yn eich dyfodol, paratoi i lwyddo

Ydych chi'n dymuno arallgyfeirio eich busnes?

Ydych chi'n awyddus i edrych sut i wella cynaliadwyedd a proffidoldeb eich busnes drwy arloesedd a thechnoleg?

Yn dilyn llwyddiant Arloesi ac Arallgyfeirio Cymru llynedd, rydym yn cynnal y digwyddiad ar-lein eleni. Byddwn yn darparu cefnogaeth cyngor ac arweiniad er mwyn gwella eich busnesau a'ch galluogi i edrych ar syniadau newydd i wella proffidoldeb a chynaliadwyedd.

Amserlen a manylion pellach i ddilyn yn fuan ar ein gwefan.

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Arloesi ac Arallgyfeirio - Innovation and Diversification



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What's the new agricultural policy looking like in England?

In February this year, the Federation of Cumbria Commoners (FCC) invited FUW Head of Policy Nick Fenwick, Cymunedau Oll Pumlumon a'r Ardal (COPA) Chair Elwyn Vaughan and COPA Secretary and FUW member Dafydd Morris-Jones to speak at their Annual General Meeting about the dangers of rewilding to agriculture and rural communities.

With farmers in Cumbria and upland Wales sharing so much in common, and many Welsh farmers hearing whispers about the pros and cons of Defra's proposed Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMs), FCC Secretary Viv Lewis outlines the thoughts and worries of Cumbria farmers about the new scheme.

LOOKING from a hill farmers' perspective and a long way from London, the policies and systems that are going to replace 30 years of EU farm support seem to get increasingly complex and confusing by the day. Often, we want to throw our hands up in despair, but we try to maintain an open mind and keep up-to-date, especially as we are running a practical, farmer-based test and trial (paid for by Defra) to see how a new scheme might work on common land.

Earlier this year Defra proposed a new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMs) founded on the principle of "public money for public goods" as its cornerstone agricultural policy. Alongside this, the Agriculture Bill is wending its way through the House of Lords. This Bill does the legislative job that allows the Government to pay for public goods. It also gives powers (but not duties) to introduce supply chain transparency and fairness and includes other measures needed to leave EU arrangements.

We know the high-level outline of ELMs. It will pay for six big public goods:

- Clean and plentiful water
- Clean air
- Protection from and mitigation of environmental hazard
- Mitigation of and adaptation to climate change
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Beauty, heritage and engagement

These will be delivered through three tiers.

Tier 1 is supposedly easy for all farmers to deliver and will focus on environmentally sustainable farming and forestry.

Tier 2 is about farmers delivering locally targeted environmental outcomes such as hedge and tree planting, the restoration and management of woodlands and hay meadow and natural flood management. These may need collaboration between farmers to be successful.

Tier 3 is for landscape scale land-use changes such as rewilding, peatland restoration, forest creation and coastal habitats. Defra expects farmers to decide which Tier they want to apply for and write a Land Management Plan that defines the agreement between the farmer and Defra.

As the detail trickles out, our concerns increase. For example, despite promising a more open and

collaborative approach to designing ELM and a simpler scheme to boot, the Defra policy team has been working up the detail and identified 1,261+ options they may pay for. Even with this huge number of actions there are significant gaps relating to the management and governance of commons, supporting native breeds and conserving the cultural heritage of farming systems. No doubt other farming sectors will have identified gaps too.

Payment rates are likely to be based on income forgone plus costs, plus variation, plus future outcomes-led payments..... What does this mean? And Tier 3 worries us. We are already seeing landowners taking hill farms with commons rights in hand or reletting farms without commons rights. It appears they are positioning themselves for Tier 3 land-use change projects. ELM could hasten the clearance by stealth of commons that is already occurring under our current schemes as commons are forced to cut their sheep numbers if they want to enter a scheme. We have raised this concern with Defra.

We've also told them with all the focus on public goods, they're missing out the people. ELMs needs the skills, knowledge and experience of farmers, farm workers and land managers to be successful and deliver positive environmental benefit, or it will get nowhere. Right now, farmers need to believe they have an economic future before getting involved with ELMs. But here's the rub, ELMs is due to come onstream in 2024 and at that point we expect the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) to be half its current value. This means livestock farms on average will have a 46-48 per cent drop in Farm Business Income by 2024. The sheep trade is tremendous right now and long may it last, but it's unlikely to make up this gap by 2024.

At last, Defra are cottoning on to this yawning gap in funding and last week they announced they are planning a brand-new Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) as a "stepping stone" to bridge the gap between BPS and ELM. Their intention is to make some of the elements of ELMs Tier 1 available before the whole ELMs package comes on stream, so farmers don't fall into the funding void. However, the planning and funding of the SFI is at an early stage and not yet guaranteed.

We're taking deep breaths and will be shouting up for commoners.



About the Federation

The Federation of Cumbria Commoners (FCC) was set up by commoners in 2003. It grew out of an increasing concern that the opportunities and threats facing common land were not well understood among policy makers and CAP support systems. FCC's overarching aim is to maintain and improve the viability of hill farming on common land. It does so by bringing commoners together to provide a voice for their interests at a regional and national level and provide support to commoners to manage their common land. It is now an integral part of the uplands policy community and responds to government consultations, works on secondary legislation, RPA payments to commoners, guidance notes, etc.

FCC has around 400 members (all commons rights holders) in Cumbria and another 75 affiliated members from 2 local associations in Northumberland and 3 in north Lancashire. In addition, around 70 individuals are associate members (non-commons rights holders) who support FCC's aims.

FCC is self-financing through member subscriptions and the occasional one-off grant.

Glamorgan farmers left in the dark over local mart



FARMERS in Glamorgan still don't know what the future holds for their local livestock mart, with fears growing that livestock trading in Cowbridge will never resume.

The FUW has long campaigned for the future of the mart, including calling for a stay of execution on the closure of the mart, which was granted a charter back in 1254 and has been central to town life ever since.

"We are very concerned that with the closure of the market, which is already being disassembled, market trading in Cowbridge will never resume again. That is something which will cost our local farmers, already under pressure because of uncertainty over red meat sales post Brexit. We are urging the Council to provide urgent clarity," said FUW County Executive Officer Rachel Saunders.

The site provided an opportunity to sell stock directly to buyers, but

with its closure on September 1 2020 the closest alternative is at Raglan, Carmarthen or Brecon meaning significant extra costs for farmers.

Cowbridge farmers who do not have the necessary Certificates of Competence are only allowed to transport their stock for a maximum of 65km and to travel over 65km would need a Certificate of Competence and also need a valid transporter authorisation for short journeys, meaning those who cannot meet these requirements will have to pay additional haulage costs to sell their produce.

"Our very real fear is now that the site has shut down, a new one will never be built, and currently it is understood that there is no guaranteed funding for the new mart. As it is, the uncertainty in farming now is causing serious mental health issues within the industry, and the closure of this mart only puts further pressure on a worried community. The Council must act with urgency to resolve this matter," she added.

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ANGLESEY

Noson wybodaeth

Ar ddechrau mis Medi cynhaliwyd noson wybodaeth i aelodau'r sir drwy gyfrwng cyfarfod 'Zoom' ar-lein. Cafwyd cyflwyniad hynod ddiddorol gan Gareth Jones, Rheolwr Rhanbarthol y Bwrdd Gwlân cyn cael y cyfle i holi cwestiynau i Huw Evans, Aelod y Bwrdd dros Ogledd Cymru. Gyda phrisiau gwllân ar lefel hanesyddol o isel o ganlyniad i effaith y cyfnod clo ar y marchnadoedd, roedd yn galonogol iawn clywed am waith marchnata ac ymchwil y Bwrdd i ddod o hyd i ddefnydd newydd ar gyfer y gwllân.

Gyda phethau yn aradeg ddychwelyd i 'normal' erbyn hyn roedd clywed fod y farchnad wllân yn ail gydiad yn araf yn newyddion da.

I gloi'r noson, cafwyd diweddariad gan Neil Paton o Gwaredu BVD Cymru, cynllun sy'n rhedeg ers 2017 gyda 8,500 o daliadau wedi cymryd rhan a chwblhau prawf anifeiliaid ifanc o leiaf unwaith yn y cyfnod hwn, gyda 75% o fuchesi Cymru nawr wedi derbyn statws rhydd o'r afiechyd.

Mae'r cynllun ariannu bellach wedi ei estyn hyd nes ddiwedd Mawrth 2021, gyda hyd at £1,000 ar gael i ddod o hyd i anifeiliaid 'PI'. Cafwyd trafodaeth ynglŷn â beth sy'n debygol o ddigwydd wedi i'r cyfnod ariannu hwn ddod i ben ac anogwyd yr aelodau i fanteisio ar y cynllun, ac os heb wneud yn barod cael sgwrs gyda'u milfeddyg.

Diolch yn fawr i'r tri gŵr gwadd am roi

o'u hamser a hefyd i'r aelodau a wnaeth ymuno.

At the beginning of September an information evening for County members was held via an online Zoom meeting. Gareth Jones, Regional Manager of the Wool Board, gave a very interesting presentation before an opportunity to ask Huw Evans, Board Member for North Wales some questions. With wool prices at a historically low level due to the impact of the lockdown period on the markets, it was very encouraging to hear about the Board's marketing and research work to find new uses for the wool. With things now slowly returning to 'normal' it was good news to hear that the wool market is slowly picking up again. To end the evening, Neil Paton gave an update on Gwaredu BVD Cymru, a scheme running since 2017 with 8,500 holdings involved and completing a young stock test at least once during this period, and 75% of Welsh herds are now free from the disease. The scheme funding has now been extended until the end of March 2021, with up to £1,000 available to find 'PI' animals. Discussion continued as to what was likely to happen after the end of this funding period, and members were urged to take advantage of the scheme, and to talk to their vets if they hadn't already done so. Many thanks to the three guest speakers for giving their time and also to the members who took part in the evening.

Gair o ddiolch

Dymuna aelod FUW Gareth Pritchard, 'Rhen Blas, Llandrygarn, Ynys Môn, ddiolch yn ddiffuant am bob arwydd o gydymdeimlad a ddangoswyd tuag ato yn ei brofedigaeth ddisymwth o golli ei annwyl fab Rhys Llywelyn Pritchard. Hoffai ddiolch o waelod calon am y llu o alwadau ffôn, cardiau a rhoddion hael a dderbyniwyd er cof am Rhys.

"Anodd iawn yn nyddiau haf Yw osgoi ias y gaeaf"

Ymgymrodd Gareth â sialens bersonol ar ddechrau'r cyfnod clo i feicio mil o filltiroedd er mwyn codi arian tuag at GIG/NHS. Derbyniodd ymateb anhygoel gan deulu, ffrindiau a chymdogion. Mae yn hynod o werthfawrogl a diolchgar i bawb am eu haelioni. Cyflwynodd y rhoddion oedd yn gyfanswm o £5,700 i Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor. Rhannwyd yr arian rhwng Ward Alaw, Ward Cybi a'r Adran Gofal Brys. Cyflwynodd rodd hefyd i'r Adran Pelydr X i gefnogi eu hymdrech i brynu sganer newydd. Diolch eto i bawb, Gareth Pritchard.

FUW member Gareth Pritchard of 'Rhen Blas, Llandrygarn, Anglesey, would like to sincerely thank all for the sympathy shown towards him after the sudden loss of his beloved son Rhys Llywelyn Pritchard. He would like to express his deepest gratitude for the many phone calls, cards and generous donations in memory of Rhys.

"It's very difficult in the summer days To avoid the winter chills"

Gareth undertook a personal challenge at the start of the lockdown period to cycle a thousand miles to raise money for the NHS. The response from family, friends and neighbours was incredible. He is extremely appreciative and grateful to everyone for their generosity.

He presented the donations totalling £5,700 to Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor. The money was split between Alaw Ward, Cybi Ward and the Emergency Care Department. A donation was also made to the X-ray Department to support their purchase of a new scanner. Thanks again to everyone, Gareth Pritchard.



Gareth Pritchard (canol) gyda Sister Jen o Ward Alaw ac Sister Ceri o Ward Cybi, Ysbyty Gwynedd, yn derbyn y rhoddion ariannol.

01267 237974

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CARMARTHEN

Remembering farmer Bryan Thomas

Carmarthenshire farmer and FUW member Bryan Thomas has sadly passed away. Bryan was awarded the Farmers' Union of Wales-HSBC Bank plc award for outstanding service to the Welsh dairy industry at the 2009 Welsh Dairy Show, he was the first person to receive two prestigious awards within the county as, in 2006, he won the FUW/Sioe Sir Gâr award for outstanding services to agriculture in Carmarthenshire.



Bryan Thomas (left) and FUW President back in 2009 Gareth Vaughan presenting Bryan with the FUW-HSBC Bank plc award for outstanding service to the Welsh dairy industry.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "As a Union I recall his outstanding support and commitment to the Holstein Society and, of course, to the Welsh Dairy Show where he was one of the founders - an outstanding achievement. I am also reminded that it was following a farm visit to Gelli Ddu which led to the very first FUW Eve of the Welsh Dairy Show function and, at all future functions, we will remember Bryan. I extend the condolences of the FUW to his family."

New venture for Hafodwen Farm

Hafodwen is a family mixed farm situated on the outskirts of Johnstown and Carmarthen town on the Llansteffan Road. They decided during the summer of 2019 that as a means of diversification, in order to increase the value of the milk sold, a milk vending machine and pasteurizer be installed on the farm as soon as possible.

The best way to go ahead was to erect a purpose built building attached to the present dairy to house the machines. The milk could then easily flow straight through the wall in pipes through to the pasteurizer.

Work began during January but then of course came to a halt due to the Covid pandemic. It finally got finished seven months later and on August 20 the doors to LLAETH HAFODWEN were happily opened.

Rhodri and Anne-Marie are the 4th generation to farm at Hafodwen - Rhodri's Great-Grandfather having moved down from Porthyrhyd in 1932.

The hope is that the venture may affirm a secure future in the business for the next generation, possibly Carys, Owen and Steffan. It has meant at least quadrupling the value of the milk which is most useful in these difficult and uncertain times. Locally produced eggs and honey are also offered for sale at LLAETH HAFODWEN.

The response to the venture so far has been overwhelming and grateful thanks go out to all who have called in to support. We look forward to what the future holds.



01570 424515

CEREDIGION

ceredigion@fuw.org.uk

200 Club winners

1: 119 - Mr J E George, Llwynbrain

2: 150 - Mr C G Davies, Lloyd Jack

3: 108 - Mrs M Davies, Brynglas

1: 40 - Phillips, Bwlchrhandir

2: 21 - Mr G E Jones, Cefnrhyddlan

3: 25 - Mrs Roberts, Gellideg



01982 554030

breconandradnor@fuw.org.uk

BRECON & RADNOR

Date for the diary

Our next County Executive meeting will be on Tuesday November 3 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom. Guest speaker to be arranged. For further details and for an invite on Zoom please contact the County Office.

We will be sending a reminder via email before the meeting, if you would like to be included please contact us to check we have an up-to-date email address for you.



01286 672541

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CAERNARFON

Sion yn ymuno o Awstralia

Cafwyd Pwyllgor Gwaith difyr iawn yn Sir Gaernarfon mis diwethaf pan ymunodd Sion Aron Jones, sef cyn Swyddog Sirol y sir gyda ni i rannu ei brofiadau ers symud gyda'i deulu i fyw i Awstralia. Un o fanteision cyfarfod dros y we yw bod hi'n bosib ymuno gyda'r cyfarfod o unrhyw le yn y byd sydd gyda chysylltiad band eang, a dyna a wnaeth Sion pan roedd hi'n 5.30 y bore gydag ef ac 8.30 yr hwyr yma yng Nghymru.

Rhoddodd ychydig o hanes y teulu a'r hyn y mae Esther ei wraig a'r plant, Brandon a Jason, yn ei wneud erbyn hyn, ac yna eglurodd ei ddyletswyddau yn gweithio i'r "Department of Primary Industries" Llywodraeth De Cymru Newydd, lle mae'n Gyfarwyddwr ar dîm o 50 sydd yn gyfrifol am Ymchwil a Datblygu o fewn y sector gwartheg, defaid a geifr, ansawdd bwyd/bwyta, maeth a'r gadwyn gyflenwi.

Roedd yn gyflwyniad difyr tu hwnt ar sut mae'r Llywodraethau ar bob lefel yn Awstralia yn cynnig cefnogaeth i'r diwydiant amaeth a sut mae'r ffermwyr yn cynorthwyo ei gilydd gyda'r nod o wella effeithlonrwydd y diwydiant. Difyr oedd clywed sut roedd y diwydiant yn hapus i 40% o'i lefi gael ei wario ar ymchwil a datblygu yn hytrach na marchnata.

A very interesting Executive Committee was held in Caernarfon last month when Sion Aron Jones, former Caernarfon County Officer joined us to share his experiences since moving to live in Australia with his family. One of the advantages of meeting over the internet is that it is possible to join the meeting from anywhere in the world with a broadband connection, which is what Sion did when it was 5.30am with him and 8.30pm here in Wales. He gave a brief family background, and what Esther, his wife and children Brandon and Jason are doing now. He then explained his duties working for the Department of Primary Industries, New South Wales Government as Director of a team of 50 responsible for Research and Development within the cattle, sheep and goat sector, food/quality, nutrition and supply chain. It was a fascinating presentation on how the Government at all levels in Australia offer support to the agriculture industry and how the farmers help each other with the aim of improving the efficiency of the industry. It was interesting to hear how the industry was happy for 40% of its levy to be spent on research and development rather than marketing.

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GLAMORGAN

Theft warning

We are urging farmers to be vigilant following reports by South Wales

Police that there has been an increase throughout the UK of the theft of high value Tractor Navigation Systems.

It is believed that farms are being targeted and the devices are being exported and sold via various auction platforms worldwide. Fully licenced, these systems can cost upwards of £20,000, all carry unique serial numbers which can be checked with manufacturers.

FUW Glamorgan County executive officer Rachel Saunders, (pictured right), said: "We urge members across the county and indeed Wales to be extra vigilant. If you are using these systems on your farm, take some crime prevention action by photographing all items relevant to the system including a close up of the serial numbers and mark them up with your surname, farm name, post code etc. Any removable parts should be removed from agricultural machinery and locked away safely each night and not left on the tractors. The advice is for such items to be stored in a safe place within the main property."



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MEIRIONNYDD

Pwyllgor Gwaith y Sir

Cyfarfu'r Pwyllgor Gwaith drwy Zoom unwaith eto ar ddechrau mis Medi, a'r prif bwnc dan sylw oedd y papur ymgynghorol 'Ffermio Cynaliadwy a'n Tir - argymhellion i barhau a symleiddio cefnogaeth i ffermwyr a'r economi wledig'. Roedd ein Pennaeth Polisi Nick Fenwick yn bresennol gyda ni, a chafwyd trosolwg cyffredinol ganddo, wrth iddo sôn am y sefyllfa dros y dair mlynedd nesaf yng nghyswllt y Cynllun Taliad Sylfaenol a'r RDP. Penderfynwyd cynnal cyfarfod pellach i drafod y cwestiynau unigol yn fanwl.

Ymysg pnciau eraill oedd yr angen i ethol Llywydd i'r gangen sirol. Adroddwyd fod Olwen Ford, Llanfrothen wedi cwblhau tymor o ddwy flynedd, a diolchwyd yn fawr iawn iddi am ei gwaith. Yn dilyn trafodaeth a phleidlais, penderfynwyd ar enw Euros Puw, Parc y Bala fel Llywydd ar gyfer Cangen Sirol Meirionnydd am 2020-22. Diolchodd Euros am yr enwebiad, a mynegwyd ein dymuniadau gorau iddo.

Ymysg nifer o faterion eraill oedd yr angen i ail-ethol cynrychiolwyr i holl bwyllgorau'r Undeb yn y Brif Swyddfa am y flwyddyn i ddod. Aethpwyd drwy'r rhestr, a byddai angen trafod hyn eto yn y cyfarfod nesaf.

Once again, the Executive Committee met through Zoom at the beginning of September. The main topic being the consultation paper 'Sustainable farming and our land: simplifying agricultural support'. Our Head of Policy Nick Fenwick was present, and he gave a general overview, and explained the situation for the next three years in relation to the Basic Payment Scheme and the RDP. It was decided to hold a further meeting to discuss the individual questions in detail. Other topics included the need to elect a County Branch President. It was reported that Olwen Ford, Llanfrothen had completed a two year term, and she was thanked for her work. Following discussion and a vote, Euros Puw, Parc y Bala, was elected as the Meirionnydd County Branch President for 2020-22. Euros thanked everyone for the nomination, and we expressed our best wishes to him. Amongst many other issues was the need to re-elect representatives to all Union committees at Head Office for the coming year. We went through the list, and this will need to be discussed again at the next meeting.

Cyfarfodydd ardal o fewn Meirionnydd

Byddwn fel arfer yn cychwyn ar y gwaith o drefnu 10 o gyfarfodydd ardal o fewn y sir ym mis Medi - ond eleni wrth gwrs mae'r sefyllfa yn dra gwahanol!

Byddwn yn ail-edrych ar hyn ymhen tua 3 mis, ond yn y cyfamser, os oes unrhyw Gangen yn gweld y posibilrwydd o drefnu cyfarfod drwy Zoom, byddwn mwy na pharod i gynorthwyo a threfnu.

Gallwn drefnu siaradwyr gwadd, neu bwnc o ddiddordeb, a gallai aelodau o ganghennau eraill ymuno os ydynt yn dymuno hynny. Edrychwn ymlaen at glywed gennych.

We usually start organising 10 area meetings within the county in September - but, of course, the situation this year is very different! We will review this in about 3 months' time. In the meantime, if any Branch feels the need to arrange a meeting through Zoom, we will be more than happy to assist and organise. We can arrange guest speakers, or a topic of interest, and members of other branches could join if they so wish. We look forward to hearing from you.

Cysylltwch
gyda
ni!



Gwlân Gwynedd a Môn

gan aelod FUW Elfed Wyn Jones, Hafodwen, Trawsfynydd

Y ddafad...mae'n gyffredin i ffermwyr Cymru, wedi eu cynnal am genedlaethau. Eu teuluoedd a'u cymunedau wedi ffynnu o'i herwydd. Cig ydi'r cynnyrch mwyaf gwerthfawr rydym yn cael gan y ddafad heddiw, ond, cwta hanner canrif yn ôl roedd gwllân y ddafad yn allweddol i'r ffermwr cyffredin, gan alluogi iddo dalu rhent y fferm, a bwydo'i deulu drwy'r gaef.

Heddiw, mae'n stori wahanol, gyda gwllân yn cael ei weld fel mellthith i ffermwr. Mae'n teimlo nawr mai cosb ydi cneifio dafad, gyda phris cneifio yn uchel a gwllân mor isel. Ymateb i frwydr ein ffermwyr i gynnal y diwydiant gwllân ydi'r prosiect yma; i adnabod gwerth ac i gynhyrchu incwm teg i bob ffermwr. Dyna ydi pwrpas cwmni gwllân Gwynedd a Môn. Model fydd hwn i drosglwyddo i Gymru gyfan wedi llwyddiant adra. Byddwn yn ailsefydlu gwllân Cymru fel conglfaen i ffermydd Cymru. Am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch: gwlangwyneddamon@gmail.com

Sheep ... common to Welsh farmers, sustained them for generations. Their families and communities have flourished as a result. Meat is the most valuable product we get from sheep today, but, only half a century ago, sheep's wool was key to the average farmer, enabling him to pay the



farm rent, and to feed his family through winter. Today, it's a different story, with wool being seen as a curse. Shearing a sheep can feel like a punishment, with shearing prices high and wool low. This project is a response to our farmers' battle to sustain the wool industry; to recognise value and generate a fair income for farmers. That is the purpose of Gwlân Gwynedd a Môn. This will be a model to transfer to the whole of Wales after success. We will re-establish Welsh wool as a cornerstone of Welsh farms for future generations. For information contact: gwlangwyneddamon@gmail.com



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MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Support for Powys farmers

Unique support for Powys farmers is on offer from Care & Repair in Powys and Age Cymru Powys. This is the only project in Wales where both organisations have come together to reach out to the farming community. Working together they bring years of experience in supporting older people to live independently and live well.

Welsh Government support means that additional staff have been employed to offer free home visits, no matter how remote the location.

Respecting Covid guidelines, new staff, Elin Bowen and Gethin Edwards, have the time to talk to working or retired farmers or farm workers over 50 and find out what would make their lives better. This could be practical changes to their home, benefit entitlements, to reduce isolation or help plan for the future.

Both Elin and Gethin were chosen for this work because of their background, Elin from a farming family and Gethin is familiar to many Powys farmers through his previous business advice work.

They both speak Welsh and are keen to hear from anyone who wants to find out more about the support on offer.

The advice is free and that first phone call could mean that asking for help is the first step to greater independence and a more contented life.

Please contact either Elin at Care & Repair or Gethin at Age Cymru Powys:

Email: gethin.edwards@acpowys.org.uk
Telephone: 01597 825908

Email: ebowen@crpowys.co.uk
Telephone: 01686 620760



Mae cymorth unigryw i ffermwyr Powys ar gael gan Gofal a Thrawsio ym Mhowys ac Age Cymru Powys. Hwn yw'r unig brosiect yng Nghymru lle daeth y ddau sefydliad ynghyd i ymestyn allan i'r gymuned ffermio. Rhyngddynt mae gan y ddau sefydliad flynyddoedd o brofiad mewn cefnogi pobl hyn i fyw'n annibynnol a byw'n dda. Mae cymorth Llywodraeth Cymru yn golygu y cyflogwyd staff ychwanegol i gynnal ymweliadau am ddim i gartrefi, pa bynnag mor anghysbell ydynt. Gan barchu canllawiau Covid, mae gan yr aelodau newydd o staff, Elin Bowen a Gethin Edwards, amser i siarad gyda ffermwyr neu weithwyr fferm dros 50 oed sy'n dal ati i weithio neu wedi ymddeol a chanfod beth fyddai'n gwella eu bywydau. Gallai hyn fod yn newidiadau ymarferol i'w cartref, hawl i fudd-daliadau, i'w gwneud yn llai ynysig neu helpu i gynllunio ar gyfer y dyfodol. Cafodd Elin a Gethin ill dau eu dewis ar gyfer y gwaith oherwydd eu cefndir. Mae Elin yn dod o deulu ffermio ac mae Gethin yn adnabod llawer o ffermwyr Powys drwy ei waith blaenorol ym maes cyngor busnes. Mae'r ddau ohonynt yn siarad Cymraeg ac yn awyddus i glywed gan unrhyw un a hoffai wybod mwy am y gefnogaeth sydd ar gael. Mae'r cyngor yn rhad ac am ddim a gallai'r galwad ffôn cyntaf hwnnw olygu mai gofyn am help yw'r cam cyntaf i fwy o annibyniaeth a bywyd mwy bodlon.

Gellir cysylltu a naill ai Elin yn Gofal a Thrawsio neu Gethin yn Age Cymru Powys:
E-bost: gethin.edwards@acpowys.org.uk Ffôn: 01597 825908
E-bost: ebowen@crpowys.co.uk Ffôn: 01686 620760

Congratulations Edward & Fiona



Edward Gethin and Fiona Reuter were married at Welsh Chapel in Llawryglyn on Saturday September 5 2020.

Edward is the son of Cyril and Janet Gethin (Cyril is an ex-County Chairman, Montgomeryshire), Tynywaen, Y Fan, Llanidloes and Fiona is originally from East Grinstead, West Sussex.

Ed is a self employed farmer and contractor and Fiona works for Roger Parry in Llanidloes. Fiona moved to Wales for a six month college placement where she met Ed whilst wrapping bales for the farm she was working at and ended up staying. The rest is history!

All the best for your future happiness.

Thirst Quenchers

A group of rural young people recently donned their cycle helmets to support three charities whose regular fund raising has been cut due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Thirst Quenchers, a mobile bar company based on the Powys border works with the farming community to provide bars for special occasions, such as weddings, luncheons and black tie balls.

In a normal year the company would support numerous events who raise money for charity, but as all events have been cancelled this year, staff and friends decided to do there bit to raise much needed funding to support the continuing work of charities close to their heart.

With all of the bookings in place for 2020, the company would have travelled 250 miles around Montgomeryshire and Shropshire. In lieu of this, the decision was taken to dig out bikes and cycle 250 miles for Parkinsons UK, Breast Cancer Now and the Wales Air Ambulance. Cyclists took the route from Holyhead to Cardiff, following Wales' longest cycle route, Lon Las Cymru, over four days, whilst camping on route, whilst taking into account social distancing following Covid restrictions.

To date the group have raised over £12,000 for the charities and thank everyone for the generosity to date.

Upcoming EOI window details

Scheme	Summary	Window closes
Farming Connect funding application window	The next funding application window for training opens on September 7. Those registering for the first time during this window to apply for funded training or to update their account should contact Farming Connect before 5pm on October 26. Despite restrictions and the uncertainty around when face to face training will resume, Farming Connect Development Officers have continued to work, assisting those wishing to apply.	30 October 2020
Welsh Government 2020 BPS support scheme	The scheme will pay a loan of up to 90% of the business' anticipated BPS claim value from December 7 to successful applicants and to those whose full BPS claim is not processed. RPW will ensure that claimants whose support scheme applications are rejected are prioritised for processing to ensure that everyone receives either a full or support payment as early as possible. The FUW would urge all members to apply for the support scheme and to contact local FUW County staff for assistance if required.	27 November 2020 Opt-in via RPW Online
Farm Business Grant - Yard Coverings	The Farm Business Grant Yard Coverings scheme seeks to support farmers to improve their current infrastructure for yard coverings - covering feeding areas, slurry pits etc - where rainwater can be separated from slurry/manure. The scheme will have two windows and offer support of between £3,000 and £12,000. Further information and guidance will become available on the Welsh Government website this month.	9 November - 18 December 2020 (£1.5 million)

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PEMBROKESHIRE

Meeting with Stephen Crabb MP

Stephen Crabb MP joined members of the County Executive Committee at their September meeting held via Zoom. The main discussions centred around Brexit and the ongoing trade negotiations, with a specific focus on the potential problems of a No Deal Brexit and the assistance that the industry would require from Government to counteract disruption in the market place. In addition, the Agriculture Bill, slow rural broadband, affordable rural housing for local people and the BWMB were all discussed.

We are looking forward to holding a further meeting with him later in the year to receive a further update on Brexit.

Assistance

If you need any assistance with the completion of paperwork or have any queries - don't forget that even though we are currently not able to meet with you in our office due to Covid-19, we are available at the end of the phone or e-mail, just give us a ring on 01437 762913 or e-mail pembrokeshire@fuw.org.uk



200 Club+ winners

July

£25 - Davies, Penrhiw
£10 - Lewis, Tŷ Rhug
£10 - Young, Upper Bastleford

August

£25 - Thomas, 5 Bryn Road
£10 - Rees, Creampots
£10 - Jones, Trefach

September

£25 - Vaughan, Maes Y Deri
£10 - Glanville, Llwynpinner
£10 - James, Quarter Park

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

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MEAT MATTERS

First results of Welsh Lamb taste test announced

by Dr Eleri Thomas, Meat Quality Executive, HCC

THE first results of one of the biggest meat taste test programmes ever held in the UK have revealed that Welsh Lamb consumers see a difference between the taste of different cuts, but that lamb sex and breed type have less influence.

Back in January and February, nearly 500 consumers tasted and rated seven pieces of PGI Welsh Lamb as part of the five-year Welsh Lamb Meat Quality Project, with the results then being analysed by researchers.

This first trial explored the effects of breed type, meat cut and lamb gender on eating quality.

Breed types included hill, crossbred (longwool breeds) and terminal sired lambs. Meat cuts analysed were loin, topside and chump, with meat from ram lambs and castrated lambs evaluated.

Samplers said they could taste the difference in muscle cut but did not have a particular preference with the different breed types or lamb gender.

Nearly half of the consumers (46.5%) rated both the loin and chump muscle at better than everyday and premium quality.

Overall the meat tasters' reflections showed differences in lamb purchasing behaviour associated with gender, age, panel location and occupation.

Welsh sheep farmers' efforts were well-received. The first set of trials show consumers loved the taste and flavour and are willing to pay more for higher quality meat, such as PGI Welsh Lamb. Younger consumers in particular were willing to pay more for quality.

The five-year Welsh Lamb Meat Quality Project seeks to shed new light on shoppers' selectivity, lifting the lid on how farm and



processing factors influence a purchaser's preferences for succulence, taste and flavour.

The forerunners of what will eventually be a 2,000 strong set of samplers were asked to score meat eating quality on aroma, tenderness, juiciness and flavour. Nearly half of the tasters viewed loin and chump cuts as premium quality and four out of five stated they were satisfied with all of the samples they tried.

HCC will make the research findings available via annual interim reports and any final

appraisals during the five years of the project.

The Welsh Lamb Meat Quality Project is part of Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales' (HCC) five-year, three-project, Red Meat Development Programme to help Welsh farming prepare for an increasingly competitive global marketplace. It is supported by the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

Mae canlyniadau cyntaf un o'r rhaglenni prawf blas cig mwyaf a gynhaliwyd erioed yn y DU wedi datgelu bod y rhai sy'n prynu cig oen yn gallu dweud y gwahaniaeth rhwng blas gwahanol doriadau, ond bod rhyw'r oen a math o frid yn cael llai o ddylanwad. Yn ôl ym mis Ionawr a mis Chwefror, bu bron i 500 o bobl yn blasu ac yn graddio saith darn o Gig Oen Cymreig PGI fel rhan o Brosiect Ansawdd Cig Oen Cymru dros bum mlynedd, gyda'r canlyniadau wedyn yn cael eu dadansoddi gan ymchwilyr.

PROPERTY MATTERS

Disputes over valuations for telecoms masts

by Eifion Bibby of Davis Meade Property Consultants

FARMERS and landowners in negotiations with telecoms companies over sites for masts or apparatus are being advised to seek professional help before accepting any offers as new guidance on payment considerations is available following a spate of recent Upper Tribunal and County Court cases regarding the new Electronic Communications Code.

The Electronic Communications Code came into force in December 2017 bringing wide-ranging reforms in favour of operators, with new agreements being offered on much poorer terms than previously.

As land agents and valuers we have been awaiting outcome from several cases being considered to shed more light on the valuation aspects.

In the first case to assess the consideration payable for a new rural mast site under the Electronic Communications Code, the Lands Tribunal for Scotland awarded £600 per annum for a 10-year term without rent review provisions, with an increased payment of £1,500 for the first year.

With the Covid-19 restrictions in place, the case was heard by written representations with no hearing and no cross examination of the valuation evidence submitted by the parties.

Consideration was the key issue in the case, with the operator CTIL offering £253 per annum and the landowner seeking £5,600 per annum for a 10-year term with no opportunity to review the payment during the term.

In this case, ruling was made without any opportunity for cross examination so the tribunal may not have fully explored all the evidence being made by the two sides.

The tribunal agreed there was no realistic opportunity for the site to be used for a non-telecom use such as a wind turbine so its value was purely for farming or woodland. But if land is suitable for other uses it will be important to gather comparable rental evidence for alternative agricultural land use agreements before negotiating offers.

The tribunal heard evidence of the burden such telecoms sites place on the landowner having to allow an operator to have relatively unrestricted access over their land particularly when equipment is being set up, so the tribunal awarded an increased payment of £1,500 in the first year.

Also, in a County Court Case involving the renewal of a "subsisting" lease (an agreement entered into prior to December 2017) where the mast operator was holding over after the expiry of the protected fixed term 1954 Land and Tenant Act agreement, the Court awarded a new tenancy for 10 years (with the right to break after five) at a consideration of £5,750 per annum.

In this case in relation to "rent" the Court was required to adopt the "open market" approach applicable to the 1954 Act, instead of the "no network" valuation method adopted for new Code Agreements.

For advice contact Eifion Bibby at the Colwyn Bay office of Davis Meade Property Consultants on 01492 510360 / email eifionbibby@dmpcuk.com



MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Taith wahanol iawn eleni

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

WEL, mae'r Hydref wedi cyrraedd a chynghorion doeth gan amryw ar dudalen "Curo'r Corona'n Coginio", pawb yn rhannu ryseitiau tymhorol a rhai wedi gwneud eu cacen Nadolig ers cychwyn Medi!

Ar dudalen Curo'r Corona'n crefftio mae nifer wedi bod yn rhannu patrymau, syniadau ac yn ysbrydoli eraill i ail-gychwyn ar grefftio.

Gobeithio yn wir y bydd mwy yn troi at weu er mwyn cefnogi'r diwydiant amaeth, ac y bydd gwlan yn cael eu defnyddio yn lawer mwy helaeth ar gyfer insiweiddio cartrefi'r dyfodol.

Troedio ffyrdd y mynydd a llwybrau cyhoeddus tawel fu hanes nifer o'n haelodau neu gyfarfod mewn lleoliadau addas megis meysydd parcio neuaddau gan ddod a fflasg a chot gynnes a chadair ag eistedd wedi ymbellhau'n gymdeithasol - ond parhau i sgwrsio a rhannu newyddion - cyfeillgarwch ar ei orau. Gobeithio na fydd y tywydd yn oeri gormod ac yn troi yn stormus!

Mae nifer o weithgareddau Zoom wedi cychwyn gan gynnwys nosweithiau difyr. Mae'r Cwis Hwyl yn ei anterth ar ffurf hollol wahanol -

ond Geraint Lloyd fydd yn cyhoeddi'r buddugol ym mis Tachwedd!

Ac erbyn y tro nesaf mi fydd gennym newyddion i'w rannu am y Ffair Aeaf rhithiol, gyda chroeso i unigolion nad sydd ar dechnoleg gymryd rhan hefyd!

Mae yn daith wahanol iawn i'r arfer eleni, a'r car yn eistedd yn segur, ond y cyfeillgarwch yr un mor werthfawr - cofiwch os ydych eisiau sgwrs, mae ein cynllun Ffoniwch Ffrind yr un mor bwysig ag erioed - 01970 611661. Cadwch yn ddiogel.

A number of our members have organised to meet, all complying with the social distancing requirements, it's vitally important to try and find alternative ways of socialising.

Watch this space next month, as Merched y Wawr will be announcing some news about a virtual Winter Fair, and this will be open to those who haven't got the necessary technology to do so. If you'd like a chat with us, remember we're here for you - 01970 611661, keep safe everyone.

Cynghorir ffermwyr a pherchnogion tir sydd mewn trafodaethau â chwmnïau telathrebu ynghylch safleoedd ar gyfer mastiau neu gyfarpar i ofyn am gymorth proffesiynol cyn derbyn unrhyw gynigion gan fod canllawiau newydd ar ystyriaethau tâl ar gael yn dilyn cynnydd diweddar o achosion yr Uwch Dribiwnlys a'r Llys Sirol ynghylch y Cod Cyfathrebu Electronig newydd. Daeth y Cod Cyfathrebu Electronig i rym ym mis Rhagfyr 2017 gan ddod â diwygiadau eang o blaid gweithredwyr, gyda chytundebau newydd yn cael eu cynnig ar delerau llawer tlotach nag o'r blaen. Am gyngor cysylltwch ag Eifion Bibby o swyddfa Davies Meade Property Consultants ym Mae Colwyn ar 01492 510360 / e-bost eifionbibby@dmpcuk.com

Safe maintenance of farm machinery - What you need to know

Many serious incidents on farms involve machinery, often during maintenance or unblocking. In maintenance work, conditions are very different from those normally encountered and new hazards may be introduced. It is essential that everyone involved is trained to be aware of the hazards and the correct precautions to take to prevent harm.

Follow Safe Stop

- before leaving the driver's seat/operating position;
- anyone else approaches;
- before anyone carries out maintenance, adjustments or deals with a blockage.

Before you start maintenance work

When you are planning to carry out maintenance operations follow the 'safe stop' procedure and make sure:

- all movement has stopped before removing any guards;
- workers are properly trained to do the job;
- adequate tools, instructions, and manuals are provided for maintaining, adjusting, cleaning and unblocking machines;
- safe working practices are devised and used;
- stored energy, eg from compressed material, springs or hydraulics, is released safely before you start work;
- machines or parts supported by hydraulics are prevented from descending by using mechanical devices such as stops or jacks when people work under them.

Dealing with blockages or other problems

- Always follow the Safe Stop procedure before carrying out any intervention.
- Secure anything which could fall on you, eg by using props or scotches on tailgates/doors.
- Secure anything which could move or rotate, eg by using chocks.
- Remember that energy is stored in springs or hydraulics, for example. Consider how will you stop this energy being released or release it safely.
- Use the right tools for the job. Remember, machine components may suddenly move when a blockage is cleared.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions/procedures, eg as set out in the operator's manual.
- Use built-in ladders and other purpose-designed access points and platforms where provided. Where such facilities don't exist you will need to consider alternative safe means of access, eg with measures provided to prevent falls.
- When the job is finished, always replace the guards before running the machine.
- Check the machine over and make sure people are well clear before restarting.



Isolating equipment

Isolate machines before any maintenance, cleaning or adjustment. It is not enough just to switch the machine off - you need to use the main isolator, usually a separate control. If the machine is at some distance from the isolator, or if work in progress is not obvious, remove the fuses from the isolator box and attach a 'danger' tag to it, or lock the isolator box and keep the key safe.

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Pressurised plant

Any plant or equipment under pressure, such as slurry tankers, boilers and air receivers, may burst violently. Reduce the chances of this happening and anyone being killed or injured. Make sure:

- the plant is suitable for its intended purpose and installed correctly;
- you know the safe working pressure and temperatures of any pressurised system or equipment;

- safety valves are fitted to relieve excess pressure, as well as safety devices to make over - or under-pressurisation unlikely, such as boiler low water level alarms;

- you avoid accidentally pressurising any system or equipment, eg provide boiler 'blowdown' tanks with an adequately sized vent pipe. Applying heat to drums or tanks which have contained flammable material may create pressure, so always cold-cut sealed containers.

For more information and advice on how to stay safe on farm, please visit the Health and Safety Executive website: www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/



Top-Selling pick-up consolidates 'No.1' spot

by Huw Thomas, Vice Chairman, Welsh Motoring Writers

BIG company marketing clout aside, Ford's success with the Ranger is textbook stuff. Systematically climbing the 'league-table' with the current generation launched in 2015, it retained the top spot for both UK and mainland Europe* last year.

Still at "No.1" this year the aim now is to consolidate sector leadership through to 2022 and "next-gen" model. A joint Ford-Volkswagen project to replace both current Ranger and VW Amarok (2022), it's part of a broad alliance between the two. Ford has the design lead on the pick-up which will come from its plant in South Africa.

The first international Ranger of 1998 was based on the Mazda B-Series as was its 2006 successor. But responsibility for the third generation (2011) switched to Ford Australia. It was given a 'mid-life' refresh' in 2015 with a further revamp last year.

Headline changes are new 2.0-litre Turbo Diesel engines to replace the 2.2-litre, 4-cylinder TDCI unit and a 10-speed automatic transmission to succeed the previous 6-speed autobox. Manual 6-speed gearboxes remain on certain models.

The smooth 5-cylinder 3.2 TDCI (6-speed auto) is still available "while stocks last" but the new 4-cylinder TDs respond to increasingly tight fuel economy and emissions regulations. Three variants: 130 or 170ps single turbo and 213ps Bi-Turbo.

A sector lead in safety technologies (beyond ESP, Roll-Over mitigation and trailer anti-sway) the Ranger adds, for example, pedestrian detection and hazard alert - emergency braking. It was first-in-class to gain a 5-star Euro NCAP safety rating.

The 4x4 system is the usual part-time set-up with high and low ratio gearing via a transfer box. Rear wheel drive (4x2) on road and for flat dry off-road surfaces with a 'dial-in' shift-on-the-move into 4x4 H/R but a halt required if engaging 4x4 L/R.

This is where it, and almost all others, lose out to Mitsubishi's L200 with 'Super-Select' which offers on-road 4x4 H/R - a real asset when towing, coping with bad weather or just pressing on. Basically it has a torque-sensing (variable) centre diff-lock rather than immediate lock-up as 4x4 is selected. The counter argument is that the traditional set-up could prove more effective over demanding terrain. Suspension, similarly, stays 'old school' - independent front but a beam axle with semi-elliptic (leaf) springs at the rear. A cost option "Off-Road" pack includes a rear diff lock.

Nissan (Navara) and SsangYong (Musso) have opted (some or all models) for coil springs - to the benefit of ride and handling on-road. Again, it could be said that, to ensure 'heavy-duty' capabilities, the pros and cons might well be marginal.

The Bi-Turbo does a good job of being responsive yet relaxed as for the 3.2 TDCI. Steering is communicative and nicely weighted for its type; ride and road-holding quite acceptable for the class. Lightly laden, however, any deterioration in road surface makes itself known. Seating is very comfortable for driver and front passenger yet reasonably roomy for those behind in Double Cab guise.

As Ford sets out to preserve the 'No.1' spot for its pick-up the Ranger still seems up to the task. Conservative in design it might be but it is a credible working vehicle which also "doubles" happily for downtime and leisure use.



Model Line-Up: Regular Cab (2-door, 2-seat), Super Cab ("2+2" with rear-hinged half-doors), Double Cab (5-seat); Trim levels (XL, XLT, Limited, Wildtrak); £25,854 - £49,374 (including VAT). High performance 'Raptor' has sub 1-tonne load capacity so ineligible for VAT exemption otherwise Ranger models are Commercial Vehicles attracting flat-rate Road Tax and 'Business Car' tax liability.

Facts & Figures: Wildtrak 213ps Bi-Turbo 10-speed auto £40,240 (20% VAT, 12 month Road Tax and DVLA first registration fee included); 112mph; 0-62mph 9-secs; 36.2 to 36.7mpg (official range); 31.5 to 32.4 (Trip Computer averages on test - light load, no trailer); CO2 201g/km; Road Tax £265 (LGV/TC39); Ins Grp 37E - 42E; Max Braked Trailer Wgt 3,500kg (for other variants payload-trailer weight max can vary).

Competition: Apart from the L200, Nissan Navara and Toyota Hilux (recently revised with new 2.8-litre engine) are the more obvious alternatives. Next Isuzu D-Max will not be here until 2021 now and all has gone quiet on the proposed T60/T80 Maxus (ex LDV) launch. There is now a long-bred variant of the SsangYong Musso while Mercedes X-Class (Navara spin-off) has been canned. *Twenty main markets.

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