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Y TIR

the voice of Welsh farming

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Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda oddi wrth bawb yn Y Tir

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from everyone at Y Tir

Call for TB impact review following changes to testing

THE FUW is calling on the Welsh Government to undertake a review of the costs and administrative burdens placed upon livestock keepers resulting from the current TB testing regime in Wales. The call follows an announcement by the Minister for Rural Affairs on November 14 which outlined additional testing requirements for the Low and Intermediate risk areas of Wales. The changes come as part of the 5 year Delivery Plan published earlier this year.

From February 1 2024, pre-movement testing will be reintroduced into the Low TB Area of Wales, whilst cattle moving into the Intermediate TB Area from the High TB area of Wales, the High Risk Area of England and from Northern Ireland will need a post-movement test.

Farmers can still move cattle that have tested clear at a government funded routine surveillance test, such as the annual herd test.

Dr Hazel Wright, FUW Deputy Head of Policy, stated: "The announcement of further testing requirements for cattle will be of little surprise to many FUW members given



the proposals contained in the last Welsh Government TB consultation. In our lengthy response to this consultation we outlined that the expected impact on cattle welfare and human health and safety due to the increased gathering and handling required to comply with additional testing proposals should be determined prior to any additional testing requirements. However we are yet to receive this information despite this announcement."

As part of its consultation response on the reintroduction of pre-movement testing in the LTBA, the FUW stated that the priority for such herds should be protection against disease but only in a manner which is proportionate to the risks conferred by a given activity and the benefits gained by a given policy.

"Whilst the FUW recognises the need to protect the Low Risk Area from further disease spread, the cost-benefit of increased testing must be fully considered. According to data provided by the Welsh Government, between 2017 and 2022 there were over 860,000 pre-movement tests. Of these, just 0576

reactors and 610 inconclusive reactors were disclosed. In the LTBA, there were just 2 reactors over this time period - one in 2020 and one in 2021 - but more than 43,000 pre-movement tests conducted. Over the same time period in the Intermediate Mid Risk Area, no reactors were disclosed from post movement testing.

"The increased costs of these new policies come at a time when the industry is facing potential reductions to the compensation paid to cattle keepers following the compulsory slaughter of cattle infected with bovine TB.

"The financial and emotional costs of bovine TB are tremendous. Analysis conducted by the FUW showed that, in 2022, the estimated total cost of TB pre-movement testing borne by cattle keepers in Wales was more than 2.3 million pounds. This is a 129% increase in industry testing costs since 2006.

"Sadly, testing costs are just a fraction of the costs borne by the industry in relation to this disease. No compensation is offered for 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 can run into tens of thousands of pounds.

"We are therefore calling on the Welsh Government to properly analyse the cost-benefit of such proposals and to take a more rounded view of the overall impact on farm businesses prior to implementation."

Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol FUW Ltd (Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru)



Rhagfyr 13eg 2023 1.30yp

I'w gynnal naill ai wyneb-yn-wyneb yn Ystafell Medrus 1, Penbryn, Campws Penglais, Aberystwyth SY23 3BY neu drwy Zoom

I bob aelod dderbyn, ystyried a phasio cyfriflenni ariannol archwiliedig ar gyfer y flwyddyn yn dod i ben Mawrth 30ain 2023 ynghyd ag adroddiadau'r Cyfarwyddwyr a'r Archwilwyr, ac i benodi/ail benodi archwilwyr ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol at ddiwedd Mawrth 30ain 2024.

Unrhyw fater arall y bydd 21 diwrnod clir o rybudd ohono wedi'i roi i'r cyfarwyddwyr gan unrhyw aelod sydd â hawl i bleidleisio mewn cyfarfodydd o'r fath.

Gall unrhyw aelod o'r Undeb fynychu CCB FUW Ltd, ond dim ond aelodau'r Prif Gyngor all bleidleisio.

Mae parcio ar gael gyda thrwydded parcio, cysylltwch â catrin.hughes@fuw.org.uk cyn y cyfarfod i gael trwydded

FUW Ltd (Farmers' Union of Wales) Annual General Meeting

December 13th 2023, 1.30pm

To be held either in person at the Medrus 1 Room, Penbryn, Penglais Campus, Aberystwyth SY23 3BY or via Zoom

For all members to receive, consider and adopt the Audited financial statements for year ending March 30th 2023, together with the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon, and to appoint/ reappoint auditors for the financial year ending March 30th 2024.

Any other business of which 21 clear days' notice shall have been given to the directors by any member entitled to vote at such meetings.

Any member of the Union may attend the FUW Ltd AGM, but only members of Grand Council may vote.

Parking is available with a parking permit, please contact catrin.hughes@fuw.org.uk ahead of the meeting to obtain a permit



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FUW UPDATE

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda

by Guto Bebb, Group Chief Executive

AS I write these few words there are Christmas Carols in the background which are just about appropriate since it is the last Monday in November and I am at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair. Thankfully, whilst it is not particularly cold here this year, it remains quite a bonus to be able to head back to the Pavilion to do some work and warm my hands.

The last few months of 2023 have been a busy period for the Union in terms of looking after our members but it has also been a sobering period in terms of funding decisions being made by Governments which might have serious long-term repercussions for the sector. The county teams have worked hard with members in ensuring that a significant number of Glastir Habitat expressions of interest have been submitted by our members, but suffice to say the funding implications have been sobering for many members calculating what they may receive from the new scheme compared to what was formerly the case under the previous Glastir agreements.

More clarity will be forthcoming, probably by the time that this column sees the light of day, but as things stand it would appear to be the case that around half the 3,000 farms that held a Glastir contract have opted not to be part of the new Glastir Habitat scheme. That must be a worry for all of us and should be a major concern for Welsh Government as well.

In addition to working on the Glastir Habitat scheme our county staff are also busily getting to grips with the NVZ 'workbooks' which will be an important and growing part of their workload over the next few months. As you may be aware all farms need to have completed their NVZ 'workbook' and this is true regardless of the size or nature of your farm business. We argued against such an imposition and see little justification for the decision taken by Welsh Government on this matter but that is what they have done and so we must, as your Union, ensure that we

support you to make certain that you as individual farmers will be compliant as we move forwards.

To ensure that members can comply with the demands of Welsh Government in this matter we have launched an NVZ service within the Union. Staff have been busy undertaking training and working towards a BASIS qualification to ensure that they will be able to support you and your need to comply with the rules. Unlike the Glastir Habitat scheme, where Union staff were able to support you based on your membership subscription, the NVZ service will be dependent upon us providing a fee-based service, but it should be said that this will be quite competitive and includes a substantial discount for all Union members.

Our key message is a simple one. Whilst the FUW will continue to highlight the absurdity of the all-Wales approach to this matter which has been adopted by Welsh Government we also want our members to be compliant. As such, we would recommend that if you are unsure what it is that you need to do or are worried that you will be overwhelmed by the bureaucracy of the system then please do talk to your local office and our county staff. They are there to help.

Finally, since this is my last column for 2023 may I wish you a Good Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!



Start the day in a positive way - join us for breakfast!

BREAKFAST is one of the most important meals of the day and it is a great opportunity to talk and share your thoughts before starting the day, helping also to improve people's mental health.

So in order to promote the health benefits and have a good catch up before the day starts, FUW teams across the country are once again hosting a variety of farmhouse breakfasts for a week between Monday 15 and Sunday 21 January 2024. The FUW is also again taking the farmhouse breakfast to Cardiff on Tuesday, January 16.

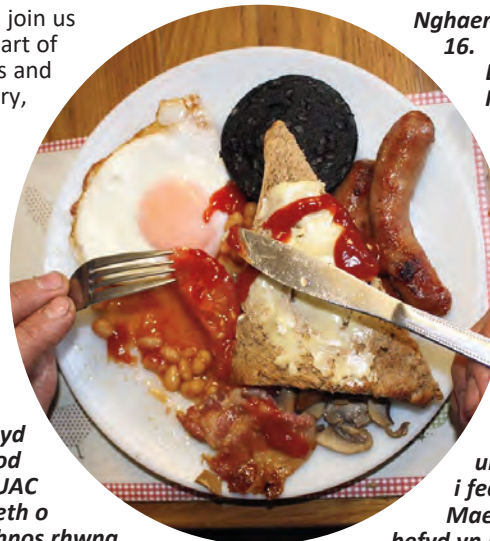
FUW President Ian Rickman said: "We all get really excited about our farmhouse breakfasts every year. We can start the day together with family, friends and neighbours, in a positive and healthy way and at the same time raise money for our charitable cause, Wales Air Ambulance. All of us are looking forward to yet another good turnout. It's fair to say that a healthy start is not just good for a healthy heart but also for a healthy mind."

The FUW's Farmhouse breakfast week also provides an opportunity to promote the quality premium local produce that farmers grow for us every day of the year, and throughout breakfast week the FUW will shine a spotlight on the importance of our rural economy.

"I hope many of you will be able to join us for breakfast. We want you to be a part of what we do, and share your thoughts and worries about the state of the industry, tell us your stories and help us to understand how we can help each other. What better way to do that than round a table where we share great food and have a cup of tea," added Ian Rickman.

Brecwast yw un o brydau pwysicaf y dydd ac mae'n gyfle gwych i siarad a rhannu eich meddyliau cyn dechrau'r diwrnod, gan helpu hefyd i wella iechyd meddwl pobl.

Felly er mwyn hybu'r buddion iechyd a chael cyfle am sgwrs cyn i'r diwrnod ddechrau, unwaith eto, mae timau UAC ar draws y wlad yn cynnal amrywiaeth o ffreuwastau ffermdy yn ystod yr wythnos rhwng dydd Llun 15 a dydd Sul 21 Ionawr 2024. Bydd UAC, unwaith eto hefyd yn cynnal brecwast ffermdy yng



Nghaerdydd ar ddydd Mawrth, Ionawr 16.

Dywedodd Llywydd UAC Ian Rickman: "Rydyn ni i gyd yn edrych ymlaen yn arw at ein brecwastau ffermdy blynyddol. Gallwn ddechrau'r diwrnod gyda'n teulu, ffrindiau a chymdogion, mewn ffordd gadarnhaol ac iach, a chodi arian ar yr un pryd at ein hachos elusennol, sef Ambiwllans Awyr Cymru. Mae pob un ohonom yn edrych ymlaen at gefnogaeth wych eto. Mae'n deg dweud bod dechrau iach i'r diwrnod nid yn unig yn dda i galon iach, ond hefyd i feddwl iach."

Mae wythnos ffreuwast Ffermdy UAC hefyd yn rhoi cyfle i hyrwyddo'r cynnyrch lleol o safon wych y mae ffermwyr yn ei gynhyrchu i ni bob dydd o'r flwyddyn, a thrwy gydol yr wythnos ffreuwast bydd UAC yn tynnu sylw at bwysigrwydd ein heconomi wledig.

"Rwy'n gobeithio y bydd llawer ohonoch yn gallu ymuno â ni am ffreuwast. Rydyn ni eisiau i chi fod yn rhan o'r hyn rydyn ni'n ei wneud, a rhannu eich meddyliau a'ch pryderon am gyflwr y diwydiant. Rydym hefyd am glywed eich hanesion chi, a fydd yn helpu ni i ddeall sut gallwn ni helpu ein gilydd. Pa ffordd well o wneud hynny na o gwmpas bwrdd lle rydyn ni'n mwynhau bwyd gwych a phaned o de," ychwanegodd Ian Rickman.

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Keep an eye out in the January issue of Y Tir for details about a breakfast near you

NVZ Support Service

Let us take the pain away and help you comply with the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations

These rules apply to every single farm business in Wales, regardless of size, type, tenanted or owned

All land in Wales was designated a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) therefore Farmers must complete a risk map, nutrient management plan and workbook.

Our NVZ Support Service, delivered by trained, in-house staff can help you with inputting your data into the workbook to adhere to the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations.

Our NVZ Support Service includes:

- NVZ workbook completion to ensure your records are compliant with legislation
- Risk maps
- Workbook updates

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Thriving, sustainable family farms in Wales

Competition prizes presented at Royal Welsh Winter Fair



English Christmas card category winner Lucy-grace Humphrey receiving her prize from FUW President Ian Rickman.



Welsh Christmas card category winner Ynwr Wyn Lloyd receiving his prize from Ian Rickman.



Top prize photography competition winner Sarah Carr receives her prize from Ian Rickman.

THE FUW presented prizes to three competition winners at the Winter Fair on Monday November 27.

Firstly the Christmas card design competition winners, where children from primary schools across Wales had been invited to submit a farming themed Christmas card design in aid of Wales Air Ambulance, the FUW's current Presidential charity.

The competition was split into two categories - English and Welsh designs. The English category was won by Lucy-grace Humphrey, 9 years old, from Glannau Gwaun School, Fishguard. The Welsh category was won by Ynwr Wyn Lloyd, 9 years old, from Bontnewydd School, Caernarfon.

FUW President Ian Rickman said: "The competition was a roaring success once again and has attracted hundreds of entries from across Wales. The standard was very high and presented the judges with a tough task when it came to choosing the winners.

"I would like to thank every single child who entered the competition and to tell them that without their participation the contest would not have been such a success. I would also like to express my gratitude to the staff at the schools up and down the country that assisted the FUW in the running of the competition."

The cards can be purchased either from the FUW's head office by calling 01970 820820 or from respective FUW county offices - £6 for a pack of 10 with £1 per sale going towards the President's charity, the Wales Air Ambulance.

We also presented a prize to the winner of our photography competition for the 2024 FUW calendar. The top prize image of a Welsh Black with Cadair Idris in the background was taken by Sarah Carr, it features on the cover of the new calendars for 2024.

The calendars are available to buy from your local county office for £5 each with £1 per sale going towards the Wales Air Ambulance.

“Braint bod yn y rôl yn cynrychioli aelodau ar sawl achlysur amrywiol”

gan Ian Rickman, Llywydd UAC

MAE’N anodd credu ein bod ni eisoes ym mis olaf 2023 - mae eleni wedi hedfan. Mae’n debyg bod hynny’n rhannol yn ymwneud a mynd yn hyn, ac mae amser i’w weld yn mynd yn gyflymach, ond hefyd mae wedi bod yn flwyddyn brysur iawn am sawl rheswm.

Wrth inni ddechrau’r flwyddyn, **Bil Amaethyddiaeth Cymru** oedd ein prif ffocws. Ni ellir diystyru pwysigrwydd cael y ddeddfwriaeth hollbwysig hon yn gywir, y fframwaith y bydd rhaid i’n cynlluniau ar gyfer cefnogi amaethyddiaeth yma yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol weithredu o fewn. Nid yn unig i bob un ohonom ni sy’n ffermio yng Nghymru heddiw, ond hefyd i genedlaethau o ffermwyr y dyfodol sydd mor hanfodol i’n diwydiant wrth symud ymlaen.

Bydd y ddeddfwriaeth hollbwysig yma yn darparu’r fframwaith ar gyfer cymorth amaethyddiaeth yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol a dyma’r tro cyntaf i Gymru ddeddfu yn y modd hwn. Rydym wedi dadlau ers cyflwyno’r bil fod absenoldeb hyfywedd economaidd busnesau amaethyddol a ffermydd teuluol o amcanion Rheoli Tir yn Gynaliadwy yn bryder sylweddol ac yn un y byddwn yn parhau i fynd i’r afael ag ef.

Fodd bynnag, pleidleisiodd y Senedd hefyd i gynnwys cynllun cymorth amflwydd a fydd yn darparu gwybodaeth ar sut y mae Gweinidogion Cymru yn bwriadu darparu cymorth ariannol. Mae hwn wedi bod yn un o ofynion allweddol UAC ac mae’n ddarpariaeth sy’n bodoli yn Neddf Amaethyddiaeth y DU. Mae cynnwys y gwelliant hwn yn rhoi ffermwyr Cymru ar yr un lefel â’r rhai yn Lloegr a gobeithio yn rhoi rhywfaint o eglurder o leiaf i ffermwyr Cymru wrth gynllunio ar gyfer dyfodol eu busnesau.

Mae’r Ddeddf Amaethyddiaeth yn paratoi’r ffordd ar gyfer newidiadau i gymorth fferm i ni yng Nghymru a’r mis hwn rydym yn disgwyl yr ymgynghoriad diweddaraf, ac o bosibl yr un terfynol, ar y **Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy**. I fod i ddechrau yn 2025, bydd hwn yn disodli Cynllun y Taliad Sylfaenol yma yng Nghymru. Gwyddom oll pa mor bwysig yw’r cyllid hwn i’n heconomi a’n cymunedau gwledig, felly bydd sicrhau ein bod yn gwneud hyn yn iawn - cynllun sy’n hygyrch i holl ffermwyr Cymru, gyda chyllideb gyfatebol, yn hollbwysig yn y misoedd nesaf.

Y mis hwn hefyd daw holl gytundebau Glastir i ben a

byddant yn cael eu disodli gan y **Cynllun Cynefin Cymru** newydd ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf. Os yw hyn yn gipolwg ar y dyfodol, yna mae’n achosi cryn bryder. Mae camgymeriadau mapio a’r cyfraddau taliadau isel wedi arwain at lawer ohonom yn dewis peidio â chyflwyno Datganiad o Ddiddordeb yn y cynllun newydd. Yn anffodus, i’r mwyafrif, ac yn enwedig y ffermwyr hynny sydd wedi bod mewn cynlluniau amaeth-amgylcheddol ers degawdau, mae’r newidiadau i’n systemau ffermio i bob pwrpas yn ddi-droi’n-ôl ac wedi cymryd y taliadau hyn i ystyriaeth yn eu llif arian ers tro. Mae hyn yn golygu bod y gostyngiadau mewn taliadau yn codi pryderon mawr ynghylch hyfywedd ariannol eu busnesau - pwyntiau yr ydym wedi eu codi dro ar ôl tro gyda gwleidyddion ar ran ein haelodau.

Er bod y cyfraddau talu wedi’u pennu, nid yw’r gyllideb gyffredinol ar gyfer y cynllun wedi’i chadarnhau eto. Dywedir wrthym fod hyn oherwydd y ffaith y bydd taliadau Cynllun Cynefin Cymru yn cael eu prosesu yn ystod blwyddyn ariannol 2024-25 ac felly ni fydd Llywodraeth Cymru mewn sefyllfa i gadarnhau cyllideb tan ar ôl cyhoeddi’r gyllideb ddrafft yn ddiweddarach yn Rhagfyr. Ar ôl 30 mlynedd o gynlluniau Amaeth-Amgylcheddol yng Nghymru, mae Cynllun Cynefin Cymru a sut y’i cyflwynwyd yn gam yn ôl a dylai fod yn rhybudd i Lywodraeth Cymru. Rhaid inni gael y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy yn iawn, a gallaf sicrhau’r aelodau y byddwn yn parhau i siarad ag unrhyw un a phawb i geisio sicrhau bod hynny’n digwydd.

Rwyf hefyd yn ymwybodol iawn o faich cynyddol biwrocratiaeth ar ein diwydiant a’r gofynion sydd arnom fel ffermwyr, ond dyma gyfle perffaith i’ch atgoffa bod yr Undeb yma i helpu ein haelodau. Daw’r enghraifft ddiweddaraf o lenwi ffurflenni ar ffurf yr angen i holl ffermwyr Cymru lenwi Gweithlyfr Blynyddol fel rhan o’r rheoliadau Llygredd Dŵr Amaethyddol. Os nad ydych wedi gwneud hyn eto, cysylltwch â’ch swyddfa sirol a gallant roi cyngor ar yr hyn sydd angen i chi ei wneud a pha gymorth y gallwn ei gynnig.

Wrth sôn am y **rheoliadau Llygredd Dŵr Amaethyddol**, hoffwn atgoffa’r aelodau fodd bynnag ein bod yn croesawu’r ymdrechion a wnaed gan Lywodraeth Cymru fel rhan o’r

cytundeb cydweithio â Phlaid Cymru i gyflwyno terfyn nitrogen uwch ar gyfer y flwyddyn nesaf yn dilyn ymgynghoriad a dderbyniodd fwy na dros 1,500 o ymatebion. Yn ein hymateb fe wnaethom amlinellu sut y gallai’r cynigion ar gyfer cynllun i ganiatáu terfyn uwch fod yn rhwyd ddiogelwch sylweddol i nifer o ffermwyr yng Nghymru yn y tymor byr sydd eisoes yn mynd dros y terfyn 170kg. Fodd bynnag, mynegon bryderon mawr hefyd yn ymwneud â’r meini prawf a’r gofynion arfaethedig a sut y byddai hyn yn pennu’n effeithiol faint o ffermydd a fyddai’n gymwys ar gyfer cynllun o’r fath.

Er ein bod yn croesawu’r dull symlach hwn sy’n osgoi proses ymgeisio fiwrocrataidd ac ansicrwydd pellach i’r rhai sy’n dymuno gwneud cais, gwnaethom hefyd alw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ddarparu canllawiau clir cyn gynted â phosibl yn nodi’r camau gweithredu pellach y bydd yn rhaid i ffermwyr eu cymryd a pha dystiolaeth y bydd disgwyl iddynt ddarparu.

Er ein bod wedi croesawu’r angen am drydydd oedi o ran terfyn nitrogen y fferm gyfan, roedd yn arwydd o’r rheoliadau sydd wedi’u cynllunio’n wael a gyflwynwyd yn y lle cyntaf. Rwy’n mawr obeithio y bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn dechrau’r broses o adolygu’r rheoliadau cyn bo hir, i gynnwys ystyried terfyn nitrogen uwch parhaol a dewisiadau amgen i’r cyfnodau caeedig, fel y gellir darparu eglurder hirdymor i sector amaethyddol Cymru.

Adref ar y fferm mae Sean a minnau wedi cwblhau ein blwyddyn gyntaf o ffermio cyfran, ac mae hynny wedi hedfan hefyd, mae rhai pethau wedi mynd yn dda, roedd magu’r lloi Wagyu yn llwyddiant. Roedd cyllideb Sean yn fanwl gywir felly roedd rhywfaint o elw ar ôl pan adawodd y lloi y fferm yn yr hydref.

Mae’r defaid wedi bod yn dipyn mwy o her eleni. Fel y gwyddom, nid yw’r tywydd wedi bod o’n plaid ni, mae ŵyn wedi gwerthu’n eithaf da dros y flwyddyn, ond fel llawer o ffermydd, rydym wedi cael trafferth i gadw ein costau cynhyrchu cynyddol dan reolaeth. Mae hyn yn

rhannol oherwydd yn ein hachos ni yn y Gurnos am ein bod yn ceisio bod yn fwy effeithlon, ail-hadu gyda rhywogaethau cymysg a meillion coch, taenu calch i geisio cadw pH ein pridd ar y lefel optimwm, a gosod ffensys a seilwaith dŵr yfed fel ein bod yn elwa fwy o bori cylchdro. Rwy’n siŵr y bydd hyn yn talu ar ei ganfed wrth symud ymlaen ac mae’n wych cael ffermwr ifanc mor frwd gyda ni yma ar y fferm.

Mae fy 5 mis cyntaf fel Llywydd wedi hedfan. Mae’n fraint bod yn y rôl, i gynrychioli chi fel aelodau ar sawl achlysur amrywiol, gan wneud yn siŵr bod eich llais chi a’n diwydiant gwych yn cael ei glywed.

Hoffwn gymryd y cyfle hwn i ddiolch i holl aelodau, staff, swyddogion UAC yn ogystal â fy nheulu (heb anghofio Sean!) am eu cymorth a’u cefnogaeth. Ni fyddai hyn i gyd yn bosib hebdo chi.

Rwyf am roi sylw arbennig hefyd i bawb yng Ngwasanaethau Yswiriant FUW Cyf. Mae ein busnes yswiriant yn parhau i fynd o nerth i nerth a bydded hynny barhau. Yn olaf hoffwn fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i ddymuno Nadolig Llawn iawn i chi gyd.



“A privilege to be in the role representing members on many and varied occasions”

by Ian Rickman, FUW President

IT'S hard to believe that we're in the last month of 2023 already. This year seems to have flown by. I guess that's partly one of the consequences of getting older, time seems to go faster, but also it's been a very busy year on many fronts.

As we started the year, the **Wales Agricultural Bill** was arguably our biggest focus. The importance of getting this crucial legislation right, the framework within which our future schemes for supporting agriculture here in Wales would have to sit, cannot be underestimated. Not just for all of us farming in Wales today, but also for those future generations of farmers which are so crucial to our industry going forwards.

The landmark legislation will provide the framework for future agriculture support in Wales and is the first time Wales has legislated in this way. We maintained since the introduction of the bill that the absence of economic viability of agricultural businesses and family farms from the Sustainable Land Management objectives is a significant concern and one that we will continue to address.

The Senedd however also voted to include a multi-annual support plan which will provide information about how Welsh Ministers intend to provide financial support. This has been a key demand of the FUW and is a provision which exists within the UK Agriculture Act. The inclusion of this amendment places farmers in Wales on an equal footing to those in England and hopefully gives Welsh farmers at least some clarity when planning for their business' future.

The Agriculture Act paves the way for changes to farm support for us in Wales and this month we expect the latest, and possibly final, consultation on the **Sustainable Farming Scheme**. Due to start in 2025, this will be the replacement for the Basic Payment Scheme here in Wales. We all know the importance of this funding to our rural economy and communities, so ensuring we get this right, a scheme accessible to all farmers in Wales, with a budget to match, will be crucial in the coming months.

This month also sees the ending of all Glastir contracts and them being replaced by the new **Habitat Wales Scheme** for next year. If this is indeed a glimpse of the future that's a real concern. Mapping inaccuracies and the low payment rates have led many of us to choose not to submit an Expression of Interest in the new scheme.

Unfortunately, for the majority, and particularly those farmers who have been in agri-environment schemes for decades, the changes to our farming systems are effectively irreversible and they have long factored these payments into their cash flows. This means that the reductions in payments raise major concerns around the financial viability of their businesses - points which we have raised repeatedly with politicians on behalf of our members.

While the payment rates have been set, an overall budget for the scheme is yet to be confirmed. We are told that this is due to the fact that Habitat Wales Scheme payments will be processed during the 2024-25 financial year and therefore the Welsh Government won't be in a position to confirm a budget until after the draft budget is announced later in December.

After 30 years of Agri Environment schemes in Wales, the Habitat Wales Scheme and how it has been delivered is a backward step and should serve as a warning to the Welsh Government. We must get the Sustainable Farming Scheme right, and I can assure members that we will continue to talk with anyone and everyone to try to ensure that happens.

I'm also acutely aware of the increasing burden of red tape on our industry and the demands that it puts on us as farmers, but just a reminder that the Union is here to help our members. The latest example of this form filling comes in the form of the need for all farmers in Wales to fill an Annual Workbook as part of the Agriculture Water Pollution Regulations. If you haven't yet done this please contact your county office and they can advise on what you need to do and what help we can offer. When it comes to the **Agriculture Water Pollution regulations**, I would however remind members that we welcomed the efforts made by the Welsh Government as part of the co-operation agreement with Plaid Cymru to introduce a higher nitrogen limit for next year following consultation which received more than 1,500 responses. In our response we outlined how the proposals for a scheme to allow for a higher limit could serve as a significant safety net for a number of farmers in Wales in the short term who are already exceeding the 170kg limit.

However, we also expressed major concerns in relation to the proposed criteria and requirements and how this would effectively determine how many farms would be eligible for such a scheme. Whilst we welcomed this simpler approach which avoids a bureaucratic application process and further uncertainty for those wishing to apply, we also called on the Welsh Government to provide clear guidance as soon as possible setting out further actions farmers will have to undertake and what evidence they will be expected to provide.

The need for a third delay of the whole farm nitrogen limit, as welcomed as it was, is symptomatic of the poorly thought out regulations which were introduced in the first place. I sincerely hope the Welsh Government begins the process of reviewing the regulations sooner rather than later, to include the

consideration of a permanent higher nitrogen limit and alternatives to the closed periods, so that long term clarity can be provided to the Welsh agricultural sector.

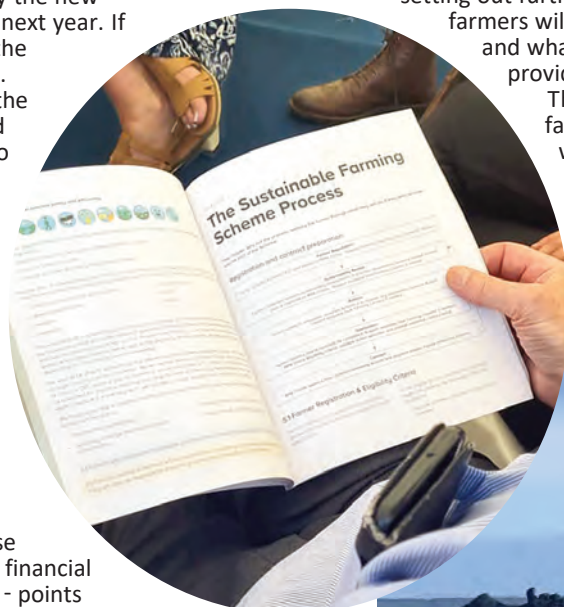
On the farm here at home Sean and I have completed our first year share farming, and that has flown by as well, some things have gone well, our Wagyu calf rearing went as planned. Sean's budget was spot on so we were left with some profit when the calves left the farm in the autumn.

The sheep have been a bit more of a challenge this year. The weather hasn't been helpful as we all know, lambs have sold pretty well over the year but we've struggled, as many farms have, to keep our rising production costs under control. This is partly due in our case at Gurnos to trying to be more efficient, reseeded with mixed species and red clover leys, applying lime to try to keep our soil pH at the optimum level, and putting fencing and drinking water infrastructure in place so that we can do more rotational grazing. I'm sure this will pay dividends going forward and it's great to have a young farmer with such enthusiasm with us here on the farm.

My first 5 months as President have also gone in a flash. It's a privilege to be in the role, to represent you the members on many and varied occasions, making sure that you and our great industry has its voice heard. And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members, staff, and officials of the FUW as well as my family (not forgetting Sean!) for their help and support. I couldn't do it without you all.

Also a special mention to all at FUW Insurance Services Ltd. Our insurance business continues to go from strength to strength and long may that continue. Finally I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, Nadolig Llawen i chi gyd.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members, staff, and officials of the FUW as well as my family for their help and support."



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O faes yswiriant i'r maes pêl-droed

gan Angharad Evans, Swyddog Cyfathrebu'r Iaith Gymraeg

A DYMA ni! Wedi cyrraedd Cornel Clecs diwethaf 2023! Lle aeth y flwyddyn dywedwch?! Mae'n hawdd iawn i bob un ohonom ymgolli ein hunain braidd yn holl brysurdeb arferol yr adeg hon o'r flwyddyn ac anghofio gwneud un peth pwysig - i ofalu ar ôl ein hunain!

Ynghanol cyfnodau o brysurdeb, mae'n dod yn fwyfwy pwysig sicrhau bod yna amser yn cael ei neilltuo i ofalu am ein hiechyd meddwl.

Mae gan chwaraeon rhan bwysig iawn i chwarae yn hyn oll, ac mae pêl-droed merched yn arbennig wedi cynyddu mewn poblogrwydd. O ddydd i

ddydd mae Danielle Walker, Gweithredwr Yswiriant Gwasanaethau Yswiriant FUW Cyf yn Sir Drefaldwyn yn gofalu ar ôl anghenion yswiriant ei chwsmeriaid, ond pan nad yw Danielle yn canolbwyntio ar y maes yswiriant, y maes pêl-droed sy'n mynd a'i bryd.

Yn ddiweddar, cymerodd Cornel Clecs y cyfle i holi Danielle am ei diddordeb ym mhêl-droed a'i bwysigrwydd i les y gymuned wledig. Dyma Danielle i egluro mwy: "Mae pêl-droed merched wedi dod yn fwyfwy poblogaidd dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf, yn enwedig ar lawr gwlad," esboniodd Danielle.

"Credir bod rownd terfynol Cwpan y Byd Merched 2023 yn ddiweddar hefyd wedi cyfrannu at hyn, gyda'r ffigurau gwyllo mwyaf erioed ar gyfer gêm Lloegr yn erbyn Sbaen.

"Dechreuodd fy niddordeb ym mhêl-droed yn 2019, wrth fynychu sesiwn hyfforddi gyda Merched Aberriw, a hynny heb unrhyw brofiad pêl-droed blaenorol na chwarae i dîm o'r blaen chwaith. Roedd yn beth eithaf brawychus, ymuno â grŵp newydd o ferched mewn camp nad oedd gennyf fawr ddim profiad ohoni. Serch hynny, cefais groeso yn y sesiynau hyfforddi, a daeth yn amlwg yn fuan bod croeso i bob gallu, ac nid y pêl-droed yn unig oedd yn bwysig, roedd yr ochr gymdeithasol hefyd yn chwarae rhan bwysig.

"Rhoddodd gyfle i nifer o'r merched fynd allan a chwrrd â phobl newydd wrth gymryd rhan mewn gweithgaredd corfforol, rhywbeth efallai na fyddent wedi gallu ei wneud fel arall. Efallai nad oes gan bobl o gefndiroedd ffermio yn arbennig unrhyw hobiau eraill oherwydd cyfyngiadau amser a natur eu gwaith, ond gall clybiau pêl-droed lleol roi'r cyfle hyn iddynt.

"Gan fod ffermio yn cael ei ystyried yn alwedigaeth eithaf unig, gallai hefyd fod yn achubiaeth i rywun o ran darparu cyfeillgarwch a rhwydwaith cymorth. Credaf yn gryf fod clybiau llawr gwlad leol yn chwarae rhan fawr yn ein cymunedau gwledig, gan ddod â phobl o gefndiroedd ffermio a'r gymuned ehangach at ei gilydd.



Tîm Merched Aberriw yn ei crysau oddi cartref, wedi'i noddi gan Gwasanaethau Yswiriant FUW Cyf.

"Mae'r clybiau hyn yn rhoi'r cyfle i fod yn rhan o dîm, i gymdeithasu a dathlu llwyddiant gyda'i gilydd, sydd oll yn cyfrannu at iechyd meddwl da. Ac nid yn unig y chwaraewyr sy'n elwa, mae hefyd yn rhoi cyfle i'r gymuned fynd allan i wyllo'r gemau a dangos eu cefnogaeth."

Mae geiriau Danielle yn atgyfnerthu'r hyn a ddywedwyd yn ystod seminar a drefnon ni yn ystod y Sioe Frenhinol eleni mewn cydweithrediad gyda Chymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru a Sefydliad DPI lle trafodwyd sut y gellir pontio'r bwlch rhwng amaethyddiaeth a phêl-droed ledled Cymru a gweithio gyda'n gilydd i wella iechyd meddwl yn ein cymunedau gwledig.

Aeth Danielle ymlaen i egluro bod dyfodol y tîm pêl-droed merched yn edrych yn gyffrous iawn: "Mae ein tîm merched bellach yn mynd o nerth i nerth. O fynd o ddim gyfod a oedd gennym ni ddigon o chwaraewyr er mwyn cynnal sesiwn hyfforddi bob wythnos, i 24 o ferched bellach wedi cofrestru ac wedi sicrhau lle yn y gynghrair merched am y tro cyntaf yn hanes y clwb.

"Mae ein gemau merched hefyd yn tueddu i ddenu mwy o wylwyr na thîm cyntaf y dynion. Mae hyn yn dangos yr effaith gadarnhaol y gall gêm y merched ei gael ar y gymuned gyfan a pham ei bod mor bwysig ei chynnal ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol.

"Hoffwn hefyd gymryd y cyfle hwn i ddweud diolch i Gwasanaethau Yswiriant FUW Cyf am noddi crysau CPD Merched Aberriw ar gyfer y gemau oddi cartref, mae'r gefnogaeth yn cael ei werthfawrogi'n fawr."

Felly, mae yna gysylltiad pwysig a chryf iawn rhwng ffermio a phêl-droed a diolch i Danielle am ddangos i ni hefyd y rôl bwysig sydd gan ferched yn hynny oll.

Cyn cloi, dymunaf Nadolig Llawn a dedwydd iawn i chi a'ch teuluoedd i gyd. Diolch am eich cefnogaeth ac am fod yn ddarllenwyr ffyddlon unwaith eto. Welai chi gyd yn 2024, a chofiwch gysylltu os fydd gyda chi unrhyw stori neu hanesyn a fydd o ddiwedd i Gornel Clecs - byddai'n braf iawn clywed wrthyhych.

*This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News:
"Football and its link to rural communities," or from your local county office*

North Wales dairy farmer says Net zero doesn't have to mean empty cupboards

A DAIRY farmer from North Wales has raised his concern for the industry with leader of Plaid Cymru Rhun ap Iorwerth and North Wales regional Member of the Senedd Llŷr Gruffydd at a recent farm visit, saying that net zero targets don't have to mean empty cupboards.

Dei Davies farms along with his wife Heulwen and son Rhys, around 100 acres at Moor Farm, Holywell, a county council dairy holding on rent on a 15 year tenancy on 73 acres, with 27 owned, and a further 100 acres as temporary rented land for silage and grazing 120 milking cows, about 80 young stock, spring calving system.

Hot topics covered during the farm visit included the Control of Agriculture Pollution Regulations, the Habitat Wales Scheme, the Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals and bovine TB.

Speaking after the visit, Dai Davies said: "Our fear is that tree planting targets and the Control of Agriculture Pollution Regulations mean that we will have to reduce stocking rates. That would mean we'd be looking at milking about 60 cows only. We'd have to reduce the heifers for sure. In effect that would mean we're less profitable because of the reduced income. Put that across all of Wales and the Welsh dairy industry would only lose 1/3 of milk production.

"All that money the Welsh Government has invested in dairies such as Mona dairies and Pembrokeshire Creamery are wasted if we can't keep them going with milk.

"Reduced stocking rates and lost income, means people will go out of business. If they get it wrong now, you can't fix it after. Net zero ambitions don't have to mean empty cupboards if we get it right."

Discussing the Control of Agriculture Pollution Regulations, Mr Davies told Rhun ap Iorwerth and Llŷr Gruffydd that the planning system in place doesn't allow



"Our fear is that tree planting targets and the Control of Agriculture Pollution Regulations mean that we will have to reduce stocking rates."

From left, FUW Deputy President Dai Miles, Rhun ap Iorwerth, Dei Davies with his grandson Owen John Hughes and Llŷr Gruffydd.

farmers to move at a pace that keeps them in line with the regulations.

"The planning system doesn't work and it takes far too long. From getting a quote for having a new slurry system built, to actually getting the right permissions, the quotes are out of date and double.

"For this to work, we need to look at the closed period and do what farmers have done for centuries - look at the weather. If the forecast is unsuitable we must work with that. The technology is there to support data driven decision making. We shouldn't be farming by calendar."

Addressing the issue of bovine TB he said: "Bovine TB is

obviously a massive concern for all of us. We're a clean herd here, despite being in an intermediate area. We never had bovine TB and are lucky for now. If it comes, it will be a disaster but there's not much we can do about it. As we're grazing farm, if our badgers become unwell we'll know about it."

FUW deputy president Dai Miles said: "It was good to discuss some of the very big challenges with our elected politicians. Farmers, from all sectors, are facing so many challenges and we need the Welsh Government to support us for the sake of our countryside, family farms, the economy and of course food security."



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FUW Insurance Services Ltd staff from across Wales have been progressing their insurance knowledge by gaining their Certificate in Insurance (CII) and Diploma Certificate in Insurance (Dip CII).

The Level 3 Certificate in Insurance is a core qualification for insurance staff working across all sectors of the profession. It develops core knowledge and confidence of the key disciplines needed before focusing on subsequent studies according to individual ambitions and career requirements.

Account Executive Mared Hopkins, Deputy Claims Manager Meleri James and Account Handlers Linda Evans, Carys Davies, Lowri A Williams, Chris Jones, Emily Jones and Lowri Williams were all successful in achieving their CII Certificates.

Following her achievement Lampeter Account Handler Emily Jones said: "The Certificate in Insurance was a challenge to achieve, but sometimes having a challenge is a good thing. It was an opportunity to push myself and grow as an Account Handler."

Administration Manager Hazel Eldridge, Group Operations Manager Karen Royles, Senior Account Executives Sam Evans and Gwion James and Account Executive Danielle Walker all gained their Diploma CII Certificates.

The Diploma in Insurance is a technical and supervisory qualification for insurance staff working across all areas of the profession, and the logical progression from the

Certificate in Insurance. The Diploma provides a firm understanding of insurance fundamentals and will enable the individual to build towards advanced technical knowledge, thereby ensuring they have the means to function effectively in a challenging environment.

After successfully gaining his Dip CII Certificate, Carmarthen Senior Account Executive Sam Evans said: "Studying for my Diploma Certificate in Insurance was a challenging yet extremely rewarding process. The course consists of three multiple choice exams, three 10,000+ word essays and an eighteen month long NVQ which consists of monthly meetings and assessments.

"I feel like I have learned a lot of useful information during the course which has helped me to do my daily job at a higher standard than I have ever been able to before.

"I would encourage anyone who works in the insurance industry to improve their insurance knowledge by undertaking their insurance exams."

Congratulating all the team on their successes, FUW Group Chief Executive Guto Bebb said: "This is a great achievement for all the individuals involved and is a fantastic example of the commitment of the FUW Group to invest in our staff.

"We take the view that better qualified and more knowledgeable staff results in an improved level of service for our members and our customers. As such, this is good news for everyone."

"This is a great achievement for all the individuals involved and is a fantastic example of the commitment of the FUW Group to invest in our staff."



Mared Hopkins.



Meleri James.



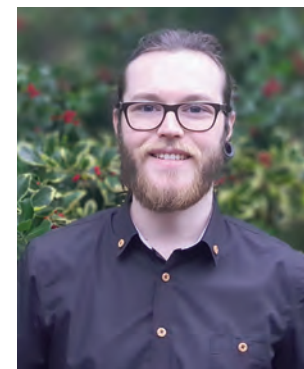
Linda Evans.



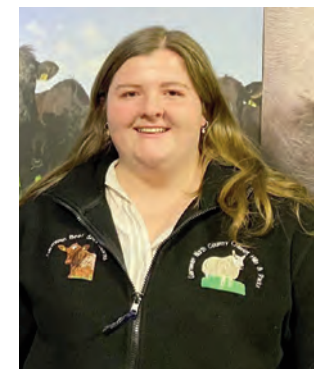
Carys Davies.



Lowri A Williams.



Chris Jones.



Emily Jones.



Lowri Williams.



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Danielle Walker.

Nadolig Plawen



Merry Christmas

Bydd ein cydweithwyr o Wasanaethau Yswiriant FUW yn parhau i wasanaethu cwsmeriaid dros gyfnod y Nadolig fel a ganlyn:

Colleagues from FUW Insurance Services Ltd will continue to serve customers over the Christmas period as follows:

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Support for 'Not in my Name' campaign

by Jill Rundle, Chair of the National Federation of Women's Institutes-Wales

THE 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence runs from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and International White Ribbon Day) until December 10 (Human Rights Day). On 20 November, we held our annual stakeholder event and candlelight vigil at the Senedd with Joyce Watson MS to mark this important global campaign which raises awareness of and calls for an end to gender-based violence.



Ann Jones, National Federation of Women's Institutes National Chair with FUW President Ian Rickman.

The prevalence of violence against women is alarming and unacceptable. One in 3 women will experience some form of violence and abuse in their lifetime. On average, 2 women a week are killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales. Violence against women is a violation of women's human rights and has no place in a civilised society. I can scarcely believe that in 2023 we are discussing this appalling crime - yet it is on the rise and on almost a daily basis, there are news stories relating to domestic abuse, sexual violence or worse.

We all have a part to play in helping achieve societal change by becoming allies

in the prevention and elimination of violence against women.

Our Not in my Name campaign, established in 2012 with Joyce Watson MS, involves the recruitment of male ambassadors in making the White Ribbon promise to 'never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women'. Over the last 11 years,

the campaign has had strong support from organisations such as the FUW, male choirs and sports teams. This matters. Because while women are disproportionately the victims of violence, we must encourage men to speak up and not stay silent if they come across behaviour and comments that are not right. They must challenge misogyny, 'locker room banter', and call out toxic masculinity wherever and whenever they see it.

The FUW kindly hosted this year's campaign launch at the Royal Welsh Show where we brought together rural stakeholders to hear about the challenges faced by survivors of domestic abuse in rural communities. The harrowing stories shared by survivors at the event brought home to me how vital our campaign is.



Budget does nothing to relieve pressures on farming families

THE FUW has given a lukewarm response to the Autumn Budget, delivered by Chancellor Jeremy Hunt on Wednesday November 22. Despite the recent drop in inflation rates we are yet to see this feed through to lower interest rates and the warning from the Bank of England indicates that we should not expect many changes in the near future. This is a real concern for all businesses including farm businesses.

FUW Group Chief Executive Guto Bebb said: "Whilst we fully understand the need to get inflation under control this should not be at the expense of farmers being able to recoup the cost of production. There is a lot of recent evidence that the fall in the price of dairy products is having a very real and detrimental impact upon farm gate prices.

"This is a rather disappointing fiscal statement from the UK Government which does little to resolve the cost of living crisis and not much to instil confidence in the business community.

"Farmers in Wales have had their confidence impacted by trade deals that damage their interests, funding cuts for Welsh agriculture justified on the back of accounting tricks, and a Welsh Government that seems incapable of delivering a coherent habitat scheme for farmers as we move beyond the previous farm support system.

"There was an opportunity for the UK Government to provide a much needed confidence boost for the sector but it appears that we will need to wait once again to see the issues facing the farming community being seriously addressed by the Government in Westminster."

"It appears that we will need to wait once again to see the issues facing the farming community being seriously addressed by the Government in Westminster."

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Ceredigion farming family highlights concerns to local politicians



From left, Ben Lake MP, Elin Jones MS, Peter, Emily and Gill Jones at Garnwen farm.

A CEREDIGION beef and sheep farming family have outlined their concerns for the industry when they welcomed Plaid Cymru MP Ben Lake and Elin Jones MS to their farm on the outskirts of Tregaron.

Garnwen farm, a 4th generation holding, is home to Peter, Gill and Emily Jones. The family keep 250 ewes, including 80 pedigree North Country Cheviots, 10 Charmoise Hill sheep and 160 commercial ewes, as well as 20 suckler cows including pedigree Beef Shorthorns on 140 acres, including 20 rented.

A traditional family farm with a low input approach, the cattle are in a high health scheme to ensure no disease is brought onto the farm and herd. The farm has strong sustainability aims, using organic lays including chicory and plantain, which acts as a natural wormer for sheep.

Through such grazing practises the family have reduced their antibiotic use on farm and found it to be a more sustainable way of getting their lambs ready for market,

reducing supplementary feeding. Fertiliser is also being used sparingly across the holding.

Union officials and politicians enjoyed a presentation from Emily on the farm business and heard the families concerns about the Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals, as well as the Welsh Government's approach to eradicating diseases such as bovine TB and sheep scab. Union officials also highlighted concerns around Wales' Rural Affairs budget.

Speaking after the visit, FUW President Ian Rickman said: "A huge focus for us ahead of the next UK General Election is Wales' rural affairs budget and we raised some concerns around that with Ben Lake and Elin Jones.

"We know that by 2025, Wales will have received around £228 million less in funding for agriculture and rural development than could have been expected had the UK remained within the EU.

"This doesn't include the recent announcement of the £37 million which could be lost from the rural affairs budget at a time of major transition and pressures for farmers. What we are seeing is that with the conclusion of Glastir and the implementation of the interim Habitat Wales Scheme, now is the first time a significant number of farmers throughout Wales will feel the impact of Brexit and budget cuts at the farm gate.

"Funding received from the UK Treasury is also no longer ring-fenced for direct support for farmers and specific rural development objectives, nor regulated by strict spending criteria as it used to be under

EU legislation. With this in mind, it is absolutely essential that the Sustainable Farming Scheme is sufficiently resourced and Welsh farmers are properly rewarded for helping to meet Welsh Government targets."

The Union President also thanked the Jones family for the warm welcome to the farm, adding: "Farming families like Emily's are the backbone of our rural economies, keeping our way of life and culture alive and are leading the way in sustainable food production. It is crucial we don't lose farming families like the Jones' from our lands."

"Farming families like Emily's are the backbone of our rural economies. It is crucial we don't lose farming families like the Jones' from our lands."






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From left, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Liaison Officer Lauren Price, FUW President Ian Rickman, Ben Lake MP and FUW Regional Vice President Anwen Hughes enjoying the home made beef cawl.



Ban on live exports bad news for home market

THE FUW has responded with concern to the announcement of a live export ban as part of the King's Speech, which set out the Government's priorities to introduce the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill and Trade (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) Bill.

The Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill is set to introduce a legislative ban on the live export of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses for slaughter or fattening from Great Britain.

FUW President Ian Rickman responded to the news, saying: "Introducing a legislative ban on live exports has the potential of creating an oversupply in UK markets, resulting in lower demand and therefore prices farmers receive for their stock.

"Defra previously estimated that such a ban would cost the industry £6.6 million per annum, yet this was merely based upon an assumed 15% price differential without taking into account the loss of markets or the likelihood

of such costs disproportionately falling on small and micro enterprises."

The Speech also set out the Government's priority to introduce the Trade (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership) Bill which would effectively ensure the UK can meet its international commitments under the CPTPP.

"The UK Government promised that they would not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards in all trade negotiations. However, what we're seeing here is an increase in barriers for UK producers while the Government signs liberalised free trade agreements with other countries.

"CPTPP membership comprises a diverse range of countries with standards that vary greatly, however, many produce food in manners that would be illegal in the UK, whether due to animal identification

and traceability, approaches to drug and chemical use or levels of environmental protection.

"As such, it seems that efforts made by the UK Government to ensure that, where possible, standards are included in trade deals in order to ensure equivalence, maintain UK food standards and protect UK farmers from unfair competition have been absent or negligible," added the Union President.



"Introducing a legislative ban on live exports has the potential of creating an oversupply in UK markets, resulting in lower demand and therefore prices farmers receive for their stock."

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Union stresses importance of fair funding for industry in meetings with politicians

THE FUW has stressed the importance of clear, sector specific funding in meetings with politicians at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair whilst also highlighting the urgent need for clarity if we are to retain Wales' family farms.

FUW President Ian Rickman said: "Concerns regarding the possibility that agricultural and rural development budgets may not be restored, or may be cut even

further, are exacerbated by the fact that what funding is made available is no longer ring-fenced for direct support for farmers and specific rural development objectives.

"It is also not regulated by strict spending criteria, meaning national Governments are in effect at liberty to reduce support and reallocate funding away from rural communities without regard for the social principles

which were previously upheld through UK and EU legislation. We urgently need clarity on those issues from Westminster and Cardiff."

The FUW also discussed issues surrounding the Habitat Wales Scheme, the Sustainable farming scheme and issues surrounding the proposed National Park in North East Wales and Montgomeryshire.



From left, FUW Policy Officer Elan Evans, FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Liaison Officer Lauren Price, FUW president Ian Rickman, Llŷr Gruffydd MS, Cefin Campbell MS, FUW Deputy President Dai Miles and FUW Regional Vice President Alun Owen.



From left, FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry, FUW Policy Officer Elin Jenkins, FUW President Ian Rickman, Sam Kurtz and FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Liaison Officer Lauren Price.



From left, Cefin Campbell MS, FUW Deputy President Dai Miles and Plaid Cymru leader Rhun ap Iorwerth.



From left, FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry, FUW President Ian Rickman, Craig Williams, FUW Policy Officer Elin Jenkins and FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Liaison Officer Lauren Price.



From left, FUW Regional Vice President Brian Bowen, James Evans MS, FUW Deputy President Dai Miles and FUW Deputy Head of Policy Dr Hazel Wright.

Royal Welsh Winter Fair picture special - fantastic two days!



More pictures on page 13



Concerns for future schemes outlined to Plaid Cymru leader

A TENANT farmer from Anglesey has raised concerns around the Control of Agriculture Pollution Regulations and the Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals with Leader of Plaid Cymru Rhun ap Iorwerth.

Dilwyn Owen, who farms Porthamel Farm, Llanedwen, is a young tenant farmer on a County Council Holding. Here he keeps a herd of beef, which are sent directly to slaughter. He also grows some arable crops, in addition to having his own contracting business.

He is concerned about the Control of Agriculture Pollution Regulations, as complying with them means making huge investments to create a new slurry store, with the landlord unable to offer any support at present.

He said: "The Welsh Government knows how much this is costing the industry and farmers like myself, on a county council holding, just simply can't get the funds to do the work that's required. It's not that I don't want to play my part, the system actually doesn't allow me to do it."

William Hughes, FUW Anglesey county chair, said: "The Welsh Government is fully aware of the challenges tenants are facing with trying to comply with the regulations and they've done very little to address such concerns. We have called on them to review the regulations and look at alternatives to the closed periods as soon as possible so that long term clarity can be provided to the sector."

The proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme is also a huge worry for Dilwyn. "While the Welsh Government announced concessions in terms of the 10% tree cover proposals, tenants such as myself are worried that certain actions could create conflict with landlords and result in arbitration if the scheme fails to allow for some flexibility," he said.

Alun Owen, FUW Regional Vice President, added: "The FUW continues to attend meetings with the Welsh Government and other stakeholders in relation to the design of the Sustainable Farming Scheme. The plight of our tenant farmers is also part of that lobbying work and we will continue to do what it takes to ensure we have thriving, sustainable farms in Wales."

"The Welsh Government is fully aware of the challenges tenants are facing with trying to comply with the regulations and they've done very little to address such concerns."



FUW Bovine TB Special: Fact versus fiction

by Dr Hazel Wright, FUW Deputy Head of Policy

What is Bovine TB?

Bovine TB is a set of clinical signs and lesions caused by *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*). *M. bovis* is a slow-growing bacterium capable of causing the disease in a wide range of mammals. It is closely related to the bacterium which cause the disease in birds (*M. avium*) and humans (*M. tuberculosis*).

M. bovis is mainly a respiratory disease and transmission of infection can occur through nose-to-nose contact. It can also occur through contact with saliva, urine, faeces and milk.

Why is Bovine TB so difficult to eradicate?

The control of bovine TB is difficult and complex for a variety of reasons. Firstly, *M. bovis* can hide in the immune system of the host and can escape detection and therefore escape elimination. *M. bovis* is able to inhibit key immune system responses to infection and this can lead to chronic disease.

Secondly, the sensitivity of tuberculin skin test means that infected animals can be left on the farm after testing as false negatives.

Thirdly, *M. bovis* also infects other mammals, such as badgers, and this creates a reservoir of infection which is currently outside the control of the farmer.



Understanding current TB Tests

The skin test

The tuberculin skin test or SICCT (Single Intradermal Comparative Cervical Tuberculin Test) is the primary test for bovine TB in the UK. The results of this test may be interpreted at either standard or severe interpretation depending on factors such as the disease history of the herd. The test is conducted by simultaneously injecting two types of tuberculin into the deep layers of the skin of the neck.

Bovine tuberculin, used in the current skin test, is made from *M. bovis*. *M. bovis* triggers an immune response in cattle infected with *M. bovis* or similar mycobacteria. It contains specific antigens which are not present in environmental mycobacteria.

Avian tuberculin is made from *Mycobacterium avium*, which infects birds such as poultry. Avian tuberculin is used alongside bovine tuberculin to distinguish between cattle infected with *M. bovis* and those which react to similar environmental mycobacterium.

By simultaneously injecting two types of tuberculin, the test can better distinguish between animals infected with *M. bovis* and animals previously exposed to or infected with other types of mycobacteria found in the environment which do not cause bovine TB.

An antigen is any substance that causes the immune system to produce antibodies. An antigen can be a chemical, bacteria, virus or other environmental trigger.

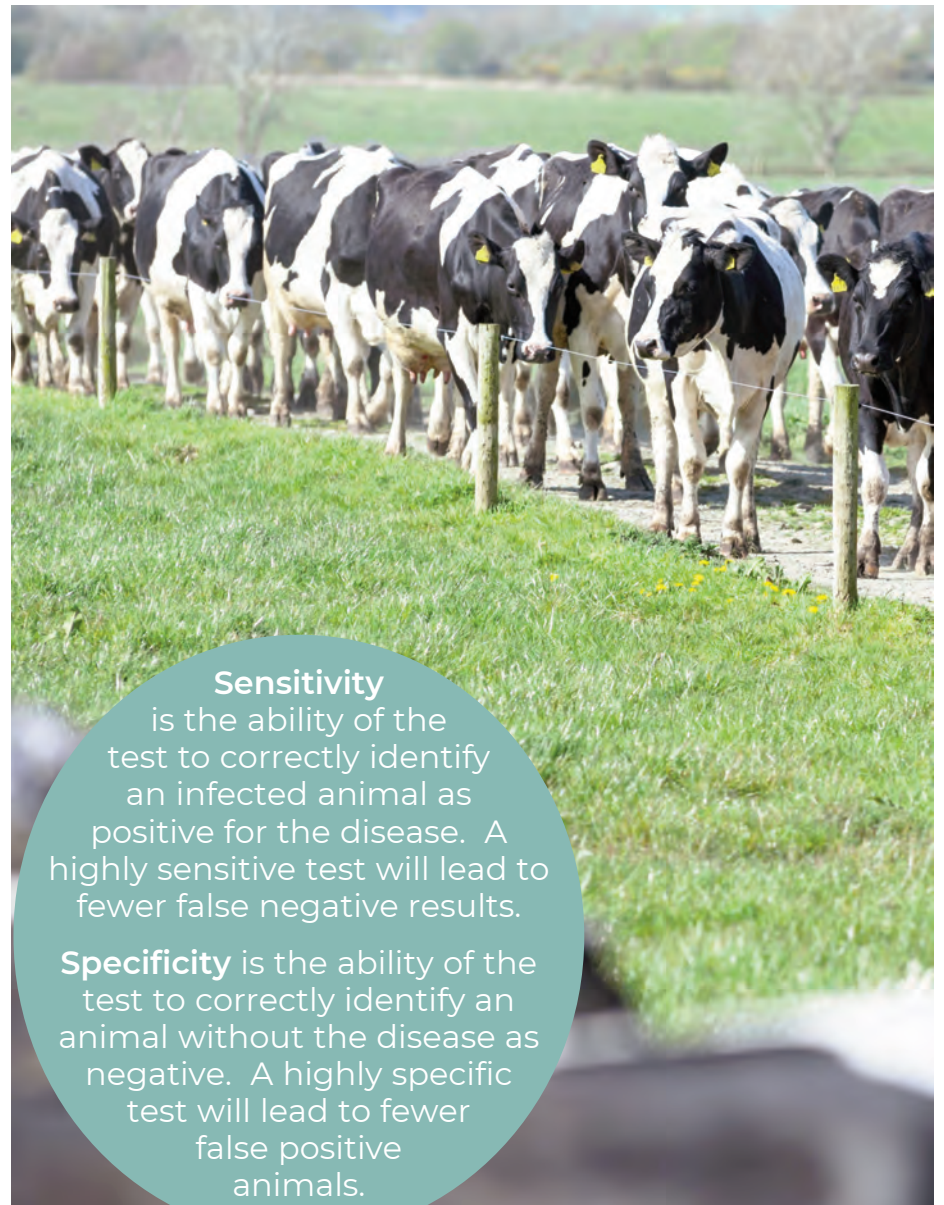
An antibody is created in response to an invading antigen. Antibodies attempt to identify, attack and destroy antigens.

Cattle that have TB (TB 'Reactors') tend to show a greater reaction to bovine tuberculin than avian tuberculin. An 'inconclusive' result ('Inconclusive Reactor' IR) is when there is a greater reaction to bovine than avian tuberculin, but not enough to be classified as a reactor animal.

The tuberculin skin test can be interpreted as either 'standard' or 'severe' depending on factors such as the disease history of the herd. Interpreting the test at severe interpretation involves lowering the cut-off point for an animal to be classified as a reactor. What this means in practice is that some animals considered inconclusive reactors at standard will become reactors at severe interpretation.

The accuracy of the skin test is variable. The sensitivity of the test is generally accepted to range between 50 - 80% at standard interpretation. At 80 %, the test may miss around 1 in 5, or 20%, of infected animals. These cattle remain in the herd and may represent a significant source of infection to other cattle. Severe interpretation increases the sensitivity of the test by between 1 and 10% but it also lowers the sensitivity. The nature of the skin test means that it works best in areas of high and medium TB prevalence.

The skin test has a specificity of around 99.8%. This equates to one false positive in every 5,000 cattle tested. According to Defra's bovine TB statistics, in 2022 there were 2,032,832 cattle tests conducted. Simple extrapolation of the 1 in 5,000 rule would mean around 460 false positive animals in that 12 month period.



Sensitivity is the ability of the test to correctly identify an infected animal as positive for the disease. A highly sensitive test will lead to fewer false negative results.

Specificity is the ability of the test to correctly identify an animal without the disease as negative. A highly specific test will lead to fewer false positive animals.

Interferon gamma

The gamma test measures the immune response of cattle by challenging immune cells directly. Blood samples taken from cattle being gamma tested are stimulated with bovine and avian tuberculin and the levels of interferon gamma produced are measured.

Cattle that have bovine TB will release greater amounts of gamma interferon in response to bovine tuberculin than avian tuberculin.

Gamma has a sensitivity of 90% which is higher than the tuberculin skin test. On average, the test will identify 9 out of 10 infected cattle. However, the specificity is around 96.5% and this means one false positive result for every 30 uninfected cattle tested. This rate of false positives is much higher than the skin test.

The higher sensitivity of the gamma test means that it is more likely to identify infected cattle than the skin test and can identify infected animals at an earlier stage of infection. It also identifies infected animals which have been missed by the skin test. However, as noted above, these benefits come at the expense of a higher rate of false positive animals. This is why gamma testing only occurs under specific circumstances and only as an adjunct to the skin test.



IDEXX Antibody test

The IDEXX test detects antibodies produced by infected cattle and is a 'third line' test for use in chronic breakdown herds where there has already been repeated tuberculin skin testing and gamma testing. In Wales, IDEXX is specifically used to test severe IRs in persistent breakdowns, in specified spatial units for bought in out of herd ear tag number cattle with a positive bovine reaction and in some persistent breakdown herds.

IDEXX is considered a relevant test under TB legislation which means that APHA do not need permission to use the test or remove positive animals.

Data on IDEXX suggests a sensitivity of 65% and a specificity of 98% when used in cattle. To increase the sensitivity a prior tuberculin skin test is required to boost antibody levels in TB infected cattle. Blood samples for IDEXX should be taken within 10 to 30 days of a skin test.

Antibody tests are less sensitive overall compared with the tuberculin skin test and interferon-gamma blood test. However, they can be useful for identifying small numbers of infected cattle that are skin and interferon-gamma test negative.

No visible lesions (NVL) at slaughter = no bovine TB?

There are several reasons why animals that test positive for bovine TB may not have visible lesions at slaughter.

Firstly, NVL at slaughter may occur because the animals have been identified at an early stage of infection before lesions have developed. Secondly, slaughterhouse inspection has a low sensitivity and small lesions may be missed during inspection. In addition, the location of TB lesions can vary depending on the route of infection into the animal. The size and number of visible lesions (if present) can also vary and is not always correlated with the length of time an animal might have been infected. Thirdly, in a small percentage of cases, an NVL result may be because the animal has wrongly been identified as infected (false positive).

Post mortem examinations

Historically, the main method of confirming the specific strain of TB bacteria has been via microbiological culture. This involves growing the bacterium in the laboratory from tissue samples collected post mortem. Obtaining a positive culture result allows whole genome sequencing to be undertaken and this can provide important epidemiological information about the disease and the origins of infection.

The major disadvantage of culture testing is the length of time (6-22 weeks) it typically takes to obtain a result. Last year, APHA has validated a new polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test which can detect *M. bovis* directly from tissue samples collected at post-mortem inspection. The major advantage of this method is that it typically takes only three weeks to report a result. The new PCR test currently replaces microbiological culture for tissue samples collected from slaughterhouse cases in cattle (and non-bovines) routinely sent for private commercial slaughter which were found to have lesions suspicious of TB at routine meat inspection.

Negative culture results = no bovine TB?

Where there are visible lesions typical of bovine TB identified at post-mortem examination, these are sampled and culture. Around 95% of visible lesions give a positive culture result.

Where there are no visible lesions at slaughter, 2 separate samples are taken from the most common sites for TB lesions and around 20 grams processed for culture. A negative result from this small amount of tissue does not rule out the presence of TB in other parts of the animal. Only around 5% of NVL samples give a positive culture result.



The tuberculin skin test or SICCT (Single Intradermal Comparative Cervical Tuberculin Test) is conducted by simultaneously injecting two types of tuberculin into the deep layers of the skin of the neck

Further information

TB hub <https://tbhub.co.uk/>

ibTB <https://www.ibtb.co.uk/>

Communication - Contacting APHA

Phone: 0300 303 8268

Email: apha.cymruwales@apha.gov.uk

Post: Gwasanaeth Maes Cymru/Wales Field Services, Swyddfeydd Penrallt Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1BN

Members urged to be vigilant following Bluetongue virus identified in England

THE FUW is urging its members to be extremely vigilant following the confirmation of a single case of Bluetongue virus 3 (BTV 3) in a cow on premises in Kent near Canterbury, England on Saturday November 11 2023.

BTV is a notifiable exotic disease that infects ruminants, such as sheep and cattle, and is transmitted by biting midge which are most active between the months of April and November.

Initial tracings have not identified any connection to Wales from this animal. However, there is currently no commercial vaccine against BTV 3 that is approved for use in the UK and the FUW is therefore urging its members to consider the origin of purchased stock and the use of over-wintering in high risk areas of England.

FUW Deputy Head of Policy Dr Hazel Wright, said: "It is perhaps confirmation of our robust GB annual BTV disease surveillance programme that this single case was detected in a non-imported animal. This early detection has allowed the appropriate measures to be put in place to minimise the risk of disease transmission further afield in England and offers some protection to our farmers here in Wales."

As part of a 10km temporary control zone which has been established around the affected premises, the movements of susceptible animals will be restricted. Additional surveillance is also being undertaken to ensure that this is an isolated case.

"Whilst this virus does not affect people or food safety, understanding the risks associated with buying in stock is imperative as the impact of this disease on livestock can



"This early detection has allowed the appropriate measures to be put in place to minimise the risk."

be extremely variable. Some animals will show no clinical signs of infection whilst mortality can occur in severe cases," added Dr Wright.

For BTV serotypes 1,2, 4 and 8, vaccination is possible and members should discuss the best options for protecting their stock with their vet. Vaccines do not

offer cross protection so vaccination against these BTV serotypes will not protect stock from BTV3.

"BTV can spread rapidly amongst ruminants and can cause significant production losses. Alongside purchasing livestock from responsible sources, surveillance is the best way to combat the spread of this disease and we are therefore urging members to be vigilant and report any suspicions of disease immediately," she said.



Help to make Jack's

Christmas wish come true

Earlier this year, one-year-old Jack suffered a catastrophic head injury which left him fighting for his life.

Without Wales Air Ambulance, Jack wouldn't have made it to hospital.

The treatments Jack received would usually only be available within a hospital setting, but thanks to the advanced clinicians on board Wales Air Ambulance, he received lifesaving treatments on scene, including a general anaesthetic, specialist medication to minimise the bleed to his brain and being placed onto a ventilator.

"Wales Air Ambulance has given us the greatest gift of all, they've given Jack a future. It is Jack's Christmas wish that Wales Air Ambulance can continue saving lives. Please help to make his wish come true but donating today, you never know when you or your loved one might need them."

Jess Howells, Jack's mum

www.walesairambulance.com

Donate



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Complete this questionnaire on livestock worrying

THE FUW is seeking members' experiences relating to dog attacks on livestock.

Despite a wealth of educational campaigns aimed at promoting responsible dog ownership, FUW members continue to be plagued by this extremely significant crime which can have devastating financial and wellbeing impacts.

At present, there is no mandatory requirement for police forces to record incidents of dog attacks on livestock and the FUW is therefore collecting data to further our lobbying activities in this area.

The survey can be found via the following links:

Welsh survey - <https://forms.gle/4WDZvGXKV6WG6pR8A>

English survey - <https://forms.gle/wh5SDrPofFcmrHW8A>



Increase in thefts in rural settings

DYFED Powys Police are reminding residents to be diligent in the run up to Christmas and beyond. Recently there has been an increase in thefts from rural settings. Any suspicious incidents should be reported to the Police. Ensure that properties are secure and any farm machinery locked, without the keys being left in the vehicles.

Any Crime prevention advice is available, either online via the Dyfed Powys website or through your respective Rural Crime Teams.

Some useful information available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/mryxwy73>

<https://tinyurl.com/288n8m93> (URLs have been shortened)



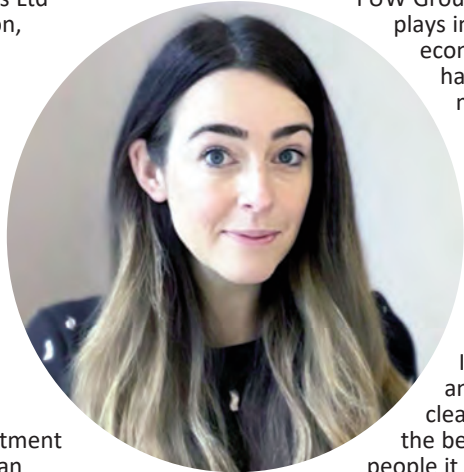
FUW Insurance Services Ltd appoints new Board member

FUW Insurance Services Ltd appointed Emily Morton, (pictured right), to its Board in October.

Emily is currently Head of Legal at Principality Building Society based in Cardiff and is proud to work with such strong, member focused institutions, who play a vital part in supporting communities right across Wales and beyond.

Following her appointment Emily said: It feels like an exciting time to join FUW Insurance Services Ltd. The increase in regulation in the insurance sector aimed at ensuring the right outcomes for customers is a real opportunity for us to drive growth and to cement our place as the rural insurer of choice, both in Wales and more broadly across the UK.

"I am very proud to be joining the wider



FUW Group, given the key role it plays in promoting the rural economy here in Wales. I have already seen how much of a support the FUW is for members, from fighting their corner on the policy issues that matter, to supporting with changes to legislation, and raising awareness of mental health support. It's great to be joining an organisation that clearly cares about getting the best results for the people it represents.

I'm looking forward to bringing my legal, regulatory and wider business experience to a new sector, and I'm keen to speak with as many people as possible to understand how FUW Insurance Services Ltd can best support our customers in these challenging times."

You can get in touch with Emily on email: emily.morton@fuw.org.uk

Llanfair Caereinion farmer joins FUW Board

THE FUW has appointed prominent Llanfair Caereinion farmer, Wyn Williams, (pictured right), to its Board as a Farmer Director.

Mr Williams farms at Penllwyn Farm, Llanfair Caereinion, Powys, a 280 acre hill farm where he keeps 600 ewes and 150 ewe lambs.

He is a former senior livestock buyer at Dunbia (Llanybydder) and also held roles such as Group Procurement Manager and Livestock Procurement Manager with them. He has been on the Board of Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales for 9 years and is also the FUW's county Vice Chair in Montgomeryshire.

Speaking about his appointment to the FUW Board, he said: "Farming faces a turbulent and uncertain future and now more than ever we need to ensure that the FUW is there to ensure that our members are well served in return for their membership fees.

"At a time of significant change within the sector I'm looking forward to helping guide the efforts of the Union from a business perspective to help us support our members in navigating those challenges."



"Farming faces a turbulent and uncertain future and now more than ever we need to ensure that the FUW is there to ensure that our members are well served."

Planning for change? - A finance view

by Gareth Price, Regional (Wales) Sales Manager at Close Brothers Asset Finance, and Agricultural specialist

I have now represented Close Brothers Agriculture here in Wales for the past 18 months. I know it's a cliché, but it's hard to believe how quickly time has passed by. During this time, there has been unprecedented challenges for businesses including; interest rates increases; accessing finance, and; persistent market uncertainty resulting from geo-political upheaval with the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Domestically, the uncertainty about life after EU funds continues to pose nervousness for the farming industry and all those businesses and communities that depend on a thriving agricultural industry. These challenges are as evident as ever, and perhaps more evident in light of increasing operating costs and unprecedented costs of living. A double whammy.

Turmoil? Yes, perhaps, not sure?..

I'm seeing evidence of resilience being as strong as ever, with individuals and businesses seeking to change and looking for the opportunities to not only survive but to thrive.

During previous months, I have attended interesting exhibitions learning about new and innovative technologies, services and concepts. Recently, I returned from a Farm Business Innovation show held at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, and the Innovation & Diversification Wales event at Builth Wells, energised by what I saw and learnt. The tourism industry is evolving in front of our own eyes, with glamping pods evolving into lodge pods; visitors wanting more for less; and dare I say it signs of strengthening staycation interest for 2024.

Electrical vehicle charging points are becoming a unique selling point. Renewable technology is no longer a new concept, but a technology of necessity, with battery storage systems increasingly seen as a viable bolt-on necessity to provide a consistent 24-hour power distribution from intermittent production sources such as Solar PV.

'AI' (Artificial Intelligence) has a different meaning to the insemination person visits in days gone by, and will have a significant impact on how we love, work and do business in the decades ahead. Robotics revolution is coming ever closer, with the commercialisation of sonar drone technology evolving to support an exciting new carbon sequestration measuring tool and key to unlocking potential carbon trading opportunities.

We are in an interesting and exciting period, with real opportunities emerging to grasp new and existing concepts, to release cash, reduce costs and develop sales opportunities. Oh, and I have not mentioned food and drinks production opportunities, core to agri of course.

Can't afford to invest? Can you afford not to invest or explore? Hwyl am y tro.



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- Refurbishment Finance
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Contact:

Gareth Price:
gareth.price@closebrothers.com
07858 376661

More information:

www.closeassetfinance.co.uk/agriculture



Gareth Price
Regional Sales Manager



SCAN ME

HSE to visit farms as part of national inspection campaign

FARMERS are being reminded they must change their attitude towards safety as Britain's workplace regulator readies itself for a wave of inspections in the coming months.

Inspectors from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) will visit farms across England, Scotland and Wales as part of a push to change the culture in the industry and check for compliance with long standing legal requirements. People on farms are 21 times more likely to be killed in a workplace accident than other sectors.

In total, there have been 161 deaths on Britain's farms over the last five years - an average of 26 people each year. This includes members of the public and children.

The visits, that started at the end of October and go on until next April, will focus on the main causes of death in farming, including working with cattle, operating and maintaining vehicles and falls from height.

They will also look at risks to members of the public, which often means the management of cattle around public rights of way, as well as child safety on the farm. HSE plans to carry out 440 visits during the campaign.

One of the HSE inspectors helping organise and support the visits is Kathy Gostick, who offered the following advice to farmers: "We will not only be checking farmers' knowledge of risk but also making sure they understand their responsibility to themselves and others. We will look at actions they have taken to control these risks and comply with the law."

Although the number of deaths in the agricultural sector has fallen by around half since the early 1980s, the rate of fatalities, which is based on the number of people at work in the sector, has remained stubbornly high, much higher than comparable industries.

In a bid to reduce that number, Kathy Gostick has called for

The visits will focus on the main causes of death in farming, including working with cattle, operating and maintaining vehicles and falls from height



farmers to stop and think differently about their own and other peoples' safety.

"There are simply too many tragedies in farming and it is time for that to change. We are committed to making workplaces safer and healthier and that includes agriculture - we will do this by highlighting the risks, providing advice and guidance, and by holding employers to account for their actions.

"This means changing attitudes towards safety - it is the only way we will reduce the numbers of people being injured or killed.

"These upcoming inspections will help drive home the message that the only way we can bring down the numbers being injured or killed is if we change behaviour."

Alongside inspections, HSE regularly gives advice on safe practice to key industry stakeholders, including at agricultural shows. The regulator is a key member of the Farm Safety Partnership.



There are many simple actions farmers can take to reduce the key risks:

- When using and maintaining vehicles follow 'Safe Stop' and use adequate props during maintenance.
- When handling cattle ensure good handling facilities are in place and used and that you have considered protection of members of the public when cattle are kept in field with public access.
- When considering working at height; avoid doing the work yourself - use a professional contractor instead. Don't ever be tempted to use the wrong equipment - being lifted on the forks or bucket of a telehandler or fork lift truck is illegal. As is walking or working on fragile roof materials.
- When considering children on farms, try and avoid them being there in the first place and if not then full and complete supervision is required.

More information:
www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/

Farm safety and skills training key themes at Winter Fair

INSPIRING safe practices on Welsh farms was the key aim of the Wales Farm Safety Partnership (WFSP) when it hosted a series of activities in collaboration with Farming Connect at the 2023 Royal Welsh Winter Fair.

Farming Connect, in a joint initiative with WFSP invited Welsh agricultural colleges and also secondary schools that offer agriculture on their curriculum to the Lantra Building at the Llanelwedd showground to hear a presentation by Brian Rees, a farmer who is also a Farming Connect trainer and mentor in health and safety.

Brian delivered talks on both days on farm health and safety, including ATV driving and working at heights.

The WFSP ran a daily competition from their stand with the chance to win an ATV helmet.

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**WALES
FARM SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP**

Staff also handed out everything from new-style farm safety signs and a booklet aimed at children to the reading book, *Diolch byth am Bob!*

In the Lantra Building, a special event saw training providers promoting their training courses and engaging with the public.

Providers ran interactive demonstrations - on Monday it was IBERS, JHS Ltd, PMR Ltd, NPTC and Simply the Best Training Ltd and on Tuesday, IBERS, Coleg Sir Gâr, mwmac Ltd, Insynch and St John Ambulance.

An ATV supplied by Smithfield Tractors was used to promote safety messages on the use of these vehicles.

Support was available to complete a Personal Development Plan (PDP) and e-learning modules and for submitting funding applications.



Brian Rees, farmer, who is also a Farming Connect trainer and mentor in health and safety.

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2. If the total income of the property is < £31,000 per year (for people who are self employed this is your profit, not your turnover)
3. If anyone in the property receives Working tax credit, Child tax credit, Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or certain other benefits

We are able to help if you use either Oil, LPG, Wood, Coal or electric to heat your home. Unfortunately we are unable to help if the property has mains gas central heating.



Call today for more information
0330 223 0333



Funding is limited and is strictly allocated on a first come, first served basis. Any grant funding that you receive does not have to be re-paid.

The level of funding that you may receive is based upon the amount of carbon dioxide that will be saved by installing an energy saving measure. A survey of your property is necessary to calculate this funding. All funding offers are subject to survey. Please contact us to arrange a free, no-obligation survey.

More information on the Government's ECO funding scheme can be found on the OFGEM website:
<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/eco/about-eco-scheme>

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a government energy efficiency scheme in Great Britain to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty.

Further information can be found at www.energysavinggrants.org

“Yarn in a Barn” events gave farming families a chance to socialise and share concerns

by Linda Jones, National Manager (Wales), The Farming Community Network

THIS autumn FCN Cymru held three “Yarn in a Barn” (Sgwrs Mewn Sgubor) events. These social events were free of charge, including supper, to give farming families a chance to meet up and share their concerns and worries, exchange experiences and present solutions.

The Mid Wales event was held at Gwernyfed Rugby Club, Talgarth and our guest for the evening was Will Penri Evans, a Wrexham farmer, a Farmer’s Weekly columnist and Oxford Farming Conference Director. Compere for the evening was Steve Meredith, well-known shearing commentator and Mid Wales and South Powys Farm Liaison Officer.

Will spoke about his farming life as well as his own mental health struggles. It was really heartening to hear numerous people in the audience contributing toward

the conversation and admitting that they too had suffered from poor mental health. Will and Steve definitely managed to create an ambience of sharing.

Ruthin Rugby Club was the venue for our North Wales event and guest speaker for the night was Dr Eilir Hughes, a GP based in Nefyn. Dr Hughes was nominated last year for a Critical (key) Worker Award at the St David Awards. The evening was led by past FUW President, Glyn Roberts. Dr Hughes presented some slides and spoke about the importance of good physical and mental health for farming people. Amongst the topics he addressed were, Sepsis, skeletal problems and farm accidents as well as many other afflictions that affect farming people. Glyn encouraged a healthy debate surrounding some of these problems.

Kate and Jim Beavan and their son Sam, of Great Tre-rhew Farm, Llanvetherine, very kindly hosted our South Wales event in their 17th century barn. This farm was the location of the first ever BBC’s Lambing Live programme.

The theme for this event was diversification. Ably assisting on the night with the Q&A session was FCN volunteer and Monmouthshire Rural Support Centre lead, Bob Stevenson. Kate and Jim demonstrated their cider making skills and explained in detail how they set about on their diversification path, including setting-up a campsite, planting an orchard and selling cider, perry and apple juice. There were many questions from the attendees regarding the family’s projects - who knew there were so many types of apples available for cider making?

These Yarn in a Barn events have been kindly supported by the Mercer Charitable Foundation. If you completed our online bTB survey during the

summer months, I would like to thank you for taking the time to help us at FCN. This research will help the charity to better understand how farmers and farm families perceive the threat of bTB - helping us to improve our support to those at risk or affected by a bTB breakdown. For those of you who indicated during the survey that you were happy to undertake a longer interview, there may be an e-mail in your inbox very soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you well over the festive season and do remember that FCN’s helpline, 03000 111 999, is available every day of the year from 7am - 11pm, or on e-mail: help@fcn.org.uk

Do keep a look-out for our new events in the New Year!

Farming families met up to exchange experiences and present solutions



Dr Eilir Hughes (left) and past FUW President Glyn Roberts at the North Wales event.



From left, Steve Meredith, Linda Jones and Will Penri Evans at the Mid Wales event.

Tips to help you stay strong when things get tough

by Kate Miles, Charity Manager, The DPJ Foundation

IT can sometimes feel like we as farmers need to be the toughest breed on the planet - having to manage and survive everything that gets thrown at us (whether that is from regulations, prices or the weather). There’s no doubt that Welsh farmers are a resilient group, but how to do we stay strong when things seem overwhelmingly tough?

At the DPJ Foundation, we often talk about the “stress bucket” as a way to proactively manage stress. This is a way of thinking about stress as the level of water in a bucket: when we encounter stressful situations each day, more water fills our stress bucket. If we don’t manage that stress, the bucket will eventually overflow and we hit breaking point. Thankfully our buckets have a tap which means we can manage stress by doing things to help, letting out some of that water.

When I’m feeling overwhelmingly stressed, I find that a change of scenery (whether that is simply a walk outside or a drive) can help a little. However, I often need to move my mind away from the repetitive thinking and sometimes I do this by “tricking” my mind; trying to think of as many films or songs as I can starting with a particular letter, finding an animal for every letter of the alphabet or reciting the 19 times table (it involves some maths so forces you to stop thinking).

This can then clear enough space in my thoughts to be able to look a bit more rationally at what is needed. Physical exercise, especially sport, is also great as you can’t focus on a problem when you’re trying to intercept a ball!

My biggest tip for building resilience would be to try being proactive: very few things improve by being ignored. Instead, try to make a plan of how to address a situation, can someone else help or can offloading your worries clear some mind space for you to be able to focus. Remember how strong you are: you will have faced difficulties in the past

and survived, you can do it again - what helped you get through things last time? Even in the worst situations, there can be glimmers of hope: it may simply be discovering your own strength or who else can be relied on.

It can sometimes feel like you’ve been backed into a corner and have no options, but there is always a choice: that may only be the choice of how you react to a situation, whether you let it defeat you or if you have the strength to get through it, but there are always options. Holding onto grudges is the enemy of resilience; it reinforces negative thoughts bringing you down. If you can’t forget, try to forgive and draw a line to allow you to be stronger.

When it feels like you’ve withstood as many knocks as you can, try to remember the words of Muhammad Ali a man who took his fair share of punches “ain’t nothing wrong with going down. It’s staying down that’s wrong” and get back to your feet.

Call Share the Load

I siarad / to talk:
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neu testun / or by text:
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Ar agor / open: 24/7

#ShareTheLoad
#RhannwchYBaich

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Welsh Language Line
(Llinell Gymraeg):
0808 164 0123



DPJ Foundation:
Call 0800 587 4262 /
Text 07860 048799



Mind Cymru: 0300 123
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/ Text 86463



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0800 121
4722



ANGLESEY

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Ymweliad Fferm ym Mhorthamel

Cafwyd trafodaeth ddifyr gyda Rhun ap Iorwerth Arweinydd Plaid Cymru ar Fferm Porthamel, Llanedwen drwy garedigrwydd Dilwyn a Buddug Owen. Y prif faterion a drafodwyd oedd yr heriau mae ffermwyr tenant yn ei wynebu, megis y rheoliadau Rheoli Llygredd Amaethyddol a'r Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy sydd ar y gweill.



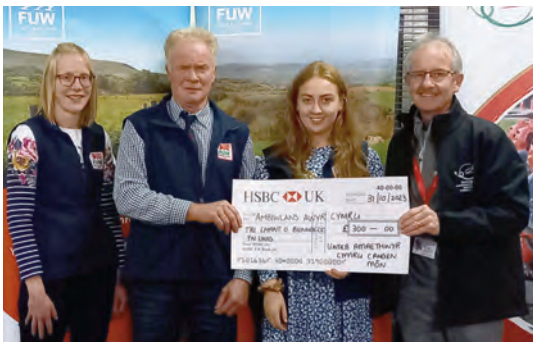
An interesting discussion was held with Leader of Plaid Cymru Rhun ap Iorwerth at Porthamel Farm, Llanedwen courtesy of Dilwyn and Buddug Owen. The main issues discussed were the challenges that tenant farmers face, such as the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations and the Sustainable Farming Scheme.

Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol

Cynhaliwyd ein Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol ar nos Fawrth y 31ain o Hydref yng Nghanolfan CFFI Ynys Môn, Cae Sioe Môn. Bu'n fraint cael Mr Geraint Davies, aelod o fwrdd Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru atom fel gŵr gwadd i drafod ei rôl a'i phwysigrwydd o fewn y bwrdd. Cafwyd nifer o drafodaethau buddiol, diolch yn fawr iddo. Yn bresennol hefyd oedd PSCO Rhys Evans o'r tîm troseddau cefn gwlad a rhoddodd diweddariad o'r sefyllfa yn Ynys Môn yn ogystal â thrafod y pecyn smartwater newydd.

Yn ystod y noson roedd yn anrhydedd cael Alwyn Jones atom i gyflwyno sic o £300 i Ambiwllans Awyr Cymru a godwyd yn ystod raffl sioe Môn eleni. Rydym yn hynod ddiolchgar o'r gwaith mae'r elusen yn ei wneud dros Gymru gyfan.

Our AGM was held on October 31 at the Anglesey YFC Centre, Anglesey Agricultural Show Site. It was a privilege to have Mr Geraint Davies, Natural Resources Wales board member as our guest speaker to discuss his role and its importance within the board. There were many beneficial discussions, many thanks to him. PSCO Rhys Evans from the rural crime team was also present and gave an update on the situation in Anglesey as well as discussing the new smartwater package. During the evening it was an honour to present Alwyn Jones of the Wales Air Ambulance with a cheque for £300 that was raised through a raffle at the Anglesey show. We are extremely grateful for the work the charity does for the whole of Wales.



O'r chwith, Alaw Jones, Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol Ynys Môn, William S Hughes, Cadeirydd UAC Cangen Ynys Môn, Alys Roberts, Dirprwy Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol ac Alwyn Jones, Codwr Arian Cymunedol Ambiwllans Awyr Cymru.

Cadair Eisteddfod CFFI Cymru

Yn ystod y cyfarfod blynyddol cafwyd amser i gyflwyno ac arddangos y gadair ar gyfer Eisteddfod Ffermwyr Ifanc Cymru. Noddwyd y goron gan Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru cangen Môn, gyda chlod mawr i Tomos Jones saer lleol am greu'r gadair hynod o ddeniadol yma. Gwaith ardderchog dros ben!

Cynhaliwyd Eisteddfod Cymru ar y 18fed o Dachwedd, pleser oedd clywed mai Mared Fflur Roberts, CFFI Dyffryn Madog, Eryri enillodd y gadair. Llongyfarchiadau mawr i ti, y gwaith caled wedi talu ar ei ganfed!

The Wales YFC Eisteddfod Chair was displayed and presented during the Annual General Meeting. The crown was sponsored by FUW Anglesey, and many thanks to local carpenter Tomos Jones for creating a beautiful chair. The Wales YFC Eisteddfod was held on November 18, and it was a pleasure to hear that Mared Fflur Roberts, of Dyffryn Madog YFC, Eryri won the chair. Congratulations, hard work certainly pays off!



Ffair Aeaf

Cafwyd Ffair Aeaf hynod lwyddiannus eto eleni diolch i bawb a wnaeth alw heibio am sgwrs. Llongyfarchiadau hefyd i bawb oedd yn cystadlu.

The Winter Fair was a huge success again this year, and thanks to everyone who called at our stand for a chat. Congratulations also to all who competed.

BRECON & RADNOR

breconandradnor@fuw.org.uk

01982 554030

100 Club winners

Congratulations to our latest 100 Club winners:

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| E Meredith | M Phillips |
| L Jones | G Powell |
| J Harries | P Davies |



CAERNARFON

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Hydref prysur

Mae wedi bod yn hydref prysur iawn yma yn Sir Gaernarfon yn sgil Llywodraeth Cymru yn cyflwyno'r cynllun Cynefin Cymru, ac o ganlyniad i gynorthwyo aelodau i gwblhau a chyflwyno datganiadau o ddiddordeb i ymuno â'r cynllun rydym wedi methu â threfnu'r cyfarfodydd cangen arferol. Er hynny, y bwriad erbyn hyn yw trefnu ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn pan fyddwn yn gallu trafod y ddogfen ymgynghorol newydd ar y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy.

Y bwriad yw trefnu cyfarfodydd cangen ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn pan fyddwn yn gallu trafod y ddogfen ymgynghorol newydd ar y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy

It's been a very busy autumn here in Caernarfonshire as a result of the Welsh Government introducing the Wales Habitat scheme. We have been busy assisting members to complete and submit declarations of interest to join the scheme, and therefore we have been unable to organise the usual branch meetings. However, the intention now is to organise meetings at the beginning of the year which will be an opportunity to discuss the latest Sustainable Farming scheme consultation which will come into force from 2025 onwards. It is the Welsh Government's intention to publish this all important document before the end of the year. Caernarfonshire's campaign to raise money towards the Royal Welsh is about to get underway and we have been invited to join the Committee, we really hope it will be a successful effort with everyone able to have fun during the fundraising. Remember to get in touch if you would like help with completing your workbooks and risk maps to ensure you comply with the new rules for preventing pollution. As county staff, we'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your support during the past year and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gostyngiadau i aelodau UAC FUW member discounts



Mewngofnodwch i'n gwefan neu cysylltwch â'ch swyddfa sirol leol i gael mynediad at ein holl ostyngiadau i aelodau'n unig

Log-in to our website or contact your local county office to access all our member-only discounts

www.fuw.org.uk

CEREDIGION

ceredigion@fuw.org.uk

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Noson stêc

Trefnodd cangen Ceredigion dwy Noson Stêc lwyddiannus ym mis Tachwedd. Trefnwyd yr un cyntaf yn Nhafarn Cefn Hafod, Gorsgoch ar y 9fed o Dachwedd. Bwyd ardderchog fel yr arfer a braf oedd cael noson o gymdeithasu.

Ar nos Iau 16eg o Dachwedd buom yn Nhafarn Halfway Inn, Pisgah. Noson lwyddiannus dros ben gyda'r dafarn yn llawn aelodau'r Undeb yn dod at ei gilydd i gymdeithasu a rhoi'r byd yn i le. Eto, cafwyd bwyd blasus yn yr Halfway gyda'r cig o gilydd lleol. Ein siaradwr gwadd am y noson oedd Alun Elidyr, Llysgennad Partneriaeth Diogelwch Fferm Cymru.

Esboniodd Alun pa mor hawdd mae damweiniau yn gallu digwydd ar y fferm, ac esboniodd pa gamau y gellid eu cymryd i leihau neu ddileu risgiau o ddamweiniau i lawer o deuluoedd. Neges Alun i'r aelodau oedd 'Cadwch yn Ddiogel'.

Braf oedd gweld cymaint o aelodau ifanc yr Undeb wedi mynychu'r noson - cofiwch, chi yw dyfodol yr Undeb!



The Ceredigion branch organised two successful Steak Nights in November. The first one was held at Cefn Hafod Pub, Gorsgoch on November 9. As usual, the food was excellent and it was nice to have an evening of socialising. On Thursday November 16 we were at the Halfway Inn, Pisgah. It was a very successful night with the pub full of Union members coming together to socialise. Again, there was delicious food at the Halfway with the meat supplied by a local butcher. Our guest speaker for the evening was Alun Elidyr, Wales Farm Safety Partnership Ambassador. Alun explained how easily accidents can happen on the farm, and explained what steps can be taken to reduce or eliminate risks of accidents for many families. Alun's message to members was 'Keep Safe'. It was great to see so many young Union members attending the evening - remember, you are the future of the Union!

Calendr
2024 UAC

Ar gael nawr yn swyddfa'r Undeb yn Llanbed am £5 gyda £1 o bob gwerthiant yn mynd tuag at Ambiwllans Awyr Cymru. Ffoniwch 01570 424515 i archebu.

FUW 2024 calendars are available now at the Lampeter FUW office for £5 with £1 from each sale going to the Wales Air Ambulance. Call 01570 424515 to buy yours.

Clwb 200 Club

- 1 - Benjamin Llwynderw, Llangeitho
- 2 - Taylor, Gwern yr Efail, Cross Inn
- 3 - Brynmor Morgan, Tŷ Newydd, Cwmystwyth

CFFI Ceredigion

Llongyfarchiadau i CFFI Ceredigion ar ddod yn gydradd 1af eleni yn Eisteddfod CFFI Cymru 2023. Hefyd, llongyfarchiadau mawr i Alaw Fflur Jones, CFFI Felinfach, (*gweler ar y dde*), a enillodd y Goron yn Eisteddfod Cymru'r diwrnod hwnnw. Tipyn o gamp yn wir.

Congratulations to Ceredigion YFC who were joint winners of this year's Wales YFC Eisteddfod. Also, huge congratulations to Alaw Fflur Jones, Felinfach YFC, (pictured right), who won the Wales YFC Eisteddfod Crown.



CARMARTHEN

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Rugby player joins county exec meeting as guest speaker



From left, FUW Carmarthen County Executive Officer David Waters, FUW Regional Vice President Anwen Hughes, FUW President Ian Rickman, Wyn Jones and FUW Carmarthenshire Chair Ann Davies.

Local celebrity Wyn Jones, Clunmawr farm, Welsh rugby union player who plays for Scarlets was guest speaker at our County Executive Meeting held at Llandovery RFC on Thursday November 2.

Wyn's grandfather, Llew Jones, was one of the founder members of the FUW.

An enjoyable evening was had by all and we thank Wyn for joining us.

DENBIGH & FLINT

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Ymweliad fferm

Cafwyd trafodaeth ddiwyf iawn gydag Arweinydd Plaid Cymru Rhun ap Iorwerth ac Aelod o'r Senedd dros Ogledd Cymru Llŷr Gruffydd ar ymweliad fferm Moor Farm, Treffynnon ar y 31ain o Hydref.

Mae Dei Davies yn ffermio gyda'i wraig Heulwen a'i fab Rhys ac yn godro 120 o wartheg ac yn cadw oddeutu 80 o stoc ifanc. Trafodwyd y materion presennol sydd yn wynebu ffermwyr gan gynnwys y Rheoliadau Rheoli Llygredd Amaethyddol, cynigion y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy a TB.

Dywedodd Dei: "Rydym yn ofni bod y targedau plannu coed a'r Rheoliadau Rheoli Llygredd Amaethyddol yn golygu y bydd yn rhaid i ni leihau lefelau stocio. Byddai hynny yn golygu y byddem yn edrych ar odro tua 60 o wartheg yn unig. Mewn gwirionedd byddai hynny'n golygu ein bod yn llai proffidiol oherwydd y gostyngiad mewn incwm, ac wrth roi hynny ar draws Cymru gyfan a byddai diwydiant llaeth Cymru ond yn colli 1/3 o gynhyrchiant llaeth."

There was a very interesting discussion with Leader of Plaid Cymru Rhun ap Iorwerth and Member of the Senedd for the North Wales region Llŷr Gruffydd during a visit to Moor Farm, Holywell on October 31. Dei Davies farms with his wife Heulwen and son Rhys, milks 120 cows and keeps around 80 young stock. The current issues facing farmers were discussed including the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations, the Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals and TB. Dei said: "Our fear is that tree planting targets and the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations mean that we will have to reduce stocking rates. That would mean we'd be looking at milking about 60 cows only. In effect that would mean we're less profitable because of the reduced income. Put that across all of Wales and the Welsh dairy industry would only lose 1/3 of milk production."



O'r chwith, Dirprwy Lywydd UAC Dai Miles, Rhun ap Iorwerth, Dei Davies a'i wŷr Owen John Hughes a Llŷr Gruffydd.

Llongyfarchiadau

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i Lowri Williams, Cydlynnydd Cyfrif Sir Ddinbych a'i gŵr Shaun ar enedigaeth eu merch Cari Violet Wyn Williams. Dymuniadau gorau i chi fel teulu.

Congratulations to Lowri Williams, Denbighshire Account Handler and her husband Shaun on the birth of their daughter Cari Violet Wyn Williams. Best wishes to you all.



MEIRIONNYDD

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Eisteddfod Powys

Braf oedd gweld teilyngdod yn yr Eisteddfod. Llongyfarchiadau i Gareth William Jones yn enedigol o Ddyffryn Ogwen ond erbyn rŵan yn byw yn Bow Street. Gwych oedd gweld bod y Goron wedi mynd i'w chartref newydd.

It was nice to see merit in the Eisteddfod. Congratulations to Gareth William Jones, originally from the Ogwen Valley but now living in Bow Street. It was great to see that the Crown has gone to its new home.



Gareth William Jones a rhai o gynrychiolwyr UAC.

Eisteddfod Ffermwyr Ifanc

Cafwyd diwrnod llwyddiannus dros ben yn Eisteddfod CFFI a gynhaliwyd yn Neuadd Dyfi, Aberdyfi ar ddechrau mis Tachwedd. Llongyfarchiadau mawr i bawb fu'n cystadlu, ac yn arbennig i Glwb Cwmtirmynach am ddod yn fuddugol ar y diwedd, (*gweler lun isod*).

Llongyfarchiadau arbennig hefyd i Lleucu Arfon o Glwb Cwmtirmynach a Gwenith Williams o Glwb Maesywaen ar ddod yn fuddugol yn y gystadleuaeth Aelod Hŷn ac Iau'r flwyddyn. Dyma'r gystadleuaeth a oedd yn cael ei noddi gan Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru.

A very successful YFC

Eisteddfod was held at Neuadd Dyfi, Aberdyfi at the beginning of November. Congratulations to everyone who competed, and especially to Cwmtirmynach YFC for winning the Eisteddfod, (see picture right). Congratulations also to Lleucu Arfon, Cwmtirmynach YFC and Gwenith Williams Maesywaen YFC for winning the Senior and Junior Member of the year competition. This is the competition that was sponsored by the FUW.



MONTGOMERYSHIRE

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Football sponsorship

FUW Insurance Services Ltd are proud to sponsor the away shirts for Berriew Ladies Football Club.

Montgomery Account Executive Danielle Walker, (*pictured right*), who's a member of the ladies team said: "I started my football journey in 2019, turning up to a training session with Berriew Ladies having had no previous football experience and having never played for a team before.

"I was welcomed into the training sessions, and it soon became clear that all abilities were welcome and it wasn't just about the football, the social side of it also played an important part.

"It provided a number of ladies with an opportunity to get out and meet new people while also taking part in physical activity, something that they perhaps might not have been able to do otherwise. People from farming backgrounds in particular may not have any other hobbies due to time constraints and the nature of their work but local football clubs are able to give them this opportunity as it's accessible. As farming is classed as being quite an isolating and lonely occupation, it



could also be a lifeline to someone that needs it by way of providing them with friendship and a support network.

"I strongly believe that local grass roots clubs play a major role in our rural communities, bringing people from farming backgrounds and the wider community together. These clubs are a hub for them to get out and be part of a team, to socialise and celebrate success together, all of which can contribute towards good mental health. And it's not just about the players, it also provides others in the community with opportunities to get out and watch the games and show their support.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to FUW Insurance Services Ltd for the sponsorship, the support is much appreciated."

Find out more about Danielle's football journey in Cornel Clecs on page 6 with an English version on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "Football and its link to rural communities," or from your local county office.

PEMBROKESHIRE

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Charity quiz night

On November 17 we held a sold out charity quiz night in aid of the President's charity Wales Air Ambulance. A big thank you to everyone who joined us, our quiz master and his wife Hugh and

Sylvia Roberts for all their help, to Nicola and the team at The Pelcomb Inn for hosting us and to Elgan Williams and Marion Davies for providing the prizes.

A fantastic evening culminated in a win for the Deputy President's team with the President's team coming in second place! The support and generosity which we received meant that the fantastic sum of £461 was raised.



Farmhouse Breakfast Week

We will once again be holding two charity breakfast events in aid of Wales Air Ambulance on Tuesday January 16 in Hermon and Friday January 19 in Crundale and we are looking for help. If you or someone you know would be able to provide any form of sponsorship for either of the events or would be willing to help out at them please get in touch on 01437 762913 or email us at pembrokeshire@fuw.org.uk

Any assistance no matter how small would be greatly appreciated.

CAN YOU HELP?

Postage stamps

A big thank you to all of you who have saved your used postage stamps during the year and given them to us to pass onto charity. We are still collecting so please keep up the good effort. All you need to do is tear/cut the stamps off the envelope leaving a good margin of paper around the stamp, including if possible, the Post Office's frank mark, showing the date of posting etc., and drop them into the county office when you next visit.

Diolch am eich cefnogaeth barhaol trwy gydol 2023

Thank you for your continued support throughout 2023

Nadolig Plawen Merry Christmas

Mae timau UAC ledled Cymru yn cymryd seibiant o hanner dydd, dydd Gwener 22ain o Ragfyr ac yn croesawu ymholiadau o ddydd Mawrth 2il o Ionawr 2024.

FUW teams across Wales are taking a break from 12 noon on Friday 22nd December and welcome enquiries from Tuesday 2nd January 2024.



Advertorial

Increase productivity and reduce lameness with Hoofsure Endurance – the safe, clinically proven and cost-effective footbath.

Lameness costs money

Lameness is one of the most common debilitating health concerns for dairy cattle, with roughly 30% experiencing it during their lifetime. It results in poor cow performance and substantial economic losses that can run to more than £80 per case. Often, outbreaks will affect as many as 40% of cows in the herd. Digital dermatitis is one of the major causes and, although there is no method of eradicating this disease, it can be effectively managed to prevent it taking hold. The key is to regularly pass cows through a footbath filled with a quality antibacterial solution that is proven to control digital dermatitis and other infectious lesions.

Hoofsure Endurance gets on top of the problem

Hoofsure Endurance is an innovative footbath solution that gives farmers effective lameness control without damaging the environment, animal or human health. It's backed by more than 40 clinical trials conducted across three continents, and it has racked up more than 440 million cow passes worldwide. The formulation is designed to be used a minimum of three times a week, or daily for troublesome cases, and allows up to 500 cow passes through a 200-litre footbath.

Unlike traditional copper and formalin treatments, the organic acids, essential oils and wetting agents biodegrade naturally over time making it easy to dispose of at the end of its lifespan.

“Hoofsure Endurance is the only product I've ever trialled that has performed as well as formalin at preventing new lesions, and I've trialled a lot of products.”

Dr Nick Bell – Veterinary Surgeon and Specialist in animal welfare and behaviour management.

Foot baths are prevention, which is better than cure

Once an animal is infected with digital dermatitis, she will carry the disease with her for the rest of her life. One way to manage this is through proper footbath use and identifying active lesions for timely treatment. The goal is not to focus solely on treatment but to prevent NEW INFECTIONS by disinfecting feet, ideally every day if not every milking. Cows with active lesions can be identified and promptly treated to reduce the pain and send the lesion in a healing state that does not infect other healthy feet. Foot bathing also appears to help keep infected cows free from infection if done properly at

the right concentration of product. Here are some top tips for best management practices for footbaths, so it lends itself to being less of a chore and more a routine job:

- Use a footbath with adjacent mixing facilities that is long enough for 2-3 feet immersions – ideally around 3m long and 0.6m wide
- Provide a footbath at least every other day and adjust timings based on outcome to achieve a minimum frequency to maintain control
- Use the solution as long as it is effective e.g. 150 to 500 cow passes for a standard 200-litre bath
- Footbath all cow and heifer groups

For the most effective lameness control, it's important to combine a quality footbath solution – such as Hoofsure Endurance – with a well-designed bathing system and regular treatment routine.

Co-written by **Dr Nick J. Bell MA VetMB PhD PG cert Vet. Ed. FHEA DipECAW BM(AWSEL) MRCVS and George Shaw, MPharm MPSNI.**

*References available on request.
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MEAT MATTERS

2023 marketing round-up

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

OUR Welsh Lamb campaign has gained some fantastic results this year and our Welsh Beef campaign is ramping up over the winter months.

Hopefully many of you will have seen our Welsh Lamb television advert over the summer and autumn months. It reached 2 million households in our target markets with a mean frequency of 3 - that's over 4.7 million pairs of eyes! We secured top spots in Emmerdale, Coronation Street and the James Bond movie on ITV, along with key spots during the Eisteddfod and Royal Welsh Show on S4C.

Also, through our digital marketing we've secured a further 20million impressions, including a presence at Waterloo station in London - the UK's busiest train station.

Our advert captures the essence of Wales' majestic landscape and the natural way in which Welsh Lamb is reared, whilst celebrating the all-important role that Welsh farmers play in the sustainable production of deliciously nutritious red meat.

Importantly, feedback from focus groups suggests that our campaign has resonated well with consumers - with a whopping 65% agreeing that "after watching this advert I think of Welsh farmers in a higher regard". Our analysis also confirms that consumers have gained an increased awareness of Welsh Lamb as well as an enhanced trust in the Welsh Lamb brand.

Our Welsh Beef campaign began at the start of November, with the theme of 'Naturally Local'. We have both television and radio creative running across Wales and the borders, again highlighting and championing our fantastic Welsh farms and farmers

who make Welsh Beef so special. We will be ramping up the creative through December encouraging consumers to think of Welsh Beef in the lead up to Christmas.

This campaign will be running into January where our focus will be shifting to health and nutrition messaging - ensuring that consumers understand the catalogue of nutrients and health benefits that Welsh red meat can offer.

On behalf of us all here at HCC, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, and we thank you for your continued support and collaboration over the past 12 months.

And may I suggest that if your households aren't fans of turkey.... Welsh Lamb, Welsh Beef and Pork from Wales make fantastic festive alternatives! Enjoy!

Mae ymgyrch Cig Oen Cymru HCC wedi bod yn llwyddiannus iawn eleni, a dros yr haf a'r hydref, gwylodd 4.7 miliwn o bobl yr hysbyseb ar y teledu a hynny o gwmpas rhaglenni megis Emmerdale, Coronation Street a ffilm James Bond ar ITV a'r Eisteddfod a'r Sioe Frenhinol ar S4C.



PROPERTY MATTERS

Statutory smallholdings

by Kathryn Williams, Director
and RICS Registered Valuer,
Davis Meade Property Consultants

WHERE a holding is let as a smallholding by a smallholdings authority the operation of a notice to quit under special case A can become enforceable.

Under the Agricultural Holdings Act (AHA) 1986, tenants on statutory smallholdings enjoy less protection than those on standard AHA tenancies. Statutory smallholders are excluded from the provisions relating to succession and if the tenancy started after 12th September 1984 but before 1st September 1995 it can be subject to a notice to quit after the tenant reaches pensionable age in certain circumstances. The age used to be 65, however this was amended to "pensionable age" by the Agriculture Act 2020 with effect from 11th January 2021.

The enactment of Case A arose following considerable debate in the House of Lords. It was decided to put provisions in place as the smallholdings were designed to be starter units, however in practice such tenants were often struggling to progress into the private rental or owner-occupied sector.

A smallholdings authority can serve a Case A notice to quit on a smallholdings tenant, however if the effect of service of the notice would deprive the tenant of living accommodation, suitable alternative accommodation must be found in readiness for when the notice takes effect.

It should also be noted that there must be provision within the tenancy agreement that the landlord can rely upon Case A if the landlord wishes to adopt this route. If the tenant wishes to challenge the Case A notice, he must do so, by demanding arbitration within one month. There is no such equivalent power for any other landlord to enforce a Case A notice to quit to deprive his tenant of the tenancy.

For the Case A notice to be enforceable, the tenancy must have commenced after the 12th September 1984, the tenant must be of pensionable age at the date the notice to quit is given, the tenancy agreement must state that the provisions of Case A may apply and can be relied upon by the landlord and where the tenancy includes a dwelling which is occupied by the tenant and the notice to quit will render the tenant without a house, the landlord must provide suitable alternative accommodation at the date of expiry of the notice.

For further information on statutory smallholdings please contact Kathryn Williams at Davis Meade Property Consultants: 07971 583638 or via email: kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com

Pan fydd daliad yn cael ei osod fel tyddyn gan awdurdod mân-ddaliadau gall rhybudd i ymadael o dan achos arbennig A ddod yn orfodol. Am ragor o wybodaeth ar fân-ddaliadau statudol cysylltwch gyda Kathryn Williams yn Davis Meade Property Consultants: 07971 583638 neu drwy e-bostio: kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com



MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

"Y byd yn llawer gwell lle o gael ffrindiau caredig"

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

I BLE'R aeth 2023? Wn i ddim a ydi amser yn mynd yn gynt pan mae rhywun yn mynd yn hŷn, ond mae'r flwyddyn hon wedi mynd ar ruthr gwyllt! Ac am ddiweddglo - cynhaliwyd Cwis Hwyl Cenedlaethol Merched y Wawr gyda llwyddiant mawr i ranbarthau'r Gogledd - Cangen Dinbych yn 1af, yna Penrhosgarnedd 1, Rhiwlas a Bethel 1. Carwn longyfarch pawb a gymerodd ran, ond yn bwysicach oll - diolch i bawb am godi allan a chael noson gymdeithasol yng nghwmni ein gilydd - dros 600 o aelodau mewn 14 o leoliadau a phawb wedi mwynhau cwmni ei gilydd.

Dyna yn wir oedd hanes y Ffair Aeaf - fy hoff ddiwyddiad o'r flwyddyn. Mae yna awyrgylch arbennig, hwyl a chymdeithasu braf - a phawb yn cefnogi ei gilydd yn Llanelwedd. Dwi eleni eto yn gyffrous bod 180 o eitemau wedi cyrraedd y Ffair a hynny yn cynnwys dros 50 o ddefaid gan aelodau gweithgar a thalentog Merched y Wawr.

Rwyf yn mawr obeithio y bydd pawb yn cefnogi cynhyrchwyr bwyd lleol, siopau bach annibynnol ac ambell i siop elusen wrth baratoi at yr Wyl. Mae cefnogaeth o'r math yma yn medru sicrhau dyfodol llwyddiannus. Byddwn ni fel rhan o brosiect ein Llywydd Cenedlaethol Geunor Roberts yn gwerthu Cadwen (necklace) a sgarffiau yn ein holl weithgareddau i godi arian tuag at Ambiwylans Awyr Cymru. Rydym yn mawr obeithio y bydd haelioni ein haelodau yn medru arbed bywyd a rhoi cysur dros y flwyddyn i ddod.

Carwn ddymunio Nadolig hyfryd a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i bob un ohonoch a chofiwch mai yna rai yn dioddef o unigrwydd - codwch y ffôn i gael sgwrs, anfonwch gerdyn i gyfarch neu alw i mewn i weld eich ffrindiau a'ch cymdogion - mae'r byd yma yn llawer gwell lle o gael ffrindiau caredig.

With 2023 quickly drawing to a close, Merched y Wawr reflects on a busy month of events, from National Fun Quizzes to the Winter Fair. As Merched y Wawr wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, they also remind us all to remember those who are lonely at this time of year - a quick phone call means a lot.





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YFC National Eisteddfod

ANGLESEY Showground was the home of Wales YFC's National Eisteddfod this year. On 18 November, Ynys Môn federation welcomed competitors and supporters from across Wales, ten years to the year since the county held the Eisteddfod last.

750 competitors from 12 county federations took part this year in an event that was kindly sponsored by Castell Howell.

There was a wide range of competitions across music, recitation, light section and homework sections that included writing, art and photography competitions. After a day of competing, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion jointly won the Mansel Charles trophy, with both ending the day with 43 points across all Eisteddfod competitions. With 37 points, Meirionnydd federation finished in 3rd place.

A successful chairing and crowning ceremony was held under the leadership of Nia Thomas and sponsored by Arfor/Llwyddo'n Lleol. The Chair was sponsored this year by the FUW and the Crown sponsored by Dŵr Cymru, thanks for their support. The beautiful chair created by Tomos Jones went to Eryri, to Mared Fflur Roberts for her winning poem on the theme 'Locality.' Alaw Fflur Jones from Felinfach YFC, Ceredigion won the Crown this year, made by Helen Evans 'Blod.'

Taking the Denbighshire FUW Trophy for winning the homework section was the Eryri federation and the Elony Phillips shield for the winning federation in stage competitions was Ceredigion federation.

All results are now on the Wales YFC website and it's possible to re-watch the competing that was broadcasted on S4C on iplayer or S4C Clic.



Mared Fflur Roberts, Eryri YFC, chair winner (sponsored by the FUW) (right) and Alaw Fflur Jones, Felinfach YFC winner of the crown.



Carmarthenshire YFC and Ceredigion YFC jointly won the Mansel Charles trophy.



Cai and Ioan, Ceredigion YFC, competing in the humorous duet competition.

Pennant Finance team up with Farming Connect for masterclass

WITH the increased cost of borrowing troubling some farmers, Pennant Finance are working with Farming Connect to help farmers become aware of how these high interest rates will affect their businesses.

Dewi Davies of Pennant Finance will be presenting at a Farming Connect masterclass on "How lenders view accounts" on 12 December, 7.30pm-9.30pm at the Eagles Hotel, Llanrwst. The presentation will help farmers understand what lenders will focus on when reviewing applications for finance.

The days of giving your manager a set of deeds in return for a loan are long gone. Now it's about serviceability, EBITDA, debt service cover, stress test and other terms that you may not be familiar with. Whilst different lenders will have different standards, they will all start with the business' trading accounts over the last three years.

Join us at our masterclass to understand how some of these calculations are done, so you are able to understand how lenders assess whether a business can support the level of debt requested (FUW members will need to register with Farming Connect if they are not already registered).

Numbers of attendees to the masterclass will be limited on the night so if you would like to attend the Farming Connect Masterclass, please contact Sarah Spooner at Pennant Finance 07917 715321 to book a place, book via the Farming Connect website or call 03456 000 813.

The presentation will help farmers understand what lenders will focus on when reviewing applications for finance



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 and fencing (Woodland Creation Grant). If your farm or desired tree planting area is not eligible for the Small Woodland Grant, or is larger than 2ha, applications can be made via this Scheme. More information: https://www.gov.wales/woodland-creation-plan-scheme	Open throughout the year (subject to budget)
Peatland Development Grant	To reverse habitat loss and improve the condition of Welsh peatlands there is capital development grants of between £10,000 - £30,000 available. The peatland must be in Wales - for any cross-border proposals, only the Welsh element will be considered. More Information: https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/grants-and-funding/peatland-development-grant	October 13 2023 - January 15 2024
Growing for the Environment (Spring and Summer crops)	This application window supports the establishment of a range of spring and summer sown crops which can result in improvements in the environmental performance of a farm business. These include mixed leys, protein crops and unsprayed cereals. The full list of eligible crops and requirements have been specified along with a standard payment per hectare. More information: https://www.gov.wales/growing-for-the-environment	November 6 2023 - December 15 2023
Small Grants - Yard Coverings	The Small Grants – Yard Coverings scheme is a capital scheme designed to support farmers in Wales to improve on-farm nutrient management by investing in existing onfarm infrastructure. Support is provided to separate rainwater and slurry from areas such as livestock feeding and gathering areas, manure storage areas and slurry/silage stores. The objectives are to increase on-farm investment, increase technical performance, increase on-farm production efficiencies and increase on-farm resource efficiencies. More information: https://www.gov.wales/small-grants-yard-coverings	November 6 2023 - December 15 2023
Horticulture Development Scheme	The Horticulture Development Scheme is a Capital grant scheme available to existing commercial horticultural producers across Wales. The amount of grant offered would relate to individual circumstances and would always be the minimum amount necessary to allow the investments to go ahead. More information: https://www.gov.wales/horticulture-development-scheme	November 6 2023 - January 12 2024
Agricultural Diversification Scheme	The Agricultural Diversification Scheme is a capital grant scheme available to farmers in Wales. The maximum grant award is £100,000 and the minimum is £3,000. The grant provides a maximum 40% contribution towards capital investments (excluding VAT), which can be demonstrated as offering clear and quantifiable benefits to farm businesses. More information: https://www.gov.wales/agriculture-diversification-scheme	November 6 2023 - January 12 2024

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