

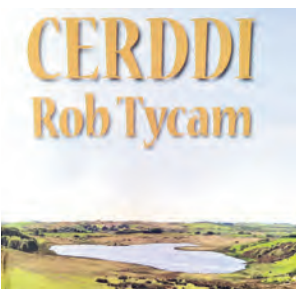


Y TIR

llais ffermwyr Cymru

the voice of Welsh farming

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Rob Tycam - un o feirdd gwlad gyfoes ardal wledig ei filltir sgwâr

tudalen 6



FUW farming Christmas card competition launched

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Additional UK animal movement rules 'utter hypocrisy'



THE announcement that a raft of additional restrictions on animal movements will be introduced in England and Wales and confirmation that live animal exports will be banned has been described as 'utter hypocrisy' by the FUW.

The UK and Welsh Government announced on Wednesday August 18 that animal movement rules - which are already amongst the strictest in the world - would be tightened up significantly, despite standards in other countries not coming close to those already required in the UK. The announcement also confirmed that the new proposals would come in alongside a ban on live animal exports. More details on page 4.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "The decision to tighten the Welsh and English rules while opening the door to more foreign food produced to far lower welfare standards is utter hypocrisy.

"The UK has agreed a trade deal in principle with Australia that will allow the importation of vast volumes of food produced from animals that are moved in conditions that would already be completely illegal in the UK.

"The UK Government is also actively negotiating trade agreements with other countries where animal movement rules do not come close to those enforced in the UK. Most consumers will not pay the extra price for high welfare and traceability, which consequently disadvantages Welsh producers adhering to such high standards."

Mr Roberts said Welsh producers were very proud of their livestock and high standards, and could understand

increasing domestic regulation if it was coupled with further protection and support for our own produce and family farms.

The 2019 Conservative manifesto promised 'in all of our trade negotiations, we will not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards', however the UK Government chose not to enshrine those standards in the Agriculture Act 2020, nor in the recent Australia trade deal negotiations which agreed to massively increase tariff free access for Australian beef and lamb with negligible guarantees on welfare standards.

"We are of course against excessively long journeys for livestock and are confident that the strict standards we have in place already, coupled with the fact we have close export markets, means we are already world leaders when it comes to animal movement welfare standards," he added.

"To ban the crossing of animals from Holyhead to Dublin (56 miles) while agreeing to the importation of more food from countries such as Australia is utter hypocrisy, and is not a decision rooted in evidence.

"In reality, increasing costs and restrictions for Welsh and English farmers by bringing in these additional rules will merely reduce the amount of food we produce in the UK and increase the amount of food produced in countries with lower standards - so the net impact for animal welfare will be negative.

"By tilting the playing field even more in favour of our competitors all that will be done is the off-shoring of responsibility with regards to animal welfare," he said.

"By tilting the playing field even more in favour of our competitors all that will be done is the off-shoring of responsibility with regards to animal welfare."

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FUW UPDATE

A return to some degree of normality?

by Guto Bebb, FUW Group Managing Director

IT'S been eighteen months since I was appointed as the Managing Director of FUWIS and over six months since I assumed the position of FUW Group Managing Director. As you know, we have been restricted in terms of our operations throughout that period due to Covid related lockdowns and rules.

Our staff, be they FUW or FUWIS, have adapted superbly to the changes forced upon us. Member support has been done remotely by the County Officers, policy work is being co-ordinated and communicated via Zoom and our remote county meetings seem to be plagued by the now in-famous comment - "you're on mute!". FUWIS staff have also performed effectively with service levels (and sales) being maintained despite the need to work from home. We should all acknowledge the efforts of the staff to make what was a challenging situation a success story for the FUW.

However, we are now moving to a new normal. By the time you read this edition of *Y Tir* I will have attended the Welsh National Sheep Dog Trials near Tywyn with the FUW and FUWIS teams in Meirionnydd. I will also be looking forward to attend the Usk Show in support of the new team in Glamorgan and Gwent. I have no doubt that many members, and the wider farming community, will also be pleased to be able to attend such events, meet with friends and be part of the social fabric that bind rural communities together as we move out of the restrictions.

From an office perspective we are also aiming for change. Throughout the pandemic we have complied with the request from Welsh Government to work from home. We have done that with a degree of success that has surprised us. However, with the restrictions being eased we are aiming to re-open our offices to members and customers in a manner that is safe, effective and also recognises that there are some changes that we have seen over the past eighteen months which are here to stay.

Under the new guidelines it's clear that we can now re-open subject to a suitable risk assessment for each office. It should be said that in reality what such a move by both Governments means in practice is that the previous certainty is replaced with uncertainty. As such, we are unable to have a single strategy for a return to the offices but need to work on an individual office basis to ensure that our re-opening plans reflect issues such as the size of individual offices, the number of staff at each location, the ability to safely use kitchens and bathrooms and the number of customer doorways that will need to be managed. It will be a challenge but I'm confident that we will get there.

Finally, I want to mention the forthcoming departure of Mrs Margaret Shepherd who has served the Union with dedication and commitment for forty years.

Many of you will know Margaret and appreciate her contribution and there are others much better placed than myself to thank her for the work that she has done for this Union over such a long period of time. I would simply like to thank Margaret for her professionalism, courtesy and good humour and I have no doubts that all the staff would join me in wishing Margaret the very best in whatever she decides to do next. You will be missed Margaret. The FUW without you will be abnormal rather than the much hyped new normal! Diolch am bob dim.



New publishers for *Y Tir* and a greener approach



Y Tir is an essential communication tool for the FUW group and allows us to share the most critical farming matters with you, our members, every month.

For over 20 years the paper has been in the trusted hands of Media Wales, who have done an excellent job in supporting us in the task of producing *Y Tir*.

As of this month we are joining a new media partner, Welshpool Printing Group, who will take over the printing and distribution of the paper. The move will see a few changes for *Y Tir*, including in-house advertising sales, improved paper quality, as well as a more environmentally friendly approach to our packaging.

Speaking about the developments, Editor Nia Davies-Jones said: "This is an exciting time for *Y Tir*. It's a chance for us to approach fresh businesses with advertising opportunities, but also to address some of the concerns our members have raised with us such as the packaging.

"I'm really excited that as of this month *Y Tir* will be delivered to you in compostable bags, which underpins the FUW's ethos of working with the environment and doing what we can to combat climate change.

"We know that members class the newspaper as important to them and our aim is to produce a publication that you can all look forward to receiving with up-to-date content that's well designed and now even more eco-friendly."

Don't forget, *Y Tir* is also available online in the members section of the website.

Beware of changes to VAT

by Rhys Jones FCCA, LHP Associate Director

THERE are changes to VAT rates for farmers who provide accommodation and catering services from October 1 2021.

Since July 15 2020, a temporary 5% reduced rate of VAT has applied to certain standard rated supplies relating to hospitality, holiday accommodation and attractions. This has resulted in VAT savings for farmers who have diversified into activities such as the provision of caravan and camping pitches, glamping and furnished holiday lets.

The 5% rate will come to an end on September 30 2021 with a new temporary rate of 12.5% applying for the subsequent 6 months from October 1 2021 until March 31 2022. The VAT rate will then revert back to 20% for supplies from April 1 2022.

Key Issue

Farmers will need to determine the correct rate of VAT to apply for supplies that straddle the date of change in the VAT rate. For holiday accommodation and the provision of catering services, the basic tax point is the date when the supply occurs i.e. when the meal is eaten or cottage stayed in.

However, the time of supply can be brought forward if either an invoice is raised or payment made in advance of the supply taking place.

Practical Example

A booking is made on September 15 2021 (before the VAT rate change on October 1) for accommodation in November with the total amount payable being £400. A 25% deposit is due on September 15 to confirm the booking with the balance payable in November. The total

VAT payable in this instance would be calculated as follows:

The applicable VAT rate on the deposit of £100 paid in September is 5% so VAT of £4.76 ($1/21 \times £100$) would be due. The VAT rate applicable in November on the balancing payment is 12.5% so VAT of £33.33 ($1/9 \times £300$) would be due. The total amount of VAT payable on this booking is therefore £38.09 (£4.76 + £33.33).

Alternatively, the farmer could issue an invoice for the full amount to be charged for the booking on September 15 meaning the VAT rate applicable would be 5% on the whole amount even if payment is not made until after the rate change. In our example, the VAT due would therefore be £19.05 ($1/21 \times £400$). This therefore results in a VAT saving of £19.04 (£38.09 - £19.05) on this booking.

Tax Tip

Farmers should be encouraging early payment of deposits and full balances before the VAT rate increases occur. Although not usual in this sector, the example above also shows how VAT savings can be achieved by issuing invoices for the full amount payable on the date that the booking is made, if this is before the date that the VAT rate increases. Farmers could also incentivise their customers to pay early by passing on some of the VAT saving to them by offering a discount for early payment.



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

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

Pennaeth Cyfathrebu/Head of Communications: Anne Dunn - anne.dunn@fuw.org.uk

Pennaeth Marchnata/Head of Marketing: Meryl Roberts - meryl.roberts@fuw.org.uk

Swyddog Cyfathrebu'r Iaith Gymraeg/Welsh Language Communications Officer:

Angharad Evans - angharad.evans@fuw.org.uk



www.fuw.org.uk



We're working hard to ensure that our members' voices are heard loud and clear

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

BLINK and you will have missed it. August has come and gone in a flash and it has been a busy month for us all. Despite not having the usual wealth of local shows to attend, our team have been working hard in ensuring that our members' voices were heard loud and clear by politicians, decision makers and the public too.

County offices and members have been hosting farm visits with their local politicians up and down the country, addressing the most critical issues our industry is facing. My thanks goes to everyone who has been involved in those lobbying and awareness raising campaigns.

The conversation around climate change is picking up pace, hardly surprising with the United Nations Food Systems Summit and COP26 on the horizon. We also read the latest IPCC report with dread and it has confirmed what farmers across Wales (indeed, the World) are already experiencing on the front line of climate change: increasing occurrences of extreme weather events such as flooding, drought and challenging growing conditions as seen in recent years in Wales.

This will not only have an impact on farming businesses and family farms, but on the ability of farmers to continue feeding the world's growing population and maintain food security, whilst simultaneously reducing the 10% of UK greenhouse gas emissions which come from agriculture.

The UK and Welsh governments have a key role to play in better supporting our farmers to deliver against various efficiency, biodiversity and sustainability goals which will help the country achieve Net Zero. However, there are concerns that farmland could become a dumping ground for other industries' continued emissions, through carbon offsetting and tree planting schemes on farmland in the quest to become Net Zero as required by the report.

Part of the solution to climate change includes thriving family farms, supporting the domestic production of food, not off-shoring our environmental impacts through importing food produced to lower standards overseas, increasing efficiency, thriving rural communities and enhancing biodiversity on farms are all part of the solution to climate change, and should not be seen in isolation to reducing carbon emissions and staving off the terrible 'tipping points' the IPCC report refers to.

When it comes to carbon trading, members have hopefully seen our recent call for discussions on the merits and drawbacks of limiting the amount of carbon credits that can be sold from Welsh land, carbon trading quotas and other approaches that might be applied in Wales. This complex issue will be discussed at your county executive committees and in a special meeting of committee chairmen and the presidential policy team in order to investigate what policy options the Union should support in order to protect both the short and long term interests of our industry and Wales as a whole.

The topic of tree planting and carbon sequestration will also be discussed when we join the Plaid Cymru Conference in October in Aberystwyth. The Union will be hosting a special lunchtime fringe event on the second day of the conference and more details will be released in the coming weeks.



Another topic that had us flabbergasted in August was the news that the UK Government will ban live animal exports alongside increased regulation for domestic livestock movements. What can we say, apart from that it is hypocrisy of the highest order.

To ban the crossing from Holyhead to Dublin (56 miles) is merely symbolic, as opposed to being rooted in evidence. But the hypocrisy doesn't end there - consider the current Australia-UK free trade deal. Nearly half of Australia's cattle and sheep live exports would be travelling over 9,000 miles by sea under far lower welfare standards than ours. There is no level playing field and all that has been done is the off-shoring of responsibility with regards to animal welfare.

Whilst there is significant public appetite for a ban on live exports, and increased scrutiny on animal welfare, there have been no significant attempts made to ensure the replication of such requirements in those Third Countries against which we compete, or indeed where produce is imported from. This announcement is beyond hypocritical and we will discuss this further with our standing committees.

On a positive note to end this month, we are looking forward to joining the Usk Show on Saturday September 11. Our new team for Gwent and Glamorgan is busy putting the finishing touches on the arrangements for the day and it promises to be excellent in every way. With this being one of a few events going ahead in person we look forward to welcoming you to our marquee and hope to see many of you there.

*Mae'r golofn yma ar gael yn Gymraeg ar wefan UAC - Newyddion - Newyddion Y Tir:
"Rydym yn gweithio'n galed i sicrhau bod lleisiau ein haelodau'n cael eu clywed,
yn uchel ac yn glir," neu o'ch swyddfa sirol leol.*

Devastating impact of vast tree plantation plans on rural communities highlighted in meeting with Aberconwy MP

THE devastating impacts vast tree plantation plans can have on rural communities and Welsh culture were highlighted in a recent meeting between FUW members and Aberconwy MP Robin Millar.

Hosting the meeting at their farm at Llechwedd Hafod in Cwm Penmachno were FUW Caernarfonshire County Executive Committee member Dafydd Gwyndaf and his wife Anwen. Mr Gwyndaf gave a presentation on how the Forestry Commission, as it was previously known, bought many of the farms on one side of the valley and planted trees on the land from the 1940's to the 1960's.

"Afforestation has resulted in too many people leaving the area and has resulted in over 30% of the houses in the area being turned into second homes or AirBnB. It is having a detrimental effect on the community, it's culture and consequently the Welsh language. The depopulation of Cwm Penmachno and Penmachno villages is living proof of the result of large-scale afforestation and we don't want to see the same happening to other communities," said Mr Gwyndaf.

To make room for the trees, the farm houses were sold, which resulted in them becoming second homes or holiday homes to many. The population of the area has been decreasing ever since (617 - 2011 Census) which has resulted in the numbers of Welsh speakers in the area lowering to a figure of 55% by the time of the 2011 Census compared to 70% in 1991 and 84% in 1981.

Mr Gwyndaf further told the MP that he remembers being a member of the Urdd in the 1960's with over 100 other youngsters, and that was just in Cwm Penmachno. Penmachno itself had an Urdd club of its own and the population was strong enough for both villages to have a football team each.

"The promises made by the Forestry Commission at the



Dafydd Gwyndaf (left) and Robin Millar MP.

time included that they would be employing more than the agriculture industry in the area. Today, no more than a handful of forestry workers live in the villages as NRW use large contractors who come from outside the area more often than not," he added.

The MP further heard that more land will be sold in the very near future at the far end of the valley and there is concern that it will be bought by individuals or institutions only interested in planting trees.

"It's sure to lead to yet another disaster for the area and resulting in more depopulation, and with that the destruction of our rural communities, culture and way of life. We are supportive of planting trees but our politicians need to be aware of the devastating consequences this will have

on their constituents if such plans are not thought through," said Mr Gwyndaf.

Union officials highlighted that the southern side of the valley was fully planted and many areas still have those trees growing there. This was due to the infrastructure in the area not being good enough to enable Natural Resources Wales to harvest the trees and carry them off to sawmills on the Welsh border.

Other problems such as creating roads through the forests has resulted in rainfall reaching the river Machno much quicker than it was before, resulting in flooding on the lower, more productive farmland.

Other issues raised during the meeting included stone walls being damaged when harvesting trees and no will on behalf of the contractors to repair the damage, resulting in sheep straying into the forests and gatherings taking much longer. Also the management of overgrown bracken and other pernicious weeds such as ragwort is resulting in them encroaching onto farmland around the forest edge.

"The Forestry Commission's track record and NRW is not very good. Much tighter legislation needs to be prepared in order to ensure that our communities aren't abused by individuals or institutions that are only interested in short term fixes without any regard to wider repercussions," added Mr Gwyndaf.

Robin Millar stated: "This is why it's so important that as many as possible respond to the call for evidence into the new inquiry into 'The economic and cultural impacts of trade and environmental policy on family farms in Wales'. It was very interesting to hear about the experiences of the FUW members who remember so well how vibrant communities like Cwm Penmachno and Penmachno used to be and the detrimental effect the afforestation of the area has proved to have on the region."

The field is far from level, but it's what's inside that counts!

by Gareth Parry, Senior Policy and Communications Officer

By the time this edition of *Y Tir* lands on your doorstep, the anticipated late summer heatwave may have happened, be happening, be on the way, or not be happening at all. But in future, we may all be hoping for warm, dry summers, but no warmer than 30°C please Weatherman!

As a matter of fact, that is the upper limit the UK and Welsh Governments are proposing for 'short livestock journeys' of more than 65 kilometres (Kms) but up to 8 hours in duration to take place in England and Wales following consultation in December last year. The FUW response can be found on the members' section of the FUW website.

Despite livestock movement standards in other countries being far below what is already required in the UK, both Governments announced on August 18 that animal movement rules would be tightened up significantly alongside a ban on live animal exports destined for slaughter.

This comes weeks after the UK agreed a trade deal in principle with Australia that will allow the importation of vast volumes of food produced from animals that are moved in conditions that would already be completely illegal in the UK.

The 2019 Conservative manifesto promised "in all of our trade negotiations, we will not

compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards," however, the UK Government chose not to enshrine those standards in the Agriculture Act 2020, nor in the recent Australia trade deal negotiations which agreed to massively increase tariff free access for Australian beef and lamb with negligible guarantees on welfare standards.

Nearly half of Australia's cattle and sheep live exports travel over 9,000 miles by sea under far lower welfare standards than those required in the UK.

Increasing such costs and restrictions for Welsh and English farmers by introducing these additional rules will consequently reduce the amount of food produced in the UK and increase the amount of food produced and exported from countries with lower standards.

While proposals to ban live exports are already included in the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill which is currently progressing through Parliament, others relating to UK livestock transport are subject to further discussions during workshops with the industry in the autumn, and will be implemented through what is known as secondary legislation once agreed upon.

The proposed changes are summarised in the table below:

Topic	Current regulation (from EU law)	December 2020 consultation proposals	New proposals from August 18 announcement
Live export		Ban live exports for fattening & slaughter (defined as exports where the animal is to be slaughtered within 6 months of arrival)	Live export from Scotland England and Wales for livestock & horses for slaughter/fattening will be banned Applies to all exports - 6 month time limit definition scrapped. No set date Poultry exempt Breeding, competitions, shows and research also exempt
Applies to short and long journeys 'Short' journeys (<u>over</u> 65km and <u>up to</u> eight hours in duration) Long journeys (<u>over</u> eight hours in duration)			
Headroom	No height specification 'animals must be able to stand normally with their head in a natural position' 'Adequate headroom appropriate to species'	22cm for sheep 20cm for dairy cows 30cm for beef	10cm minimum for pigs 20cm minimum for other animals (measured from the highest point on the head of the tallest standing animal)
Temperature limit	Temperature in the compartment/on board must not fall below 0°C	5-30°C external temperature for livestock 5-25°C external temperature for poultry	An external temperature limit will be applied 5°C- 25°C for poultry Short journeys for livestock and horses- prohibited when external temperature is above 30°C Long journeys for livestock and horses - 0-25°C . (not applied to thermoregulated vehicles)
The proposals below only apply to long journeys of 8 hours or more of duration			
Maximum journey time	Sheep & cattle - 29 hours & 1 hour mid journey break, followed by rest period Recently hatched chicks - 24h Broiler - 12 hours Calves - 19hours Pigs - 24 hours Weaners - 19 hours Horses & all other animals - 24h	Cattle & Sheep - 21 hours Recently hatched chicks - 21h Broilers - 4h Calves - 9h Pigs - 18h Weaners - 8h Horses - 12h	Cattle sheep & other animals - 21h Recently hatched chicks with exceptions for export - 24h Broiler chickens (excluding loading and unloading time) - 4h Calves up to 9 months old - 9h Pigs (possible exception for breeding pigs) - 18h Weaners - 12h Horses - 12h (any exceptions are subject to meeting additional criteria) (Scottish islands and breeding pigs will get further discussion) They also plan to look at how time spent in markets & collection centres will affect this
Required rest periods post maximum journey time before another journey can commence	24 hour rest period being unloaded, fed and watered before next movement	48 hours - pigs and sheep Seven days for cattle	Further discussion Not going to take forward the seven-day rest for cattle
Absolute maximum journey time limit	No limit if rest periods between journeys are observed		Aim to bring forward a maximum time limit after further discussion
Spacing	Weight allowances per species	Based on allometric principles	Further discussion
Sea transport		No journeys over Beaufort Wind Force 6 or above	Proposal not taken forward

On a similar vein, many farmers will be travelling further afield to livestock markets across the country for the autumn sheep sales. For journeys of over 65kms and up to 8 hours, a certificate of competency is required which is awarded by passing the relevant theory test. FUW County Offices are able to offer assistance and provide details of approved independent bodies that carry out the required assessments and award competency certificates, which are then valid for life. A business must also have an Authorisation letter, which can be obtained through APHA online by providing your certificate of competency number.

Proposals to change FAWL Standards

On other animal health related matters, the FUW Animal Health & Welfare Committee held an emergency meeting on July 28 to discuss and form a response to the Farm Assured Welsh Livestock (FAWL) 2021 Standards consultation.

The consultation proposed the compulsory recording of antibiotic use data by the vet via an online calculator along with stricter environmental standards to name just a few.

It was made clear that four weeks during one of the busiest times in the farming calendar was far from enough time for its twelve County Executive Committees to discuss the proposals and form a full, democratic response, and therefore requested for the deadline to be extended.

The majority of Welsh lamb and beef producers are FAWL assured and while it may be a voluntary scheme for many, it is in fact compulsory for the majority of dairy farmers' milk contracts therefore the importance of changes to such standards must not be taken lightly.

The Committee supported the collection of antibiotic use data to generate a national baseline for antibiotic usage for Welsh livestock farmers to use as a benchmark and for the industry to demonstrate its efforts towards reducing antibiotic use.

However, the Committee agreed that such data should be kept anonymous and that FAWL must take into account that not all farmers in Wales are assured with FAWL, differences in production systems, time of purchase in relation to time of the annual review and vet capacity and support.

Furthermore, the FUW's response opposed proposals to introduce a number of new environmental standards given that the main responsibility of FAWL producers is to "ensure that the condition in which livestock are kept maintain them in a fit, healthy and stress free condition."

While the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Senedd Committee carries out an urgent review of the Water Resources regulations, the FUW recommended for Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers (WLBPF) to withdraw its proposals to revise the environmental standards until the next standards review in three years time.

And changes made to Red Tractor standards

Following consultation earlier this year, Red Tractor has also made changes to its Version 5 Standards for the five different sectors.

The FUW response, which can be viewed on the members' section of the FUW website, raised concerns regarding the cost implications of introducing new standards for producers, particularly in regard to proposals on personnel and environmental protection, areas many argued sit outside the remit of Red Tractor.

Thankfully, the majority of the proposed environmental standards have been put on hold until legislation on environmental protection in Wales and England has been finalised.

Nitrogen fertiliser will need to be stored safely and out of sight, rather than locked indoors as originally proposed, and producers will be required to document up-to-date slurry storage calculations.

In terms of personnel standards, new staff will be required to receive an induction, which will have to be documented, including an explanation of health and safety policies and management reporting lines. All farms must also need a written health and safety policy.

The personnel and environmental standards that have not been included as part of the revised Version 5 standards have become 'modular' standards which will allow for the producer and processor or milk buyer to agree on which ones they wish to include as part of their farm assurance.

For animal medicines, one member of staff will be required to undertake animal medicines training and be noted in the farm training records, however, it can be 'funneled' to other members of staff and documented.

Tethering housing systems will not be permitted on Red Tractor farms but the use for management practices will be allowed, although those who use tethering housing systems can apply for a derogation from Red Tractor before November 1 2021.

Eradicating BVD as detailed in the health plan is already a full requirement for dairy producers but will remain a recommendation for beef farmers for the time being until it becomes a full standard in October 2022.

The requirement to upload antibiotic usage onto the AHDB Medicine Hub has also been removed as it is still in development, although it may become a recommendation in April 2022.

The full revised standards can be found on the Red Tractor website.

Taking control of Wales' farming family jewels

The proposals and changes outlined above simply paints the picture of standards being served on top of standards and the imagination of the playing field on which we compete against global livestock producers as level as a typical Welsh hill farm.

While reading this, I'm sure many would bite the hand of someone who offered a lifeline in the form of a cheque in exchange for a proportion of carbon credits. However, there is much more that must be considered before selling off what's being considered as the farm's family jewels.

The topic of carbon sequestration, trading and credits has become a major talking point in recent months, exacerbated by the build up of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).

In fact, the FUW is set to discuss the merits and drawbacks of limiting the amount of carbon credits that can be sold from Welsh land, carbon trading quotas and other approaches that might be applied in Wales.

During the latest meeting of the FUW Land Use and Parliamentary Committee, delegates expressed extreme concern that a large proportion of the carbon locked and sequestered in Welsh land could be sold to other countries and companies outside Wales, undermining the ability of Welsh agriculture or even Wales as a whole to become carbon neutral.

Ongoing concerns that Welsh farms are being purchased by companies from outside Wales in order to cash in on Wales' carbon were also highlighted. Such concerns were recently

reflected in a BBC report which revealed that twelve farms had been bought in mid Wales by companies outside of the country which aimed to largely plant trees on the land.

The committee agreed that a quota system should be introduced to reduce this risk, and it was agreed at a subsequent meeting of the FUW's Presidential Policy Team that the pros and cons of such limits should be the subject of detailed discussion by all FUW Committee Chairmen and the Presidential Team.

Whilst the selling of carbon credits to businesses looking to offset their carbon emissions may represent a profitable option for some farmers, the same carbon cannot then be used to offset a farm's own carbon emissions and meet net-zero targets.

However, members of the Union's Presidential Policy Team highlighted the complexity and potential unforeseen consequences of introducing restrictions and quotas, as was seen with the introduction of milk quotas in the 1980s.

A key question is whether a proportion of the carbon sequestered on Welsh land should be ring-fenced to agriculture first and foremost, with a further proportion ringfenced to Welsh companies or bodies - or should it just be a free market without any such limits or quotas?

It is clearly a highly complex area with many factors to be considered, therefore, it will be discussed by the FUW's twelve County Executive Committees and in a special meeting of Committee Chairmen and the Presidential Policy Team in order to investigate what policy options the Union should support in order to protect both the short and long term interests of the farming industry and Wales as a whole.

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

Gareth Parry faces highs and lows in British Rally Championship

MANY reading this will already be aware that FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry has a particular interest in 'Sport' as long as it has the word 'Motor' in front of it, and competes as an International Rally Co-driver in his 'spare time'.

After pairing up with London-based driver Ruairi Bell for 2021 and completing Rali Terras D'Aboboreira in Portugal, the decision was made to contest in this year's Junior British Rally Championship (BRC) in a Ford Fiesta Rally 4 specification car.

It looked to be a positive move for the pair as Ruairi has received tuition from two time BRC Champion Matt Edwards since he started rallying internationally, and Gareth Parry has been part of the Motorsport UK Co-driver Academy since 2019.

While Covid-19 restrictions prevented some major events from being used for the 2021 championship, the BRC organising team managed to pull together a 7 round calendar, starting with the Neil Howard Stages in May at Oulton Park Race Circuit.

The pair didn't enjoy the best of results at the Neil Howard Stages for a number of reasons, including a puncture, but nevertheless, produced a dominating performance at Round 2.

With Championship rival William Creighton ending his event in a ditch, Ruairi Bell and Gareth Parry won seven out of the eight stages to take their maiden

Junior BRC victory at the Nicky Grist Stages in July which used some of the most famous forest stages surrounding the Epynt Military Ranges in Mid Wales.

Bringing full confidence into Round 3, the Grampian Forest Stages near Aberdeen, the plan had been to make it two wins in a row and climb to the top of the points table.

The pair led the Juniors by 27 seconds with only two stages to go until disaster struck when the car lost all of its electrical system. It was far from the weekend that they had aimed for, particularly as they'd chosen the Grampian as their Joker round which awards 5 extra points for winning the event.

Mr Parry said: "While it was frustrating not to finish the Grampian after leading the event by such a large margin and playing it as our Joker, it is still all to play for with four of the seven rounds remaining.

"We will take the positives to Round 4, Rally Yorkshire in September, followed by the tightly packed remaining rounds in Mull and Llandudno in October and Ulster in November."

Mr Bell gave a massive thanks to all of our sponsors this year: Protec Temporary Protection; LJ Workwear; Pirelli; Alpinestars; Speedline Corse UK; Marex Global; Msar Motorsport; Matt Edwards Professional Rally Driver and Motorsport UK Academy.



Gareth Parry (left) and Ruairi Bell (right) winning the Junior BRC at Round 2, the Nicky Grist Stages.

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GŴR, tad, cymydog, ffrind, amaethwr, bardd...dyma gyflwyno Rob Tycam i chi neu Robert Edward Morris Jones yn swyddogol.

Collodd ardal gyfan berson arbennig iawn pa fu farw Rob yn 2018, a hynny yn rhy gynnar o lawer, ond mi lwyddodd i adael ei farc ar yr hen fyd yma! A gadael ei farc wnaeth Rob ar ein teulu ni hefyd, yn ffrind agos, a'n gwas priodas.

Gadawyd bwllch mawr ym mywydau llawer ar ôl colli cymeriad mor fawr â Rob, yn enwedig ei deulu, ei wraig Ann, a'i blant Llŷr, Gwenan a Ffion. Ond mawr yw parch ardal gyfan o'r ffordd mae'r teulu wedi mynd ati i gofio Rob a helpu eraill yn y broses.

Roedd Rob Tycam yn un o feirdd gwlad gyfoes ardal wledig ei filltir sgwâr, sef Mynydd Bach, sy'n sefyll uwchben Trefenter yng Ngheredigion. Gadawodd yr ysgol yn 14 oed ac yn ffermwyr wrth ei alwedigaeth. Ac wrth ei waith bob dydd ar y fferm, y byddai'r awen yn taro ac yn dechrau barddoni ar unrhyw ddarn o bapur y medrai cael gafaél ynddo o'i boced! Er cof am Rob, y penderfynodd y teulu fynd ati i gyhoeddi cyfrol o'i waith, ac yn ddiweddar cafodd *Cornel Clecs* gyfle i holi Ann ymhellach am y gyfrol, a'i synod fel teulu o sut ymateb sydd wedi bod:

"Byddai Rob yn cyfansoddi barddoniaeth ac yn ysgrifennu'n gyson trwy gydol y flwyddyn. Byddai'r themâu a ddewisai yn ddiabynnol ar elfennau megis beth oedd y testunau llenyddol yn y rhaglenni eisteddfodau fyddai'n dod i'r tŷ, neu os oedd priodas neu ben-blwydd arbennig yn digwydd.

"Os byddai tro trwstan neu ddiwyddiad anarferol yn codi, yn aml byddai hyn yn sbardun a'r awen yn dechre llifo. Wrth gyfansoddi, mi fyddai'n dianc i'w fyd bach ei hun ac ofer fyddai ceisio cynnal sgwrs neu drafodaeth ar yr adegau hyn! Wedi i gyfnod o amser basio, byddai'r 'campwaith' yn dod i'r golwg boed yn frawddeg, penillion neu limrig er mwyn i ni gael rhoi ein barn arno. Rhaid cyfaddef y medrwn i fod yn go llym fy meirniadaeth (a finnai'n athrawes!).

"O ganlyniad, ceisiai wella rhediad neu fynegiant y darn ar gyfer yr aiddarlenniad. Pan fyddai'n hapus a'r cyfansoddiad byddai'n gofyn i mi ei deipio allan. Roedd bywyd yn aml yn brysur, a finnai'n grwnach ar y cais. Ond teipio oedd rhaid ac eisteddai Rob wrth fy ochr tra 'mod i ar y cyfrifiadur yn ceisio deall ei ysgrifen baglau brain!

"Ar nifer o achlysuron, roedd yn cael trafferth deall llawysgrifen ei hun, a'r ddau ohonom yn chwerrthin yn uchel o ganlyniad! Yn aml byddai'r cynnwys yn ddigri hefyd, a doedd hyn ddim yn helpu i roi taw ar y sterics! Mae cyfieithiad lletchwith Y Twrci yn parhau i wneud i'r plant a

ffinrau chwerrthin fel ffyliaid!

"Ymddangosai'r syniad o gasglu a chreu cyfrol o'i waith yn un go hawdd i gychwyn, ond rhaid cyfaddef bu'n rhaid rhoi oriau o waith casglu, teipio ac ysgrifennu i mewn er mwyn cael y llyfr i fwcwl. Ond mae'n rhyddhad gwybod fod goreuon ei waith i gyd yn ddiogel rhwng dau glawr llyfr bellach, a bod ei bersonoliaeth a'i synnwyr digrifwch yn cael ei adlewyrchu trwy'r cynnyrch.

"Mae'r ymateb i'r llyfr wedi bod yn wych hyd yn hyn, sy'n rhyddhad, gan i ni amau a chwestiynu oedd y gwaith yn ddigon safonol i warantu creu llyfr o'r cynnwys. Dywed y Sais "Publish and be damned" ac rwy'n tueddu i gytuno

efo'r dywediad yma erbyn hyn! Wrth weld y llyfr ar silff siop, anodd oedd gwybod beth fyddai'r cyhoedd yn meddwl ohono. Mae dehongliad pob unigolyn o'r gwaith yn wahanol wrth gwrs, ond mae clywed bod pobl yn ei fwynhau yn galondid mawr i ni.

"Roedd clywed dieithryn yn gofyn am y llyfr yn Siop Inc, Aberystwyth y diwrnod o'r blaen yn rhyfeddol ac yn wefr! Mae'r llyfr bellach ar gael yn Swyddfa Bost Llanrhystud, Siop y Pethe a Siop Inc yn Aberystwyth yn ogystal â Siop Amaethyddol Clynderwen a Cheredigion (CCF) yn Aberystwyth am bris o £8. Mae croeso i unrhyw un gysylltu â Gwenan, Ffion neu fi ar Facebook neu trwy ffonio 01974 272317.

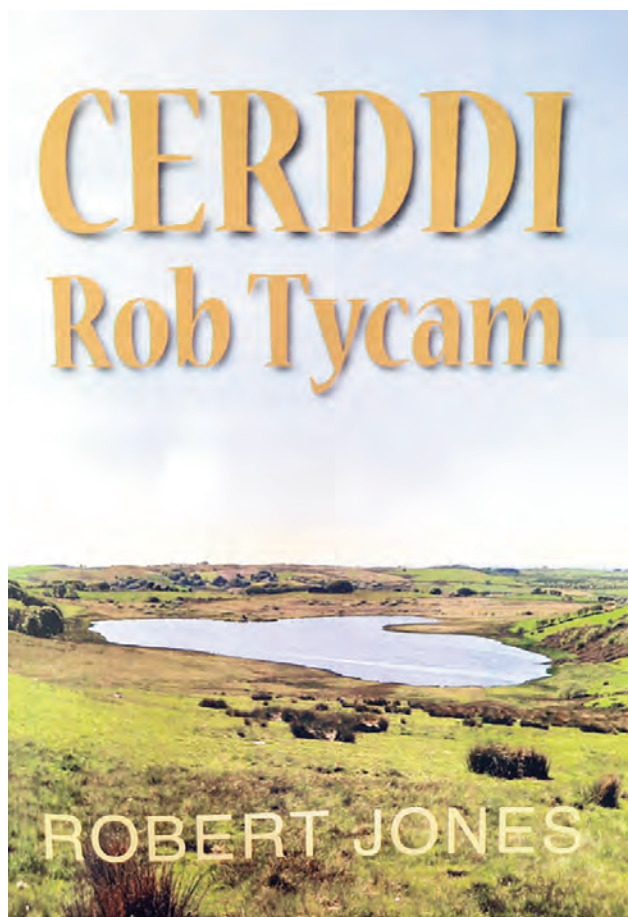
"Carem ddiolch i bawb sydd eisoes wedi prynu'r llyfr ac am bob cefnogaeth. Bydd yr elw i gyd yn mynd at achos haeddiannol iawn a hynod agos at ein calonnau ni fel teulu sef sefydlu'r Uned Cemotharapi newydd yn Ysbyty Bronglais."

Felly dyna i chi Rob Tycam. Y cymeriad a oedd ganddo gymaint o lefelau'n perthyn iddo, ac o ddarllen teyrnged i'w thad gan Gwenan yn y gyfrol, yn sicr mi gewch syniad go dda o'i gymeriad. Yr un oedd yn medru uniaethu a chydweithio efo ieuencid yr ardal, yn Gymro, cenedlaetholwr i'r carn, hyrwyddwr yr iaith Gymraeg, traddodiadau, a'r ffrwydr i gynnal ein cymunedau a'n ffordd o fyw. Ie dyna i chi Rob Tycam.

I gloi dyma flas o un o benillion y gerdd Y Taliad Sengl:

*Tra bydd y Taliad Sengl
Amaethu fydd o hyd
Ac wedi dydd yr amlen
Bydd dal rhaid bwydo'r byd*

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "A whitty, talented and extremely brave character," or from your local county office.



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*references available on request

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Protect your business, protect your family

by Tony Succamore, Sales and Operations Director, FUW Insurance Services Ltd.

Tony Succamore is the Sales and Operations Director of FUW Insurance Services Ltd. He is an Associate of The Chartered Insurance Institute and a Chartered Insurance Practitioner who has served as President of the Insurance Institute of Shropshire and Mid-Wales on two occasions.

During a long career in Insurance and Financial Services, Tony has worked for both national and regional insurers and brokers, in addition to running his own successful broking business. He was awarded a Wales National Award along with a Powys Business Award for Training and Development.

He has a long association with farming and the agricultural sector in Mid-Wales and a keen interest in promoting Health & Safety.

WE'VE heard about a number of ways in which accidents on farms can be prevented but if we're honest, accidents will happen no matter how careful we are. But when they do happen, one of the first people you call is your insurance company. If you're with a broker like FUW Insurance Services Ltd. or deal directly with an insurer, this is when the insurance arrangements you have in place will be tested and you find out how good or bad they are.

Our claims teams see the results of accidents on farms on a daily basis and we see the impact they have on individuals, families and businesses. Thankfully on most occasions we're able to respond and put things right for our clients. However there are times when problems do arise because either cover is not in place or is inadequate to cover the loss. Neither our farmers nor us want to be in that position.

Some questions you can ask your insurer, if you review your insurance on a regular basis - and we recommend you do, is looking at your business description. If you have any diversifications such as bed and breakfast, camping, a farm shop - make sure they're specified. Also take note of the sums insured or limits against each item on the schedule such as buildings, livestock, agricultural produce and make sure that they represent the rebuilding or replacement cost.

Underinsurance might save modest amounts of premium but be very costly when it comes to a claim. Ask your insurer about the condition of average and how it operates. It's a fairly small word but it has a very different meaning in insurance. It means that if you are underinsured you only get a proportion of your claim paid. It comes up time and time again, so please discuss this with your insurer.

Liability insurance is crucial when it comes to protecting you and your business against claims from employees or third parties. You should always make sure that it extends to cover any activities or diversification mentioned. Insurers don't automatically give cover for agricultural contracting, even if it's just occasionally, and we've seen big claims being turned down because people were undertaking agricultural contracting and hadn't disclosed that to their insurer. Liability claims can run into millions of pounds so do make sure the indemnity limits are adequate.

Business interruption insurance is often overlooked. Even if you're correctly insured, you might find that it takes many months or even years before your business is fully up and running again. You'll incur additional cost which won't be covered under the material damage part of your policy. Business interruption insurance replaces the income your business would otherwise lose. Please don't underestimate the amount of time it takes to recover from a catastrophic loss. We often find that the loss of income part of any claim exceeds the cost of reinstatement of property. Do ask your insurer if you have that cover.

The need for legal expenses insurance is also often overlooked. More and more farmers and rural businesses are facing challenges and risk from litigation. Litigation risk can come from contract disputes, debt recovery, regulatory investigations, including HSE, or from fraud and forgery.

You can even find yourself pursuing third parties which can be time consuming and draining. The right insurance cover removes the cost and distraction from legislation from a business and helps to protect your profit.

Diligence when it comes to general insurance also applies to your farm motor

"Our claims teams see the results of accidents on farms on a daily basis and we see the impact they have on individuals, families and businesses."



insurance. A standard policy covers use for your business, that is farming, along with social, domestic and pleasure. If a member of your family has a job elsewhere you'll need to make sure your insurers know about it so cover will be in force. Young drivers usually those under 25 must be specified. I'd also advise you to regularly revise the valuation on your agricultural vehicles. We know that the market value of older machines has increased in recent years, so check yours are in keeping with current trends. Keep your vehicles well maintained, insurers will not pay out if there is evidence of wear and tear or mechanical failure.

If you do have a claim, please inform your insurers promptly. Some policies will exclude claims that have been made outside of certain time scales. Livestock claims are a good example of that. It's particularly important with liability claims, as an insurer's ability to defend them relies on prompt access to legal services.

Always be aware that where insurance is concerned the responsibility for correctly setting up the levels of cover you need rests with the individual taking out the policies. Your insurer or broker can advise you about insurance in general but only you will have the knowledge of stock levels, and values that are needed.

Just as we need to cover the assets of a business, we also need to keep the most important thing in mind - you as an individual. Even a minor accident could mean you can't work. How can you protect yourself from the income you might lose? How do you pay the costs associated with late payment or getting the contractors in? There are a range of products designed to do just that from short term personal accidents to long term products.

The accident statistics we've seen show that death and permanent disability are not uncommon in farming, so you must consider the effect this will have on your family and business. FUW Insurance Services Ltd. now offers a bespoke income protection and life insurance service to guide you through the options.

Whatever challenges you face in life, you don't have to face them alone. Protection is available, and we can help you with that. Please contact your local Account Executive for more information, office contact numbers below.



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Pembrokeshire farmer highlights farming issues

PEMBROKESHIRE beef, arable and sheep farmer Mathew Van Dijk and FUW officials from Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire have raised concerns of the farming industry with Member of the Senedd for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire Sam Kurtz.

The meeting was held at Arnolds Hill Farm, Slebech, Haverfordwest, which together with Square Farm next door, is a 300 acre holding which is home to around 150 head of cattle and 50 breeding sheep. Between the two farms, Mathew Van Dijk and his partner Cath Davies keep Limousin and Limousin cross suckler cows. The calves are reared to 20 - 24 months old and they also keep some pedigree breeding bulls. The couple also grow 32 acres of spring barley, 7 acres of winter barley and 112 acres of maize.

Speaking to Mr Kurtz, Mathew highlighted that the main issues affecting the business going forward were reduced bull sales at the market because of the on-going bovine TB crisis, a slow planning application system, the agricultural pollution regulations and uncertainty surrounding support payments going forward.

Speaking about delays in the planning system which led to difficulties in being able to plan projects, Mathew said: "We have submitted a planning application to convert an old building on the farm into a holiday let. The application was submitted in April in the hope that if it was given the go ahead the work would start at the beginning of September with a view to being able to rent it out from May 2022. However, 16 weeks later we are still awaiting the go ahead."

It was further highlighted that the planning delays led to knock-on problems with the availability of builders and contractors and also arranging supplies of materials.

With the planning system already struggling, Union officials raised the question of how local authorities will cope with the volume of planning applications which will be submitted by farm businesses needing to comply with the agri pollution regulations, including the amount of time it will take to process them and the subsequent availability of builders to undertake the work, particularly as there are several months of the year when it is impossible to construct new slurry storage due to the weather and ground conditions.

Gerwyn Williams, FUW Pembrokeshire Vice Chairman, said: "The Welsh Government must consider the feasibility of these regulations and how they can realistically be implemented on the ground. If there are delays in getting planning for farm diversification projects and builders in place now, how will that impact planning for say slurry lagoons and yard covers? We do not wish to be in the position where farmers will get penalised for issues outside of their control."

Discussing the Agricultural Pollution Regulations and the impacts they would have on the industry in Pembrokeshire, Mathew highlighted that as they are a mixed farm, the stock helps to improve the soil structure of the arable fields as part of a rotation.

"The muck from the sheds provides a valuable natural fertiliser for the arable crops. This all plays a part in reducing our carbon footprint and being a sustainable farm enterprise. But the changing regulations may lead to us keeping less cattle and in the worst case scenario getting



From left, FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman, FUW Pembrokeshire County Chairman Mike Kurtz, Cath Davies, FUW Carmarthen County Executive Officer David Waters, Member of the Senedd for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire Sam Kurtz, Mathew Van Dijk, FUW Pembrokeshire Vice Chairman Gerwyn Williams and Allan Van Dijk.

rid of them all. That would mean that we would have to increase our use of artificial fertiliser which goes against climate change and sustainability principles and I'd prefer not to be forced down that route," he said.

Future government support for the industry was also discussed and FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman said: "When it comes to a future agricultural policy for Wales a one size fits all approach is not going to work. In addition, a scheme which focuses only on the provision of Public Goods and environmental outcomes would fail to take proper account of prosperity, jobs, language, culture and other issues inherent to the goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and other Welsh objectives, missing the opportunity to deliver a holistic and truly Welsh policy."

Mr Kurtz also heard about the on-going problem of bovine TB and the never ending numbers of cattle being removed from farms in West Wales, with no significant degree of improvement in the situation being seen.

FUW Pembrokeshire county executive officer Rebecca Voyle said: "In the past two decades the Welsh Government has quadrupled the number of cattle herds tested annually for the disease, introduced pre and post cattle movement TB testing and split Wales into seven zones - each with different and often complex rules and policies - as well as introducing innumerable other policies, in an attempt to eradicate bovine TB.

"Despite this, the number of cattle slaughtered due to TB has risen almost eight-fold since the year 2000, and so far this century more than 160,000 Welsh cattle have been slaughtered due to the disease. Ignoring the scientific evidence and blaming farmers in order to cover up decades of flawed policies that have led to the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of cattle and widespread ecological damage does not help. It's time for the Welsh Government to address the issue in such a way that sees results on the ground."

Concluding the visit, FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman said: "I thank Sam Kurtz for joining us here on the farm and Mathew for hosting this meeting. It is clear that there are many issues affecting our industry and that more often than not, the power to address these lies with the Welsh Government. Our farmers, like Mathew, are willing to work in collaboration with the Government but it has to be that, a collaboration that takes on board and addresses the needs of our industry."



Submit your farming Christmas card design in aid of charity

PRIMARY school pupils from all over Wales are being invited to enter a Christmas card design themed around farming for the FUW's Christmas card competition.

The FUW is asking children aged from four to 11 to design a Christmas farming scene for its Christmas cards, which will be sold to raise money for the Union's charity The DPJ Foundation.

FUW president Glyn Roberts said: "The competition will be split into Welsh language and English language categories. Children can use any media in their entries, such as crayons, coloured pencils, felt tipped pens or paint which must be completed on an A4 sheet of paper and emailed to us in jpeg format.

"The only stipulation is that it must be a Christmas card showing a farming scene. The competition has been a huge success in the past and we hope we can once again count on the support of our primary schools all over Wales."

The winner of each category will receive a £30 gift voucher for themselves, a packet of the Christmas cards depicting their design, one day's free admittance to the 2021 Royal Welsh Winter Fair to receive their prizes and a £50 cheque for their school.

The closing date for entries is Friday October 29 2021. The pupil's name, age, class number, school name and home address must be included on all entries, which should be e-mailed to ytir@fuw.org.uk

Mae disgyblion ysgolion cynradd o bob rhan o Gymru yn cael eu gwahodd i gymryd rhan mewn cystadleuaeth i ddylunio cerdyn Nadolig ar y thema ffermio ar gyfer cystadleuaeth cardiau Nadolig UAC.

Mae UAC yn gofyn i blant rhwng pedair ac 11 oed i ddylunio golygfa amaethyddol Nadoligaidd ar gyfer ei chardiau Nadolig, a fydd yn cael eu gwerthu i godi arian ar gyfer elusen yr Undeb sef y DPJ Foundation.

Dyweddodd Llywydd UAC Glyn Roberts: "Caiff y gystadleuaeth ei rannu'n ddau gategori - yr ymgeiswyr Cymraeg a'r ymgeiswyr Saesneg. Gall y plant ddefnyddio unrhyw gyfrwng i greu eu cardiau, megis creonau, pensiliau lliw, peniau blaen ffelt neu baent i dynnu'r llun, ac mae'n rhaid defnyddio dalen A4 o bapur a'i e-bostio atom ar ffurf jpeg.

"Yr unig amod yw bod yn rhaid iddo fod yn gerdyn Nadolig sy'n dangos golygfa amaethyddol. Mae'r gystadleuaeth wedi bod yn llwyddiant mawr yn y gorffennol a gobeithio, y gallwn sicrhau cefnogaeth ein hysgolion cynradd ar draws Cymru unwaith eto."

Bydd enillydd pob categori yn derbyn tocyn anrheg gwerth £30 i'w hunain, pecyn o'r cardiau Nadolig yn dangos eu dyluniad, mynediad un diwrnod am ddim i Ffair Aeaf Frenhinol Cymru 2021 er mwyn derbyn eu gwobrau a sicceddau £50 ar gyfer eu hysgol. Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer ceisiadau yw dydd Gwener Hydref 29 2021. Mae angen i bob cynnyg gynnwys enw, oedran, rhif dosbarth, enw'r ysgol a chyfeiriad cartref y disgybl a'i e-bostio at ytir@fuw.org.uk

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Keeping food systems in the spotlight

by Ian Rickman, FUW Deputy President

LAST month the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UN FSS) Pre-Summit was held in Rome. We have been following and engaging with those discussions at international level and recently joined the Global Meat Alliance to discuss the UN FSS pre-summit outcomes and potential implications for the global meat and livestock sector ahead of the UNFSS in New York this month.

At the meeting we heard from Peer Ederer, World Farmers' Organisation Scientific Council, and Lead of the UNFSS Working Group on Sustainable Livestock, as well as Ruairaidh Petre, Executive Director at the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB).

Peer Ederer highlighted some sticking points when he explained that 2 years ago Antonio Guterres said the Food Systems Summit was needed as the world is not achieving its goals and not making enough progress. Globally, we were also not on track to do anything about climate change and biodiversity, all which is tied into food systems. The main focus initially was on Africa, as malnutrition on the continent is a major concern with millions of people going hungry. Sustainability issues were focussed on Africa and that's where the focus needs to be. Africa, Peer Ederer said, is a global issue and we can't solve the global issue without addressing the problems in Africa.

In the second half of 2019 UN Special Envoy Agnes Kalabata had her first issue with grassroots organisations in Africa. They didn't feel represented. Historically the summits were run by grassroots organisations but the Africans left and didn't come back. Further trouble was on the horizon towards the end of 2020 - A lounge event organised by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and big business, didn't see the engagement they hoped for.



Why? Because you had to be a member of the World Economic Forum and farmers were excluded. Ruairaidh Petre further explained that the major criticisms of the process are that it came from a relationship between the UN and the World Economic Forum, rather than being agreed upon by member states, and it is based on the WEF's "Food Systems Transformation" and "Great Reset".

While the WEF itself is an NGO it is essentially an association of businesses and influential organisations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and EAT (a science-based global platform for food system transformation). Globally many NGOs and grassroots organisations boycotted the summit as it was unrepresentative of farmers. The flop of the event saw the WEF and big business leave and not come back either.

The third issue was at the start of 2021 and has been called the fight between watermelons VS farmers. Watermelons here refer to organisations and people who look green on the outside but are red on the inside. Their ambition, through the UN FSS, was to change the socio-economic agenda of the global north. However, those ambitions were deemed as unsustainable and irrelevant as to what the UN FSS set out to do and ignored the goals with regards to the global south. Farming organisations and countries who have farmers to represent them rebelled against the socio-economic revolution of the global north.

The World Farmers Organisation battled against the watermelon drive. The result was that livestock farming was hardly mentioned at the UN FSS pre-summit and where it did, it was positive. It has been described as not a good outcome but not a bad one. The ground has been neutralised and the focus has shifted back to the original agenda. The focus is back on farming communities in the global south and the need for livestock.

The big takeaway of the Pre-summit for us was that livestock was barely mentioned but when and it was mentioned, overall it was done so positively. We didn't expect this outcome in March or April when we were hearing a lot of anti-meat narrative and there was tension between factions.

What we may have achieved, through pressure from farmer organisations and governments, was a neutralised ground and we saw a shift back towards the original agenda i.e. a focus on Africa and addressing the SDGs. As we move towards the Summit, as a global livestock industry, we need

to create a more positive outcome than simply just avoiding a bad one. The opportunity lies, we have been told, within Coalitions of Action.

Various Coalitions of Action have already been announced. The intention of each Coalition of Action is that member states and organisations commit time and resources to a specific area to ultimately achieve SDG targets. So far these are: Action for Nutrition and Zero Hunger; School Meals, Including Home Grown; Food Loss and Waste; Agroecology, Sustainable Livestock and Agricultural Systems; Aquatic and Blue Foods; Living Incomes and Decent Work and Resilience.

Any proposals that come out of the UNFSS can only be adopted by the UN if member states support them - so we need to make sure we are talking to the right people in our government.

The key means to drive action after the summit is through coalitions. A pro Sustainable Livestock Sector Alliance (coalition), with the support of member states, where livestock is a significant part of the agricultural system, is being developed, with representation of all sub sectors and open to all member states.

One of the positives out of the UNFSS is that it has drawn the livestock sectors together in ways which we have not seen before. But we need to build on this momentum and equally, invest in communications to ensure we are heard and represented.

I'm therefore pleased to let members know that the FUW is launching its next campaign 'Food, land and people - Sustainability for Wales' in October. The campaign will focus on various sustainability issues and highlight the positive work farmers in Wales are doing to address sustainable development goals.

In the run-up to the United Nations Food System Summit and COP26, now is the time to continue highlighting the many different positive things farming does to be sustainable.

If you have a positive story to tell on your farm that you would like us to share as part of the campaign, please contact our Head of Communications, Anne Dunn, or your local county office.



Flintshire organic dairy farmer raises industry concerns

A FLINTSHIRE organic dairy farmer has raised industry concerns around bovine TB and the Water Resource regulations with regional North West Member of the Senedd Carolyn Thomas, when the family welcomed her to the family farm.

John and Jenny Wrench, who are the third generation on the tenanted holding, farm in partnership with John's parents Stephen and Anne, as well as grandparents John and Vera, at Beeches Farm, Saltney Ferry in Flintshire.

The 186 hectare holding was once a beef, sheep and arable farm. However, as corn prices didn't change over 20 years whilst machinery costs trebled, the margins on beef became tighter and livestock worrying increased, the family decided to start dairy farming. They now have 130 dairy cows and hope to increase this to 250 milking cows. The family also keep 100 young stock.

The decision to convert the holding to dairy in 2020 was not an easy one to make and put enormous financial pressure on the family. To future proof the farm business, the Wrench family have invested heavily in winter housing and feeding infrastructure for their dairy cows. Whilst the landlord has been supportive, they have made all the investments themselves.

The investment paid for a state of the art cattle shed with excellent ventilation, including a feed passage within the shed to improve biosecurity and reduce the likelihood of badger to cow contact. The family further decided to convert to organic, as John and Jenny are passionate about improving the environment on their holding and the welfare of their cattle. Despite there being no payments currently for Glastir organic conversion or management, 200 acres have already been fully converted, and they are aiming to convert all the land in the future.

Looking forward, John and the family have also taken steps to future proof the business for the Water Resources Regulations by ensuring the sheds are compliant with the new rules and have added an above ground slurry lagoon with 5 months worth of storage capacity, as well as a water separation system for slurry. The work was partially financed through the Welsh Government's Sustainable Production Grant, which focussed on farm waste management of slurry systems.



Whilst the family is optimistic about the future in general, there are some concerns. Speaking to the regional Member of the Senedd Carolyn Thomas, John Wrench said: "We are really concerned about the effects the current Water Resource regulations will have on us. The closed period for example does not make sense here. If we have to wait 5 months and empty the lagoon on a wet spring day, as opposed to on drier winter days, it would be a far bigger environmental problem, especially being situated on a flood plain. Working on a calendar year basis as opposed to the season, soil conditions and the weather does not work.

"Also, this land was previously a military base and we have numerous tracks and hard standing going through the farm. If the regulations carry on in their current

guise, we will not be able to store silage on these hard standings and would have to store silage bales directly on the soil, consequently creating poaching when accessing them in the winter."

Walking around the farm, Stephen Wrench explained that they used to have plenty of lapwings nesting on their land, which have now decreased due to an increase in badger numbers in their area. "We would walk the fields and mark out where the eggs were so that any cultivation or harvesting wouldn't impact on them. Grassland management was also important for creating the right habitat. Sadly badger numbers have increased and many of the ground nesting bird eggs were eaten. The Welsh Government really needs to address this problem and not just focus on one element of disease control and draconian cattle measures," said Stephen Wrench.

Speaking after the visit, FUW Denbigh and Flint County Executive Officer Mari Dafydd Jones said: "John and Jenny are an excellent example of how agriculture not just supports but is intertwined with the rural economy. Once the business is established they hope to employ extra staff. However, they face some serious challenges and some of those could be helped by the right policies coming from Cardiff.

"We had very constructive discussions with Carolyn Thomas and we hope that our key concerns around the Water Resource regulations and bovine TB will be taken on board."

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Fifth generation Anglesey farmer highlights 'public goods' concerns on farm with local MS



ANGLESEY beef and sheep farmer Gareth Thomas and FUU officials have highlighted industry concerns, including climate change and future agricultural policies, at a recent meeting with local Member of the Senedd, Rhun ap Iorwerth.

Gareth is the fifth generation to farm at Tregynrig Fawr, Cemaes Bay, Anglesey, a 620 acre holding. The family finishes off over 600 beef cattle annually and keep a flock of 200 sheep. All beef and lamb are sold to Morrisons. The family have also recently diversified into self-catering holiday accommodation.

The message on the day was clear - farmers want to work with the Government and all political parties to achieve the best possible outcome for the sector, the wider rural economy and the environment.

Speaking during the farm walk, Gareth Thomas said: "Welsh farmers have delivered positive environmental outcomes for the nation for centuries, and must be fairly rewarded for what they have already delivered, continue to deliver and will deliver in the future.

"Future targets must work alongside sustainable and viable food producing businesses, not against them, to ensure the environment continues to be managed appropriately."

Historically, Mr Thomas added, Wales has been seen as an exemplary country in terms of rewarding farmers for delivering public and environmental goods through schemes such as Tir Gofal, which was devised following successful piloting.

"We now have the opportunity to build upon previous experience and knowledge by ensuring farmers are better rewarded for what they deliver for society," said Gareth Thomas.

Rhun ap Iorwerth further heard concerns over the potential for a farming scheme solely based on environmental public goods and carbon off-setting payments to create unintended consequences for rural communities.

"A scheme focused purely on public goods, alongside the increased interest in land for carbon offsetting, could create unintended consequences for our rural communities. Rural and Agricultural Government funding could inadvertently be diverted from family farms to investors from outside of Wales, capitalising on tree planting payments, whilst removing working farms from the landscape. This would naturally have negative impacts on our rural communities, the Welsh language and the rural economy," said FUU Anglesey County President Gerald Thomas.

Union officials highlighted that increasing second home ownership and holiday home purchases on Anglesey were negatively impacting the community and prevalence of the Welsh language.

"Local residents are increasingly closed out of their own community from inflated house prices, creating a situation where many houses are not lived in all year

round. This affects the viability of most services such as local schools, buses, post offices and doctors surgeries," added Gerald Thomas.

Members further highlighted that in the past two decades the Welsh Government has quadrupled the number of cattle herds tested annually for the disease, introduced pre and post cattle movement TB testing and split Wales into seven zones - each with different and often complex rules and policies - as well as introducing innumerable other policies, in an attempt to eradicate bovine TB.

FUU Vice President Eifion Huws, said: "Put simply, we have the tightest cattle TB rules in the world. Despite this, the number of cattle slaughtered due to TB has risen almost eight-fold since the year 2000, and so far this century more than 160,000 Welsh cattle have been slaughtered due to the disease. Ignoring the scientific evidence and blaming farmers in order to cover up decades of flawed policies that have led to the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of cattle and widespread ecological damage does not help."

The latest figures, Mr Huws highlighted, show that the chances of a badger carrying TB is seventeen times higher than the chances of a cow carrying the disease, yet the number of badgers culled due to TB this century is close to being in single figures.

"Welsh farmers annually spend millions of pounds trying to tackle the disease and comply with the rules, causing huge financial and mental pressures that can sadly push some over the edge.

"The Welsh Government has taken the positive step of employing world-leading scientists including Prof Glyn Hewinson to carry out research into cattle vaccinations, and as outlined in the FUU's Welsh Senedd Election Manifesto, such moves are welcome.

"However, this cannot be considered to be a silver bullet as it ignores the massive disease reservoir in a badger population that is now higher than it ever was in the last century, and this is why massive increases in Welsh cattle testing, culling and rules have not achieved anything like the impact that badger culling has had in parts of England in a fraction of the time," said Eifion Huws.

Union officials highlighted that a future agricultural support scheme, focussed solely on Public Goods and environmental outcomes which is based on poorly understood and complex environmental factors, risks exacerbating species and biodiversity declines. This in turn risks reversing the work undertaken towards tackling climate change and improving the environment, and undermining the importance of food production and the contribution of family farms to Wales' rural communities, economy and culture.

FUU Policy Officer Teleri Fielden added: "As a new agricultural policy is developed for Wales, social and economic regeneration in rural areas must be made part of the 'green recovery', as opposed to focusing solely on climate change mitigation and enhancing biodiversity. We must ensure rural communities are not disproportionately held responsible for tackling climate change."

The Union further asked Rhun ap Iorwerth to do all he can to ensure that costly environmental regulations, which place Wales' food producers at a disadvantage, do not offset the efforts made by the agricultural sector towards mitigating climate change through having to import more food.

"It is vital that the Welsh Government and Senedd reconsider the principles and objectives of a future agriculture support scheme to ensure that biodiversity, the rural economy and Welsh food production can thrive together," added Teleri Fielden.

Welsh Affairs Committee Report on UK-Australia Trade Deal welcomed

THE FUU has welcomed a report and recommendations by the Welsh Affairs Committee on the implications of a UK Australia Free Trade Agreement for Wales.

The report, published after two evidence sessions held in July, calls for the UK Government to take a number of steps the Union says would increase transparency around the deal and its impacts for

Wales and clarify what, if any, safeguards would be in place in worst case scenarios that adversely impacted UK agriculture.

Speaking after the report's publication, FUU Head of Policy Dr Nick Fenwick, (pictured above), who gave evidence to the Committee, said: "We wrote to the committee in June suggesting that such an inquiry takes place, and welcome the recommendations which, if accepted by the UK Government, would mark a small step towards achieving transparency and a sensible position on the UK-Australia trade deal."

The committee concluded that the UK-Australia trade deal is unlikely to impact Welsh farmers in the short term, but Dr Fenwick had told the committee hearing that under certain future trading conditions the trade deal as currently drafted could have severe impacts for Welsh farmers.

"The committee is right to say that there is unlikely to be any impact for farmers in the short term, but the question is 'what will the situation be in ten or fifteen years?'. Clearly there's nothing to worry about if nothing 'goes wrong', but global trade patterns and prices can change dramatically over a ten year period, and if there are no safeguards in place the damage to our farming industry of this and other similar trade deals would be immense and unstoppable," he said.

During the evidence hearings, former Australian trade negotiator Professor Dmitry Grozoubinski told the hearing that "Welsh farmers are right to be concerned in the long term...when you eliminate tariffs or you raise quotas to hundreds of thousands of pounds, then, if that quota were to be filled or if there were a 10,000% increase in Australian lamb to the UK, I think that would be devastating for Welsh farming.

"This deal means that that is now a theoretical possibility in the sense that the UK Government can no longer use tariffs to prevent it," added Dr Fenwick.

Dr Fenwick said that in its current form the trade deal would allow the amount of Australian beef and lamb imported to the UK to increase by hundreds of thousands of tonnes, and there appeared to be no safeguards to prevent the import of food produced to standards that fall short of what is required in the UK - a position that appeared to be supported by Professor Grozoubinski, who told the committee that "Australia will not be obligated to treat an animal in any way differently because of this deal than they were a week before it was signed".

Dr Fenwick said that in light of such concerns, Members of Parliament needed to act to ensure the UK's long term interests are served and that Welsh and UK farmers and food can be protected in the long term in a range of scenarios.

"As it currently stands, the deal would open the door to the possibility of severe impacts in ten or fifteen years, and make that door almost impossible to close for a future government. It's almost universally accepted that the deal would also set precedents for trade deals with other countries which would add to pressures for Welsh farmers," he added.



The message on the day was clear - farmers want to work with the Government and all political parties to achieve the best possible outcome for the sector, the wider rural economy and the environment

My new role as 'Wales Rural and Wildlife Crime Coordinator'

by Rob Taylor

"In the short time that I have been in post I have been able to scope the issues that our rural communities are seeing throughout Wales by engaging with key people and organisations."

I JOINED the police as a young constable back in 1986 and I served for 30 years as a police officer at various ranks, including Inspector and Sergeant during which I had a variety of roles, including a hostage negotiator and managing the force helicopter unit but my main area of speciality over the past 14 years has been that of policing farm and wildlife crime.

In 2013 I was given the honour of setting up the first dedicated UK police Rural Crime Team in North Wales. I was given a blank sheet of paper in regards to the format but with the clear focus on reducing farm and wildlife crime and also increasing public reassurance within our rural communities of North Wales. The team initially only started with 4 officers, but such was its success that it now consists of a sergeant and 9 full time officers, dealing with all farm and wildlife crimes reported within North Wales Police area.

In 2016 I was recognised within the Queens Birthday honours list and was awarded the Queens Police Medal (QPM) for a distinguished police career and in that same year I both retired as a police officer and returned as a civilian manager of the Rural Crime Team.

Earlier this year the fantastic opportunity arose from the Welsh Government for a brand-new role in Wales - the 'Wales Rural and Wildlife Crime Coordinator' - which of course I jumped at with both hands. I was very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to take this new post, which I started in June this year and I am relishing the challenges that lie ahead of me.

I'm a firm believer and quite open and honest about this, that prior to dedicated rural crime teams in Wales and certainly prior to 2013, the links between the police and farming communities had seen some crumbling bridges. The speciality of policing rural issues simply wasn't there and the knowledge of farming and the impact crime has on farmers wasn't there either.

Over time, we the police, have now firmly re-built those bridges with the dedicated rural teams, such as the North Wales team and also other teams in Wales who have now come on board. In the UK we now have over 25 dedicated rural crime teams and I've seen the rural knowledge in policing return considerably at all levels, however those firm foundations still need building on.

The timing is perfect for the new Wales coordinator role, as we as a nation start to emerge from Covid, in the short time that I have been in post I have been able to scope the issues that our rural communities are seeing throughout Wales by engaging with key people and organisations, such as our farming unions and other key partners and start to understand how we can deal with them.

Issues such as livestock attacks by dogs are a problem that I have already started to tackle by identifying the causes and realising early on that the protection was no longer there for farmers by having an antiquated 1953 law that isn't fit for 2021. Work started many years ago, with my role as UK Police lead, to seek change to that law to give farmers more protection and enable the police to investigate more

thoroughly and also give the courts more appropriate sentencing powers.

I'm pleased to say that this work has moved forward with pace and a brand-new act is currently being debated within Parliament. This has been a considerable amount of work but one I know will make a huge difference to our farming communities.

There are other significant daily problems for farmers such as machinery thefts and livestock thefts which we are also addressing nationally, both in Wales and on a UK level; recently we have seen a rise in GPS thefts from tractors becoming quite prevalent, particularly in the North West region of England, which will inevitably spread through Wales, so we are monitoring this carefully and we already have a number of operations to tackle this in place.

With regards to farm crime, for me it's about prevention. At the end of the day, you can visit a farm after the crime has happened but it's much better to prevent it from happening in the first place, rather than looking for the cure afterwards.

In Wales we have started the 'Future Farms Cymru project', which we hope will revolutionise farm crime prevention. This innovative concept will use the latest technology to prevent criminality by using sensors that can detect drops in diesel tanks, gates opening, livestock moving and also quad bikes and tractors being taken.

We currently have 16 test farms set up throughout Wales at different locations where this latest technology will be showcased via our new website, that is currently being built. This website will also contain information not only on crime prevention but in regards to the many issues that can affect our farming communities.

I'm aware that mental health issues in the farming community, particularly with COVID and Brexit in recent times, can be an issue so we will use the new website as a sign-post for farmers to get in contact direct with organisations such as The DPJ Foundation, Tir Dewi, RABI or Farming Connect who can offer vital assistance. The website will be open for viewing we hope within the next few weeks to give the farmers the assistance they need.

At present we have 3 dedicated Rural Crime Teams in Wales, and South Wales Police are currently looking at soon training an additional 30 officers to engage and have

"I'm excited for the work and journey that I have ahead of me and I am fully aware that there is a lot to achieve, but if we all work together I know that we can make significant progress in Wales."



knowledge of farm and rural crime; this is fantastic news. I am currently organising, along with the Welsh Government, at providing bespoke farm courses so our new officers and all the Rural Teams can get a good knowledge in health and safety on farms, animal handling, and the safe use of machinery.

We also need to raise rural crime awareness in our farming communities and the big message we always want to put out is that if you do get cold callers on your farm with no reason to be there and if it's safe to do so, get their car registration number and maybe photograph them with your phone. But more importantly, report it, because if it doesn't get reported to the police, as far as we're concerned it didn't happen.

You might get a cold caller on your farm or someone asking for directions and nothing may happen, no crime may be committed but a farm 6 miles down the road may be burgled that night and then we don't have the links to progress that case. But if that first farmer rings in with that registration number or any description, we may have that link. These are the jigsaw pieces we often need and that close working relationship for us is so important.

You don't have to ring 101. Sometimes that can be a bit frustrating and difficult getting through to the right person, so you can either contact the teams directly if you already have their numbers or you can go onto the police force websites and fill in a report form which will go straight through to the rural crime teams.

I'm excited for the work and journey that I have ahead of me and I am fully aware that there is a lot to achieve, but if we all work together I know that we can make significant progress in Wales by fighting rural and wildlife crime in all of its forms. I will continue to engage at all levels and listen to what is affecting our farming communities and by doing this I know we can make that difference together.

I will be attending the forthcoming Usk show, including the FUW stand, so please come and say hello, I'm happy to discuss any issues that I may be able to help with.

HSE issues safety call to farmers after a series of farm fatalities

HSE was notified of four fatalities on farms in just over a fortnight last month, including the death of a three-year-old boy and a suspected cattle-trampling involving a member of the public.

The incidents came just weeks after Farm Safety Week, when HSE issued its Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain 2020/21 report highlighting the high fatality rate in the industry.

The figures showed that agriculture has the worst rate of fatal injuries of all the major industrial sectors, with the annual average rate over the last five years around 20 times as high as the all-industry rate.

The five most common causes of fatal injuries over the last five years remain - being struck by moving vehicles, killed by an animal, struck by something falling or collapsing, falling from height and contact with moving machinery.

Risk management is a vital part of all work on farms, every job needs to be thought through and the correct safety measures put in place.

Usually there are simple actions workers can take to reduce risk, including making sure to switch off the power to vehicles or machinery before attempting to carry out repairs; keeping people away from moving vehicles; keeping people out of the way when loading or unloading materials; using the right equipment for working at height; and ensuring where possible that cows with calves are not in fields with well used public footpaths.

The safety call has been supported by the Farm Safety Partnerships who have highlighted the responsibility of farmers to make safety their number one priority.

Workers within the sector are encouraged to seek help and advice from any of the Farm Safety Partnerships or leading farming organisations if they require guidance and support for specific tasks or activities.



Revolutionary New Product for Cattle and Sheep Lameness

Winter housing is a high-risk period for lameness, so it's the ideal time to review lameness plans, assess footbathing protocols and source effective hoof care products. Experts advise farmers to get lameness under control before housing to see less issues throughout the winter period. In dairy cattle, it is important to monitor the types of lesions in the herd and adjust protocol accordingly. Sheep farmers shouldn't forget the tups too as they may need special attention coming into the season.

Lameness is a major animal health and welfare concern for cattle and is one of the top three diseases affecting productivity including fertility and mastitis. The top 3 causes of lameness are: digital dermatitis, sole ulcers, and white line disease. Digital dermatitis is an infectious condition and one of the major causes of lameness reducing mobility, comfort, feed intake, milk yield and fertility. This infectious condition can spread quickly through the entire herd and in dairy, can reduce milk yield by at least one litre per cow per day.

Lameness is also one of the biggest problems in sheep farming and the condition causes considerable morbidity by impacting significantly on productivity and economic returns. It is also a major animal welfare issue. In the UK, the farmer-estimated prevalence of lameness over a period of ten years in English flocks was an average of 8.4% and was similar a decade later at 10%. Foot rot and scald account for 90% of lameness in most sheep farms.

Although lameness is a challenge, measures can be taken to help control and prevent it. With 30% of livestock affected at any one time and probably almost 100% over a lifetime, there is lots of opportunity to improve and gain better foot health. To do so, proper management and the use of effective products are required. Formaldehyde and copper sulfate are traditionally used in footbaths but both have drawbacks. Formaldehyde is known to be carcinogenic and an irritant and copper sulfate is environmentally toxic.

United Farmers teamed up with industry experts to deliver a better solution: the Hoof Solution product range for lameness in cattle and sheep available under their exclusive Country UF brand.

Gethin Williams, Commercial Manager at Hay and Brecon Farmers, said: "Country UF Hoof Solution has been a great addition to our range, particularly for customers who are looking for a cost effective and safe alternative to formaldehyde. We have already seen many customers making repeat purchases and you know they must be really pleased with the range when they're recommending it to other people down at the market."

The products are safe, effective, and sustainable. The Hoof Solution range includes a footbath solution, cattle gel and sheep spray representing a

revolutionary, patent pending and unique product range in the marketplace. The range uses self-assembling targeted micro-emulsion technology, (see figure 1). The scientifically developed formulation helps attack lameness bacteria on the hoof from the outside and inside! The micro-emulsion technology in Hoof Solution aids easier passage of active ingredients through the cell walls of harmful bacteria and enhances adherence capability to the hoof and skin allowing longer lasting activity.

For optimum results, foot bathing with Hoof Solution should be done as often as possible (dairy: every milking, every day. sheep: every week at housing). The highly concentrated formula allows for use at 1% dilution rate for maintenance and 2% + dilution for increased herd or flock issues and more challenging conditions. Hoof Solution Cattle Gel is recommended for topical application during hoof trimming or milking routine. It can be used with a hoof bandage for added retention. Hoof Solution Sheep Spray is recommended for topical application during foot trimming or routine handling. The Hoof Solution footbath is cost-effective allowing up to 750 cow passes through a 200-litre footbath and up to 600 sheep passes through a 100-litre foot bath.

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Y gŵr lleol sy'n dal teitl Cneifiwr Peiriant Gorau'r Byd, Richard Jones o Lyndyrdwy a'r rhedwraig antur eithafol a chyflwynydd teledu, Lowri Morgan rannodd eu profiadau nhw

gyda'i cynulleidfa rithwir dan law'r darlledwr profiadol Nic Parry yn Stad y Rhug yn ddiweddar.

North Dy Ben, sefydliad gaiff ei redeg gan wirfoddolwyr sy'n ceisio rhoi llwyfan i unigolion rannu profiadau cadarnhaol yng Nghymru wledig drefnodd y digwyddiad i rannu'r dygnwch, y dyfalbarhad a'r nerth meddyliol sydd eu hangen ar unigolion i gyflawni heriau corfforol.

Yn ôl y cneifiwr, Richard Jones: "Os wyt ti'n mwynhau beth wyt ti'n ei wneud, does dim byd gwell. Fyddwn i byth yn newid fy swydd. Does gen i ddim i'w ddweud wrth beiriannau, ond dwi wrth fy modd yn gweithio efo anifeiliaid.

"Rhai dyddiau, mae pethau'n mynd o chwyl. Ond mae'n bwysig anghofio amdano a symud ymlaen i'r diwrnod nesaf. Gydag anifeiliaid, beth bynnag ydi'r tywydd, mae'n rhaid i ti ddal i fynd."

I Lowri Morgan y rhedwraig ultra, dyw methiant ddim yn ei phoeni: "I mi peidio anelu'n uchel sy'n fy mhryderi i. Os cai ras wael heddiw, mae fory yn ddiwrnod newydd. Dysga'r wers a charia mlaen."

Wrth ymateb i gwestiwn Iwan Meirion Lloyd-Williams o Landrillo ger Corwen a gyflwynwyd ar y noson am daro'r wal wrth hyfforddi a cheisio goresgyn hynny, meddai Lowri: "Dwi'n bwrw wal trwy'r amser. Mae hi'n mynd i fyfyrwr i lawr, i fyfyrwr i lawr. A rhai dyddiau, mae pethau yn mynd o chwith. Ond mae'n rhaid i ti anghofio amdano a mynd 'mlaen i'r diwrnod wedyn. Dwi'n aml yn atgoffa fy hun, pam dwi yma yn gwneud hyn?"

"Yn ystod y cyfnod clo, pan oeddwn i'n stryglu, dyma benderfynu o goi cymharu fy hyfforddiant i esgoi hyfforddiant bobl eraill o'm cwmpas. Dyma fi'n creu targedau bach i fi fy hun.

Torri'r goliau i mewn i goliau bach, yn union fel camau babi. A chyn bo hir, dyma edrych nôl

"Mae grŵp UAC Cyf yn falch o gefnogi sefydliad North Dy Ben sy'n rhoi'r ffocws clir ar y cryfder meddwl a chorfforol sy'n bodoli ym myd amaeth."



Digwyddiad llwydiannus rithiol 'Nerth Dy Ben' gyda Richard Jones, Nic Parry a Lowri Morgan.

a meddwl 'waw dwi wedi cyflawni hynna!'

"Peth arall fyddai'n ei wneud wrth geisio creu cymhelliant i mi fy hun yw sgwennu nodyn sy'n cyfleu'r ffordd bositif dwi'n teimlo ar ôl hyfforddi a'i osod ar ddrws yr oergell. Y tro nesa dwi'n ei chael hi'n anodd i fynd allan i hyfforddi, pan mae hi'n wynt a glaw ac mae'r sofffa a'r teledu mor gartrefol a chlyd, rwy'n mynd at yr oergell ac atgoffa fy hun pa mor dda dwi'n

teimlo ar ôl hyfforddi. Mae hynny'n ddigon i mi afael ynddi."

Wrth ateb cwestiynau Nic Parry am ei brofiad o gneifio a chynrychioli Cymru, meddai Richard Jones: "Pan oeddwn i'n dechrau cneifio, ro'n i'n wirioneddol mwynhau. Ac wrth ddechrau ennill cystadlaethau a dechrau cneifio efo tîm Cymru, mi ro'n i'n awyddus i gymryd bob cyfle a siawns.

"Ar ddyddiau eraill mae'n rhaid i ti gofio nad cystadleuaeth a chyflymder ydi bob camp. Pan mae angen cneifio ar ddyddiau chwilboeth, ti'n cael dy atgoffa bod rhaid i ti gneifio heddiw, fory a'r diwrnod wedyn. Dwi ddim y cneifiwr cyflymaf bob tro, ond mae'n rhaid i ti ganolbwyntio ar safon y gwaith a sicrhau y cryfder a'r stamina i ddal ati."

Yn ôl Alaw Owen o Ddinbych, un o sylfaenwyr North Dy Ben a threfnydd y digwyddiad yn y Rhug: "Mi gawson ni ddigwyddiad hynod o lwyddiannus ac rydan ni mor ddiolchgar i bawb am eu cefnogaeth, eu cydweithio a'u presenoldeb.

"Diolch o galon i'r tri fu'n rhan o'r noson, y gynulleidfa wnaeth ymuno, y criw technegol a staff Stad y Rhug fu mor weithgar gyda'i nawdd a'i cefnogaeth.

"Diolch hefyd i'n noddwyr Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru a Gwasanaethau Yswiriant yr Undeb ac am gefnogaeth Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych a'r Bwrdd Gwlân."

Yn ôl Llywydd UAC, Glyn Roberts: "Mae grŵp UAC Cyf yn falch o gefnogi sefydliad North Dy Ben a'r digwyddiad penodol hwn sy'n rhoi'r ffocws clir ar y cryfder meddwl a chorfforol sy'n bodoli ym myd amaeth. Rydym yn haeddu dathlu'r dyfalbarhad sy'n bodoli o fewn y diwydiant ac fe gyflawnwyd y digwyddiad hynny. Er ein bod yn siomedig nad oedd modd cynnal Y Sioe Fawr yn y ffordd arferol eto eleni, roeddem yn falch o fod yn rhan o ddigwyddiad a bwysleisiodd y cryfder a'r gwytnwch hwnnw sydd gennym fel diwydiant."

Mae'r sgwrs yn parhau ar gael trwy dudalen Facebook ac YouTube North Dy Ben www.nerthdyben.cymru ac mae clipiau gydag is-deitlo Saesneg hefyd ar gael ar Facebook Clwyd TiFi.

This article is available in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "Nearly 1,000 viewers tune in to strength of mind event," or from your local county office.

Charity seeking volunteers to help support farmers through change

THE Farming Community Network Cymru is looking to recruit new volunteers across Powys, Ceredigion, Monmouthshire, Pembrokeshire and North Wales, to help meet a growing need to support the farm community during this period of immense change in agriculture.

FCN is a charity with volunteers in Wales and England supporting farmers and farming families during difficult times. Each year they help approximately 6,000 people with a wide range of issues, from family disputes and animal welfare to financial concerns and mental ill-health.

FCN operates a confidential and non-judgemental Helpline (03000 111 999) which is open 7am-11pm, 365 days of the year. FCN also operates an online platform called FarmWell (farmwell.org.uk), which provides farmers with helpful information and resources around a wide variety of topics, including succession planning, diversification, managing change and mental wellbeing.

Last year FCN, working with the Wales Farm Support Group, launched the FarmWell Wales (farmwell.wales) and FarmWell Cymru (farmwell.cymru) platforms, tailoring information for farmers in Wales. The platform has seen increased engagement over the last 12 months, as farmers get to grips with changing agricultural policy and new support schemes.

FCN works closely with a wide number of other farming charities - it is a member of Farming Help, which includes RABI, The Addington Fund, Forage Aid and RSABI - and has recently launched Rural+ training modules with The DPJ Foundation and National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, to support the next generation of farmers in managing their mental health and supporting others within our industry.

Volunteering with FCN



There are many ways you can volunteer with FCN - and your help really can be a lifeline. Knowing that someone is there who understands farming pressures and has the time to listen can help to remind farmers and farming families that they're not alone.

FCN has volunteers of all ages and farming backgrounds - some are caseworkers, some operate our Helpline, some fundraise whilst others raise awareness. There are many opportunities to find your niche and utilise your unique skillset to the benefit of the charity and the wider farm community. Volunteers are also supported through a wide range of training opportunities.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering with FCN, including reading testimonials from current FCN volunteers, visit our website and register your interest here: fcn.org.uk/volunteering

We're here to help

Rydym yma i helpu

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

SAMARITANS

DPJ Foundation: 0800 587 4262
Text/Tecstiwch: 07860 048799

THE DPJ FOUNDATION

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

mind Cymru

FCN: 03000 111 999

FCN THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

RABI: 0808 281 9490

RABI Supporting Farming Families

Tir Dewi: 0800 121 4722

Tir Dewi

“We’re here for you whenever you need us”

by Gethin Bickerton, Trustee of the DPJ Foundation

THERE'S no doubt that these last 18 months have been difficult for many of us, and as we emerge from these restrictions and life gets back to some kind of 'normal' it has left me in a sense of reminiscence, looking back at how life changed for so many of us and how we responded as a community as well as a country.



with many others. Many of these issues stem from fear, I think, of the unknown. One thing I wanted people to know when I came out is that it didn't change who I was. I wasn't suddenly going to stop helping with the shearing, or stop driving the tractor, or not be here during lambing season or turn my back

on the farm. Agriculture was and is a huge part of who I am and being Gay didn't change any of that.

I'm so grateful to have such supportive family and friends and I want to offer that same support to other farmers who are maybe going through a tough time as well.

At the beginning of the year I joined the DPJ Foundation as a trustee and I was blown away with the amount of support we can offer to those in need, and I was inspired by the dedication of Emma, Kate, Kay, the other trustees as well as our wonderful volunteers. We have already helped over 400 Farmers here in Wales with access to counselling. Your mental health won't be 'fixed' instantly, but it is about learning a way to deal with thoughts and events and having a personal coping mechanism in place to support you in day to day life. Counselling can set you up to thrive.

I want every farmer in Wales - regardless of sexuality, gender, race, ability - to know that we exist, to know that we are here, ready to talk without judgement or bias. Whether it is about your own mental health, or someone you know, grieving someone you have lost, or just having a tough day - we are here.

Taking that first step is one of the hardest things you will ever have to do but I need you to know that we are here whenever you need us!

We have learnt the sheer importance of communication, of a sense of unity and compassion and I think it is important for us to try and keep a hold of that as best we can. Lockdowns and enforced self-isolation have made me realise the importance of having someone to talk to, be it a member of the family, a neighbour, a friend, or even, at times, a complete stranger!

As Gareth Wyn Jones said in one of his Instagram videos "Someone, somewhere will always listen."

Growing up as a young, gay, Welsh farmer's son in the Tanat Valley in Montgomeryshire, I understand the feeling of loneliness, of having nobody to talk to, and worse, the feeling that you don't belong, or that you can't belong here, in rural mid Wales.

I had no LGBTQ+ role model growing up, someone to look up to who was like me within the rural community in Wales. A decade on, I'm proud to say that I have met and spoken to farmers, here in Wales and across the UK who are LGBTQ+ and I'm so glad to see farmers within their communities supporting each other. We do have some way to go, however, as unfortunately this isn't the case everywhere. For every happy 'coming out' story there are many, too many, unfortunate stories which include difficulties with inheritance, tainting the 'family name', or upholding traditions along

Tenovus Cancer Care's Cancer Support Line

Call us free, 365 days a year
0808 808 1010
Ffoniwch ni, 365 diwrnod y flwyddyn

A CANCER diagnosis can turn life upside down. You're bound to have questions and worries and need someone to talk to. That's where Tenovus Cancer Care comes in.

Established in 1943, we're Wales' leading cancer charity and our free, nurse-led Support Line (0808 808 1010) is available for anyone affected by cancer.

If you or someone you love needs help, our free cancer Support Line is there for you. Our experienced nurses can offer advice on diagnosis, treatment, side-effects, and anything else that's on your mind.

Our team are here for you 365 days a year to answer any questions about all types of cancer, or simply things you might not feel comfortable sharing with your family or loved ones.

And we don't just wait for the phone to ring. If you've just been diagnosed with cancer, our free Callback service can support you as you go through your treatment. We work in partnership with Health Boards across Wales receiving referrals from cancer services to offer patients a series of regular calls from one of our dedicated nurses who can answer questions and offer support about absolutely anything to do with your diagnosis or treatment.

Despite the pandemic, last year our team made nearly 3,000 proactive calls to cancer patients.

Our Support Line is open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday, and 10am-1pm on weekends and public holidays. Simply call 0808 808 1010.

Meet Ginny, she is just one of thousands of people we've supported over the years on our Support Line:

"I was being treated for fibroids which required a radical hysterectomy and it was only through the pathology notes after the operation that I discovered I had cancer. I had no idea beforehand and despite the symptoms it was a huge shock. I was added to a waiting list to have a scan and I got into a terrible anxious mess over it all.

"I have a 15-year-old daughter, but I couldn't talk to her with a complete feeling of freedom because it would have been too much for her. Although she does love my honesty!

"I didn't really have anyone close by. My mother passed away ten years ago, my brother was very supportive but lives near Ludlow and my sister hadn't been very well herself, so it was great to find information about Tenovus Cancer Care's Support Line.

"I started speaking to a nurse called Elaine. After I'd made the initial call, Elaine would phone me every two or three weeks. She was incredible, and lovely to talk to. I was keen to know how I would feel with all the different types of treatment. I felt like I was having the book thrown at me and didn't know what to expect but Elaine was very knowledgeable.

"I felt like our calls were a moment to sit down and reflect on where I was going and what I'd been through, and what was normal and not normal about it all. We also talked an awful lot about nature because we both have that interest in common! Using the Support Line allowed me to be open and reflect without putting any burden on my daughter."

Our experienced nurses can offer advice on diagnosis, treatment, side-effects, and anything else that's on your mind.

New seasonal recipes launched

WHILE the weather may have been mixed so far this summer, a new range of seasonal recipes has been launched by Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales (HCC) to encourage consumers to try new flavours when barbecuing and preparing summer meals.

Recipe booklets will be available from independent butchers who are members of HCC's Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef Butchers' Club, with supporting videos also available online on the eatwelshlambandwelshbeef.com website and Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef social media channels.

Independent retail butchers saw a marked increase in trade since the start of the COVID pandemic, with many offering new delivery or 'click and collect' services to help their communities. In the summer of 2020, retail sales of beef in independent butchers in Britain were up 49% compared to 26% across all types of retailers, with major increases in sales of lamb and pork too.

The new point of sale promotions were part of a drive to maintain these sales, according to HCC Brand Marketing Executive Philippa Gill.

"Working with leading chefs, we've produced a number of exciting but easy-to-cook recipes which people will love for our butchers' booklet and online. They range from crunchy quinoa Welsh Beef goujons to Welsh Lamb cutlets with lime and ginger as well as delicious kebabs with summer vegetables.

"All the recipes are healthy and nutritious, and are part of the support we offer to independent retailers in Wales.

"This is the height of the Welsh Lamb season - it's plentifully available in shops - and these new recipes are part of a multi-media promotional drive which started on August 1 and continued through the traditional 'Love Lamb Week' in early September."

Butchers who supply Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef can apply to join the HCC Butchers' Club and take advantage of new resources via www.butchersclub.wales/join



Welsh Lamb kebabs with summer vegetable feta couscous, one of the new recipes developed by meat promotion body HCC.

ANGLESEY

anglesey@fuw.org.uk

01248 750250

Sioe Fach Môn



Er nad oedd hi'n bosib cynnal Sioe lawn am yr ail flwyddyn yn olynol, aeth y Gymdeithas ymlaen i drefnu digwyddiadau llai i nodi deuddydd arferol y Primin.

Cynhaliwyd sioe geffylau, cŵn a dofednod ynghyd â chyfarfod arbennig ymysg aelodau'r Undebau, gyda dau siaradwr gwadd, Dr Prysor Williams, Prifysgol Bangor a Catherine Smith, Hybu Cig Cymru.

Cafwyd dau gyflwyniad hynod ddifyr yn benodol ar effeithiau newid hinsawdd ar amaeth a'r gymdeithas ehangach ynghyd a chlywed am weledigaeth Cadeiryddes newydd HCC am ddyfodol y diwydiant cig coch.

Gobeithiwn yn fawr y byddwn yn eich croesawu i babel yr Undeb ym Mhrimin 2022!

Although it was not possible to hold a full Show for the second year running, the Society organised smaller events to mark the usual two days of the Primin. A horse, dog and poultry show was held along with a special meeting between members of the Unions, with two guest speakers, Dr Prysor Williams, Bangor University and Catherine Smith, Hybu Cig Cymru. There were two very interesting presentations specifically on the effects of climate change on agriculture and the wider society as well as hearing HCC's new Chairman's vision regarding the future of the red meat industry. We very much hope that we will be able to welcome you to the Union's tent in Primin 2022!

BRECON & RADNOR

breconandradnor@fuw.org.uk

01982 554030

County exec meeting

Our County Exec meeting will be held on Tuesday September 7 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

We will be discussing the pros and cons of Carbon Credits for farmers with a member of the FUW Policy Team. Please contact the County office on 01982 554030 for joining details.

Congratulations!



FUW Life member Glyn Powell and his wife Gwenllian, (pictured left), recently celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary, congratulations both, llongyfarchiadau mawr!

CEREDIGION

ceredigion@fuw.org.uk

01570 424515

Enillwyr Clwb 200 winners

Llongyfarchiadau i enillwyr Clwb 200 Ceredigion:

Congratulations to the August 200 Club winners:

118: Lewis, Gorsaf Dawel

113: Jenkins, Beiligwyn

139: Morgan, Llywngwern



DENBIGH & FLINT

dinbychflint@fuw.org.uk

01824 707198

Concerns raised with MS



Carolyn Thomas MS in discussion with John and Jenny Wrench.



A Flintshire organic dairy farmer raised industry concerns around bovine TB and the Water Resource regulations with regional North West Member of the Senedd Carolyn Thomas, when the family welcomed her to the family farm.

John and Jenny Wrench, who are the third generation on the tenanted holding, farm in partnership with John's parents Stephen and Anne, as well as grandparents John and Vera, at Beeches Farm, Saltney Ferry in Flintshire.

Speaking after the visit FUW Denbigh and Flint County Executive Officer Mari Dafydd Jones said: "We had very constructive discussions with Carolyn Thomas and we hope that our key concerns around the Water Resource regulations and bovine TB will be taken on board."

GO2 supporting farmers

GO2 Personnel is a dynamic recruitment agency based in Colwyn Bay, covering North Wales and the Northwest. Our dedicated team boasts over 40 years combined experience in recruitment and customer service. The team is led by Lina as Senior Recruitment Consultant, supported by Robin in Business Development and Adam our Recruitment Resourcer. We are GLAA (Gangmasters) license holders.

We recruit for a diverse range of roles including HGV drivers, industrial, clerical, hospitality, construction and, of course, agriculture. We aim to source suitable employees for short and long term roles and permanent positions. Our aim is to remove the stress and leg work for a potential employer by matching them with a suitable candidate. Equally we have a register of workers in a variety of disciplines who are seeking full time, part time or occasional work.

We were delighted when recently named the Wales Prestige Recruitment Agency of the Year 2021. It's an honour to have our hard work recognised.

Here at GO2 we encourage any potential employers or employees to give our friendly team a call. We are happy to discuss your requirements with no obligation. We are happy to be supporting our local farmers by offering discounted rates to members of the Farmers' Union of Wales.

The help you are looking for could be just a phone call away. Telephone 01492 588 888 option 2 to speak to us directly.



Upcoming EOI window details

Scheme	Summary	Window closes
Farm Business Grant	A new Farm Business Grant EOI window opened on September 1 2021 with a budget of £2 million from remaining RDP funds. Farmers will be able to receive support to invest in new technology and equipment to improve the farm performance. Further information can be found on www.gov.wales/farm-business-grant	1st October 2021
Farming Connect Training Application Window	The next Farming Connect training application window opened on September 6 and will close on October 29 2021. Those registering for the first time in order to apply for a funded training course or that need to update their account details, please contact Farming Connect before 5pm on October 25 2021. More information is available on the Farming Connect website.	29th October 2021

glamorgan@fuw.org.uk

01446 774838

gwent@fuw.org.uk

01873 853280

GLAMORGAN & GWENT

Summer Show



The Gwent Branch are excited to announce that we will be attending Usk Show this summer. The show is on September 11 and is on a ticket basis only, so if you are attending please book your tickets online in advance.

There will be a full team from the Gwent branch and also attending is FUW President Glyn Roberts, FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman and Group Managing Director Guto Bebb, so plenty of expertise on hand.

Everyone is welcome to call at our stand for light refreshments and discuss the latest issues affecting the Rural Community.



montgomeryshire@fuw.org.uk

MONTGOMERYSHIRE

01686 626889

What a year!

by Bryoni Wilson, Montgomeryshire YFC County Chairperson

What a year it has been for everyone up and down the country! Young Farmers saw a huge change to our usual socials, events and competitions. Like a lot of other things, everything became virtual! I have had the honour of being Montgomery YFC County Chairman for the past year, the 'COVID-19 Year'.

I have had a lot of people say to me, 'I feel sorry for you that this has been your year' or 'Nothing has happened in your year as County Chair'. As much as I appreciate those people wishing for me to have a 'regular YFC year', I have to say please don't sympathise with my year as County Chairman because it has been absolutely incredible and so much has happened since I took on the role in September 2020. Of course I would have loved to have seen our members compete in our annual events, handing over trophies to the winners and seeing them all perform on Theatr Hafren stage but I have been able to watch (virtually!) our members excel in other areas.

The biggest highlight for me over the last ten months has been watching our members adapt to this online world of YFC competitions. All of the usual formats changed so that they could continue competing and they did an excellent job. A great example is the Wales YFC Virtual Eisteddfod where Montgomery were crowned winners. What an amazing achievement!

I'm not going to pretend that this year hasn't been filled with challenges but the good times have definitely outweighed the bad. Unfortunately and understandably, the number of members dropped to 206 people. Although this puts strain on our financial position, I think it's very positive that we have 206 enthusiastic members that were willing to join our online community in a global pandemic and I am grateful to you all.

One competition that was held this year was the Member of the year competitions, Lynfa Jones won senior member of the year and Elin Orrells won junior member of the year and I was so pleased to welcome them onto our team. They then went on to the all Wales final, they both did brilliantly but Elin actually came through on top and then went onto being runner up at NATIONAL.

The Coronavirus tested a lot of sports clubs, federations and youth groups and YFC has

been no exception. But I am so proud to have been able to help support Montgomery YFC through this tough time and continue to do so as it comes out the other side. We hope to be back to some normality very soon!



Senior member of the year - Lynfa Jones, Dyffryn Banw YFC.



Junior member of the year - Elin Orrells, Tregynon YFC.

MEIRIONNYDD

meirionnydd@fuw.org.uk

01341 422298

Pwyllgor Gwaith

Cyfarfu'r Pwyllgor Sirol ar ddiwedd mis Gorffennaf a daeth nifer dda ynghyd ar Zoom. Ar ddechrau'r cyfarfod croesawyd Gareth Jones, (*gweler ar y dde*), Rheolwr Rhanbarthol Gwlân Prydain, a hefyd Huw Evans, Hengwrt, Rhydymain sydd yn aelod o'r Bwrdd dros Ogledd Cymru. Bu'n dangos sleidiau i ni, a oedd yn cynnwys llawer o wybodaeth ddefnyddiol. Roedd hyn yn cynnwys manylion am y flwyddyn heriol ddiwethaf oherwydd Covid ar y farchnad wllân, y sefyllfa ddiweddaraf o ran y gwerthiant, yr ymdrech i wella'r gwasanaeth i ffermwyr, adolygiad y strwythur cronfeydd casglu (gyda chadarnhad na fydd newid i sefyllfa Dinas Mawddwy), prosiectau newydd sydd ar y gweill, ynghyd a hanes gwefan e-commerce, sy'n gwerthu gwlân yn uniongyrchol i'r defnyddwyr.

Cafwyd nifer o gwestiynau a sylwadau, ac yn amlwg roedd anffodlonrwydd am brisiau gwlân ar hyn o bryd. Mynegwyd teimladau yn gryf i Gareth, a bydd yr Undeb yn parhau i gysylltu yn agos gyda Gwlân Prydain.

The County Committee met at the end of July and there was a good turnout on Zoom. At the beginning of the meeting, we welcomed Gareth Jones, (pictured above), Regional Manager for British Wool, and also Huw Evans, Hengwrt, Rhydymain who is a North Wales Board member. He showed us slides, which contained lots of useful information. This included details of the last challenging year due to Covid on the wool market, the latest sales situation, the effort to improve the service to farmers, the collection centre structure review (with confirmation that Dinas Mawddwy's situation will remain unchanged), new projects that are in the pipeline, along with an update on the e-commerce website, selling wool directly to consumers. There were a number of questions and comments, and there was a clear dissatisfaction with wool prices at the moment. Feelings were strongly expressed to Gareth, and the Union will continue to liaise closely with British Wool.



Ymweliad fferm - 23ain o Fedi

Bydd Cangen Sirol Meirionnydd yn cynnal ymweliad fferm ar y cyd gyda FWAG Cymru ar fferm Rhydyfen, Arenig, ger y Bala ar ddydd lau y 23ain o Fedi.

Bydd Mabon ap Gwynfor, Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Etholaeth Meirion Dwyfor yn bresennol fel gŵr gwadd, yn ogystal â nifer o gynrychiolwyr o gyrff eraill. Bydd mwyr o fanylion yn nes i'r amser o Swyddfa UAC Dolgellau a FWAG Cymru Dolgellau.

Meirionnydd County Branch will be holding a joint farm visit with FWAG Cymru at Rhydyfen Farm, Arenig, near Bala on Thursday 23 September. Mabon ap Gwynfor, Member of the Senedd for Meirion Dwyfor Constituency will be attending as guest speaker, as well as a number of representatives from other bodies. More details will be available nearer the time from the Dolgellau FUW Office and FWAG Cymru Dolgellau.

PEMBROKESHIRE

pembrokeshire@fuw.org.uk

01437 762913

200+ Club Winners

July 2021

£25 - Hill, Eisteddfa Arthur
£10 - Belton, Headlands
£10 - Davies, Treicert

August 2021

£25 - Davies, Penrhiw
£10 - Jones, Penlan
£20 - Davies, Blaenwaun

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

Farm safety webinar discusses industry dilemma and solutions

SOLUTIONS to the ongoing farm safety dilemma were discussed at a webinar organised by Farmers' Union of Wales Insurance Services Ltd. (FUWIS) as part of the virtual Royal Welsh Show.

Keynote speakers on the day included Tony Succamore, Sales and Operations Director of FUW Insurance Services Ltd; Georgina Davis, Business Development Manager (Midlands) at British Engineering Services; Health and Safety Executive representative Christopher Maher and Farm safety expert and instructor Brian Rees. Chairing the webinar was FUW Deputy President and FUW Insurance Services Ltd. board member Ian Rickman.

Opening the event, Mr Rickman said: "It saddens me to know that despite efforts to highlight the dangers on farms time and time again, we have still not seen a decrease in these figures. Together with our partners in the Wales Farm Safety Partnership, we are working on raising awareness and reducing the risk of harm faced by those in our industry.

"We have got used to hearing those kinds of statistics over the years but we need to keep putting that message out there and get an improvement on those figures.

"As farmers we are busy, with silage and hay at the moment, but planning and jotting down a few thoughts on what the risks are could really help."



Welsh farming fatalities for 2020/2021 included 7 farmers

4 farmers were hit by a moving vehicle

2 farmers, a father and son, were killed by a water buffalo

1 farmer was killed when his ATV overturned

Outlining the latest statistics, Health and Safety Executive representative Christopher Maher told the audience that a total 41 fatalities were recorded in 2020/2021, and they included 9 employees killed, 25 self-employed killed and 7 members of the public killed - which is an increase from the 21 the year before.

"Agriculture by metric is one of the most, if not the most, dangerous industry within the UK. In 2020/2021 the agricultural fatal injury rate in the UK was 20 times higher than the all industry rate," said Mr Maher.

Welsh farming fatalities for 2020/2021 included 7 farmers. 4 farmers were hit by a moving vehicle, either whilst another person was driving or when they left the vehicle to complete a task. 2 farmers, a father and son, were killed by a water buffalo and 1 farmer was killed when his ATV overturned.

"Those are pretty sobering statistics. What we need to focus on is how we can improve those statistics and there are some things farmers can do. Sadly most of the deaths in this report could have been avoided using simple, low cost or cost free measures. Tiredness and fatigue could be a factor and farmers should assess risks and plan accordingly."



Sales and Operations Director of FUW Insurance Services Ltd, Tony Succamore, outlined how the right insurance cover might not be able to prevent accidents, but that it's essential in protecting your business in the worst case scenarios.

"Accidents will happen no matter how careful we are. But when they do happen, one of the first people you call is your insurance company. If you're with a broker like FUWIS or deal directly with an insurer, this is when the insurance you do have in place will be tested and you find out how good or bad they are.

"Our claims teams see the results of accidents on farms on a daily basis and we see the impact they have on individuals, families and businesses. Thankfully on most occasions we're able to respond and put things right for our clients. However there are times when problems do arise because either cover is not in place or is inadequate to cover the loss. Neither our farmers nor us want to be in that position," said Mr Succamore.

The accident statistics we've seen show that death and permanent disability are not uncommon in farming, Mr Succamore added, and farmers must consider the effect this will have on their family and business.

"FUWIS now offers a bespoke income protection and life insurance service to guide you through the options. Whatever challenges you face in life, you don't have to face them alone. Protection is available, and we can help you with that," he added.



Georgina Davis from the British Engineering Services was clear that farm safety is still very much an education piece but that farmers need to be aware of rules and regulations.

"We take risk very seriously and therefore testing and reporting on agricultural machinery, in order to keep the UK farming industry safe is our purpose. Our knowledge of plant and equipment is second to none and we're experts in all relevant legislation, so that our customers don't have to be. We know exactly what needs to be inspected and how often," she said.

Ms Davis highlighted that if plant or machinery fails it may result in interruption to the business, fines or even prosecution, stressing that the HSE's fee for intervention is now at £160 per hour.

"There is also the danger to employees, contractors, family members, members of the public to consider and of course the loss of reputation. It's extremely important to manage your risk and British Engineering Services are here to help ensure you protect your business and your family," added Ms Davis.



Well known farm safety expert and instructor Brian Rees, from Abeycwmhir, near Llandrindod Wells, told the audience that the first thing we need to do is convince the industry that we have a problem.

"70-80% of farmers don't think we have a problem. As long as it doesn't happen to them, we'll just carry on. But look at the figures - it's carnage," said Mr Rees.

Some things, he said, can be addressed by looking at machinery itself and a lot more can be done through inspections on farms. "The industry has done quite a lot in the last 20 years, no farmer can plead ignorance when an inspector goes to visit them and starts issuing improvement notices. The SHAD events have now run for just under 20 years, which started in 1990. If you attend those events, you would not need on farm inspections. That worked well and we had the right people turning up. Training should become standard for our industry," said Mr Rees.

The Farm Safety Partnerships have done some good work in highlighting the problems and providing solutions, Mr Rees told the audience. "Yet when you mention farm safety to a farmer they almost cringe a little because they think it's either going to cost them money or stop them from doing something. Health and safety doesn't stop you from doing anything, it gets you to do it safely. Look at the job and plan it and then you know what you have to do," he added.

The audience further heard that you're seven times more likely to be killed on a farm than you would be on a construction site. "The first comment we get back is that it's alright for construction; they've got plenty of money. They can afford to be safe. Now if you look at those 7 deaths we've had in Wales, money didn't make any difference to any of those.

"It doesn't cost anything to look behind you when you reverse, it doesn't cost anything to put the handbrake on, it doesn't cost anything to clean your windows, it doesn't cost anything to check the tyre pressure in your quad bike. Money isn't a factor in safety," said Mr Rees.



MEAT MATTERS

New educational resources available online

by Elwen Roberts, HCC Consumer Executive

TO coincide with the start of the academic year, we launched a brand-new platform and package of educational resources aimed at teachers and health professionals.

The resources can be found online at hwbcigoch.cymru/redmeathub.wales and cover a range of topics; from farm life and the origin of red meat to cooking and enjoying beef, lamb and pork as part of a healthy, balanced diet.

Information about the 'Welsh Way' of producing red meat is also included with Wales being one of the most sustainable places on earth to produce it. Sustainability is a key priority for our sector as we plan for the future and this point will be made loud and clear in everything we do.

Our young people need to understand where their food comes from and how it is produced. They need to be made aware of the facts before they are blinded by global figures based on mass-production and high emissions. The picture they paint is completely different to the reality of red meat production here in Wales.

Teachers who are looking to present these key themes to their pupils are encouraged to visit the website for ideas and inspiration as they prepare their lessons.

Whether they work in primary or secondary education, they will find bilingual resources to suit the pupils. They are colourful and appealing and cover the Foundation Phase, Key Stages 2, 3 and 4. We have worked alongside experts and experienced teachers



who have checked their suitability and ensured that they align with the current requirements of the curriculum.

The resources can be downloaded free of charge and are packed with key messages, information and suggested classroom activities. Users will find ready-made PowerPoint presentations and worksheets, recipes, videos, interactive quizzes, posters and booklets.

Health professionals are also encouraged to use the website as it contains resources and information to support learning about diet and health. This includes friendly guides to the nutrients found in red meat and healthy recipes for patients to try.

More resources will be constantly added to the website over time and it will be kept up-to-date with all the current guidelines and requirements in health and education.

In the meantime, please help us to promote this new and unique platform by telling your friends about it. We hope that it will be used extensively and deemed useful by many.

I gyd-fynd â dechrau'r flwyddyn academiaidd, mae HCC wedi lansio platfform a phhecyn newydd o adnoddau addysgol wedi'u hanelu at athrawon a gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol. Gellir dod o hyd i'r adnoddau ar-lein yn hwbcigoch.cymru/redmeathub.wales ac maent yn ymdrin ag ystod o bynciau; o fywyd fferm a tharddiad cig coch i goginio a mwynhau cig eidion, cig oen a phorc fel rhan o ddeiet iach, cytbwys.

PROPERTY MATTERS

Close Relative Eligibility Provisions

by Kathryn Williams, Director,
Davis Meade Property Consultants

UNDER the provisions of the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986, Part IV of the Act entitles certain close relatives of tenant farmers, whose tenancies are protected by the AHA 1986 to obtain by way of statutory



succession a new protected tenancy of the holding on the death or retirement of the original tenant.

The definition of a close relative is narrow and therefore it is highly important to understand who may qualify when planning for a succession. The close relationship test must have been established by the date of death of the original tenant.

Section 35(2) of the AHA 1986 provides that only the following persons satisfy the close relationship test:

- The wife or husband (including a civil partner) of the deceased tenant (spouse);
- The brother or sister of the deceased (sibling);
- A child of the deceased (child); or
- Any person not within the above, who in the case of any marriage or civil partnership to which the deceased was at any time a party was treated by the deceased as a child of the family in relation to that marriage or civil partnership (treated child).

It should be noted that the above definition does not allow for grandchildren, nephews and nieces or children in law, which is often a common misunderstanding experienced.

In the case of joint tenants, for example where two brothers are the joint tenants one with eligible children and one with no children. The eligible children will only satisfy the test for succession on death if their uncle predeceases their father. It would therefore be prudent to consider an application for succession on retirement in this case.

A common problem experienced is when a tenancy is vested with a grandparent and the parent predeceases the grandparent. The grandchild is then barred from making an application for succession to the tenancy from the grandparent as it is not possible to skip a generation.

Section 81 and Schedule 8 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 amended the AHA 1986 to enable civil partners to fall within the definition of a close relative.

The "treated child" scenario has given rise to a number of difficulties. In *Williams v Lady Douglas* the Tribunal accepted a distant cousin and in *Ashby v Holiday* a stepson who had lived with the deceased tenant and his wife as a member of the family was accepted.

The close relative test is one of the initial points studied when considering the likely outcome of a succession case. If there is a possibility that the eligibility of an applicant could be compromised due to a change in circumstances or order of death, it is therefore prudent to plan for this scenario to avoid becoming ineligible.

For further advice on succession planning please feel free to contact Kathryn Williams at Davis Meade Property Consultants Ltd - kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com

O dan ddarpariaethau Deddf Daliadau Amaethyddol 1986, mae Rhan IV o'r Ddeddf yn rhoi hawl, fel olyniaeth statudol, i rai perthnasau agos i ffermwyr sy'n denantiaid, y mae eu tenantiaethau wedi'u gwarchod gan AHA 1986 i sicrhau tenantiaeth warchoddedig newydd y daliad ar ôl marwolaeth neu ymdeoliad y tenant gwreiddiol. Mae'r diffiniad o berthynas agos yn gul ac felly mae'n bwysig iawn deall pwy all fod yn gymwys wrth gynllunio ar gyfer olyniaeth. I gael cyngor pellach ar gynllunio olyniaeth mae croeso i chi gysylltu â Kathryn Williams yn Davis Meade Property Consultants Ltd - kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com

MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Llywydd Cenedlaethol newydd

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

MAE mis Medi yn gychwyn newydd ar ein gweithgareddau fel mudiad ac yn fis o garedigrwydd eleni. Gall gweithred fach olygu cymaint - codi'r ffôn i ddweud helo, anfon llythyr at ffrind ysgol, cyfnewid patrwm croasio gyda ffrind. Mae hyn yn ffordd o feddwl am eraill, gall fod yn cynnig help llaw i gymydog, neu dorri lawnt drws nesaf. Fel y dywedodd Dewi Sant "Gwnewch y pethau bychain".

Mae Jill Lewis o Sir Benfro, (**gweler ar y dde**), yn cymryd at yr awenau i fod yn Llywydd Cenedlaethol a dymunwn yn dda iddi, gan ddiolch i Meirwen Lloyd o Arfon am ei harweiniad dros y 3 mlynedd ddiwethaf a'i llongyfarch ar brosiectau megis casglu sbwriel a chreu Blodau Gobaith.

Hyderwn bydd yna hyder o'r newydd yn ein cymunedau ac y bydd mwy o leoliadau cymunedol i gyfarfod. Gobeithio cawn gyfle yng nghefn gwlad i ddod ynghyd a chefnogi ein gilydd.

Mae ein cychgrawn newydd *Y Wawr* ar gael ac fe fyddwn yn teithio o Gofeb Waldo yn Sir Benfro i bob pegwn o Gymru gan ddysgu a chael mwynhad yng nghwmni eraill.

Cofiwch ddilyn ein gweithgareddau ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol ac efallai ymuno gyda rhai o'n gweithgareddau.

September marks a new term of activities for Merched y Wawr and will be focussing on kindness this month. One small act of kindness such as phoning someone, writing a letter to a school friend, exchanging a crochet pattern with a friend are all ways of thinking of others. Jill Lewis from Pembrokeshire, (pictured above), is the new National President and takes over from Meirwen Lloyd, Arfon.





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References: 1. Philippe-Reversat *et al.* (2017) *Acta Vet BRNO*. 86: 325–332 2. Metcalfe *et al.* (2020) *Vet Record Open* 7: e000429 3. Ellis *et al.* (2018) *Can Vet J*. 59: 1311–1319
4. Metcalfe *et al.* (2019) Poster presented at EBC, Den Bosch, Sept 19

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

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

strain BIO-25. UK: POM-V IE: POM (E). Advice should be sought from the prescriber. Further information available in the SPCs or from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd, RG12 8YS, UK. Tel: 01344 746960 (sales) or 01344 746957 (technical), IE Tel: 01 291 3985 (all queries) Email: vetenquiries@boehringer-ingelheim.com. Bovalto® is a registered trademark of the Boehringer Ingelheim Group. ©2021 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd. All rights reserved. Date of preparation: May 2021. BOV-0111-2021. Use Medicines Responsibly.



The benefits of mixed grazing approaches

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

MIXED grazing systems are where two or more herbivorous animals graze the same land, either simultaneously or consecutively. Mixed grazing approaches offer an alternative to other forms of pasture management and can be effective at increasing ruminant performance.

This positive effect occurs as the result of interactions between grazing animals. Different herbivore species have different grazing strategies. This can include preferential forage behaviour, where certain plant species are either favourably selected or actively avoided, and/or differing mechanical action, which is the effect of bite size or trampling impact between herbivores of varying size.

Large herbivores such as cows can trample vegetation and take larger, less specific bites when grazing, whereas smaller ruminants such as sheep are much more selective and less heavy footed. These factors together can result in some beneficial effects, both in terms of production and also in terms of habitat quality and biodiversity.

In terms of improved pasture utilisation, cattle will browse on vegetation that sheep actively avoid, including the more mature forage that is undesirable to sheep, which makes better use of all available vegetation biomass. Cattle are also more able to disturb large patches of mature vegetation

that sheep will otherwise avoid and this disturbance may lead to regrowth of more palatable forage that sheep can then utilise.

Cattle and sheep both avoid grazing in close proximity to dung patches of their own species, but sheep will graze in close proximity to cattle dung patches, which increases pasture usage.

Through such mechanisms a more even utilisation of pasture is achieved and grazing efficiency is improved. Furthermore, certain benefits have also been described in terms of reduced gastrointestinal parasite burdens, but this is variable across environments and species types.

In unimproved grassland, such as Welsh upland swards, mixed grazing approaches can also improve grassland species diversity and reduce the invasion of unfavourable grass species which are less palatable. It can also reduce the competitive advantage of these plants in sheep-only systems.

Applying mixed grazing approaches can enhance pasture management and livestock production simultaneously.

Mixed grazing is therefore an advantageous strategy to maximise the potential of Welsh grassland systems in order to improve productivity without increasing agricultural intensity, and to reduce the potential for biodiversity loss in unimproved upland grasslands.



“Applying mixed grazing approaches can enhance pasture management and livestock production simultaneously.”

Heddlu Gogledd Cymru yn lansio system rhybudd cymunedol newydd



BELLACH, gall cymunedau Gogledd Cymru dderbyn y newyddion plismona lleol personol diweddaraf, yn dilyn lansio gwasanaeth negeseuon am ddim newydd sbon - Rhybudd Cymunedol Gogledd Cymru.

Heddlu Gogledd Cymru ydy'r heddlu cyntaf yng Nghymru i

lansio'r system rhybuddion sydd wedi'i ariannu fel rhan o Gronfa Strydoedd Mwy Diogel y Swyddfa Gartref. Mae'r system yn cael ei defnyddio ar hyn o bryd gan sawl heddlu arall yn rhannau eraill o'r DU ac mae wedi gweld canlyniadau cadarnhaol a mwy o ymgysylltu gyda chymunedau.

Mae Rhybudd Cymunedol Gogledd Cymru yn sydyn ac yn syml i gofrestru ac mae'n rhoi llais i'r cyhoedd ar ein blaenoriaethau plismona cymdogaethau. Mae'r system yn cynnwys gwasanaeth negeseuon sy'n caniatáu defnyddwyr i ddweud wrthym am yr hyn sy'n bwysig iddyn nhw.

Mae hwn hefyd yn lwyfan gwyh i fagu cipolwg gwirioneddol ar weithgarwch yr heddlu yn eich ardal a'r hyn rydym yn ei wneud i ymdrin ag unrhyw broblemau. Rydym yn gobeithio y bydd hyn yn cynorthwyo trigolion i deimlo'n fwy diogel yn eich cartref, allan yn y gymuned ac yn y gwaith.

Dywedodd PC Dave Allen o Dîm Troseddau Gwledig Heddlu Gogledd Cymru: “Yn aml, mae aelodau UAC yn gofyn i mi am gynllun Gwarchod Fferm yng Ngogledd Cymru ar gyfer y bobl hynny nad oes ganddynt fynediad efallai at gyfryngau cymdeithasol neu yn wir at y rhyngwrwd. Rwy'n falch o ddweud y bydd gan y System Rhybudd Cymunedol newydd hon gynllun Gwarchod Fferm. Bydd y system yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i aelodau UAC am drosedd, apeliadau, cyngor atal a'r gweithgaredd plismona yn eu hardal. Mae'n rhad ac am ddim i ymuno â, ac os nad oes gennych fynediad at gyfrifiadur, gallwch ddewis derbyn negeseuon trwy beiriant ateb neu neges destun ac mae'n system ddwy ffordd lle gall aelodau UAC fwydo gwybodaeth yn ôl yn uniongyrchol i Heddlu Gogledd Cymru a'r Tîm.”

Dywedodd Andy Dunbobbin, Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd y rhanbarth: “Bydd Rhybudd Cymunedol Gogledd Cymru yn rhoi cyfle gwyh i'n cymunedau roi adborth i'w tîm plismona cymdogaethau lleol ar y problemau sydd o'r pwys mwyaf iddynt. Bydd yn ein cynorthwyo ni i weithio gyda'n gilydd i wneud Gogledd Cymru'r lle mwyaf diogel yn y DU.

“Bydd swyddogion plismona lleol yn codi ymwybyddiaeth am y cynllun ac rwyf yn annog trigolion, busnesau a grwpiau cymunedol i gofrestru ar gyfer y system.

“Neilltuwch amser i gofrestru gyda Rhybudd Cymunedol Gogledd Cymru. Mae'n gyflym, yn syml ac yn gyfan gwbl am ddim.”

Dewch i wybod mwy am Rybudd Cymunedol Gogledd Cymru a chofrestrwch drwy fynd ar y wefan yma: www.NorthWalesCommunityAlert.co.uk



COMMUNITIES of North Wales can now keep up-to-date with personalised local policing news, following the launch of a brand new free messaging service - North Wales Community Alert.

North Wales Community Alert is quick and simple to sign up to and gives the public a voice in our neighbourhood policing priorities. The system includes a messaging service that allows users to tell us what really matters to them.

PC Dave Allen from the North Wales Police Rural Crime Team said: “FUW members have often asked me about a Farm Watch scheme in North Wales for those people who may not have access to social media or indeed the internet. I am pleased to say that this new Community alert System will have a Farm Watch scheme. The system will give FUW members up-to-date information about crime, appeals, prevention advice and the policing activity in their area. It's free to sign up to and if you don't have access to a computer, you can choose to receive messages via voice mail or text and it's a two way system where FUW members can feed information back directly to North Wales Police and the Team.”

Find out more about the alert system on our Campaign page. You can register by visiting www.NorthWalesCommunityAlert.co.uk

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