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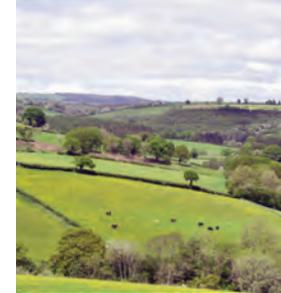
FUW launch 'five point plan' for UK Governments

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What a week! Royal Welsh Show round-up

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Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals outlined

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Lies to our farming industry despite Government promises

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

WHILE lies told to Parliament about No. 10 parties have dominated the news recently and ultimately led to the resignation of the Prime Minister, lies of more relevance to our farming industry and food security have received far less attention.

On the Wednesday of the Royal Welsh Show, where produce that meets standards that are second to none was being championed, the trade treaty with Australia, which ultimately allows unlimited imports of lower standard products, passed its final stage in Parliament without a vote.

This was despite repeated promises by Liz Truss and other ministers that the UK's elected Members of Parliament would be allowed to debate and vote on the trade agreement.

In other words, the UK's democratic system was avoided by the UK Government in order to railroad through a trade deal negotiated and signed in record breaking time under Liz Truss - a deal that the Government's own impact assessment makes clear is of virtually no economic value to the UK but will shrink the UK food and farming sectors and undermine food security.

It was revealed earlier in July that Truss was warned in 2020 of such an impact, but she nevertheless chose to sacrifice UK agriculture and food security interests to get the UK's first 'big' deal over the line.

While Truss (who was originally a Liberal Democrat, was opposed to Brexit at the time of the referendum, but is now an extreme Brexiteer) has shown her chameleon-like ability to change, there were many on the right of the Conservative party who were perfectly honest about their intentions long before the Brexit vote: They made it clear that key motives were being able to import cheap food and do away with farm support, and this is why FUW Committee members consistently and overwhelmingly voted against leaving the EU.

On the other hand, there was no shortage of those who were perfectly happy to promise the world to UK farmers in order to get their Brexit vote, including doing

The only way to judge our MPs' support for farmers and food security is by looking at how they vote - believing promises and what they say has long been shown to be unreliable

away with regulations, stepping up market protection and UK self-sufficiency, maintaining farm support at EU levels and a return to deficiency payments (which have in essence been illegal for decades under WTO rules).

The fact that all those promises have been shown to be lies is patently clear: As soon as the UK Government was able to, it cut Welsh farm funding by tens of millions of pounds, and by 2025 Welsh farmers will be a quarter of a billion pounds worse off than would have been the case had the EU budget been maintained.

Meanwhile, regulations such as those relating to animal movements, are in the process of being escalated, while the railroading of the UK-Australia trade deal through parliament without a vote has clearly been done to avoid the scrutiny that would avoid awkward discussions on issues such as the fact that the gross output of Wales' meat industry cattle is predicted to fall by £29 million - but the impact could be worse "...If supply was more responsive in the future than suggested by the historic data, [UK] production volumes could decrease by more" [UK Government impact assessment].

Many Welsh Conservative MPs have made clear their objections to the railroading through of a deal which they rightly worry will be extremely damaging for their rural constituencies.

MPs have admitted the deal was done quickly for the sake of political expediency, while Rick Walker, of New Zealand meat company ANZCO said recently that the reason the UK deal with New Zealand is infinitely more liberal than the one recently reached between New Zealand and the EU is because the UK Government was desperate to show it could get new deals after leaving the EU.

Proof of MPs' support or otherwise for their rural constituencies would have been made clear in the vote for or against the trade agreement - a vote they were denied by the UK Government.

No doubt some MPs are genuinely fighting for their constituents and are real allies of their farming constituents, while others would have publicly expressed some concerns regarding the UK-Australia agreement but quietly voted in its favour for political or career reasons.

Now we will never be able to distinguish between them.

However, they still have opportunities to show their true colours in terms of supporting or opposing related legislation, other trade deals (such as that already agreed in principle with New Zealand), and the UK Government's international trade policy in general.

Rishi Sunak may be unlikely to change

direction on international trade if he becomes Prime Minister, but if Liz Truss is elected she will certainly defend her deal with New Zealand and the damagingly liberal approach of allowing unlimited access to our food market in exchange for little or nothing - an approach which is seen on the international stage as being so conciliatory and weak that it's laughable.

The only way to judge our MPs' support for farmers and food security is by looking at how they vote - believing promises and what they say has long been shown to be unreliable.

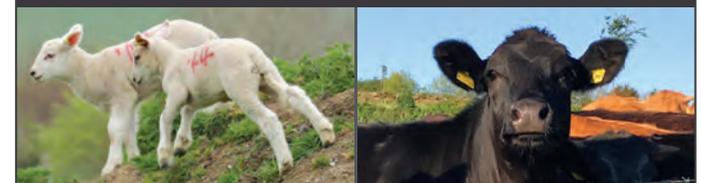
Mae'r erthygl yma yn Gymraeg ar wefan UAC - Newyddion - Newyddion Y Tir: "Celwyddau i'n diwydiant ffermio er gwaethaf addewidion y Llywodraeth."



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FUW UPDATE

My first Royal Welsh as Managing Director

by Guto Bebb, FUW Group Managing Director

IT'S an odd state of affairs but having been appointed as the Managing Director of FUW Insurance Services in March 2020 and subsequently made Managing Director of the FUW Group in February 2021 it's quite odd to now be reporting on my first Royal Welsh Show working for the FUW in July 2022.

I think that I speak for everybody when I say that it was great to be back at what is a genuine showcase for agriculture and rural Wales. I take no credit for the weather however which was, on Tuesday especially, oppressively hot and even hotter at the FUW Pavilion where a hot and sticky day finished with a fantastic performance from Bryn Fôn a'r Band who contributed so generously of their talents in order to ensure that the fund-raising gig on behalf of the President's Charity was a roaring success. Diolch yn fawr iawn i Bryn a'r band.

From a Union perspective I think the show went well. We conveyed some hard-hitting messages at our press conference on the Sunday and met politicians and Ministers from Wales and Westminster to re-enforce those messages during the week. We welcomed George Eustice and Lesley Griffiths to the Pavilion and also met with the Welsh First Minister and the Secretary of State for Wales. As usual, we were firm but constructive in our attitude and I think it's an approach that is working.

As you are aware, a significant event at the Show was the publication by Welsh Government of the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) consultation paper which is, I suspect, the last consultation paper before we see sight of the Agricultural Bill in the Autumn. Members will not be surprised to know that there are elements of the SFS that we are not happy with and we will lobby for further changes, but, and this is a very important but, compare this paper with the proposals made in 2018 in the 'Brexit and our Land' consultation and you are simply not able to deny the significant change for the better in the proposals and also the very significant change in the language being used.

We are not yet where we want to be in terms of the future structure for farming support in Wales but let's be fair to Lesley Griffiths on this point at least - being willing to listen is a strength, not a weakness in a politician and there is plenty of evidence in the SFS of our messaging as the FUW for the past four years having

been heard. At the very least it's a step in the right direction.

Eifion Hughes, who was recognised by the Royal Agricultural Society for his contribution to Welsh Agriculture during the Royal Welsh, made a very salient point to me during the Show which is worth repeating. As you walk up the stairs to our offices and conference room in the Pavilion you come face to face with portraits of all our past Presidents including, of course, Eifion's father, HRM Hughes. After a very busy day meeting and greeting politicians and ministers from all the political parties in Wales and both Governments Eifion simply recalled how the founding fathers of the FUW had to fight in order to simply get a hearing - *"and now they come to us regardless of their politics"*. It was and remains a very important point. Our relevance and ability to influence is simply because we do represent a very substantial number of Welsh farmers and that is why we are able to influence the decisions of Governments.

The Royal Welsh is a great success story and indicative of the central role that Agriculture has in the Welsh way of life. That central role however needs to be defended and I would argue that the work of the FUW over the years has contributed significantly to ensuring that Agriculture remains of huge importance to Wales and as such, politicians cannot ignore us. In short - the fact that you are members of the FUW make a very real difference.



Good relations with nearest neighbours must be restored

THE FUW has called on the incoming Prime Minister to restore relationships with the EU and other countries in order to protect food security, trade and the UK's reputation and standing on the international stage. The call is one of five demands which form the FUW's 'Five point plan'.

Speaking at the FUW's pre-Royal Welsh Show press conference, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "Our nearest neighbouring countries, the majority of which are EU members, are part of the most stable trade partnership in the world, and have acted rapidly to secure European food security in the face of threats, the likes of which have not been seen since the Second World War.

The UK Government is currently seeking to unilaterally change the international trade agreement it struck in 2019 with the EU through its Northern Ireland Bill which is currently passing through the UK Parliament.

The overwhelming majority of commentators believe such a move would break international law, while the EU



has instigated legal actions and threatened sanctions against the UK if this happens.

The FUW believes that such a breach of international

law would also further damage the reputation and standing of the UK on the global stage.

Mr Roberts wrote to Prime Minister Boris Johnson in June warning that unilaterally changing the Northern Ireland Protocol risks adding to the extreme economic pressures already being felt by UK businesses and consumers.

In his letter, Mr Roberts acknowledged that there is scope to improve the protocol, but urged the PM to do this by building on the proposals already put forward by the EU in October 2021.

"Working closely with our nearest neighbours represents the most practical, carbon-friendly way of restoring UK food security while protecting our own food and farming industry," said Mr Roberts.

"The incoming Prime Minister must withdraw the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill to and cease re-enter negotiations with the European Union, rather than adding to the damage already done and the risks that accompany the actions taken to date," added Mr Roberts.

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Calls for UK Governments to tackle five key areas to provide relief for industry

“When a new Prime Minister finally takes over in early September, the new broom will have more than just sweeping up to do.”

THE FUW has launched a ‘five point plan’ for UK Governments which it believes should be implemented to tackle the impacts of the Ukraine war and other factors on farmers, food producers and consumers.

Speaking during the FUW’s pre-Royal Welsh Show press conference on Sunday July 17, FUW President Glyn Roberts highlighted that Russia’s war on Ukraine had exacerbated ongoing impacts caused by the pandemic and Brexit, causing major economic pressures for consumers and businesses and a global food emergency.

“Many of the global influences currently impacting us will be outside the control of UK Governments, but there is nevertheless scope for significant actions that genuinely take our long term interests into consideration while also helping us in the short term,” said Mr Roberts.

As global bodies such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank continue to warn of global food shortages, record high food prices and other factors that will lead to famine and political instability, food price inflation in the UK is predicted to reach 15% while inflation in UK farmers’ cost of production is close to 30%.

The UK’s reliance on other countries for food has almost doubled since the mid 1980s, with 40% of UK food now imported compared with around 22% in the mid 1980s.

During the same period, the UK’s reliance on imports of ‘indigenous type food’ that can be produced in the UK has increased five fold, from 5% to 25%.

Mr Roberts also highlighted the impact of fuel prices on consumers and businesses. “Despite being less reliant on Russia than other countries for fuel, our fuel prices are nevertheless amongst the highest in Europe,” said Mr Roberts.

“This at a time when disposable incomes in the UK have fallen drastically since 2007 compared with those in comparable European economies.”

Mr Roberts said that the storm that has blown through UK politics during recent weeks and led to the resignation of Boris Johnson will not leave calm in its wake, and that the UK is still facing a tempest fuelled by Russia’s war on Ukraine, the after effects of the pandemic and the ongoing impacts of Brexit.

“When a new Prime Minister finally takes over in early September, the new broom will have more than just sweeping up to do,” said Mr Roberts.



Throughout the Royal Welsh show, the FUW highlighted policies in a five point plan that it believes the new Prime Minister and UK Governments must implement in order to relieve pressures for farmers, food producers and consumers in the immediate term, while bolstering our food and energy security in ways which reduce the long term dangers of exposure to global emergencies. See five key areas below.

1. Time to reset international trade policy

The UK Government has been pursuing liberal trade deals with distant countries that its own figures show will undermine UK food security while having negligible benefits for the UK’s economy. It’s time to place our food security at the heart of policymaking. The first step towards doing this should be to ensure that Parliamentary scrutiny is allowed for all trade agreement treaties and related legislation.

2. Good relations restored with our nearest neighbours

The UK’s nearest neighbouring countries, the majority of which are EU members and are members of the most stable trade partnership in the world. We must restore good relations with the nations and peoples who are our greatest allies when it comes to food and energy security, and represent the most affluent market in the world and one which is on our doorstep.

3. Time for a renewable energy revolution

Our reliance on and exposure to global fossil fuel markets has been laid bare by the impacts of the pandemic and Russia’s war on Ukraine. Vast amounts of renewable energy are produced on Welsh farmland, but we have only tapped into a fraction of what is possible. Energy production using fossil fuels is second only to business in terms of contributions to Wales’ greenhouse gas emissions, and is the second highest contributor in the UK after transport. Our Governments must step up efforts that restore the massive growth seen in the industry in the last decade by incentivising on-farm production of renewable energy and removing barriers without undermining our food production capacity.

4. Rethinking domestic agricultural and rural policies

The UK’s departure from the EU has led to the UK Government reducing spending on food and agriculture by hundreds of millions, threatening our food security by undermining farm businesses and the thousands of upstream and downstream businesses and jobs that rely on farm production. Meanwhile, the refocusing of agricultural policies on environmental issues threatens to eclipse the importance of maintaining food production. Protecting the family farms and food producers that are central to our food supply chains must be a core objective of all future agricultural policies for our nations’ Governments and given an equal footing to environmental objectives.

5. Financial support for critical industries

Countries across the EU have announced support packages worth hundreds of billions in order to support businesses suffering as a result of massive price rises and to bolster and boost food production. In order to protect domestic production, UK Governments must act now to place UK farmers on an equal footing with farmers in the EU who are receiving funding to make up for massive escalations in food production costs, and should relieve pressures on the food supply chain by providing direct financial assistance and tax breaks for related industries which are critical to our food production and security.

These actions are only a part of the whole picture which must be assessed by our Welsh Government, and by a new Prime Minister and cabinet after this month, but they relate - directly or indirectly - to national security in terms of our most precious commodity - food and to the energy that we require to fertilise, till, harvest, process and transport that food in light of the tempest that will continue to batter our nation and consumers in the months and years to come.

Sustainable Farming Scheme outline proposals 'on the right track'



THE FUW says the latest Welsh Government Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals are 'on the right track' but that numerous concerns exist around some of the details. The 'Sustainable Farming Scheme Outline Proposals for 2025' document, published by the Welsh Government on July 6, will form the basis of future discussions about the scheme that is set to replace Wales' Basic Payment and Glastir schemes from 2025. Responding to the document, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "We welcome those areas of the proposals that have changed to reflect the concerns we highlighted in response to previous proposals.

Notwithstanding some areas which raise major alarms, and the devil that lies in further details, the Welsh Government has moved on leaps and bounds and now has an overarching framework that is not dissimilar to what we have proposed."

The outline proposals include a 'baseline payment' for undertaking 'universal actions' that will apply to all farms in the scheme which the Government says will 'provide farmers with much needed stability' - mirroring the FUW's calls for a sustainability and stability payment based on universal actions.

Optional higher level actions would attract further payments, as would collaborative

actions undertaken with other farmers - again mirroring the framework advocated by the FUW since 2018.

"However, there are some concerning suggestions regarding the universal actions that, while being possible or practical for some farmers, would not be for large numbers of others," said Mr Roberts.

"The proposal that ten per cent of all farms should comprise tree cover will be a major concern for many farmers for whom this would mean losing a large proportion of their productive land, and there are also concerns as to how this would impact on tenants. There are also some farms, such as in exposed coastal areas or those in designated areas, where meeting this obligation would simply not be possible."

Mr Roberts said the FUW had already raised concerns regarding the implications of a ten per cent tree cover requirement with Welsh Government, and had received acknowledgements that such obstacles and impacts needed to be taken account of during the next phase of scheme development.

"As well as needing to ensure the universal actions are practical on all Welsh farms, it is also essential that the budget for the baseline payment is sufficient to ensure the scheme is attractive and allows farming families to continue producing food while contributing to their local economy," he added.

Mr Roberts said that while many farmers would be frustrated that payment rates had not been published, the FUW believed that it would be premature and potentially dangerous and misleading to provide such information before getting the outline framework of a scheme correct.

"Once the scheme structure is finalised, time needs to be taken to ensure that payments are designed in a way that is fair and does not cause disproportionate disruption to businesses, regions or sectors. This will require careful modelling, and the FUW also believes that payment capping and the tapering of payments must be a feature of the future scheme to ensure our family farms are fairly supported .

The proposals also acknowledge the importance of using existing data collected through systems such as RPW Online in order to minimise impractical and unaffordable physical assessments of Welsh farms by advisors, and to provide information of value back to farmers.

This potentially mirrors the FUW's 2019 'Sustainable Farming and our Land' consultation response, which stated 'The current RPW Online and SAF systems should be maintained and developed as a central feature of a future scheme where data is used to ensure the long term economic and environmental sustainability of Wales as a whole, and Wales' family farms as individual units. Changes which result in the loss of the current system and their effective replacement with complex Public Goods contracts would be a retrograde step.'

However, Mr Roberts said concerns exist regarding the actual nature and practicality of the 'sustainability review' proposed to take place for each farm at the outset of contracts.

"Our own proposals are for annual reports to be provided based on the data provided by farmers through systems such as RPW Online and EID Cymru, while the Welsh Government's proposals suggest a degree more complexity and that the period between such reports could be as long as five years.

It is also essential that multi-year contracts do not exclude vast numbers of farmers and areas of land from the scheme. While the statement that contracts will be up to five years in length from the date the farmer joins the scheme provides some comfort that the needs of tenants, and in particular those on shorter tenancies, have been recognised, this is something that needs clarifying," he added.

Mr Roberts highlighted that there were numerous other elements within the proposals that would represent barriers for many and be met with extreme concern.

"The consultative nature of this document is welcome, and the FUW is committed to engaging in the next stage of the development process in order to ensure all barriers for farmers are minimised.

We have also had discussions with the Welsh Government about how those currently in the Glastir scheme can safely transition to the new scheme, as this is clearly an issue which needs addressing.

In the meantime, we welcome the stability provided by the continuation of Wales' Basic Payment Scheme at current rates and the proposed subsequent transition period to 2029 as the new scheme is phased in."

See pages 13, 14 and 15 for a breakdown of what is proposed

"We have also had discussions with the Welsh Government about how those currently in the Glastir scheme can safely transition to the new scheme, as this is clearly an issue which needs addressing."

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FUW President Glyn Roberts (right) and Shadow Minister for Rural Affairs Sam Kurtz.



From left, FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman, FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs George Eustice, Glyn Roberts and FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies.



Glyn Roberts (right) and Secretary of State for Wales, Sir Robert Buckland.



From left, Libby Davies, Shadow Secretary of State for Wales Jo Stevens, Glyn Roberts and FUW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright.



FUW North Wales Vice President Eifion Huws and Virginia Crosbie MP.



From left, Libby Davies, Ian Rickman, Glyn Roberts and Andrew RT Davies MS.



From left, Cefin Campbell MS, Rhun ap Iorwerth MS, Glyn Roberts and Peredur Owen Griffiths MS.



Jane Dodds MS and Glyn Roberts.



From left, Gareth Parry, Ian Rickman and Craig Williams MP.



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS with the FUW Instagram frame.



Ian Rickman (left), and Luke Fletcher MS.



FAR LEFT: Glyn Roberts (left), and Hywel Williams MP.



LEFT: Glyn Roberts (left), and Shadow Minister for Environment, Food and Farming Daniel Zeichner.

Political Matters

by Libby Davies, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer

RECENT global events have shown us just how fragile the global food chain can be.

Therefore it is vital our family farms across Wales can continue to produce sustainable, world-class food but we need UK Governments to support us if we are to be able to do this. At this year's Royal Welsh Show, we launched a 'five point plan', (seen on page 3), to mitigate some of the impacts of global events and strengthen our food and energy security.

These points featured heavily in policy and political meetings on the Showground at my first Royal Welsh Show representing the FUW, although conversations also reached wider into the Water Resource Regulations, TB eradication, tree planting and more.

It was fantastic to be back in Llanellwedd, meeting members and stakeholders, as well as a busy schedule of meetings with elected representatives. Over the week we met with politicians from all four political parties in the Senedd, including the Minister for Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths and Shadow Minister for Rural Affairs, Sam Kurtz. We also met with Westminster representatives including George Eustice, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the newly appointed Secretary of State for Wales, Sir Robert Buckland, Shadow Secretary of State for Wales, Jo Stevens, as well as Baroness Bloomfield, House of Lords Spokesperson for Wales.

During the Show we met with around 20 elected representatives as well as numerous officials and stakeholders, ensuring each of them heard the voice and concerns of family farms in Wales.

The show also provided the opportunity to demonstrate our support for the next generation of farming while attending events with Wales YFC, and our support for other causes such as mental health awareness and the Not in my Name campaign which aims to eradicate abuse against women. Agriculture can be lonely and isolated which is why it's so important as a Union we remind you that help is available if you need it.

However, the Royal Welsh Show was not the only opportunity for political engagement over the last month. We also met with Hywel Williams, Plaid Cymru MP for Arfon in Westminster. The meeting focussed mainly on the impact of the Government's trade policy on our domestic agricultural industry, as well as raising our concerns over the cuts in funding to Wales post-Brexit. Additionally, we met with Daniel Zeichner, Shadow Minister for Environment, Food and Farming to discuss future rural policy, reiterating once again the concerns of our members.

Closer to home, I attended a visit with members of our Glamorgan County Executive Committee with Labour MP for Ogmore, Chris Elomore, to see and hear about the damage caused to common land from off-roading 4x4 vehicles. This issue is causing not only environmental damage but also causing unnecessary stress for our members too. As a Union, we will be raising this issue with members of the local authority and rural crime team.

Last but not least, we also met with Luke Fletcher MS for South Wales West in the Senedd, where we reinforced the importance of economic stability for family farms and the importance of protecting rural communities and cultures through the Sustainable Farming Scheme and Agriculture (Wales) Bill, as well as discussing the Water Resource Regulations.

The Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs committee (which Luke Fletcher sits on) has now published their report on the regulations, and the recommendations will be debated in the Senedd in September. We are committed to monitoring this closely and continuing to work with elected representatives to ensure the best outcomes for our members and Wales' family farms.



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gan Angharad Evans, Swyddog Cyfathrebu'r Iaith Gymraeg

MAE pob bugail neu fugeiles yn gorfod dibynnu'n llwyr a rhoi ffydd ac ymddiriedaeth 100% yn y berthynas gyda chi defaid y fferm. Mae ci defaid da yn hanfodol i waith beunyddiol y fferm, gan fod yna leoliadau anghysbell ar bob fferm na fedr cerbyd pedair olwyn fynd iddo. Ond weithiau mae'r berthynas yn datblygu cystal nes bydd bugail yn mentro i fyd hyfforddi a gwerthu cŵn defaid. A dyma yw hanes aelod ifanc o Geredigion, Rhys Griffiths, sy'n mwynhau cryn dipyn o lwyddiant yn y maes hwn yn ddiweddar.

Mae Rhys wedi datblygu diddordeb brwd mewn hyfforddi cŵn defaid, ond lle dechreuodd y diddordeb? Dyma Rhys i esbonio mwy: "Cafodd fy niddordeb mewn cŵn defaid ei wreiddio yn fy magwraeth - roedd cŵn defaid yn cael eu defnyddio ar y fferm adref ar gyfer y gwaith bob dydd. Ers yn ifanc iawn bŵm yn gwylio fy nhad, Idwal Glant yn hyfforddi nifer o gŵn defaid yn y cae ger y tŷ. Roedd Mam hefyd yn defnyddio cŵn defaid yn ei gwaith hithau bob dydd ar y fferm. Roeddwn yn mwynhau mynd gyda Dad i arwerthiant cŵn defaid yn Bala, Pontsenni ac yn Skipton, a dim ond tyfu mae'r diddordeb wedi gwneud ers hynny.

"Erbyn hyn, mae'r cŵn defaid yn rhan allweddol o fy mywyd ac rwyf wedi magu blas ar eu hyfforddi a'u gwerthu dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf."

Yn ddiweddar mae'r pleser a'r mwynhad wedi troi'n llwyddiant i Rhys: "Mae'r cŵn defaid wedi dod â chryn lwyddiant i mi yn ystod y cyfnod clo, wrth i sawl arwerthiant ddatblygu i werthu ar-lein. Yn bendant, rwyf wedi manteisio wrth i'r cŵn cael eu llwyfannu ar-lein gan eu bod wedi ennyn diddordeb prynwyr posib ar draws y byd. Golygai hyn fy mod wedi medru ehangu fy nghysylltiadau gan ddod ar draws prynwyr na fyddem o bosib wedi cyfarfod pe bai'r arwerthiannau wedi bod wyneb yn wyneb.

"Llynedd, mi fues i'n lwcus i gael pris da am

gi o'r enw Bryniau Celt yn sêl ar-lein Skipton. Yn fwy diweddar, mi werthais Glant Bob, ci pymtheg mis oed ar ôl arddangos fideos ohono yn gweithio gyda defaid a gwartheg yn arwerthiant ar-lein Dolgellau. Roedd Bob yn dangos potensial o fod yn gi ffarm llewyrchus, neu'n gi treial ardderchog hefyd, felly dyna pam rwy'n credu roedd cymaint o ddiddordeb, a'r rheswm cefais y pris gore rwyf wedi'i dderbyn am gi hyd yn hyn. Roedd yn chwith ei weld yn gadael am yr Alban, ond yn falch clywed ei fod bellach wedi ymgartrefu yno'n hapus."

Ond beth nesaf i Rhys? "Mae gen i gwpwl o gŵn defaid ifanc sy'n argoeli'n dda iawn ac rwy'n gyffrous i weld canlyniadau fy ngwaith hyfforddi. Bwriadaf barhau i hyfforddi cŵn defaid law yn llaw â gwaith y fferm. Mae hyfforddi'r cŵn yn eu gwaith o ddydd i ddydd yn fuddiol i mi, a hefyd yn fuddiol i'r cŵn wrth iddynt fedru datblygu a chael eu herio yn ystod eu diwrnod gwaith yn ogystal ag yn ei hyfforddiant.

"Mae hyfforddi cŵn defaid yn dod â llawer o fwynhad a phleser i mi, ac rwy'n disgwyl ymlaen i ddatblygu fy nghreffft ymhellach. Mae'r gydnabyddiaeth rwyf wedi ei dderbyn yn ddiweddar yn destun balchder mawr i mi ac rwy'n ddiolchgar iawn am bob cymorth ac arweiniad oddi wrth bobl broffesiynol yn y maes, ar hyd y ffordd."

Mae teulu Rhys yn aelodau o UAC Ceredigion ac mae'r sir yn ymfalchïo yn ei lwyddiant. "Llongyfarchiadau mawr i ti Rhys! Braf gweld ffermwr ifanc o Geredigion yn cael lwyddiant. Pob lwc i ti yn y dyfodol," meddai Mari Davies, Dirprwy Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol UAC Ceredigion. Rwy'n siŵr bod ni gyd am ategu geiriau Mari ac yn dymuno'n dda i Rhys ym myd y cŵn defaid.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "The enjoyment and pleasure of training sheepdogs turns into success for Rhys."



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Why do you need an insurance broker?

by Dave Bates, Business Development Manager, FUW Insurance Services Ltd

SEARCHING for insurance can be an overwhelming - not to mention a stressful experience. Whether you're looking to insure your farm, home, car or business, there are thousands of policies on the market, offered by a plethora of insurers all claiming to provide the best deals.

So, what do you do? Not wanting to spend time searching around, many people purchase one of the first policies they're offered, only to realise a few months down the line that they aren't receiving value for money or worse, that they're underinsured.

One way to avoid this happening to you is to enlist the help of FUW Insurance Services Ltd. Your local Account Executive will act as your personal adviser for all your insurance matters, ensuring you receive comprehensive cover for a competitive price. Here are some reasons why you should consider insuring through FUW Insurance Services Ltd:

We are experts in the insurance field

Whereas you might be unfamiliar with the insurance market, here at FUW Insurance Services Ltd we are experts in insurance with years of experience in finding clients the right deals for the right price. Not only will we match you with the most suitable policy, but we can also help you to understand the ins and outs of policy terms and conditions so you know exactly what you're covered for.

You will receive impartial advice

If you go direct to an insurer, they are bound to claim that their policy is the best for you, regardless of whether it genuinely provides suitable coverage for your individual requirements. FUW Insurance Services Ltd on the other hand, compare policies from numerous insurance firms, so you can be sure that any advice they give you will be unbiased.



You are guaranteed quality coverage

FUW Insurance Services Ltd have access to a wide range of insurers and only use reputable firms we know provide excellent service and quality insurance products.

FUW Insurance Services Ltd save you time and money

If you use us, we do all the hard work so you don't have to! No more time wasted scanning comparison websites or filling out seemingly-endless quote forms.

We take your individual requirements into account

At FUW Insurance Services Ltd, we know that no two clients are the same - everyone has different insurance needs - so we take the time to assess your individual requirements and ensure we match you with a policy that provides adequate coverage of those requirements.

If you have any unusual requirements which often aren't covered in standard policies, such as a bespoke home build or a classic car collection we can source the most appropriate cover for you.

We are flexible

How many times have you emailed an insurance company and only received a reply weeks later? How many minutes have you wasted waiting on the phone just to speak to someone about your policy?

FUW Insurance Services Ltd is far more accessible than insurance companies. We are easy to contact and you can choose how to communicate with us. For example, you might want to arrange a face-to-face meeting to discuss your insurance needs, or you might prefer a chat on the phone. The choice is yours.

FUW Insurance Services Ltd is in it for the long-term

It's not uncommon for communication to dwindle the moment an insurance company has you signed-up. We, on the other hand, are in it for the long-term and will provide you with support whenever you need it.

If you are ever in a situation where you need to make a claim, it can be a daunting experience. What steps do you take first? What information do you need to provide? We will act as your advocate and guide you through the process to help get you in the position you were before the incident occurred. Using FUW Insurance Services Ltd will inevitably save you time and money, ensuring your farm, home, car, business or yourself is fully-protected and for the right price.

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RWAS 2022 - a truly memorable show

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

DESPITE temperatures that soared up to 35 degrees on Monday, people from all over the country and beyond descended on the Royal Welsh showground in their thousands - 40 thousand, to be precise. They were treated to the spectacle of showjumping, quad bikes, majestic carriages and the show favourite, Meirion Owen and his Quack Pack, amongst a full timetable of showing and competing all surrounded by exhibitors, food stalls and trade stands.

Here at the FUW pavilion we hosted a well-attended seminar on carbon offsetting and tree planting and hope to continue the conversation that our members so want us to have about carbon calculators, woodland on farms, growing more food and ensuring future policies get the balance right.

Tuesday we experienced yet another day of intense heat but show-goers weren't deterred by the scorching sun as they flocked through the gates for day two of more competing, forestry events, horticultural exhibits, crafts and countryside sports. The FUW hosted the annual OFCOM lunch as well as the launch of the GWCT Wales Working Conservationists Farming Community in the afternoon which was hotly-debated in every sense of the word! This was closely followed by FUWIS's seminar on Farm theft, discussing how to manage risk and keep insurance premiums low by working with security and technology companies to minimise risk of theft.



Bryn Fôn a'r band.

In the evening we welcomed Bryn Fôn a'r Band, to the pavilion where he thrilled and delighted a great crowd of enthusiastic fans old and new, young and old and treated us to a fantastic night of entertainment which brought the house down whilst raising a whopping £1,500 for our charity the DPJ Foundation as well as the people of Ukraine, through DEC Cymru.



From left, cheque presentation to William Powell (Regional Champion Volunteer), Kate Miles (Charity Manager) and Kay Helyar (Training Manager) from The DPJ Foundation and Siân Stephen from DEC Cymru.

An extremely full day of events at the pavilion on Wednesday started with the jointly-held Landscape Management for Wildfire Prevention event highlighting the use of agricultural techniques in Wildfire prevention. The next seminar held at the FUW pavilion

aimed to discuss and review current and emerging bovine TB technologies in view of their relevance for disease control and eradication and was very well-received by those who attended.

Chwarae Teg then hosted a joint panel to discuss women's role in agriculture and the wider rural economy whilst celebrating and highlighting the contribution women make.

Our final seminar of the day saw the recent Sustainable Farming Scheme discussed by James Owen, Deputy Director of the Welsh Government's Land Management Reform Division.

During the afternoon we were treated to a visit by members of the Scarlets squad and they very kindly took the time to promote the generous donation of Calon Wen milk which had been supplied to us by our newly-elected FUW Board Farmer Director, Dai Miles.



A visit from members of the Scarlets squad promoting Calon Wen milk.

In the evening we enjoyed my last President's Reception where I was extremely proud to give out several prestigious industry awards. The FUW Internal award for services to agriculture went to Iwan Jones, Denbighshire who was honoured for his dedication to the FUW over the years.

Our FUW external award went to the amazing team at Tir Dewi and was accepted by the Venerable Eileen Davies on their behalf for the exceptional work they do for farmers who find themselves in need of mental health support due to the pressures of the industry.

Winner of the Bob Davies memorial shepherd's crook was Hannah Thomas ITV whose never-ending work and enthusiasm for all things agriculture and rural made her an easy choice for this honour.

Cheques were presented to the DPJ Foundation and the people of Ukraine via DEC Cymru of the funds raised at the Bryn Fôn gig on the previous evening.

We were very pleased to welcome back the singing trio Sorela who entertained us throughout with their dulcet tones.

The final day of the show dawned with a welcome drop in temperatures and a bit of a breeze but the showground continued to entertain and enthrall with more competitions, displays and exhibitions whilst in the FUW pavilion an interesting and much-needed discussion was being held on how the menopause affects women in agriculture, what needs to be done and the next steps.

In a fitting finale to what has been a truly memorable show - as well as my last show as President of the FUW - we saw the incredible spectacle of the prize-winning stock being paraded around the main ring.

I think what I will take away from the 2022 Royal Welsh Show is what can be achieved by working together and how much interest people outside of the industry have in agriculture and rural life. Although there are huge challenges ahead, there is also hope, and whilst we have that, we have an industry which will continue to feed and serve the people of our country and beyond.

"I think what I will take away from the 2022 Royal Welsh Show is what can be achieved by working together and how much interest people outside of the industry have in agriculture and rural life."



Iwan Jones receives the FUW Internal award for services to agriculture from FUW President Glyn Roberts.



Venerable Eileen Davies receives the FUW external award on behalf of Tir Dewi from Glyn Roberts.



Winner of the Bob Davies memorial shepherd's crook Hannah Thomas ITV and Glyn Roberts.



The amazing team at Tir Dewi.



The singing trio Sorela entertained us.



One of the Union's first members joining us in the 50's, Trefor Jones, Cwm Cae, Bow Street called in to see us, pictured with Glyn Roberts.

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Plans drafted for TB industry groups following Ministerial statement



THE FFW has repeated its call for the establishment of an industry Task and Finish Group to examine both Informed Purchasing and the future of TB Cattle Compensation payments following the publication of the Minister for Rural Affairs' statement on the TB eradication programme.

Amongst the new TB plans outlined in the statement are policies which could see the use of lay testers for TB testing, the provision of mandatory TB information at point-of-sale and significant changes to the way in which TB compensation is paid.

Dr Hazel Wright, (pictured above), FFW Senior Policy Officer, said: "The FFW is pleased that many of the concerns we highlighted in our 27-page response to the Refreshed TB Eradication Programme, have been heard by the Welsh Government. We have repeatedly and consistently called for industry to be involved in the future of both TB compensation and Informed Purchasing policy and we welcome the Minister's statement that there will be further discussion with industry on these important issues."

However, the FFW was frustrated to note the assertion in the statement that the proposal for an industry-led group with levy 'attracted the most support' as a future TB compensation scheme.

"Given that many of the responses to the consultation derived from non-farming organisations and individuals, it is disappointing that the Minister did not make a distinction between the relative gravity of each of the responses.

"A single response from the FFW represents literally thousands of farmers and directly represents those who will be affected by any change to the payment regime and should not be viewed as a single response. The FFW would therefore query how many of those



responding in favour of an industry levy would actually be responsible for paying such a levy."

In its response to the consultation the FFW made clear that any proposals to establish an industry levy group on TB compensation would also require the group to have a proper and meaningful role in future TB eradication policy.

"The consultation cited the establishment of an industry levy group akin to the New Zealand Animal Health Board (AHB) as a potential way forward. However, the New Zealand Board was also responsible for implementing the National Pest Management Programme which ensured that wildlife sources of TB infection were appropriately dealt with.

"The FFW cannot support a future scheme which cherry-picks from those strategies present elsewhere in a manner which places the greatest burden, cost and responsibility upon cattle keepers who remain powerless to protect their businesses from other forms of disease spread.

"The current level of competition for culled stock does not even include the additional costs incurred such as lost revenue, loss of milk production, loss of breeding lines, delays to re-stocking and movement restrictions. These consequential losses suffered by a producer whose animals are compulsorily purchased can be significant and run into tens of thousands of pounds. It is therefore essential that future payment schemes pay appropriately for compulsorily slaughtered stock."

Also included in the Minister's statement was recognition of the need to further explore Informed Purchasing and its potential consequences and a recognition of the need for a joined-up approach with Defra to avoid cross-border trade issues.

"The FFW does not oppose the principle of risk-based trading, however we remain concerned about proposals which, if not properly considered, could be too crude to be useful or too technical to be usable. Discussions surrounding risk-based trading must therefore recognise the balance between the need for information, the burden of collating such information and the resultant detrimental effects on some herds."

In its response to the latest Refreshed TB Programme consultation the FFW stressed that a lack of a coordinated GB approach on this issue could lead to cattle being moved further distances to sales which provide the best advantage when selling higher risk stock.

"Any lack of Informed Purchasing at a GB level will undoubtedly lead to the demise of local markets as affected cattle keepers will choose to sell their stock across the border and we therefore welcome recognition by the Minister that Informed Purchasing requires a cross-border approach in order to create a level playing field.

"By its very nature, Risk Based Trading devalues and discriminates against some stock and it is to be expected that this will drive prices down significantly for some cattle keepers. The FFW therefore welcomes the opportunity to work with the Welsh Government on the criteria for inclusion in such policies.

"Risk classification systems can only work if all potential sources of bovine TB, including the wildlife vector, are dealt with. Mandatory information at point of sale can disadvantage cattle keepers who have adhered to all the regulations, have implemented good biosecurity and who have maintained good buying practise. Such keepers will fall foul of a system which does not protect them from TB, but penalises them once a breakdown occurs.

"We will therefore be putting our proposals for the establishment of an industry group on these important policy issues to the Minister shortly. We look forward to further discussions, with a view to finding a workable and meaningful way forward that is in the best interests of both farmers and cattle," added Dr Wright.

"Given that many of the responses to the consultation derived from non-farming organisations and individuals, it is disappointing that the Minister did not make a distinction between the relative gravity of each of the responses."

Photography competition

Top prize of £250!

Help us create an FFW 2023 calendar by sending in your agricultural and countryside photos

Closing date 16 September 2022

Email your photos to ytir@fuw.org.uk

Image must be in jpeg format and at least 1MB in size



Sustainable Farming Scheme

Welsh Government outline proposals



“On the right track, but the devil will be in the detail”

Previous proposals

From Brexit and Our Land, Sustainable Farming and Our Land, and Agriculture (Wales) White Paper:

- Scheme design and payments based entirely on public environmental goods
- Phasing out direct support over a five year period from 2018
- Sustainability reviews conducted by farm advisors and consultants
- Any land manager would be eligible to apply (therefore upwards of 24,000 applicants)
- Individual agri-environment style contracts as opposed to SAF style data submission
- Using mapping and modelling to assess priority environmental outcomes: therefore leading to a postcode lottery of funding options for farmers

FUW lobbying successes

Stability payment provision:

Welsh Government have committed to a baseline payment for all farmers in return for undertaking ‘universal actions’: mirroring FUW calls for a sustainability and stability payment.

Utilises current RPW online system and rewards existing data provision:

Thus minimising expensive farm advisor visits for each farm and by rewarding farmer led data collection for the simplified Sustainability Review instead - thus maximising budget to farmers and continuing with a trusted system, as well as providing useful data back to the farmer.

No cliff edge of funding:

Reassurances of a transition up to 2029, with a stability/baseline payment provided up to March 31 2029, even if farmers choose not to participate in the Scheme.

Undertaking economic modelling analysis:

To assess the impact the proposals will have on the rural economy before assigning payment rates. This is in stark contrast to England, where negative impacts are already occurring due to scheme payment pitfalls.

Payment for maintenance and creation:

The universal actions recognises work already done by farmers (such as hedgerow maintenance, habitat creation, existing woodland cover or benchmarking data).

Active farmer emphasis:

Universal actions focused on active management by farmers, and eligibility based on undertaking agricultural activities and farming a minimum of 3ha. There is also recognition that the scheme must be accessible for all types of farms, particularly for tenants and common land. A tenancy working group will also be established to assess scheme suitability.

Payment capping to favour the family farm:

“Consideration will also be given to capping payments to ensure that funding is distributed in a fair way.” Again, in England there is no such system in place, meaning there is no limit to what larger farms, estates and charities can claim. The FUW has supported the capping and tapering of payments (to increase the amount of money smaller and medium sized farms receive) since 2007.

The FUW will continue to hold the Welsh Government to account on these commitments



Concerns

Overall budget

The Welsh Government does not have budget certainty past the financial year 24-25. Covid, Brexit and cost of living pressures could all put strains on the budget, in addition to existing agricultural budget cuts from Westminster. Meanwhile, the proposals are ambitious, covering a wide range of objectives.

What percentage of the budget will be allocated for the baseline payment

BPS payments to farmers make up 75% of the current budget, however BPS will be phased out by 2029. There is also no mention of tapering payments to ensure support for family farms and food producers is prioritised. FUW believes the majority of the budget should be used to provide this stability payment in return for the new Universal Actions required of farmers on top of new ‘National Minimum Standards’, whilst also reflecting the significant increase in costs farmers are experiencing.

The practicality of universal actions - e.g. 10% tree cover

Some of the universal actions are impractical for large numbers of farmers and therefore require greater consideration - most notably the requirement for a farm to either have at least 10% existing tree cover by scheme entry, or be able to achieve 10% tree cover within the five year contract in order to access the baseline payment. For farmers who are tenants, have a vast amount of habitat land or designations unsuitable for planting, or who farm in areas where trees will not grow this would be difficult or impossible. The proposal would also be extremely challenging for highly productive farms, particularly given the current strain on food security. Welsh Government have since confirmed they will be considering some flexibility on this universal requirement dependent on co-design feedback, or make the requirement just for ‘eligible’ (i.e. not peatland/designated land).

Scheme outcomes

The outcomes required of the scheme (based around Sustainable Land Management such as Clean air, Resilient ecosystems and Enhanced Access) still do not specify the economic sustainability of farming families, agricultural supply chains, rural communities and food production explicitly. Without such outcomes being central to the scheme there is a risk of economic damage, particularly if the calculation of baseline payment rates cannot take such economic support into account.

Length of SFS contract

Welsh Government are still talking about five year contracts, whilst the FUW are concerned this will be impractical for tenants in particular.

Requires more detail

Calculation of payments for the universal action

“We are currently undertaking extensive modelling to help inform payment rates for the Scheme. To develop a baseline payment, we will need to take account a range of factors including the outcomes delivered by the actions, cost to the farmer of undertaking them, plus any necessary incentive to encourage uptake.” The FUW agrees it would be premature and potentially dangerous to provide such information before getting the outline framework of a scheme correct. Once the scheme structure is finalised, time needs to be taken to ensure that payments are designed in a way that is fair and does not cause disproportionate disruption to businesses, regions or sectors. This will require careful modelling to ensure our family farms are fairly supported.

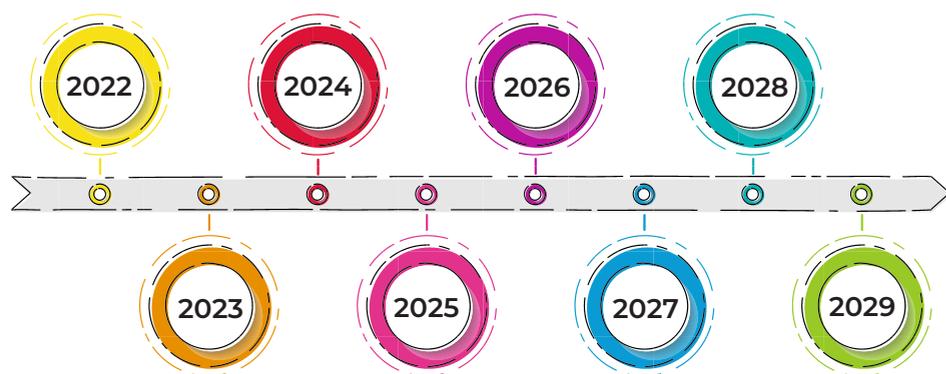
Glastir advanced, commons and organic recipients

The aim is for the SFS to be the main delivery scheme from 2025, however there is no confirmation of continued funding post ‘23 for those who have received an extension - the Minister will need to make a decision this year.

Raised regulatory baseline

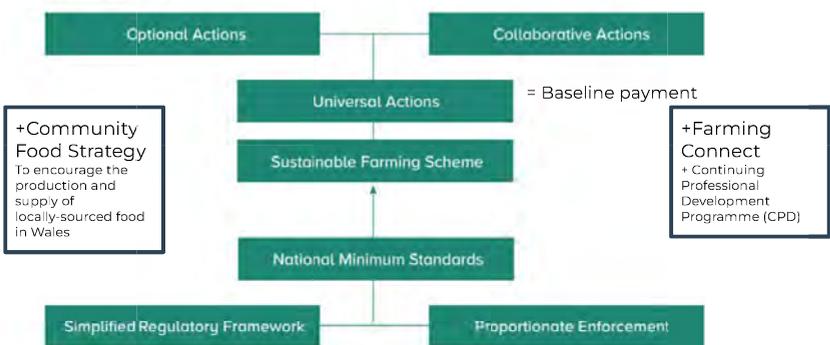
There is no more detail or plans for an additional consultation on the National Minimum Standards which all farms (regardless of whether they enter the scheme) will have to comply with.

Timeline



Summer - Autumn 2022	Co-design
Autumn 2022	Agriculture Bill introduced to the Senedd + Regulatory Impact Assessment
2022 - end of 2023	BPS maintained, Glastir extension
2023	Final consultation on SFS design, payment options and transition period. Economic analysis published
2022 - 2024	Prepare and Pilot Phase: Transition schemes (small grants, organic conversion, Pilots (tbc) Woodland, NFM & peatland projects cont.
31 Dec 2024	Sunset powers expire (Ag Bill requires royal assent)
2025 -2029	Transition period: BPS phase out. Stability payments cont. for all. Encourage & incentivise entry to the SFS
31 March 2029	End of transition

Scheme structure



Underpinned by the legislative framework- existing cross compliance or National minimum standards= applicable to all regardless of scheme entry. However there will be no further consultation on the National Minimum Standards. Farming Connect also available to all farmers.

Level/Layers	Description	Payment and support
1. National Minimum Standards	Legal requirements, applicable to all farms.	No payment Advice and guidance Future civil sanctions with the potential for Scheme penalties
2. Universal	All Universal Actions have to be carried out by farmers who join the Scheme. These actions help farms become more sustainable and are the building blocks for them to do more. All applicable actions must be delivered to enter the scheme.	Baseline Payment Capital Payments Technical Support Access to tools Advice and guidance
3. Optional	These higher-level actions build on those at the base level but may be more complex to deliver and need to be more tailored to each farm or specific areas.	Revenue and/or Capital Payments Technical Support Access to tools Advice and guidance
4. Collaboration	Aimed at more specific priorities, which need more flexibility in how they are delivered and need a combination of actions to deliver the most benefits. These need the greatest input from the farmer.	Revenue and/or Capital Payments Technical Support Advice and guidance

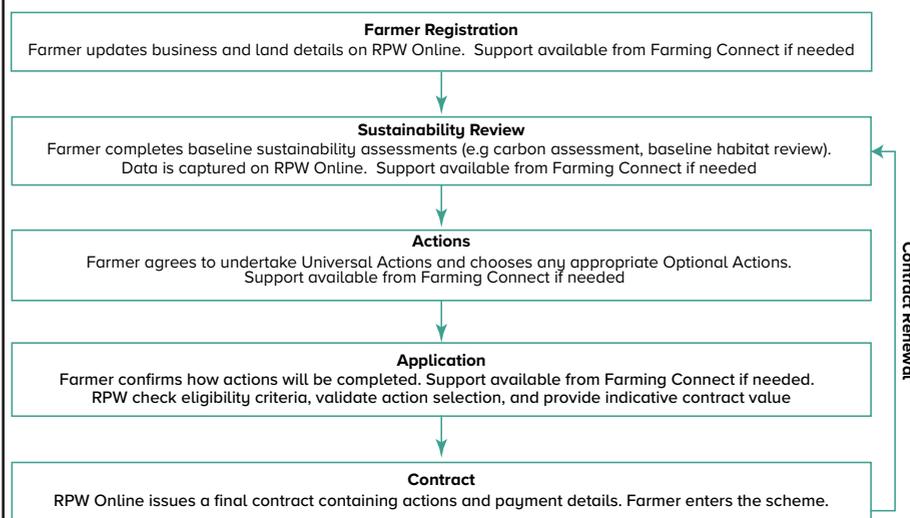
Example of universal, optional and collaborative actions

Minimising the risk of catching and spreading disease:

- (U) All farms need to have the necessary biosecurity measures in place. These are:
 - wash stations and disinfectant is available for people to clean their clothing, equipment and vehicles as they enter/exit the farm and any livestock areas
 - all enclosed land boundaries are secure to stop stock from straying
 - there is a dedicated secure store for deadstock, which can be cleaned and disinfected. It is away from livestock, feed and water
 - feed stores are secure to keep out wildlife and vermin
 - there is a pest control/management programme in place, which includes the responsible use of biocides.
- (O) Farmers will be rewarded for having a 3 metre wide fence and hedge along the farm boundary (where appropriate) to prevent neighbouring stock coming into contact.
- (O) All incoming animals are isolated for at least six days before mixing with existing stock.
- (C) We will work with the industry to explore how the Scheme could introduce a procedure that demonstrates animals which come on to the farm from other units are safe, minimising the risk of introducing disease.
- (FC) Farming Connect will offer farmers advice on how to limit the spread of disease to their farms.

The process

Registration and contract preparation



Sustainable Land Management Outcomes

(The outcomes the actions are seeking to deliver)

- Clean air**
Air which has limited pollution (human made particles and harmful gases) including fine particulate matter, ammonia and non-methane volatile organic compounds.
- Mitigate flood and drought risk**
Farms prepare for periods of low or high rainfall, reducing the risks to the farm and communities from flooding, drought and coastal erosion.
- Clean water**
The water environment (including inland water) is sustainably managed to support healthy communities, flourishing businesses and biodiversity.
- Protected natural landscapes and historic environment**
Conserve and enhance natural beauty, cultural heritage and the historic environment.
- Enhanced access and engagement**
People are more easily able to enjoy the countryside for health and wellbeing benefits.
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions**
Farms reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, through making efficient use of fuel and energy, minimising external inputs and having productive livestock and crops.
- High animal health and welfare**
Animals are healthy, productive and have a good quality of life.
- Resilient ecosystems**
Maintaining and enhancing the resilience of ecosystems delivering benefits for biodiversity, species and habitats.
- Maximise carbon storage**
Creating new and enhancing existing carbon stocks on farms.
- Resource efficient**
Taking a circular approach by keeping resources and materials in use for us as long as possible and avoiding waste.

Scheme design principles

1. We must keep farmers on the land
2. Food Production is vital for our nation
3. We should help build a prosperous and resilient agriculture industry
4. Future support should maximise all SLM outcomes
5. All farmers should be able to access the Scheme

Universal actions

Farmers will be expected to perform the Universal Actions to receive their baseline payment. 'They should be within reach of most farmers and can be integrated into current farming practice'

Resilient and Productive

Manage and optimising farm performance through measuring and monitoring: All farmers will be asked to complete a self-assessment once a year against a minimum of the sector and industry KPIs.

Minimise the risk of catching and spreading diseases: All farmers have the necessary biosecurity measures in place.

Reduce, reuse and recycle inputs, nutrients and waste

Make best use of artificial fertiliser through nutrient management and soil testing: Carry out soil testing at Scheme entry and in time for contract renewal to include a combination of:

- Nitrogen (N), Potassium (P), Phosphorous (K), Carbon and pH
- a biological measure e.g. eDNA, respiration counting 'proxy' species (worms)
- a physical assessment e.g. infiltration rate, bulk density or Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure (VESS).

- Submit nutrient accounts and evidence covering N, P, K, C and pH.

Minimise use of pesticides / herbicides through integrated pest management: Collect and record data on Plant Protection Products use.

- Complete an IPM assessment.
- Take up the offer of bespoke support (where applicable).

Reduce on farm emissions and maximise carbon sequestration

Animal Health Improvement Cycle (AHIC): Carry out actions, identified by working closely with their vet, through the animal health improvement cycle.

- Calculate and report the average amount of antibiotics used on the farm.

Restore semi-natural peatland: Where peatland

exists, farmers will need to manage it appropriately.

Create new and manage existing agro-forestry and woodland

- Have at least 10% tree cover on their farm. This should be managed in line with the UK Forestry Standard (as part of this 10%).
- Manage new and existing hedgerows in line with the hedgerow management cycle.

Protect and enhance the farm ecosystem

Protect soils from erosion and degradation: Have a multi-species cover crop on all land which is uncropped over winter.

Manage habitats and species: Habitat maintenance and creation

- Farmers will need to actively manage at least 10% of their land to maintain and enhance semi-natural habitats. Where there is insufficient semi-natural habitat available, farmers will need to select actions to create permanent or temporary habitat features on other agricultural land. (*existing broadleaf woodland counts towards the 10% habitat requirement).

Conserve and retain water: Ponds and scrapes

- Farmers will have to restore and manage existing permanent wildlife ponds and/or create a number of temporary ponds (scrapes).

Benefit people, animals and place

Maintain and enhance the historic environment, heritage and beauty: Farmers with historical environment assets identified on their land will need to follow general guidance on how to manage them.

Proficient to practice safely and effectively

- Farmers will be required to complete a minimum level of learning, including on Health and Safety

The FUW will continue to meet with Welsh Government and lobby on the issues raised in this summary, as well as gathering feedback from members through county executive meetings and committees



Co-design

The proposals are not a consultation document, instead Welsh Government will be conducting further co-design to gather feedback on the proposals. Head to gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme-guide to register your interest.

A survey will be sent out this month, with follow-up phone calls and face-to-face interviews. Co-design workshops will begin in October.

Mae modd derbyn copi Cymraeg o'r dadansoddiad yma trwy gysylltu gyda Swyddog Cyfathrebu'r Iaith Gymraeg UAC Angharad Evans ar angharad.evans@fuw.org.uk

Dai Miles elected as FUW Board Farmer Director

DAI Miles, (pictured right), has been elected Farmer Director on the FUW board at a recent Council of the Union.

Dai is a Pembrokeshire dairy farmer and former chairman of the milk and dairy produce committee. He is also one of the 4 founding directors of Calon Wen, an organic milk co-operative that not only sells on its members' milk to processors but has created its own brand of dairy products which are available through all major retailers in Wales and UK wide via distributors.

In 1997, in partnership with his wife Sharron, the couple took on the tenancy of Barnsley Farm, a 143 acres farm in West Wales. At the time it was a stock/arable unit which they converted into an organic dairy unit starting with 33 cows and leased milk quota. In 2001 they took on a further 90 acres of pasture land and then in 2005 the neighbouring farm within the same estate. At the moment the couple have 120 cows and 65 youngstock.

The Board of Directors is made up of FUW President Glyn Roberts, FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman, Group Managing Director Guto Bebb, Finance Director Simon

Longworth, Farmer Directors Darren Williams and Alan Gardner, as well as Non-Executive Directors Nerys Evans and Sara Jones, which bring to the table diverse expertise in terms of business and governance.

"Our Farmer Directors bring the much needed grassroots element to the table with their wealth of expertise from farming to business, and I thank all of them for the work they have already done over the years and their continued commitment to the future of this Union.

"I congratulate Dai on his election to the Board and thank Iwan Jones for his long standing service to this Union as he steps down," said FUW President Glyn Roberts.



Upcoming Schemes

Scheme	Summary	Window
Woodland Creation Planning Scheme	The Woodland Creation Planning Scheme offers grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to develop plans for new woodland creation. After a plan is successfully verified by NRW it will be eligible for Welsh Government funding for tree planting. More information here: https://gov.wales/woodland-creation-plan-scheme The design of the scheme is based on the pilot which was run last year. The scheme will be open throughout the year (subject to budget) with applications selected every 6 weeks. Funding for woodland creation will be available from August 2022, with windows opening every 3 months from then onwards (subject to budget).	Open until December 31 2022
Small Grants - Environmental	A scheme to support a range of land management interventions and provide capital support for on-farm environmental improvements to enhance the quality of Wales' natural resources. This is equivalent to the previous Glastir Small Grants scheme. It is a standalone scheme providing a maximum of £7,500 funding per window for Capital Works Projects. This round will address the theme of Water. Land parcels already under Glastir contracts will not be eligible. The indicative budget for this window is £3m.	August 24 - October 5 2022
Small Grants - Growing for the Environment	A pilot scheme to encourage the growing of crops and pastures to provide an environmental benefit such as protein crops, mixed leys and cover crops for environmental, biodiversity and production benefits.	TBC
Organic Conversion Scheme	A scheme to support farmers to convert to organic production systems. There will only be one EOI window. The scheme will include a two year conversion payment. Payment rates will be based on current land use and production system. The entire CPH has to be included and requires a total five year commitment to organic management. More information available here: gov.wales/organic-conversion-scheme	July 18 - August 26 2022
Woodland Creation (Planting)	Any woodland plans approved and paid for by the Woodland Creation Planning Scheme (above) can apply for the planting grant at the end of August. Alongside the woodland creation grant there will also be a new simpler grant for planting areas of trees less than 2 hectares in non-sensitive areas.	Opening August 2022

“Time for a renewable energy revolution”

THE FUW says Governments must act to boost on-farm renewable energy production in order to increase the UK's energy security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The call is one of five demands which form the FUW's 'Five point plan', which comprises key actions which together will help relieve pressures for farmers, food producers and consumers in the immediate term, while bolstering food and energy security in the long term.

Speaking at the Royal Welsh Show, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: “The pandemic and the war on Ukraine has not only emphasised the vulnerability of our food supplies to global events that are beyond our control - it has also brought into sharper focus our reliance on global energy and fuel markets and supplies. Many farmers already play a key role in reducing that exposure through renewable energy production, but we have only tapped into a fraction of what is possible,” he added.

Energy production using fossil fuels is second only to business in terms of contributions to Wales' greenhouse gas emissions, and is the second highest contributor to emissions in the UK after transport.

In 2020, nearly 23% of the EU's oil and petroleum imports came from Russia, while Russian oil imports previously accounted for 8% of UK demand. Russia is the world's largest natural gas exporter, followed by the USA and Qatar, and previously accounted for around 45% of EU gas imports.

“Both the UK and Welsh Governments must step up efforts that restore growth in the industry by incentivising on-farm production of renewable energy - thereby reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and imported energy.”

“Our reliance on imported fuel and energy can be reduced by increasing domestic production, and farmers are keen to play their part. However, we need the restoration of incentives for that to happen - and it must not come at the expense of food production and large areas of farmland,” said Mr Roberts.

Following the introduction of Feed in Tariffs in 2010, there was a rapid increase in renewable energy production on Welsh farmland, but this incentive was withdrawn in 2019 and growth in such production has levelled off significantly.

“Both the UK and Welsh Governments must step up efforts that restore growth in the industry by incentivising on-farm production of renewable energy - thereby reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and imported energy.

“The Welsh Government's decision to remove business rate relief for privately-owned hydropower projects has also served as a significant barrier to investment, while obstacles such as landscape designations and disproportionate regulations continue to work against renewable energy production. Government must therefore seek to remove barriers and restore incentives in order to boost agriculture's contribution to our energy security,” he added.



Legislation for BVD Eradication in Wales - make your voice heard

THIS month saw the release of the long-awaited consultation on the compulsory Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) scheme for Wales. The consultation, which is open for 8 weeks and closes on August 25, makes several proposals about a legislative approach to BVD eradication in Wales.

BVD is an immuno-suppressive disease which can cause abortions, infertility and mucosal disease. The disease is maintained in herds by Persistently Infected (PI) animals that are infected in the uterus during early pregnancy. PI animals never recover from BVD, shed the virus for life and represent a significant source of infection to the rest of the herd.

Alongside compulsory annual screening and movement restrictions for positive herds, the management of PI animals forms a significant part of the proposed BVD legislative programme. The consultation proposes that, where a PI animal is identified, there would be a legal requirement for cattle keepers to isolate the PI indefinitely from the rest of the herd or send it directly to slaughter.

The consultation on BVD comes towards the end of the voluntary RDP funded GwareduBVD scheme in Wales. Since 2017, over 9,000 out of the approximate 11,000 Welsh Cattle farms have participated in the voluntary and industry-led Gwaredu BVD programme. This programme assists keepers in identifying PI animals within their herds and provides advice on how to achieve BVD freedom.



From January 1 2023, funding from Rural Payments Wales will no longer be available for GwareduBVD and this voluntary scheme will therefore be coming to an end. The FUW would therefore urge cattle keepers to get involved now before funding finishes. More information on GwareduBVD can be found on www.ahww.cymru/en/

The high level of involvement in GwareduBVD is great news for the industry as more and more cattle keepers get to know their BVD status and, where appropriate, hunt and remove PI animals in a bid to achieve BVD freedom for their herd. Under GwareduBVD, almost 1000 PI hunts have been conducted, with the same number of PIs identified. However, management of PIs under the voluntary scheme has been inconsistent as it is

therefore hoped that future legislation will improve on, and retain, the gains made under the previous voluntary programme by tackling the management of PIs.

Staff from the FUW's Policy Team will be travelling virtually around the counties over the next month to discuss this consultation and to answer any queries you may have about how this compulsory programme will work at the ground level. Members should contact their county office for the date and time of the BVD consultation meeting most suitable to them.

The BVD consultation can be found on the FUW's website: www.fuw.org.uk/en/consultations-pending-en and the FUW would welcome your views on this important issue.

Farm shop burglaries warning



THE FUW are calling for farmers to adopt more stringent security measures on farmland across Wales following a spate of burglaries from farm shops in the Mold area.

Mold Rural Crime Team have issued a statement after a sharp increase in burglaries in Cheshire and Staffordshire were soon followed by break-ins in the Wrexham area.

Targeting the premises after hours, it would appear that the burglaries are premeditated and planned, with the perpetrators forcing safes and tills open to gain access to any cash held inside.

FUW and FUW Insurance Services Ltd urge all of our members to remain vigilant and to ensure that they are adequately covered to withstand any losses from damage to property inflicted during these crimes. If you need any reassurance or advice, call in to see our helpful team.

GWASANAETH CYNGHORI Cyswllt Ffermio

Derbyniwch gefnogaeth gan ein ymgynghorwyr i greu:
Get support from our advisers on:



→ Cynlluniau Rheoli Coetir
→ Woodland Management Plans



→ Cynlluniau Busnes
→ Business Plans



→ Cynlluniau Organig
→ Organic Plans



→ Cynlluniau Arallgyfeirio
→ Diversification Plans

- ✓ Gall busnesau wneud cais am gyllid o hyd at 80%
- ✓ Bydd ceisiadau grŵp yn cael eu hariannu'n llawn

Mae cyngor ar gael yn amodol ar gymhwysedd.
Cysylltwch â'ch swyddog datblygu lleol neu'r Ganolfan
Wasanaeth i gael cymorth gyda'ch ymholiad.

- ✓ Businesses can apply for up to 80% funding
- ✓ Group applications are fully funded

Advice is available subject to eligibility. Please
contact your local development officer or the
Service Centre for assistance with your enquiry.



→ Ffoniwch ni ar **08456 000 813**
→ Cysylltwch â'ch **swyddog datblygu lleol**
→ Gwefan www.llyw.cymru/cyswlltffermio

→ Phone us on **08456 000 813**
→ Contact your **local development officer**
→ Website www.gov.wales/farmingconnect



Looking after yourself - make it a priority

by Elen Williams, Charity Marketing & Engagement Assistant, The DPJ Foundation

SOMETIMES we are so busy looking after others in our lives we don't think about looking after ourselves. But to be able to help others properly we need to make sure that we're ok first.

We often use the idea of the "stress bucket" as a reminder of this. Imagine a bucket you carry with you everywhere, and slowly it fills up with every stress you experience. This bucket will get heavier and harder to carry around as it takes on your daily stress until it overflows and you can't carry it any more.

This is when you feel overwhelmed and stressed; at breaking point. To release this stress we need a tap on the bucket, something you can control to ease the pressure. You open your tap when you do the things which help you to lighten the load, things that help you switch off and manage your stress, for example exercise or a hobby. Exercise not only helps your physical health, but it also releases endorphins, which can help to positively change your mood.

What do you do to look after yourself when you are having a bad day and struggling? Do you know what can help you feel better? Do you go for a walk, run or swim? Spend

time with your dog? Watch funny videos? Cook? Take a bath? Speak to a friend? Sleep? There are so many things we can do to try and make a bad day a little bit better, but the important thing is to know what works for you personally (and to do it).

Sometimes, you can't do the things that you love (for example because of time or money) so an alternative can be to listen to people talking about it. This is where podcasts can be good. Whether it is rugby, football, YFC, farming or comedy there will be a podcast to suit you. A selection that we enjoy are the Rock & Roll Farming Podcast, the Ewe Turn Podcast, Nerth dy Ben, CFFI & fi / YFC & me, Meet the Farmers, Pub Yields and Ear to the Ground. If there is something you love, there is likely to be a podcast about it.

Sleep is also important for our mental health (as anyone who has struggled with sleep will know). There's a close relationship between sleep and mental health; poor sleep can have a negative impact on your mental health and living with a mental health problem can affect how well you sleep. There is a website dedicated to better sleep run by the Sleep Charity thesleepcharity.org.uk/ and this has some useful tips to help you get a better night's sleep.

There are also a number of apps available to download on your smartphone, tablet, or computer that some people find help with managing their minds. Here are some suggestions:

Happify

This simple and effective app helps you when you're feeling sad, anxious, or stressed by giving you tools and programs to help you take control of your feelings and thoughts through engaging activities and games. It helps you to make the changes you want and have more of a positive feeling.

Tackle your Feelings

This Irish app, created alongside Irish Rugby, helps you to take control of your mental wellbeing and is based on sport psychology and positive psychology principles that aims to help you to develop awareness of what works for you while trying out some different practical strategies to improve your mental health and wellbeing.

Calm Harm

This app, which is designed for young people who self harm (but which we find works really well for anxiety) gives you different activities to comfort, distract, express yourself or release which are helpful to change your thoughts in that moment. It also includes a breathing exercise to help you stay in the moment, regulate difficult emotions, and reduce tension.

Wysa

The Wysa app allows you to talk to Wysa (an online chatbot) with whatever is on your mind anonymously. There are some exercises for you to help with anxiety, depression, and stress.

SilverCloud

You can sign up for SilverCloud which is a guided CBT course that is available free in Wales through the NHS and which you can do from home or work.

Stay Alive

The stay alive app is a suicide prevention resource. It can help you stay safe in crisis, if you have thoughts of suicide. When you download the app, you can prepare a safety plan to help keep you safe should these thoughts return. On the other hand, this app also helps you if you're concerned about someone else who you are worried may be considering suicide, helping you know what to do, what to say and what to avoid saying or doing.



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GOOD LUCK / POB LWC



A decade on and the farming industry continues to have the poorest safety record

FIGURES released on July 18 from the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) Fatal Injuries in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing in GB Report 2021/22, show that a decade after the first Farm Safety Week campaign, agriculture continues to have the poorest safety record in the UK and Ireland.

Over the last year, 25 people have lost their lives on farms in Great Britain - an encouraging improvement on last year's total of 41, but one life lost is one too many according to UK-wide charity the Farm Safety Foundation.

Of the 25 people killed in England, Scotland and Wales in the past year, 22 were farm workers and 3 were members of the public, including a 9-year old child. For an industry that still has between 1 and 2 children being killed through its activities each year, this simply MUST improve.

The picture is similar in Northern Ireland where farming accounted for 6 of the 18 (33%) reported workplace fatalities in 2021/2022 (HSENI). In the Republic of Ireland, farming which accounts for 4% of the workforce (according to CSO's Labour Force Survey) has 26% of all workplace fatal incidents.

Farming has changed so much over the past decade so why hasn't its safety record? From July 18 - 22, the Farm Safety Foundation held their tenth annual Farm Safety Week, a campaign which brings together five countries over five days with ONE simple goal - to encourage farmers to make our farms safer places to live and to work.

The Farm Safety Foundation highlighted some of the key issues facing the farming community, spotlight the work being done to drive a change in attitudes and behaviours and introduce ten inspirational farm safety heroes who have worked tirelessly over the past decade to reduce the injury risk for farmers and farming families across the UK and Ireland.

Agriculture is different from many industries in that it can present hazards to people not actively involved in the industry, such as children and family members living on the farm and visitors, in addition to farm workers. Hazards can also exist for vets, delivery workers and even the emergency medical services personnel, as they provide assistance and care to victims of farm incidents.

New figures show that fatal injuries on GB farms have shown a significant improvement - from 41 recorded in 2020/21 to 25 in 2021/22

3 members of the public lost their lives in 2021/22 - 2 adults and a 9-year old child

According to the Farm Safety Foundation, the charity behind the annual campaign, while there is an encouraging improvement on the ten-year average of 36, it is important to continue driving safety messages to avoid a rebound



According to Stephanie Berkeley, Farm Safety Foundation manager: "Despite an encouraging improvement in the HSE figures over the past year, these are very sobering statistics.

"We must remember that these are not just statistics - behind every fatal notification is a worker, a visitor or a child. We cannot become immune to the impact that each and every death has on farming families and communities across the UK and Ireland. Ten years after our first campaign, we cannot continue to accept that risk-taking is part and parcel of farming - we have to work harder to make it safer."

Sue Thompson, Head of Agriculture, Health & Safety Executive, said: "I congratulate the Farm Safety Foundation for the great work they've done over the last 10 years to raise the profile of farm incidents and their consequences.

"However, there are farming families left devastated every year when their loved ones are badly injured or killed while doing their jobs. We are starting to see safety improvements in some areas, but the pace of change is slow, and the rates of workplace injury and ill health in agriculture remain the highest of any major sector.

"Awareness of the hazards and risk have never been higher, and Farm Safety Week has played its part in this," she continued.

"But it's regrettable that we're not yet seeing the widespread changes in attitude towards safety, and the improvements in behaviour that will reduce the numbers of people hurt or made ill. Far too many farmers and farm workers suffer life-changing injury and lifelong chronic illness resulting from poor health and safety management. Everyone in agriculture has a role to play in making the changes we all want to see. Together, we can make farming safer."

Stephanie added: "As a small charity that has delivered training sessions to over 18,000

young farmers in land-based colleges and universities across the UK and through the young farmers clubs network, the Foundation knows - and our research supports this - that the next generation of farmers are cultivating a better attitude to risk-taking and are starting to drive better safety behaviours in the workplace.

"Farming is an industry where people do not retire at 65 so, with the oldest farm worker killed over the past year being 85 years of age, we need to look after our older workers so they can continue to support the farm business and carry out tasks are appropriate for their mobility, agility and health conditions.

"But the truth is, farmers of ALL ages need to start challenging and changing their attitudes so we can make our farms safer places to work and to live."



Union keeps up the pressure on sourcing local food in meeting with Anglesey County Councillor

“We look forward to receiving his response to the questions we have raised in due course so that we can make sure that the children of Anglesey and Wales receive the best quality of food in future.”

FUW Officials have kept up the pressure on sourcing local food for school meals during a recent meeting with Ieuan Williams, the newly appointed portfolio holder for Education and Welsh Language in Anglesey County Council.

The meeting followed a series of previous meetings with Anglesey County Council and Chartwells, the current catering supplier for school meals that has committed to source 30% of the total produce locally from within a 60 mile radius.

FUW Anglesey County Executive Officer Heledd Teleri Williams said: “We have previously welcomed Chartwells’ commitment to source at least 30% of the total produce locally which recognises the important role the farmers of Anglesey and surrounding areas can play in providing food produced to world-leading animal health and welfare standards and reaching net zero by keeping food miles down.

Whilst we have previously questioned how the Welsh Government’s ambition to provide free school meals and other external influences will impact on Chartwells’ ability to maintain its commitment, this meeting provided us with the opportunity to repeat such concerns with Mr Williams and question the details of the contract.”

Union Officials asked how much of the locally-sourced food is red meat and dairy products; what proportion of school meals include meat; and how will current UK food inflation rates of around 7% have an impact on the contract?

“Mr Williams made a welcome commitment to go back and get the answers to our questions following the meeting.”

However, given that Anglesey County Council is already subsidising a proportion of the cost of school meals, it was clear that the Welsh Government will need to reflect the roll out of free school meals in future budgets.

FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry, (pictured above), added: “We accept that there is a role for the FUW to play here in ensuring that the Welsh Government properly funds Local Authorities to be able to source good quality Welsh produce alongside the roll out of free school meals, but County Councils must also emphasise to the Government the importance and benefits associated with sourcing local food.

“We would like to thank Mr Williams for having given his time to meet with the FUW and discuss this matter. We look forward to receiving his response to the questions we have raised in due course so that we can make sure that the children of Anglesey and Wales receive the best quality of food in future.”



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Cyfarfod Blynyddol

Cynhaliwyd Cyfarfod Blynyddol cangen Ynys Môn ym Mhafiliwn Cae Sioe Môn ar ddechrau mis Gorffennaf. Diolch i'n siaradwr gwadd Mr Guto Bebb, Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Grŵp UAC. Cafwyd trafodaeth ar ambell bwnc gwahanol a braf oedd cael cyfarfod wyneb yn wyneb eto. Diolch yn fawr i bawb am fynychu.

The Anglesey Branch Annual Meeting was held at the Anglesey Showground Pavilion at the beginning of July. Thank you to our guest speaker Mr Guto Bebb, FUW Managing Director. There was a discussion on a few different topics and it was nice to meet face to face again. Many thanks to everyone for attending.



O'r chwith, Is-Gadeirydd y Sir Gareth Thomas, Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Grŵp UAC Guto Bebb, Cadeirydd y Sir William Hughes a Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol Ynys Môn (dros gyfnod mamolaeth) Heledd Teleri Williams.

Llongyfarchiadau i Alaw ac Owain!

Llongyfarchiadau i Alaw Mair Jones ein Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol ag Owain ar enedigaeth ei merch fach, Elinor Haf ar ddechrau mis Gorffennaf. Anfonwn ein cofion atoch.

Congratulations to Alaw Mair Jones our County Executive Officer and Owain on the birth of their baby girl Elinor Haf at the beginning of July. We send them our best wishes.



BRECON & RADNOR

breconandradnor@fuw.org.uk

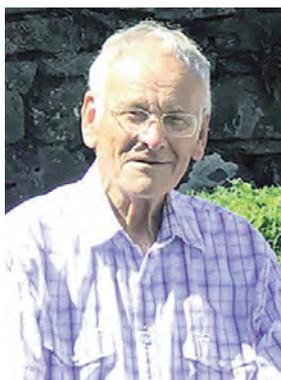
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Birthday wishes

FUW Life Member Glyn Powell, (pictured right), celebrated his 90th birthday mid-July and we'd like to wish him a very happy birthday.

Dathlodd

Aelod Oes UAC Glyn Powell, (gweler uchod), ei ben-blwydd yn 90 oed ganol mis Gorffennaf a hoffem ddymuno pen-blwydd hapus iawn iddo.



Sennybridge Show - we'll be there!



We will be at Sennybridge Show on Saturday September 3, all members are welcome to drop in for a drink and a chat.

CAERNARFON

caernarfon@fuw.org.uk

01286 672541

Llwyddiant i Ysgol Tudweiliog

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i ddisgyblion Ysgol Tudweiliog sydd wedi dod yn gyntaf trwy Gymru yn y gystadleuaeth Criw Mentrus/Young Enterprise.

Ar ôl i'r plant sylwi pa mor isel oedd gwerth gwlan, mi aethon ati i feddwl am ffyrdd i hybu'r cynnyrch yma a dod i fyny gyda'r busnes Gwlanog

'Dweiliog. Maent wedi bod yn gwerthu addurniadau gwlanog wedi eu ffeltio gan ddefnyddio gwlan o ffermydd yr ardal. Da iawn nhw!

Congratulations to the pupils of Ysgol Tudweiliog who have come first throughout Wales in the Crew Mentrus/Young Enterprise competition. After the children noticed how low the value of wool was, they set about thinking of ways to promote this product and came up with a business called Gwlanog 'Dweiliog. They have been selling felted woollen decorations using wool from farms in the area. Well done!



Sioe Llanrwst llwyddiannus

Cafwyd diwrnod llwyddiannus tu hwnt yn Sioe Llanrwst a hynny er yr holl dywydd cyfnewidiol. Braf oedd cael cyfarfod aelodau o Ddyffryn Conwy wyneb yn wyneb unwaith eto a hefyd y gwleidyddion sydd yn cynrychioli'r ardal yn y Senedd yng Nghaerdydd ac yn San Steffan ac aelodau o'r Tîm Troseddau Cefn Gwlad. Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb a'n cyflenwodd gyda chacennau ar gyfer y diwrnod.

It was a very successful day at Llanrwst Show despite the changeable weather.

It was nice to meet members of the Conwy Valley face to face once again and also the politicians who represent the area in the Senedd in Cardiff and in Westminster and members of the Rural Crime Team.

A big thank you to everyone who supplied us with cakes for the day.



O'r chwith, Uwch Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol UAC Caernarfon Gwynedd Watkin, Gweithredwr Yswiriant Gwyn Jones, Janet Finch-Saunders, Uwch Weithredwr Yswiriant Dafydd P Jones a Gweithredwr Yswiriant Sophie Jarvis.



Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol UAC Ynys Môn (dros gyfnod mamolaeth) Heledd Williams, Robin Millar a Gwynedd Watkin yn trafod #AmaethamByth.



O'r chwith, Gwynedd Watkin, Aelod o'r Senedd Llyr Huws Gruffydd, Llywydd UAC Glyn Roberts a Dafydd P Jones.



Rhai o sgwad FUWIS a'r Undeb yn cyfarfod â'r Tîm Troseddau Cefn Gwlad.



CARMARTHEN

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01267 237974

County Exec meeting



The first hybrid County Executive meeting was held on Thursday July 7 at Llanarthne hall, a well attended meeting both via Zoom and in person. We would like to

thank guest speaker Dr Hazel Wright, (pictured above), FUW Senior Policy Officer, for attending and discussing the consultation paper on the Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) scheme for Wales.

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod hybrid cyntaf Pwyllgor Gwaith y Sir dydd Iau 7 Gorffennaf yn neuadd Llanarthne, a chafwyd presenoldeb da drwy Zoom ac wyneb yn wyneb. Hoffem ddiolch i'r siaradwr gwadd Dr Hazel Wright, (gweler uchod), Uwch Swyddog Polisi UAC, am fynychu a thrafod y papur ymgynghori ar gynllun Dolur Rhydd Feirysol Buchol (BVD) i Gymru.

Date for your diary

FUW Policy Officer Teleri Fielden, (pictured right), will be discussing the new proposals for the Sustainable Farming Scheme at the next county meeting. If anybody wishes to attend Llanarthne Village hall on Thursday September 1, please get in touch with the county office.

Mi fydd Swyddog Polisi UAC Teleri Fielden, (gweler uchod), yn trafod y cynigion newydd ar gyfer y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy yng nghyfarfod nesaf y sir. Os oes unrhyw un yn dymuno mynychu Neuadd Bentref Llanarthne ar ddydd Iau Medi 1, cysylltwch â swyddfa'r sir.



CEREDIGION

ceredigion@fuw.org.uk

01570 424515

Cyfarfod Blynyddol

Ar nos Iau, 14eg o Orffennaf cynhaliwyd ein Cyfarfod Blynyddol yng Nghlwb Rygbi Aberaeron. Croesawyd ein siaradwraig wadd, Mrs Wendy Jenkins o gwmni CARA i'm plith. Cafwyd gwybodaeth fanwl am y grantiau sydd ar gael o Lywodraeth Cymru ar hyn o bryd a hefyd soniodd am y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy (SFS) a fydd yn dod i rym yn 2025.

Cadarnhawyd Swyddogion y Sir am y tymor 2022-2024 fel y ganlyn: Mr Morys Ioan - Cadeirydd, Mr Gareth Lloyd - Is-Gadeirydd a Mrs Anwen Hughes - Llywydd y Sir.

On Thursday evening July 14 we held our Annual Meeting at Aberaeron Rugby Club. We welcomed our guest speaker, Mrs Wendy Jenkins from CARA. Detailed information was given about the grants currently available from Welsh Government and also mentioned the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) which will come into force in 2025.

The County Officers for the 2022-2024 term were confirmed as follows: Mr Morys Ioan - Chairman, Mr Gareth Lloyd - Vice Chairman and Mrs Anwen Hughes - County President.



Morys Ioan.



Gareth Lloyd.



Anwen Hughes.

Braf bod nôl

Ar ôl dwy flynedd hir o fod wedi methu mynychu sioeau'r sir, braf oedd cael medru bod nôl ym mhlith aelodau'r Undeb unwaith eto yn eu croesawu i'r stonin am banded o de, mefus a chael cyfle i drafod sefyllfa'r byd amaeth.

Hyd yn hyn, rydym wedi bod yn bresennol yn Sioe Aberystwyth, Llanbedd a Chastell Newydd Emlyn gyda Thalybont i ddod ar ddiwedd mis Awst, cofiwch alw i'n gweld.

After two long years of not being able to attend the county shows, it was lovely to be back amongst Union members once again welcoming them to our stand for a cuppa, strawberries and a chance to discuss the agricultural industry. So far we have been present at Aberystwyth, Lampeter and Newcastle Emlyn Shows with Talybont to come at the end of August, remember to pop over to see us.



DENBIGH & FLINT

dinbychflint@fuw.org.uk

01824 707198

Ennill Pencampwriaeth defaid

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i Osian Roberts, (gweler ar y dde), Cae'r Hafod Ucha, Bontuchel ar ei lwyddiant yn ennill Pencampwriaeth defaid Chamoise yn y Sioe Frenhinol. Mae wedi bod yn cystadlu yn rheolaidd ac wedi bod yn llwyddiannus yn aml ac roedd yn braf ei weld yn cystadlu yn y Sioe unwaith eto.

Rwy'n siŵr fod nifer o'n haelodau wedi mwynhau cyfarfod unwaith eto yn y Sioe, er gwaetha'r tywydd poeth ar ddechrau'r wythnos.

Many congratulations to Osian Roberts, (pictured right), Cae'r Hafod Ucha, Bontuchel on his success in winning the Chamoise sheep Championship at the Royal Welsh Show. He has been

successful over the years and it was nice to see him competing at the Show once again. I'm sure many of our members enjoyed meeting up once again at the Show, despite the hot weather at the start of the week.



Sioe Dinbych a Fflint

Ni gyd yn edrych ymlaen at Sioe Dinbych a Fflint sy'n cael ei chynnal ar Y Green, Dinbych, 18fed Awst lle bydd croeso i chi ddod draw am banded, cacen a sgwrs, a chael cyfarfod a chyfeillion unwaith eto, mi welwn ni chi yno!

We are all looking forward to the Denbigh and Flint Show at The Green, Denbigh, on



August 18, where you are all welcome to come along for a 'paned', cake and a chat, and to meet up with friends once again, we'll see you there!

MEIRIONNYDD

meirionnydd@fuw.org.uk

01341 422298

Ein diolch i Sam

Ar ddiwedd mis Mehefin, daeth y newyddion fod Sam Robinson wedi dod i benderfyniad nad oedd am barhau yn y swydd fel Dirprwy Swyddog Sirol ym Meirionnydd. Rydym yn diolch yn fawr iawn i Sam am ei waith cydwylbodol i ni fel cangen sirol o'r Undeb dros y misoedd diwethaf. Bu'n bleser cydweithio efo Sam, ac rydym yn dymuno pob llwyddiant iddo yn ei waith a'i gyfrifoldebau yn y dyfodol.



Sam gyda rhai o staff y swyddfa yn Nolgellau ar ei ddiwrnod olaf.

At the end of June, we were informed that Sam Robinson had come to a decision that he did not want to continue in the job as Deputy County Officer in Meirionnydd. We thank Sam very much for his conscientious work for us as a county branch of the Union over the past few months. It was a pleasure working with Sam, and we wish him every success in his work and responsibilities in the future.

Ymweliad ag Ysgol Ardudwy

Ar ddechrau mis Gorffennaf, cafodd y gangen sirol gyfle i sgwrsio am amaeth a chefn gwlad gyda rhai o ddisgyblion Amaeth Blwyddyn 9 Ysgol Ardudwy, Harlech gyda Lona Williams, yr athrawes. Rydym yn diolch yn fawr iawn am y croeso yno, ac yn diolch yn arbennig i'n haelod Arwel Evans, Fferm Tallin, Llandecwyn am ddod a defaid yno ac am ei gyfraniad.

Diolch yn fawr iawn hefyd i Wil Ellis o DGT Agri am arddangos a siarad am ei offer cneifio a darllynydd adnabod tagiau defaid.

At the beginning of July, the county branch had the opportunity to discuss agriculture and the countryside with some of the Year 9 Agriculture pupils of Ysgol Ardudwy, Harlech with Lona Williams, the teacher. Thank you very much for the welcome, and we especially thank our member Arwel Evans, Fferm Tallin, Llandecwyn for bringing sheep there and for his contribution. A big thank you also to Wil Ellis from DGT Agri for demonstrating and talking about his shearing equipment and sheep tag identification reader.



O'r chwith, athrawes Lona Williams, aelod UAC Arwel Evans, Wil Ellis o DGT Agri a rhai o'r disgyblion.



Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol Meirionnydd Huw Jones (chwith), Wil Ellis ac Arwel Evans gyda rhai o'r disgyblion.



Wil Ellis yn dangos y darllynydd adnabod tagiau defaid.

PEMBROKESHIRE

pembrokeshire@fuw.org.uk

01437 762913

Pembrokeshire County Show



Having had a two year gap we look forward to welcoming you and your family to our stand at this year's County Show running between August 17 and 18.

We have a busy two days of activities planned for the show, including a children's area where there will be an opportunity for those 11 years of age and under to enter our colouring competition to win Polly our cuddly pig.



During the show there will be an opportunity for members to chat with Jeremy Turner, from Mid & West Wales Fire Service, Becky Jones of KeBek Ltd and to find out more from AX Trax about their vehicle tracking system. Don't forget to keep an eye on our Facebook page, 'FUW Pembrokeshire' for further updates.

Welsh National Sheep Dog Trials

Pembrokeshire will be hosting the Welsh National Sheep Dog Trials between August 25 and 27, so if you are attending don't forget to call in and say hello. A warm welcome and cuppa awaits you.

Success for FUW Vice Chair

FUW Pembrokeshire Vice Chair Gerwyn Williams has won the Big Bales Silage award at the recent Federation of Welsh Grassland Societies' awards dinner.

Gerwyn is pictured receiving his award from Silotite representative Amber Amos Powell. Congratulations Gerwyn.



Meeting with Cllr Joshua Beynon

During July a really positive meeting was held with Cllr Joshua Beynon, Deputy Leader of the Labour Group and Chairman of the Policy and Pre Decision and Scrutiny Committee in Pembrokeshire County Council.

Discussions focussed on future public body procurement policies and how to ensure more local and Welsh produce was procured. In addition, the future of the county farm estate and the challenges which it currently faced were also discussed along with potential ways forward.

We now look forward to working further with Cllr Beynon in the coming months.

Cross compliance - hedge cutting

Don't forget that you are not allowed to cut hedgerows between March 1 and August 31. However, if you wish to grow a winter arable crop and the normal agricultural practice determines that it is planted before August 31 you can cut the relevant sides of the hedgerow from August 1.

Agricultural waste exemptions

Many of you will have agricultural waste exemptions which will need to be renewed during the next three months. As everyone will have a different expiry date we recommend that you dig out your copy now to establish when they are due to be renewed so that you have plenty of time to take the appropriate action.

If you need any assistance when it comes to renewing your exemptions, please get in touch.

“UK-NZ trade deal more than 40 times worse”

THE increase in New Zealand’s import quota for sheep meat in year one of new trade agreements signed by the UK and EU is more than forty times higher per head of population in the UK compared with the European Union - demonstrating the failure of the UK Government to protect UK agriculture in trade negotiations, says the FUW.

An EU-New Zealand trade deal recently agreed in principle would allow an additional 5,429 tonnes of sheep meat to be imported duty-free into the EU in year one of the agreement, whilst the equivalent figure for the UK in the deal announced in February this year is 35,000 tonnes.

“The UK increase in duty free quota for New Zealand sheep meat would be almost six and a half times higher in year one than what has been negotiated by the EU,” said FUW President Glyn Roberts.

“However, when you take account of the fact that the population of the EU is nearly seven times higher than that of the UK, the increase per consumer is 43 times higher in the UK than in the EU.”

Mr Roberts said that another way of looking at the figure was that the EU had fought forty times harder for its sheep industry than the UK during its trade negotiations with New Zealand.

While both the UK and EU deals would ultimately increase tariff-free quotas for sheep meat by year seven of the agreements, the difference between consumer numbers means the total volumes that could be imported per head of population would be almost seven times higher in the UK than in the EU.

“As if this is not bad enough, the UK deal ultimately allows unlimited amounts of sheep meat to be imported, whilst the EU has set a cap on imports,” said Mr Roberts.

Similar differences between ratios and protections exist for other key products covered in the two trade deals.

For example, in years one to seven of the EU-NZ deal, the additional quantity of beef that could be imported to the EU would rise from 3,333 tonnes in year one to 10,000 in year seven - but at a reduced tariff of 7.5%; by comparison, the UK has agreed to an additional 12,000 tonnes of beef being imported to the UK duty free in year one, rising to an unlimited amount after year ten.

For cheese, the UK has agreed to an additional duty-

“The UK Government has sold important protections for food and agriculture down the river.”

free quota of 24,000 tonnes in year one, rising to 48,000 by year five, after which there would be no limits on imports - compared with an EU provisional agreement to allow an increase in the duty-free import quota to 25,000 by year seven, but with no ultimate full trade liberalisation.

“The UK’s own figures have shown that the benefits to the UK economy of the deal with New Zealand are vanishingly small, with our GVA estimated to grow by just 0.03% and average wages to rise by just pennies a week as a result of the deal.

“Meanwhile, the same UK Government assessment estimates that the GVA of the categories into which farming and semi-processed foods will fall by £132 million as a result of the deal.”

The population of New Zealand is just 5 million compared with a UK population of 67 million, meaning the UK is a far more attractive market for New Zealand than New Zealand is for the UK.

“The comparisons between the EU and UK deals demonstrate how the UK Government has failed to fight for the interests of our farmers, food producers and food security in its trade negotiations, despite having significant bargaining advantages,” said Mr Roberts.

“The UK Government has sold important protections for food and agriculture down the river in exchange for trade deals that are of vanishingly small benefit to the UK,” he added.

The Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill currently passing through the UK Parliament would, if passed by MPs, give the UK’s final seal of approval to the UK-New Zealand and UK-Australia trade deals, but the International Trade Committee has criticised the UK Government for triggering the statutory scrutiny period for the Bill despite giving assurances that the Committee would be allowed sufficient time to publish a report beforehand.

The Committee also asked the Government to meet its commitment to allow a debate on the UK-Australia agreement and to either extend the statutory period or give the House of Commons the opportunity to extend it by passing a motion resolving that the treaty should not be ratified. However, the Government has declined to use its statutory power to extend the scrutiny period under the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010.



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MEAT MATTERS

Standing firm against short-sighted trade deals

by Catherine Smith, Hybu Cig Cymru/Meat Promotion Wales Chair

IT was fantastic to see everyone back at the Royal Welsh Show this year, and it was great to meet so many FUW members. We've missed these in person events so much, and look forward to other opportunities to speak later in the year.

The HCC breakfast is always a highlight for me. This year I challenged the UK Government's trade negotiators at the next round of talks - with countries in the Middle East, India and Canada - to get a deal which, first and foremost, is good for our own farmers, who, after all, kept nutritious food on our table during the Covid pandemic.

It would be economically foolish, morally wrong and globally irresponsible to drive UK customers to buy less sustainable alternatives. It is also effectively exporting our emissions and, worryingly, as UK Government officials have themselves admitted, likely to reduce employment in domestic farming - all in all, a disastrous policy "own goal".

Global food shortages and international supply chain disruption have re-focused attention on food security. Let's celebrate the benefits of producing high-quality food close to home.

Over the next 18 months this industry faces enough challenges without importing more. The war in Ukraine is further exposing damaging financial fissures with costs, energy and inflation soaring. We are at a tipping point for what could be permanent change.

We have solutions. We can all be hugely proud of The Welsh Way of sustainable production - our non-intensive system of producing high-quality protein on marginal land.

It has set a high water mark, below which some of the

world's intensive farming systems find themselves falling fathoms short.

Red meat production in Wales, according to independent research, is already much lower in terms of emissions than most other countries. The Red Meat Development Programme, and other valuable HCC projects, are trialling ways to further cut emissions, reduce waste, store more carbon and regenerate our soils.

I believe these new practices can become instrumental in meeting the ambitions of the Welsh Government's new Sustainable Farming Scheme and we can do all this without cutting food production, because reducing production is a short-term response that would deal significant long-term detrimental consequences.

We have brilliant farmers, front line innovation and a sustainable production system that's second to none. We can deliver - provided future trade talks allow us a level playing field on which to perform.

Cafodd Hybu Cig Cymru gyfle gwych i gyfarfod a nifer o aelodau UAC yn ystod Sioe Frenhinol Cymru eleni a braf oedd bod nôl yn medru cyfarfod a phawb wyneb yn wyneb unwaith eto.



PROPERTY MATTERS

Repairing obligations

by Kathryn Williams, Director, Davis Meade Property Consultants

THE Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995 makes no provision with regards to repairs or dilapidations claims. It is left to the parties to decide on the terms imposed within the agreement relating to these areas.

This is a contrasting position when comparing the situation to an Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 agreement where the parties are free to reach an agreement, however in the absence of an agreement the Act has the fall-back provision of the model clauses that ensure every item of repair is allocated to either the landlord or tenant.

It is often seen that the model clauses are incorporated into farm business tenancy agreements, however careful drafting should be considered to ensure the correct version of the model clauses are used and that any updates or amendments are also applicable.

An obligation to repair requires that the holding is maintained in a substantial but not a perfect state of repair. It should be noted that different interpretations may be applied when considering short or long term leases and also where regard is held to the age, character or locality of a holding.

Consideration will also be given to the general condition of the holding when the lease is taken on as it provides guidance as to the intentions of the parties and the standards expected. It is useful to have a record of condition at the start of a lease, however in the absence of such evidence the holding will be assumed to have been in tenantable repair.

The specific wording within an agreement should be carefully considered before signing any tenancy agreement such as "repair", "to keep in repair", "to keep in proper working order", "to leave in repair / to yield up in repair", "to keep wind and water tight", "fair wear and tear" etc.

For further advice on repairing obligations please feel free to contact Kathryn Williams - Davis Meade on 07971 583638 or kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com



Nid yw Deddf Tenantiaethau Amaethyddol 1995 yn gwneud unrhyw ddarpariaeth o ran hawliadau atgyweiriadau neu adfeiliadau. Mater i'r partion yw penderfynu ar y telerau a osodir yn y cytundeb sy'n ymwneud â hyn. I gael rhagor o gyngor mae croeso i chi gysylltu â Kathryn Williams - Davis Meade ar 07971 583638 neu kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com

MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Cyfeillgarwch a sgwrsio difyr

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

MAE'R Cymry yn adnabyddus am ei hoffter o drafod y tywydd, a chynifer o'n dywediadau yn ymwneud ag elfennau cysylltiedig "Enfys y bore aml gawode, enfys y prynhawn tywydd teg a gawn" neu "Mae'n bwrw hen wragedd a ffyn".

Ac yn sicr mae'r tywydd poeth dros yr wythnosau diwethaf wedi gwneud i ni werthfawrogi un o'n hadnoddau naturiol sef dŵr. Ac fel mudiad mae wedi bod yn fraind i baratoi paneidiau o de a choffi a diodydd oer yn ein gweithgareddau dros yr haf. Dros baned fe geir sgwrs a hynny yn ei dro yn arwain at gyfeillgarwch. Felly os cewch gyfle i eistedd lawr a chael sgwrs gyda rhywun newydd - gall fod yn ddfyr iawn ac yn fodd o ehangu eich cylch cyfeillgarwch. Neu os oes gennych ofid mae ei rannu yn medru bod o gymorth mawr a gallwch droi at ffrind neu elusen megis DPJ.

Mae cyfeillgarwch a sgwrsio wedi profi yn eithriadol o ddfyr dros yr wythnosau diwethaf wrth i nifer o aelodau ddod ynghyd i greu Enfys o Obaith a hynny allan o flodau a grëwyd yn ystod y cyfnod clo, pan oedd cryn ansicrwydd a gofid - sy'n diolch i'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd a'r Gweithwyr Allweddol am eu gofal ohonom dros y tair blynedd a aeth heibio.

Llafur cariad sydd wedi creu'r Enfys a diolchwn am garedigrwydd amryw o bobl, ond yn enwedig Cwmni Trafnidiaeth D. Jenkins a'i fab yn Felinfach am gael

benthyg trelar lori a Meirion Ellis Jones am gael lleoliad gwych i greu'r "Enfys o Obaith" yn yr Hen Swyddfa Bost yn Aberystwyth, a diolch wrth gwrs i bawb arall a fu'n brodio, gwau, gwnïo a chynorthwyo mewn amryfal ffyrdd - hyd yn oed yn benthyg byrddau!

Yn wir ein gobaith am weddill yr haf ydyw tywydd mwy sefydlog, iechyd a hapusrwydd i fwynhau ein digwyddiadau cymdeithasol a chymunedol.

Members of Merched y Wawr have been working together recently on a Rainbow of Hope which has been made out of flowers that were embroidered, knitted and stitched during the lockdown to show appreciation to the NHS and key workers for looking after us all during the last three years.



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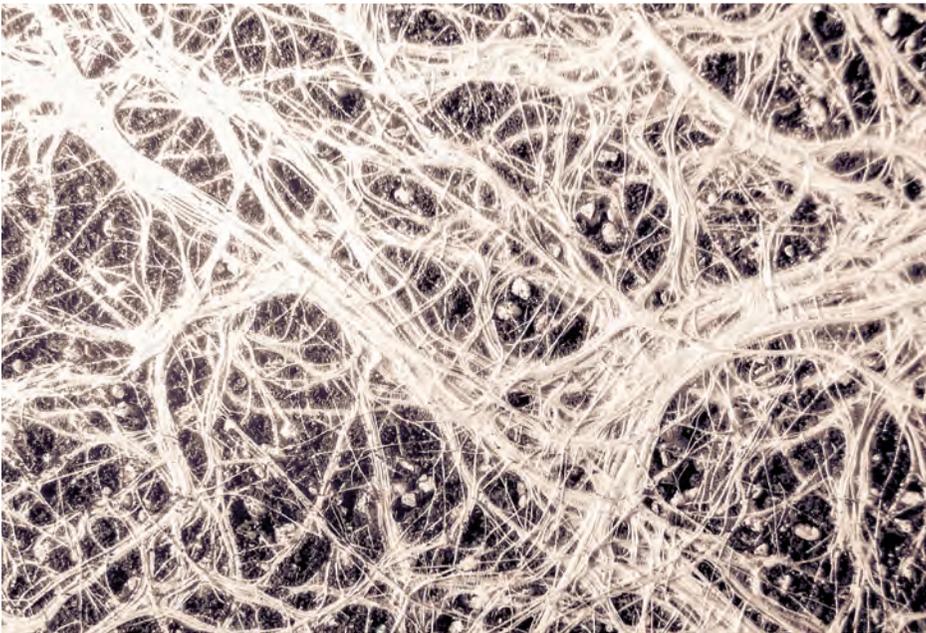
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Friendly Fungi: Mycorrhizae for ecosystems and productivity

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



MYCORRHIZAE are a group of soil-based fungi that form 'give and take' relationships with the vast majority of plant species across the world. These fungi take carbohydrates formed from photosynthesis from the plants as an energy source to survive and thrive. In return, mycorrhizae provide several potential benefits to plants.

The main benefits they provide are in helping plants to collect nutrients and water

from surrounding soils, so, enhancing their presence can help improve plant productivity with minimal fertiliser and irrigation inputs. At the same time, these friendly fungi have been suggested to have other roles in improving soil aggregate stability, reducing erosion, improving carbon storage and even directly and indirectly protecting plants from weeds, pests and pathogens.

They can also help the plants they interact with to deal with extremes such as droughts and floods, making growing systems more resilient.

Whilst this may all sound like a win-win scenario for land managers in encouraging and utilising these symbiotic relationships, everything is not quite that straightforward. Different plants and different mycorrhizal fungi vary in how much they need from each other depending on their specific species, their surrounding environment and even the local climate.

As such, despite there being commercially available amendments for adding mycorrhizae fungi into soils there's no guarantee doing so will boost plant growth and productivity. Where adding mycorrhizal fungi soil amendments have shown clear benefits are through essentially acting as 'soil medications' to boost restoration in degraded ecosystems.

What is more important to contemplate for sustainable low input plant growth are strategies that land managers can use to encourage already present beneficial mycorrhiza fungal networks in the soil. In many instances, the current soil mycorrhizal networks are functioning less efficiently than they could be due to production-intensive strategies which have become the norm within landscapes.

To reverse this, we can consider reducing and removing practices which disturb soils, and thus fungal networks, such as tillage and compaction and also reducing our reliance on low species diversity pasture, forestry and cropping systems such as monocultures.

Following these changes systems should be able to consider adding less fertiliser and agrochemical additions whilst still achieving high production values, though it may take some time for ecosystems to adapt and achieve balance in these new norms.

The main benefits they provide are in helping plants to collect nutrients and water from surrounding soils, so, enhancing their presence can help improve plant productivity with minimal fertiliser and irrigation inputs

Rare bumblebee population discovered in Wales

A POPULATION of the very rarely sighted Ruderal bumblebee (*Bombus ruderalis*) was discovered in Wales recently by staff from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

The Ruderal bumblebee is one of our largest bumblebee species, and is thought to be largely restricted to the south of England, after a considerable decline through the 20th century.

Two staff from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust found a number of newly emerged Ruderal bumblebee queens foraging on foxglove near Brechfa in central Carmarthenshire.

Looking at Welsh records it seems like none have been recorded in Carmarthenshire since 1973. The only Welsh sightings in recent decades are two or three scattered records of individual bumblebees in protected coastal locations. The general presumption amongst bumblebee experts was that the Ruderal bumblebee (B.



ruderalis) had largely disappeared from Wales.

Lawrence Harris, Wales Project Development Officer for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, said: "I am absolutely thrilled that we discovered the Ruderal bumblebee,

such a rare and threatened species, so close to my home here in Carmarthenshire. It was exhilarating to discover not just one, but nine queen bumblebees in a small area where we assumed the species had disappeared."

"We're exploring a new project to help protect bumblebees and other pollinators in Carmarthenshire. It's great to see

such a rare bumblebee in an upland agricultural area. I can't wait to work with our farmers, smallholders and communities to continue the search for the Ruderal bumblebee and ensure it can thrive across Wales."

The records have been confirmed by experts from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and the Natural History Museum.

"It's great to see such a rare bumblebee in an upland agricultural area."



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

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

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

*references available on request

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