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Remote SAF assistance to continue for 2021

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FCN extends available support in Wales

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Draconian water quality legislation makes a mockery of devolution

THE FUW says Welsh Government water quality legislation announced on January 27 makes a mockery of devolution by failing to address Welsh concerns and needs.

The legislation will mean the phasing across Wales of what are effectively EU rules currently in place in intensively farmed areas - designate the whole of Wales as an EU Nitrate Vulnerable

Zone (NVZ), an area more than forty times bigger than the current Welsh NVZ area, and eleven times bigger than what was recommended by NRW.

FUW president Glyn Roberts said: "The blank sheet of devolution and Brexit allows Welsh Government to design a bespoke system which would target problem areas without being disproportionate and costing the farming industry hundreds of millions - including in areas where there are no problems.

"This was precisely the recommendation of NRW, the FUW and others in a report presented to Welsh Government in 2018."



Mr Roberts said that instead, the Welsh Government has taken the draconian and unimaginative move of taking off-the-shelf regulations and applying them for the whole of Wales.

"As with the current white paper proposals for agricultural support, which simply copies a Defra plan, this announcement makes a mockery of devolution, and

marks a betrayal of the principles of evidence-based decision making," added Mr Roberts.

NRW had previously advised the Welsh Government against implementing the legislation, warning it could have the perverse outcome of making pollution worse, while also warning of the severe resource implications of such a draconian move.

"It is now essential that members of the senedd stand up for what is best for Wales as this legislation is considered, rather than adding to the erosion of devolution that this legislation symbolises," said Mr Roberts.

"The Welsh Government has taken the draconian and unimaginative move of taking off-the-shelf regulations and applying them for the whole of Wales."

False commercial campaigning - sadly the world of farming is no stranger to this

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

WITH the Welsh seven day average of coronavirus cases down to 245 per 100,000 people as *Y Tir* goes to press, and Wales' vaccination programme finally getting going after a disappointing start, it certainly feels like we are starting to turn a corner.

There can be little doubt that moves such as *drop-and-go* policies in auction markets have been instrumental in protecting farming communities, but the second wave of infection has nevertheless taken a greater toll on our members than the first one, and the danger is ever present, with concerningly high levels in some rural areas. In fact, some of the highest incidence levels in Wales at the time of writing have been in Meirionnydd, Radnorshire and Flintshire, and there is no room for complacency that would place additional pressures on a National Health service that is at breaking point.

As is the way of the world now more than ever before, the role played by the press and social media in swaying public and government opinion has been an ever present feature of the pandemic, and it has been astounding how quickly some popular newspapers have performed U-turns by moving from a position of opposing any kind of lockdown to calling for harsher penalties for those who breach the rules.

Continues on page 2

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While UK press and broadcasting standards may leave much to be desired, social media is, by comparison, a free for all, allowing all sorts of conspiracy theories, lies and untruths to rapidly spread and gain belief and followers.

The storming of the US parliament building was perhaps the most startling example of this power, although the lack of US press and broadcasting regulations and standards must also take a large share of the blame, and while the farming industry may regularly feel anger at the perceived bias of the BBC, if we were in the US, Chris Packham would probably have his own BBC programme dedicated to far more blatant attacks on farming and rural communities.

It is easy to fall into the trap of believing that the false claims and propaganda is only spread on the internet by individuals and extremist groups, and we should not underestimate the degree to which companies can and do use such messaging to further their own commercial interests.

Sadly, the world of farming is no stranger to such commercial campaigning: Anti dairy and meat campaigning is now not only conducted by vegetarian and vegan groups, as vast companies selling non animal-based food now employ exactly the same tactics to increase their market share.

Amongst the most recent examples has been the claim by Swedish 'oat milk' company Oatly that the "...dairy and meat industries emit more CO₂e than all the world's planes, trains, cars, boats etc., combined" as part of the launch of an aggressive anti-dairy campaign aimed at boosting the sales of its own brand.

The claim is of course wrong - global transport emits far more greenhouse gasses than the dairy industry, and in the UK, transport emissions are 280% the rate of the entire agriculture sector (of which dairy emissions is just a portion).

Farmers responding on Twitter wasted no time in exposing

the misinformation, but how many swallowed this at face value or were persuaded to switch permanently to putting money in the pockets of Oatly, however low their advert stooped?

All things being equal, any such benefits will put money in the pockets of farmers growing oats, while taking money away from those producing milk, highlighting an additional concern regarding the way in which such cut-throat tactics risk dividing our industry at a time when we need to stand together against a barrage of attacks, whichever sector we work in - concerns I have raised in a letter to the Federation of Swedish Farmers (Oatly being a Swedish company).

As well as providing a perfect platform for spreading misinformation, the internet also allows lobbying to take place in response to campaigns, and while Russian interference in US elections has attracted significant attention in recent years, Wales is no stranger to such lobbying.

As long ago as 2009, when the then Welsh Government consulted on a proposed badger cull, a breakdown revealed that 85% of Welsh respondents supported a cull, but when responses from outside Wales were included the proportion fell to 49%.

And in 2019, work by the Countryside Alliance revealed that 88% of the signatories of a petition supporting a ban of pheasant shooting on land managed by NRW came from outside Wales, including from outside the UK.

In light of such evidence, the FUW has been fighting for the geographic origin of responses to the 2017 Taking Forward Wales' Sustainable Management of Natural Resources consultation, which proposed sweeping changes to Welsh public access and attracted 17,391 responses, to be revealed.

While an appeal to the First Tier Tribunal against the refusal of our Freedom of Information request was ultimately

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unsuccessful, based on UK law, the documents submitted by the Welsh Government during the appeal process have revealed some staggering facts.

For example, the Welsh Government claimed in June 2018 that "...of those who included their geographical location the overwhelming proportion (via organisation or submitted individually) was from Wales", and Deputy Minister Hannah Blythyn said in April 2019 that "Over 16,000 responses were received to the proposals on access alone, reflecting the passion many of us in Wales have for the countryside and outdoor recreation."

However, it turns out that these statements were based on an assessment of just 1.4% of responses, while 70 per cent of the consultation responses were generated by internet campaigns run by UK, as opposed to Welsh organisations.

But perhaps the most shocking revelation is the attitude of the Welsh Government to the Welsh electorate.

In its submissions to the Tribunal, the Welsh Government stated that "The request for geographic information suggests that there is a need to distinguish the views of people from within and outside Wales for the issues being consulted" and that "The Welsh Government believes that the community of interest of respondents [mountain bikers, rambblers etc.] is a more relevant consideration in terms of developing policy in this area rather than geographic origin."

In an age when it is as easy for people (or robots) in Caernarfon, Canterbury or Canberra to respond to an online consultation, such a dismissal of Welsh views by our own Government should strike fear into the hearts of anyone who wishes to see democracy upheld, and over the coming months the FUW will be campaigning to see legislation put in place requiring future Welsh Governments to ensure transparency regarding consultations which attract responses from outside Wales as a result of populist internet campaigns.

Mae'r erthygl yma yn Gymraeg ar wefan yr FUW - Newyddion - Newyddion Y Tir: "Yn anffodus, nid yw'r byd ffermio yn ddieithr i ymgyrchu masnachol ffug."

FAKE NEWS

Raising concerns over Brexit impact on exports with MP



AS Y Tir goes to press, Members of Montgomeryshire FUW are arranging a virtual meeting with MP Craig Williams, (pictured left), to raise concerns about the threat that non-tariff barriers represent to a major slaughterhouse in the constituency and the industry as a whole.

Meat processing plant Randall Parker Foods, near Llanidloes, which processes a million lambs a year - half of which are exported to the European Union - warned that it may lose a third of its 150 workers if the extra cost and paperwork of selling meat into the EU under the new post-Brexit trading arrangements cannot be overcome.

FUW Montgomeryshire County Executive officer Emyr Wyn Davies, said: "The increase in paperwork and associated costs for all exporters has been well publicised, particularly for the shellfish industry.

"However, the threat to jobs in Montgomeryshire and the sheep farmers across Wales who supply Randall Parker brings the message home, and action needs to be taken to reduce the impact."

"The threat to jobs in Montgomeryshire and the sheep farmers across Wales who supply Randall Parker brings the message home, and action needs to be taken to reduce the impact."

Mr Davies said the concerns of members in the county and across Wales would be raised at a meeting with Conservative MP Craig Williams at the beginning of February.

"As our local elected representative and a member of the International Trade Committee, it is essential that Mr Williams hears first hand our concerns regarding the threat these new barriers represent for our constituents and people and processors across Wales," he added.

"We had always known that the UK's decision to pull out of the single market and customs union would create additional costs and barriers, but these have been exacerbated by slow preparations by the powers that be.

"It's now essential that the UK Government pulls out all the stops to rapidly reduce these to a minimum," he added.

If we have published anything that is factually inaccurate, please contact the editor on 01970 820820 at ytir@fuw.org.uk or at FUW, Llys Amaeth, Plas Gogerdan, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3BT and once verified we will correct it here as soon as possible.

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SAF assistance to continue remotely for 2021

IT'S been nearly a year since we took the unprecedented step to close all county offices. A particular focus given the time of year has of course been to ensure we can continue to provide assistance with the completion and submission of SAF/IACS forms - each year the FUW assists members with Basic Payment Scheme claims totalling more than £60 million, and many millions more in Glastir claims, often providing invaluable help to those who are unable to access the internet services necessary to complete forms.

Due to the ongoing covid-19 situation the many thousands of members who are due to receive FUW assistance with the completion of their 2021 SAF will be offered 'virtual appointments'. Information on forms will be cross-checked during a telephone call, and where members are unable to access online services forms will now be submitted on behalf of members by our staff.

However, such 'virtual' assistance increases the risk of errors occurring, therefore we ask members to get in touch with their local county office now if there have been any significant changes to the farm since last year; these include, boundary changes, new land, changes in business partners, inspections since last year and any other changes to land use.

We also ask all members to check their RPW online messages for any mapping changes or land inspections as these could have a large impact on completing the SAF.

By letting us know we will be able to prepare maps and gather information in preparation for your SAF appointment from March onwards.

If you have any concerns, please get in touch with your local county office who will be able to answer your questions, telephone numbers below.

Mae bron i flwyddyn wedi mynd heibio ers i FUW gymryd y cam digynsaill o gau'r holl swyddfeydd sirol. Un ffocws arbennig, o ystyried yr adeg o'r flwyddyn, fu sicrhau bod yr FUW yn gallu dal ati i helpu aelodau i lenwi a chyflwyno'u ffurflenni SAF/IACS. Bob blwyddyn mae FUW yn cynorthwyo aelodau gyda hawliadau Cynllun y Taliad Sylfaenol (BPS) gwerth dros £60 miliwn, a miliynau ychwanegol ar ffurf hawliadau Glastir, gan ddarparu help amhrisiadwy yn aml i'r rhai sydd heb fynediad i'r gwasanaethau rhyngwyd sydd eu hangen i lenwi'r ffurflenni.

Oherwydd y sefyllfa barhaus gyda Covid-19, bydd y miloedd lawer o aelodau sydd angen help FUW i lenwi eu ffurflenni SAF 2021 yn cael cynnig 'apwyntiadau rhithwir'. Bydd yr wybodaeth sydd ar y ffurflenni'n cael ei chroeswiro yn ystod galwad ffôn, ac os na fydd gan yr aelodau fynediad at wasanaethau ar-lein, bydd staff FUW yn cyflwyno'r ffurflenni ar eu rhan.

Fodd bynnag, mae cymorth 'rhithwir' o'r fath yn cynyddu'r risg o gamgymeriadau, felly dylai aelodau gysylltu â'u swyddfa leol ar unwaith os bu unrhyw newidiadau sylweddol i'r fferm ers y llynedd; mae'r rhain yn cynnwys newid ffiniau, tir newydd, newid o ran partneriaid busnes, archwiliadau ers y llynedd ac unrhyw newidiadau o ran defnydd o'r tir. Dylai aelodau hefyd ddarllen eu negeseuon RPW ar-lein am unrhyw newidiadau mapio neu archwiliadau tir, oherwydd gall y rhain gael effaith fawr ar gwblhau'r SAF. Trwy adael i'r staff sirol wybod, gallant baratoi mapiau a chasglu gwybodaeth yn barod ar gyfer eich apwyntiad SAF o fis Mawrth ymlaen.

Os oes gennych chi unrhyw bryderon, cysylltwch â'ch swyddfa sirol leol, a fydd yn gallu ateb eich cwestiynau, rhifau ffôn isod.



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Ffermwyr Misol

Ionawr 2021



Cael trafferth gweld yr e-bost yma? CLICIWCH "VIEW ENTIRE MESSAGE" AR Y GWAELOD.

You are receiving the Welsh version of the bulletin. If you would like to receive the English version, please contact us by responding to this email or contacting your local FUW office.

Annwyl Aelod,

Isod, mae eich bwletin FUW misol i aelodau, sy'n cynnwys gwybodaeth bwysig a'r newyddion diweddaraf. Rydym yn gobeithio eich bod yn cadw'n ddiogel ac y bydd y wybodaeth hon yn ddefnyddiol i chi.

• Y diweddaraf am yr effaith ar fasnach ar ôl i gyfnod pontio Brexit ddod i ben

• Cymorth rhithwir i lenw'r Ffurflen Gais Sengl yn 2021

• Unedau Magu/Pesgi Cymeradwy a Gwerthiannau Penodol TB o fewn ardaloedd TB uchel yng Nghymru

• Marchnadoedd da byw i ail-fabwysiadu polisi 'gollwng a gadael' oherwydd peryglon Covid-19

• Dyddiadau ffenestri mynegi diddordeb Ionawr 2021

• Ymgynghoriadau

• Rhestr Wirio Covid-19 FUW

• Mân newidiadau i reolau Trawsgydymffurfio 2021

• Gofynion clefyd y crafu a gwaharddiadau symud newydd ar allforio defaid o Brydain i Ogledd Iwerddon

• Ehangu Hufenfa De Arfon dros gyfnod o dair blynedd

• Canlyniadau positif i'r prawf Clefyd Johnne newydd

• Cynhadledd Ffermio Cymru rithwir yn 2021

• Cynhadledd rithwir Menter Moch Cymru

• Arolygon a holiaduron Ionawr 2021

Policy Department e-Bulletins

by Gareth Parry, Policy Communications Officer

TO avoid overloading you with Policy updates and consultations on top of our briefing on the Agriculture (Wales) White Paper on pages 16, 17 and 18, what better way to kick off 2021 with an outlook on the monthly FUW Policy e-Bulletins.

Since starting in the newly created role of FUW Policy Communications Officer in June 2019, I feel that we have taken great strides in engaging with members and keeping you up-to-date with policy issues, whether this has been at a County or Head Office level, electronically or through *Y Tir*, or more so now, virtually.

In August 2019, the decision was made to split the e-bulletin into two separate sources of information;

Agri-News

The first of which - the Agri-News Bulletin - includes articles along the lines of Policy updates, changes and FUW positions and responses. These could include items on anything from Brexit and the UK Agriculture Bill to Access proposals, TB regulations or Climate Change targets.

Farmers' Monthly

The second - the Farmers' Monthly Bulletin - contains useful

guidance, information, agricultural surveys or questionnaires and a list of the open and upcoming expression of interest window dates - updates that are more relevant to the day-to-day operation of the farm business.

More recently, we have also taken further steps in order to produce both of the above in Welsh in response to feedback from members and to fulfil our commitment to the Welsh language.

The Farmers' Monthly, or *Ffermwyr Misol*, is sent on or around the 22nd and the Agri-News, or *Newyddion-Amaeth* update is sent by the end of each month. Both bulletins are sent directly to your inbox, however all of the articles are also available to view on the FUW Website:

English: www.fuw.org.uk/en/news/agricultural-policy-news

Welsh: www.fuw.org.uk/cy/newyddion/newyddion-polisi-amaethyddol

Please get in touch if you wish to change your language preference. However, it is important to note that in some instances, one Bulletin may appear in your spam folder when receiving both English and Welsh versions. Any feedback is also always welcome.

If you have an email address but are not currently receiving the FUW Policy e-Bulletins and would like to, please contact me on gareth.parry@fuw.org.uk or 01970 629461.

Anger as lack of maintenance work results in flooding again

FUW members in the northern area of Meirionnydd have expressed deep anger and frustration following the flooding of several hundred acres of land at Llanfrothen near Porthmadog recently. The flooding occurred as a result of the Afon Croesor overflowing once again to the nearby Internal Drainage District causing tremendous damage to the best agricultural land in the area.

The problem has been brought to the attention of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on several occasions, and site meetings were held with NRW staff following flooding in July 2020. This included a meeting on site with Liz Saville Roberts MP.

FUW Meirionnydd County Executive Officer Huw Jones said: "The Afon Croesor has the status of 'main river' and is the responsibility of NRW. During our meetings in August 2020, the NRW officers were shown trees and overhanging branches which impede the flow of the river, and where maintenance work is urgently required.

"We also discussed the clear need to dredge parts of the river. Flood banks in urgent need of repairs were also shown, with a request that a detailed inspection is carried out as soon as possible, with a view to making repairs as soon as possible. We gave a clear warning that doing nothing was not an option.

"It is abundantly clear that the capacity of the river Croesor has been significantly reduced due to the fact that it has not been dredged regularly. It is understood that years ago, dredging would be done every few years, but the position now is that this has not been done for decades, so we have silt building up on the river bed. We have excellent agricultural land in this area, and moreover, there is no doubt that substantial damage is done to habitat and biodiversity with continuous flooding."

FUW member Glyn Griffiths, who farms near Llanfrothen, and who chairs the local Dwyfor & Meirionnydd IDD Advisory Group said: "We drew attention to several matters which required urgent attention of NRW, and we were promised that works would be carried out.

"It is so disappointing that these promises were not kept, and the necessary works not carried out. The Land Drainage Act 1991 and Water Framework Directives show clearly that

NRW has a statutory responsibility as the Drainage Board to maintain and improve the drainage within the district.

"Areas near the Afon Dwyryd at Maentwrog have also suffered from flooding once again. A site meeting was held at the bridge near Maentwrog last August, where the silt that has built up over many years is clearly seen."

Glyn Griffiths added: "We must now arrange further meetings, investigate and explore fully what the legal obligations are here, and whether NRW have been in breach of their duty of care. The whole issue must again be referred to Liz Saville Roberts MP, and we must make every effort to ensure that this does not happen again."

Upcoming EOI window details

Scheme	Summary	Window closes
Glastir Small Grants: Carbon	Glastir Small Grants: Carbon is a programme of capital works available to farming businesses to carry out projects which promote carbon sequestration. A project will include: The main capital work which addresses the theme objectives (i.e. new hedge planting); The supportive capital work which will allow for the main capital work to be undertaken (i.e. post and wire fencing) Further information and guidance can be found here: https://gov.wales/glastir-small-grants-carbon-guidance And here: https://gov.wales/glastir	19 February 2021
Farming Connect training application window	Before applying for training, you must i) be registered with Farming Connect, ii) access the Business Wales (BOSS) website via Sign On Cymru at: https://businesswales.gov.wales/boss/ and, iii) complete an online Personal Development Plan (PDP) Those registering for the first time during the above skills window in order to apply for a funded training course or need to update their account details, please contact Farming Connect before 5pm on Monday February 22 2021.	26 February 2021
Farming Connect What's On	As a result of the pandemic, Farming Connect has taken the decision to postpone all open events and one-to-many events until further notice. They are conducting a number of activities digitally or over the phone where possible. More information can be found here: https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/whats-on	
Sustainable Production Grant	The next SPG expression of interest window opened on February 1 and closes on March 12 2021.	12 March 2021



Flooding in the area.

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gan Angharad Evans, Golygydd y Gymraeg

MAE'N gyd-ddigwyddiad rhyfeddol bod ymdrechion yn parhau i ddileu Covid-19 yn cyd-fynd gyda 20 mlynedd ers i glwy'r traed a'r genau chwalu a dinistrio amaethyddiaeth yn 2001 gan adael creithiau ar amaethyddiaeth Cymru a fydd yn para oes.

Er mwyn nodi'r achlysur, mae Cornel Clecs wedi cael cyfle i holi i Arwyn Owen, cyn Cyfarwyddwr Polisi UAC, ac Alan Gardner, Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Da Byw, Gwlân a Marchnadoedd yr Undeb yn 2001 am ei hatgofion personol nhw o'r cyfnod:

Arwyn Owen

Ble mae'r ugain mlynedd diwethaf wedi mynd, yw'r hyn sydd ar feddwl llawer wrth inni edrych yn ôl i'r flwyddyn 2001 a chofio effaith drychinebus clefyd y traed a'r genau ar fywyd yng Nghymru. Mae llawer o'r emosiynau yr oedd pobl yn teimlo bryd hynny wedi ail gorddi yn ein meddyliau wrth i Covid ddod â bywyd bob dydd i stop yn 2020. Yn y dda achos, mae bywoliaethau wedi'u dinistrio ac mae pobl wedi byw mewn ofn o'r gelyn anweledig, heb wybod pryd neu sut y byddai'n taro nesaf.

I mi, rhan anoddaf fy swydd yn 2001 oedd bod yn dyst i bobl a oedd wedi gwneud popeth o fewn eu gallu i gadw traed a'r genau allan o'u diadelloedd a'u buchesi, ac yna'n gorfod delio gydag achos a'i ganlyniadau. Mae'n hawdd edrych yn ôl a mesur yr effaith yn nhermau ystadegau noeth. Y tu ôl i bob achos, roedd yna deulu ffermio; y tu ôl i fanylion amrwd anifeiliaid a laddwyd, roedd blynyddoedd lawer o fridio manwl a gofalus; a thu hwnt i effaith uniongyrchol y clefyd, roedd llawer o gwestiynau am y dyfodol.

Yn aml iawn, roedd yr effaith ar y gymuned ehangach yn llai gweladwy ond yr un mor ddifrifol. Fel yn 2020, cafodd sioeau eu canslo, prin oedd y digwyddiadau cymdeithasol ac roedd unigedd, er yn dda ar gyfer rheoli clefydau, yn achosi dioddefaint gwirioneddol i lawer.

Er gwaethaf yr atgofion hyn, rwy'n aml yn meddwl bod traed a'r genau wedi dod â'r gorau allan o bobl. Gwnaethpwyd camgymeriadau, fel y bydd bob amser yn digwydd ond yn fy marn i roedd pawb yn rhoi o'u gorau i drechu'r gelyn anweledig hwn. Rwy'n aml yn ystyried bod y Llywydd ar y pryd Bob Parry, a chadeiryddion pwyllgorau fel Alan Gardner a Derek Morgan wedi ennill rhinweddau goruwchddynol. Roedd cymaint o gyfarfodydd lle'r oedd yn rhaid i ni fod yn bresennol ac yn gorfod ymateb i gymaint o achosion. A bod yn deg, roedd hyn hefyd yn wir am weision sifil ac roedd tensiynau'r amser yn aml yn cuddio'r gwir ymdrech gan lawer o unigolion.

Yn y pen draw, mae pobl yn wydn iawn ac mae hyn yn arbennig o wir am gymunedau gwledig. Rydyn ni'n cofio 2001, ond rydyn wedi symud ymlaen, ar ôl dysgu'r gwersi a ddaeth i'r amlwg. Gobeithio y bydd yr un peth yn wir am 2020.

Alan Gardner

Fy atgofion cyntaf fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Da Byw, Gwlân a Marchnadoedd oedd y sgysiau ffôn gyda'r adran bolisi yn y brif swyddfa, gydag Arwyn Owen a Siôn Aron yn bennaf. Roedd cyflymder lledaeniad y clefyd yn syfrdanol, ac, yn ddiweddarach, mi ddaeth i'r amlwg ei fod wedi hen ennill ei blwyf ym Mhrydain cyn iddo gael ei ganfod. Gan fod gen i ddiadell sylweddol o ddefaid ar fin wyna yn ystod y mis canlynol, cadwodd Arwyn a Siôn y galwadau i'r lleiafswm ond rwy'n cofio cymryd mwy o ddi-ddordeb personol gyda'r trafodaethau a'r lobio ynghylch yr angen am ddifa lles.

Roedd miloedd o ddefaid yn gaeth i ffwrdd ar dir gaeafu neu dewhau, erbyn y cyntaf o Ebrill roedd hi'n amser i'n wyn benyw i ddod adref. Wythnos yn ddiweddarach roeddent yn parhau i fod yn Swydd Amwythig ac mewn gwirionedd, nid oeddwn am weld nhw'n dychwelyd rhag ofn y byddai'r clwy'n dod i Sir y Fflint, a oedd yn rhydd o'r clefyd, ac eithrio ambell i achos ynysig o ddifa cyffiniol. Yn union fel y cytunwyd ar y telerau ar gyfer difa lles, cefais alwad yn dweud fod traed a'r genau wedi'u cadarnhau mewn moch ar y fferm lle'r oedd fy nefaid, a'u bod i gael eu lladd y diwrnod canlynol. Ni fydd byth modd anghofio'r teimlad erchyll hwnnw. Rwy'n falch iawn nad oedd rhaid i fi dystio gweld y defaid, a oedd yn drwm o wyn yn cael eu lladd ar y fferm. Mewn ymgais i dawelu'r lobio gwledig, sefydlodd Llywodraeth San Steffan

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gyfarfodydd rhanddeiliaid rheolaidd, gofynnwyd i mi gynrychioli UAC. Gweithiais yn agos gyda Derek Morgan, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Tir Mynydd, a byddai un ohonom fel arfer yn teithio i Lundain i gyflwyno safbwynt Cymru.

Roedd pob sefydliad gwledig y gallech chi feddwl amdano yn y cyfarfodydd hyn, byddwn i'n cael sesiwn frifio gan Aberystwyth ar y daith trên fel bod y ffeithiau'n barod i ddylanwadu ar ba bynnag weinidog y cyflwynwyd i ni ar y diwrnod penodol hwnnw. Byddai'r Prif Filfeddyg ac uwch weision sifil hefyd yn bresennol.

I ddechrau, roedd yn anodd, ac yn ymddangos bod yr apeliadau i lacio cyfyngiadau symud am resymau lles ac ariannol yn cael eu hanwybyddu. Roedd yr ymdeimlad o anghrediniaeth yn y llywodraeth at y graddau yr oedd da byw fferm yn symud o amgylch y wlad yn amlwg ac o'r herwydd yn beio am y lledaeniad cyflym. Fodd bynnag, gwnaethom ddyfalbarhau ac yn y pen draw cyflawnwyd consesiynau a oedd yn ychydig mwy dymunol wrth adrodd nôl.

Ni ofynnais erioed ai hap a damwain yr anfonodd UAC ffermwyr go iawn, a heblaw am NFU yr Alban a anfonodd eu cadeirydd Da Byw hefyd, roedd y sefydliadau eraill yn cael eu cynrychioli i raddau helaeth gan swyddogion swyddfa.

Datblygodd ychydig o deyrngarwch rhwng UAC a SNFU, ac yn gyffredinol roeddem yn atgyfnerthu safbwyntiau ein gilydd ac oherwydd ein bod yn ffermwyr, yn medru siarad gyda mwy o argyhoeddiad ac angerdd. Daeth yn amlwg, wrth i'r cyfarfodydd barhau trwy'r haf, bod ychydig mwy o ffermwyr wedi ymddangos o amgylch y bwrdd yn Whitehall.

Roedd ffermio ym mhob bwletin newyddion o'r 20fed o Chwefror am yr holl resymau anghywir. Gobeithio na fyddwn byth yn profi ei debyg eto ond rwy'n amau y bydd amser byth pan fydd amaethyddiaeth yn cael cymaint o fynediad a dylanwad yn y llywodraeth.

*This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News:
"Where have the last twenty years gone?"*

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Set time aside to review before you renew

by Dave Bates, FUW Insurance Services Ltd Business Development Manager

THE aim of insurance - be it car, home, farm, business or travel insurance - is to mitigate risk and protect you and your assets from any unforeseen circumstances. There are thousands of providers on the market; the question is: **are you receiving the cover you need?**

If your policy is up for renewal soon, it pays (quite literally) to set some time aside to review your current insurance. Even if you don't realise it, your circumstances are changing all the time and just one small change could have a huge impact on cost.

Not only can reviewing your insurance save you money, but it will also help you to determine whether you are receiving the right level of cover for your needs. If you automatically renew your policy without second thought, you might not be adequately covered and therefore will be exposed to a number of potential risks.

Carrying out a review of your insurance doesn't just involve logging online to compare quotes - there are a number of other factors you need to bear in mind, such as:

- How often do you review your insurance? Ideally, a review should be carried out a couple of months before each renewal as this will give you time to assess your needs and ensure you are getting the best deal.
- How much have your circumstances changed since your last renewal? As mentioned, one change could make a huge difference to the cost of your premium.

For **business insurance**, it's worth considering the following:

- Does your current policy include cover for long-term employee absenteeism as a result of stress? Stress is one of the main reasons for employees taking sick days; if you're concerned about the effects it could have on your business, then you might want to take out a policy which covers employee rehabilitation.
- The number of companies experiencing data breaches continues to grow. It's therefore vital your policy provides adequate cover for electronic business interruption.
- Have you properly assessed your level of risk and exposure to the public? Doing this will allow you to determine what level of public liability you need.
- How about your business' financial liability? There are many risks you could be susceptible to that won't be covered on a standard policy, such as flooding. Even if you're confident that your business is not directly at risk, what about your suppliers?

If you're reviewing your **home insurance** policy, bear these factors in mind:

- Similar to business insurance, flooding is not typically included on a standard home insurance policy. But, with floods affecting many parts of the UK this winter and with more wet weather to come, it's something you should consider protecting yourself against.
- Have you made changes to your home? If you've extended, for example, the extension may not be covered on your current policy.
- Have you recently bought expensive items? If so, they'll need to be accounted for on your contents insurance if you want to protect them.



Lastly, if your **car insurance** is due for renewal, answer the following:

- Have you changed your job since the last renewal? Occupation affects premiums and your insurer should be notified, regardless of whether or not you drive to work.
- Are all drivers listed on your policy, or are there any drivers that you need to remove?
- Have you recently customised your vehicle?

Setting time aside to review your insurance policy a couple of months before its up will help to ensure you're getting the right cover for the right price. Contact your local FUWIS office today for a review, contact details below.

"If your policy is up for renewal soon, it pays (quite literally) to set some time aside to review your current insurance. Even if you don't realise it, your circumstances are changing all the time and just one small change could have a huge impact on cost."

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Report livestock worrying incidents to the police

THE FUW is urging members to report all incidents of livestock attacks to the police to ensure that the right actions can be taken.

FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman, (pictured right), said: "Avoidable losses, such as those that occur when a dog chases or attacks livestock, remain a significant source of frustration for the livestock sector in Wales.

"Industry initiatives, such as the FUW campaign "Your dog, Your responsibility" which widened the message to respecting the countryside, picking up after your dog, keeping dogs on a lead near livestock and making sure dogs don't escape from home, have had some impact, but sadly we keep hearing about more incidents recently."

Mr Rickman added that the FUW recognises that there is no one 'quick fix' to this issue, and that a mixture of education, campaigning and legislative changes are needed.

"As part of our work in this area, we will continue to lobby for real changes to be made to current legislation in order to provide a better deterrent to irresponsible dog ownership and to ensure that the penalties fit the seriousness of the crime. However, to get a true picture of the situation and to help us get those legislative changes, we need farmers to report such incidents to the police."



Pembrokeshire PCSO Jude Parr from the Rural Crime Team said: "I fear that farmers are not informing us as many just seem to deal with it themselves or go directly through to their Insurers. We fear that numbers will increase because of lockdown and more people buying dogs."

Farmers in Pembrokeshire who have suffered a livestock attack can contact PCSO Jude Parr directly on 07422 076690 or via email: jude.parr@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk

The FUW recognises that there is no one 'quick fix' to this issue, and that a mixture of education, campaigning and legislative changes are needed.

WERE YOU AFFECTED BY FOOT & MOUTH?

ZWWM Films are making a BBC Documentary about the Foot & Mouth Crisis (2001).

A sensitive film to mark twenty years since the tragedy, it will look at the personal stories of those affected by Foot & Mouth, as well as the resilience of the farming community in Wales.

As part of our research, we'd like to talk with people affected by Foot & Mouth and to listen to their personal stories, memories, and thoughts.

We're particularly keen to talk with farmers, farming families, vets, contractors, rural businesses - those who experienced the crisis first hand and who can help us tell the true story of how Foot & Mouth affected rural Wales.

If you'd be prepared to help us with a research call, we'd be so grateful to hear from you. All conversations will be confidential. There's no obligation to take part in the film.

Of course, Foot & Mouth was a human tragedy, not just an animal one. We are acutely aware of the pain still felt by many today and will be undertaking this research - and producing the film - with the upmost sensitivity and care.

Once complete, the documentary will be 60 minutes long and broadcast on BBC1 Wales later this year.

We're hoping to speak with people of all ages and backgrounds from all over Wales.

Please share this request with anyone who might be able to help.

N.B: Do you have any photos, home videos, or diaries from around the time of the Foot & Mouth Crisis? We're hoping to identify archives and materials that might help with our research.

To get in touch, please contact the film's director, Huw Crowley:

Email: huw.crowley@gmail.com

Phone: 07811 256959

Ydych chi'n gwybod eich statws BVD? Do you know your BVD status?

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FUW's virtual breakfast week a big success

THE virtual farmhouse breakfast week (18-24 January), organised by the FUW has been a roaring success. The campaign didn't just raise the profile of local food, its producers and retailers but vital funds for the DPJ Foundation.

Under normal circumstances the FUW would have held breakfast events across Wales in village halls, cafes, marts and farmhouse kitchens, however the on-going Covid-19 lockdown meant a change of plan.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "I would like to thank each and every single one of you who has helped make this virtual campaign a roaring success. We have seen hundreds of you enjoy breakfast, sourced locally, at home with your families and our retailers and farmers were instrumental in their involvement and provided excellent food from Wales."

The campaign further hoped to raise vital funds for the DPJ Foundation by asking consumers to make a small donation alongside their breakfast produce purchase.

"The donations are still coming in but the current total through our JustGiving page is £931. I'm delighted that so many people have made a donation to this important cause and I must

mention Ela and Huw Roberts of OincOink who alone raised over £1,300 contributing to a total from Caernarfonshire of over £2,000, which takes our total raised close to £3,000. Ela and all the family prepared over 70 hampers which included multiple breakfasts with very kind donations from The Farm Gate, Mynytho; Wyau Desach, Clynog Fawr; Wyau Llŷn and Wynnstay, Pengroeslon. A tremendous effort."

Mr Roberts added that poor mental health remains an issue in rural communities and our normal ways of coping, such as meeting friends and family, visiting the marts and being social in person are sadly still not an option.

"We must make every effort to keep sharing the load through other means such as video calls, messages and the old fashioned phone call. The money raised will help the DPJ Foundation to continue their excellent service to our farming communities and I encourage those who feel like they need help to get in touch with them," he added.

More pictures on page 22



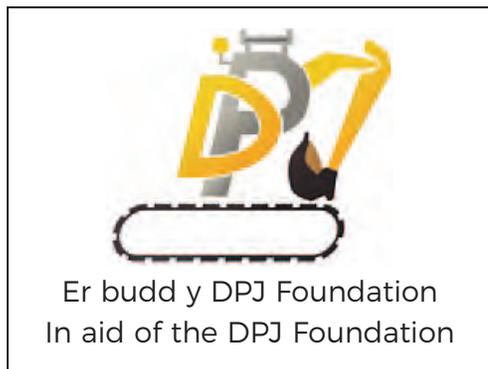
FUW Anglesey County Chairman Richard Williams kindly donated a hamper of locally produced breakfast items to the staff at his local doctors' surgery Penbryn, as a token of gratitude for their work during these challenging times.



Tamzin, Ellouse and Zak, grandchildren of FUW Vice President Brian Bowen, enjoying their breakfast.



Ela Roberts from OincOink and Karen Groom from The Farm Gate, Mynytho during the very busy week for them.



FUW Glamorgan County Chairman Richard Walker with his children Rhydian and Meredith having breakfast in the lambing shed.



Llywydd Sirol UAC Meirionnydd Euros Puw yn brysur yn coginio yn Castell Hen, Parc ger y Bala.



LEFT: FUW Carmarthenshire County Chairman Philip Jones showing his support.



Guto and Meian Jenkins from Ceredigion tucking into their breakfast at home.



Owain and Aron Jones from Denbigh enjoyed their breakfast after playing in the snow.



Gwent YFC members Jack Bodily, Sam Bodily and Eleri Williams enjoyed supporting FUW breakfast week.



FUW Pembrokeshire County Chairman, Alun Phillips ready for his breakfast.

Agriculture (Wales) White Paper consultat

Deadline: March 25

On December 16 2020 the Welsh Government published its Agriculture (Wales) White Paper consultation, outlining proposals for w agricultural policy for decades. It sets out a programme for change over the next 15-20 years and follows two previous Welsh Govern and our Land and Sustainable Farming and our Land (the FUW response to both of these can be found on our members' website).

Regulatory reform

National Minimum Standards:

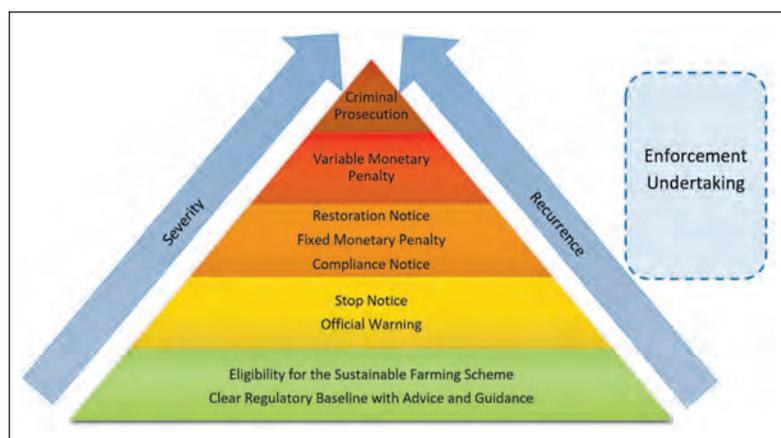
Regulation introduced at different times was variously the responsibility of the Senedd, UK government and the EU, while some regulations are linked to Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payments - for example, Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) are Cross Compliance rules that apply to those in the BPS scheme, not everyone. WG proposes to 'reduce complexity' by consolidating legislation into one set of 'National Minimum Standards' while also turning certain scheme rules into law for everyone - meaning those who breach them will risk civil sanctions.

For example, while farmers are not allowed to cut trees or hedges between February and September under BPS Cross Compliance rules, forestry operators such as NRW are allowed to, subject to other rules such as Felling Licence conditions. However, if the restriction is made law this will apply to everyone in Wales except under certain circumstances such as where trees overhang highways, thereby bringing Welsh tree felling operations to an end for six months of the year.



Civil Sanctions:

Everyone would need to adhere to the new rules, but breaching them could still put future scheme payments at risk. Under the proposals, regulators would be able to use a broad range of sanctions to enforce compliance, including civil sanctions (see diagram below).



Initial FUW Reaction

- While consolidating regulations makes sense, what is proposed also seeks to raise the regulatory baseline to a level far higher than those for farmers in other nations - including Scotland, Northern Ireland, EU countries, and those in countries with which we may have a future trade deal
- While the proposal to abolish the link between payments and statutory requirements superficially makes sense, this would place a significant additional burden on legal systems, whereas many issues are currently dealt with through the far simpler system of BPS penalties - a system which does not effectively criminalise those who have made simple mistakes
- As such, there is a major concern that the proposals would place Welsh farmers at a significant disadvantage to their competitors by ratcheting up regulations, while increased civil sanctions, monitoring, and a higher regulatory baseline would put significant additional pressure on farming families

Sustainable Land Management: Future Policy and Support

It is proposed that a Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) will replace the BPS and Glastir Schemes. The support scheme would be an 'integrated whole farm approach' which it is claimed would 'enable the production of sustainable food alongside the delivery of improvements which would address climate change, public health and environmental issues'. Sustainable Land Management (SLM) would be used as the overarching principle for future agricultural policy and support.

Sustainable Land Management definition

WG defined SLM as: "The use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term potential of these resources and the maintenance and enhancement of their environmental benefits".

The scheme would pay farmers for the production of non-market goods (e.g. improved soils, clean water etc) - commonly known as Public Goods. Support within the SFS would include the provision of an income stream over and above the income foregone and costs incurred calculations currently used for Glastir payments, with accompanying investment in infrastructure, advice, skills development and training, research, and market development. WG claims that 'This will offer farmers an income stream not subject to market volatility and whose outcomes cannot be substituted by imports'.

An initial review would be a mandatory part of entry into the scheme. The review would help define the actions needed to deliver sustainability for that specific farm. (e.g. looking at the farm's carbon footprint and potential for change). This would require detailed advice and guidance (the Farm Sustainability Review). WG believes farmers should regard their input costs to meet the requirements of the scheme as an investment, in order to reap the reward of continued payments for the outcomes they deliver.

Under the proposals, Welsh Ministers would have to make an annual statement to the Senedd on the budget for direct agricultural support, demonstrating the outcomes delivered and future targets.

Initial FUW Reaction

- WG claims this proposal would deliver their obligations under the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) and Environment Acts, but FUW believes, following previous consultation with members, that the Public Goods payment system is far too narrow to deliver the economic and social outcomes that are a requirement of the WFG Act
- In particular, the Public Goods payment concept is not a tool designed in Wales to deliver against defined Welsh objectives - it is a concept developed in England decades ago, and WG is merely fitting Welsh objectives around this, rather than using its devolved powers to design a comprehensive set of tools to deliver against its own goals
- As well as potentially placing Welsh farmers at a competitive disadvantage to those in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the EU (who will continue to receive some form of direct support) the huge variation between the public goods different farms can deliver based on their topography, soil types, geographic location etc. risks creating a postcode lottery whereby different farms would be subject to very different restrictions and receive very different levels of funding
- The initial farm review and subsequent process of creating tens of thousands of bespoke contracts would be a complicated and convoluted process compared with the present system, taking up a huge amount of resources for both farmers and advisors/civil servants
- Making Public Goods payments the only delivery mechanism further weakens the link between food production and payments at a time of great concern about food production, health and standards, and means the use of a limited, untried and untested mechanism

Industry & Supply Chain

While the White Paper proposes that the majority of financial support should be directed through the SFS scheme, support for the wider industry and food supply chain would be available under the proposals provided actions supports the continued delivery of SLM outcomes.

WG also hope to create greater demand for Welsh primary produce through providing evidence of SLM that helps promote farmers' produce. Aspirations also include supporting farmers' understanding of what consumers want; identifying barriers in the supply chain to increase Welsh products used; shortening supply chains and providing market intervention measures during exceptional market volatility. WG would also consider the case for providing support to other sectors if it helps deliver SLM, in particular forestry.



Initial FUW Reaction

- Whilst support that improves supply chains is clearly welcome, the focus on SLM principles rather than specific economic objectives raises concerns
- There is concern that while WG proposes helping farmers understand what consumers want, it does not itself recognise the evidence regarding consumer buying patterns and the degree to which price and affordability are the key driver for the majority
- With widespread concerns regarding the true value for money of some farm advisory services, and the transparency around funding such services and assessing their value, concern exist that what is proposed would boost those advisory services that deliver little or nothing in terms of benefits - rather than those which are valued and of genuine benefit
- There are major concerns regarding the suggestion that support could be siphoned off to other sectors such as forestry, further diluting the agricultural funding
- While the use of SLM data to help promote farmers' produce must be regarded as positive, if new regulations and scheme rules increase cost of production or threaten production per se, the numbers able to benefit would be tiny given that the vast majority of Welsh farmers currently supply the dominant mainstream markets for milk, cheese, lamb and beef rather than the far smaller niche markets

ion summary

What may be the biggest changes in government consultation documents, Brexit

Expected timeline:

March 25 2021: White paper consultation closes, followed by development of policy, drafting of Agriculture (Wales) Bill and further consultation

Summer 2022: Bill introduced to Senedd

31 Dec 2024: Date of UK Agri Bill sunset clause - so the Bill needs to be in place by this date

Glossary

BPS - Basic Payment Scheme

SFS - Sustainable Farming Scheme

SLM - Sustainable Land Management

WG - Welsh Government

EU - European Union

Collection and Sharing of Data

WG is proposing a national database for farms and livestock, as a central data collection point to minimise collection of similar information by different bodies.

Better use of technology is also proposed in order to automate some of the data collection (e.g. Earth Observation data, geo-tagging photos, on-farm sensors), and reduce the reliance on farm inspections.

Better use of data would allow farmers to track their progress and benchmark against each other, whilst analysing trends, while also allowing WG to evaluate their scheme(s).



Initial FUW Reaction

- The most valuable source of land use information - the annually collected IACS/SAF data covering around 90% of Wales - has rarely been used to its full effect
- It appears that the proposal is to abandon this system after almost 30 years of data collection and fine-tuning - frustrating as the SAF process is for farmers, the system in Wales is the best in the UK and was one of the best in the EU
- Despite recent improvements, major concerns exist regarding the quality of information gathered through remote sensing and other mapping based on experiences such as with Glastir mapping
- As such, there is concern that abandoning the SAF/IACS system rather than enhancing it, making best use of the information it gathers and rewarding farmers for the provision of important land use data would be a backwards step - particularly if this data collection process is replaced with something akin to Glastir contracts and maps
- Notwithstanding this, data collection and use, done well, should be an aspiration under any future policy

Forestry and Woodlands

A new approval system for woodland planting is proposed which WG hopes would be simple, predictable and proportionate, and accompanied by an updated Woodland Opportunities Map. The new SFS would aim to address various barriers to tree planting, due to - in the words of WG - the need for 'woodland creation on a greater scale than at any point in the past 50 years' in order to tackle the climate change emergency.

Improving the management of existing woodlands is also considered a priority, and a system of earned recognition would be established which recognises past performance of woodland planners. Payments would be made for woodland management, planting and agroforestry systems to sequester carbon, improve habitat resilience, provide amenity and intercept ammonia emissions.

WG also wishes to attract private sector investment into forestry to achieve tree planting targets, and support the Woodland Carbon Code to allow owners of woodlands to sell carbon units to individuals who wish to offset their own emissions.

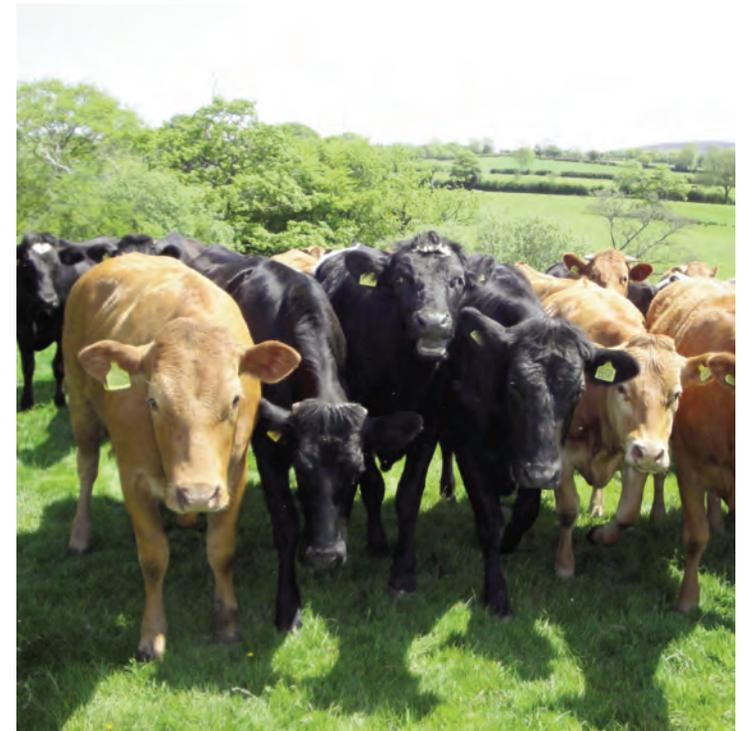
Targets: Net Zero by 2050.

Increase woodland planting by 2000ha a year, rising to 4000ha asap. (Current planting: 80 ha in 2018/19).

WG also wish to ensure they have powers to add conditions to tree felling licences and ensure effective deterrents are in place to prevent illegal felling, including through implementing civil sanctions for offences.

Initial FUW Reaction

- Farmers wishing to plant trees have faced increasing barriers over the past decade and there are concerns about whether the proposed changes would genuinely overcome such problems
- Notwithstanding this, and while the farming industry is keen to plant more trees, major concerns exist regarding the effect of inappropriate and large scale planting on the long term viability of individual farms and entire communities - after all, there is no shortage of Welsh communities destroyed by woodland planting
- An increased focus on planting implies the loss of funding from agriculture during a period of incredible uncertainty and potential price volatility
- It must be recognised that farms that benefit through private schemes offering payments for carbon offsetting undermine their own and the industry's ability to offset the carbon footprint of food production (i.e. a tree cannot help offset the footprint of a farm and an airline company)



Proposals for additional Powers

Agricultural Tenancies

To help tenants access the SFS and avoid restrictions due to requirements for landlord consent, WG is proposing to enable tenants to refer to arbitration or third party determination requests for landlord consent to activities restricted under the terms of their tenancy agreement.

Initial FUW Reaction

- The proposed changes would be anything but a 'silver bullet' for a problem for tenants created by the Welsh Government's Public Goods payment proposals
- Further cutting the link between farming/food production and payments increases the risk that landlords take land back in hand or increase control in order to maximise income

The Management of Common Land

A number of technical changes are proposed in relation to the definition of restricted works on common land, including a requirement to obtain consent under planning legislation. WG also proposes expanding the functions and powers of Commons Councils to manage a common or commons to 'improve their ability to contribute to the social, economic and environmental objectives of the sustainable land management policy framework'.

Initial FUW Reaction

- The FUW agrees that consent for works should be a prerequisite for planning permission on common land
- There should be a presumption in favour of works on common land erected/undertaken for the purpose of improving the management of common land, animal health and welfare and habitat/environment and a presumption against spurious objections
- The interests of those who derive an income from a common (i.e. graziers) should be given a far more significant weighting than the interests of those who use that common for recreation
- Commons Councils are under no circumstances a 'silver bullet' for problems, including those created by the SFS, and would in many cases divide communities around commons which are currently working well under the management of graziers associations
- The costs of establishing and running commons councils are extremely high, as demonstrated through the work on Commons Councils undertaken in England

Animal Health and Welfare

A number of proposals are made regarding powers to establish Movement Control Zones, specify animals types and civil sanctions for non-compliance with animal welfare standards.

Initial FUW Reaction

- The details of proposals under such changes will be considered if or when they are brought forward under secondary legislation

Regulating the use of Snares

WG states that the voluntary approach for the Code of Best Practice on the use of snares for fox control has not resulted in the code being adhered to, and is therefore proposing broader powers to regulate snares such as an identification and licencing regime.

Initial FUW Reaction

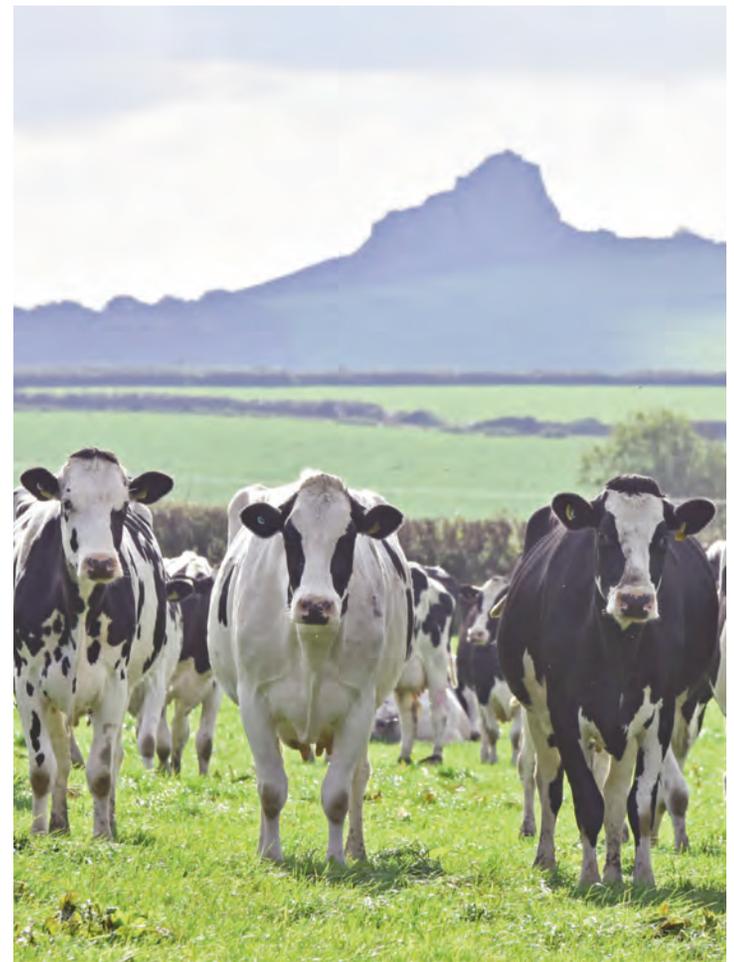
- Snares are an important tool for the protection of livestock and poultry, and there is no evidence that the industry has not been following the code of best practice

Agricultural Minimum Wage

WG are proposing to develop a 'strategic partnership' approach and its development of the Agricultural Wages Order to share skills and experience.

Initial FUW Reaction

- The FUW will consider details of this proposal when Welsh Government makes them clear



'Sunset' Powers

Powers to enable continuity of existing agricultural support

As a technical amendment, WG proposes allowing EU law relating to the BPS and agricultural policies to be amended after the December 31 2024 UK Agricultural Act 'sunset clause' date.

Initial FUW Reaction

- The FUW supports this proposal

Powers to declare exceptional market conditions and intervene in the agricultural markets

WG proposes creating powers to intervene in markets using intervention such as private storage aid where exceptional market conditions are declared.

Initial FUW Reaction

- The FUW supports this proposal but has concerns that these would not provide the stability or protection from volatility afforded by direct support

Every sector - including agriculture - has a part to play in tackling global warming

by Charlotte Priddy, FUW Policy Officer

THE FUW recognises the imperative importance of climate change and recognises that each and every sector - including agriculture - has a part to play in tackling global warming. However, we were alarmed to read the latest recommendations put forward to Welsh Government for reducing Wales' emissions between now and 2050 by the Climate Change Committee.

The Climate Change Committee has recently produced two reports, as required under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, to provide ministers with advice on Wales' climate targets between now and 2050 and to assess its progress on reducing emissions to date. The latest advice is detailed in two reports; the Advice Report: The path to a Net Zero Wales and the Progress Report: reducing emissions in Wales.

The FUW has major reservations about the "land transformation" proposals set out in the report. This transformation seeks to plant 43,000 hectares of mixed woodland by 2030 and a total of 180,000 hectares by 2050. There are a number of unintended negative outcomes associated with woodland creation such as impacts to biodiversity, water quality and increased water run-off, and thus every care should be given to fully understand the impacts. Plus, a mixture of native woodland and forestry should be planted in such a way that does not undermine livelihoods, culture, businesses or food production.

To put the proposals into context, the CCC report calls for land use change in Wales - adding 180,000 hectares of trees, leaving 27,000 hectares of open ground unplanted to promote biodiversity and 56,000 hectares of agricultural land shifting to bioenergy production (including short rotation forestry) by 2050. Measures like this would reduce the current 1,502,000 hectares of agricultural land (not including agricultural woodland) by 263,000 hectares, a reduction of 17.5%. Indeed when looking at the CCC's Sixth Carbon Budget UK Report, it highlights a planting rate of 0.16% for the UK compared to 0.3% for Wales. It is also worth noting that the GVA (Gross Value Added) of agriculture in Wales is £355m, compared with £22m from forestry and logging therefore a shift in this direction could result in major financial implications.

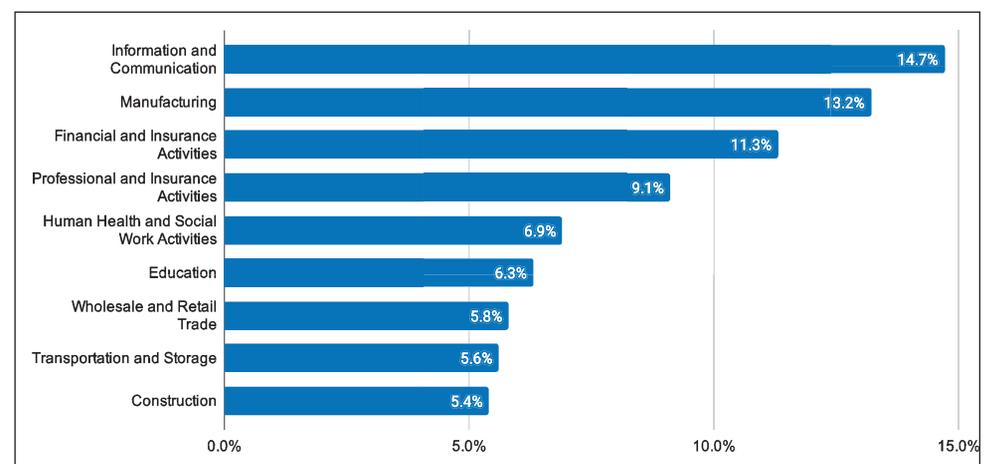
In addition The CCC suggests that "The Welsh Government should implement low-cost, low-regret actions to encourage a shift away from meat and dairy", despite the work of the FUW and industry representatives in promoting the incredible health benefits of eating red meat and dairy products. Dairy products provide an important source of protein and calcium and contain essential vitamins and minerals, and the benefits of red meat, such as the provision of protein for building muscle and bone and as a source of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants are essential for factors such as nerves, blood cells and the immune system, all of which are needed for a balanced diet.

The CCC reports do not take into consideration the fact that Wales is uniquely placed to produce lamb and beef in some of the most sustainable ways in the world. As outlined in The Welsh Way report by HCC, red meat farmed responsibly in Wales can have minimal impact on global warming and can act as a carbon sink through careful land management. This must not be about off-shoring food production to other countries and will require a focus on a range of measures in the key areas of improving farming's productive efficiency, enabling the industry to produce the same quantity of food or more with fewer inputs in innovative ways.

The reports argue that that "emissions from agriculture and aviation do not reach zero emissions and need to be offset by removals from the forestry carbon sink - which grows steadily over time with tree planting - and greenhouse gas removals, which are deployed at scale starting in the 2020s." Although the FUW agrees that there needs to be efforts made across all sectors, simply sacrificing Wales as a carbon store to allow other sectors to thrive would be catastrophic to Wales economy and culture.

Picking just one example of business flights - about 16% of all travel in the UK is for business purposes - and figure 1 shows the industries in which business passengers are employed. The CCC report suggests that Plane km per person will rise from 11,000 in 2025 to 13,700 in 2050 and it is very unlikely that this increase will be down to the farmers in Wales.

Figure 1. Industries that business passengers work in.



Agriculture in Wales is the cornerstone of the Welsh Economy with over 80% of land in Wales being farmed and employing some 52,900 people. Census figures suggest 43% of agricultural workers speak Welsh, compared with 19% of Wales' population. In a nutshell, the FUW believes that the advice provided by the CCC is incredibly short sighted and does not take into account the bigger picture.

Like every other industry, farmers in Wales have a responsibility to reduce the industry's carbon footprint and mitigate climate change. If farmers are supported and listened to appropriately within the farming system, a thriving agricultural industry with people who understand the principles of land management can achieve positive outcomes for climate change.



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High quality ewe's milk for high quality lambs

by Dr Cate Williams, Farming Connect Knowledge Exchange Hub, IBERS
Aberystwyth University

As most farmers already know, there is a direct connection between the quality of the ewe's milk and the quality of the lambs produced. A good supply of quality colostrum and milk is vital for efficient production and lamb survival.

Pregnancy and birth are a challenging time for the ewe as feed intake decreases yet demand for nutrients is higher than ever. Therefore, it's important to provide good quality feed of the correct type and according to the ewe's litter size, body condition score and breed.

Possibly the most important aspect of rearing lambs and ensuring a good supply of quality milk is ewe nutrition. Particularly during the later phases of pregnancy where 80% of lamb growth occurs, both under- and over-feeding impacts milk production. The nutrient requirements of the pregnant ewe increase by 50% in those carrying singles and 70% with twins in these final 2 months.

It is well established that better-nourished ewes produce more milk for a longer period, which contributes directly to increased lamb growth rate.

Body condition scoring (BCS) is a rapid and inexpensive method of assessing the ewe's nutritional needs, it is especially useful when combined with the litter size established by ultrasound. The target BCS varies with the environment, but in general, will fall between 2 and 3.

Separating the flock based on this information and targeting feeding is a straightforward but effective way to



ensure the ewe receives optimum nutrition. It may be tempting to overfeed, however, an overweight ewe with a BCS of more than 3.5 may encounter problems such as pregnancy toxemia, delayed lactation and difficulties when lambing (dystocia and oversized lambs).

Balancing the litter size in terms of productivity and lamb survival is important. Whilst ewes do not produce as much milk with singles and can easily raise twins, often the same cannot be said of litters containing

more than three lambs. Whilst it may seem counter intuitive to reduce quantity, the quality of the lambs is just as important.

Another key consideration is the udder. Mastitis can present a considerable challenge for both sheep and cattle farmers and impacts the quality and quantity of milk produced. This leads to poor lamb growth rates and the potential for abscesses or masses in the udder.

Abscesses often leave behind scarring, which can significantly reduce milk yield and will continue to do so in the future. The risk of mastitis can be reduced through good nutrition, maintaining a good BCS, practising good hygiene at lambing and examination of the udder at weaning or tugging. Good udder conformation will significantly reduce the risk of mastitis and will contribute to lamb growth rates. Selecting for good udder conformation whilst simultaneously culling older ewes or those with poor conformation will help ensure productive ewes in the coming years.

Hazardous areas on agricultural machines

Many agricultural machines have potentially dangerous moving parts, which can cause serious or fatal injuries, below is some guidance on how to stay safe.

Before using the machine

Before working with any machinery, carry out a basic check to make sure that it is in good working order and safe to use. This could include:

- Mechanical defects - pay particular attention to items such as brakes, wheels and tyres.
- Guards and other protective devices (e.g. PTO shaft guards) should be correctly fitted and maintained in good condition.
- Check that stopping devices are functioning correctly, eg emergency stops.
- All controls should be clearly marked to show what they do.
- If workers are to be carried on the machine ensure they can do so safely, eg check for safe means of access, working platforms have guard rails etc.
- Hitching and attachment points - check the machine has been safely attached to the towing vehicle. Pay attention to the condition of drawbar/pick-up hitch, and hitch rings, pins, clips etc.
- Carry out any pre-use checks as specified in the operator's manual.
- For self-propelled machines, make sure mirrors are clean and properly adjusted. Check any other reversing aids are working.



Using the machine

When you are working with a machine:

- Don't remove or defeat guards (eg by overriding safety devices) in order to allow the machine to work quicker or to avoid blockages or other problems.
- If guards become damaged or defective, stop work and take action to get them fixed. Don't leave it until later.
- Don't run the machine when the guards are removed.
- Replace all guards before making a test run and check the machine before restarting.
- Check for bystanders and warn them before you restart the machine.
- If the machine is to be checked again after the test run, repeat all safety procedures - especially Safe Stop.

Finally, don't forget, NEVER:

- use a machine unless you know how to use it safely and have received suitable training;
- attempt to clear blockages or clean a machine unless you have followed the 'safe stop' procedure, the drive is disconnected, the machine is stationary and components have stopped;
- wear long chains, loose clothing, gloves or rings, or keep long hair loose, which may get caught up in moving parts;
- distract people who are using machines;
- mount or dismount from a moving tractor or other self-propelled machine.

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

Plastic collection service

THE collection service for farm plastic has been through an uncertain period with costs continuing to rise. With a new producer/multiplier led project, it is hoped that much more agricultural film can now find its way through a recycling option rather than a landfill option.

Birch Farm Plastics will be operating a collection service from the spring to support all farmers who are likely to be already paying their eco contribution on their silage film etc, for the assistance in the recycling costs of their plastic waste. Your eco contribution is passed on to APE (Agriculture Plastics Environment) who then use that money to subsidise the cost of the recycling of your polythene - with the aim of keeping your collection costs of material off farm as low as possible.

Many producers of agricultural plastic products have joined together with APE to address the volumes of farm plastics that need to be removed off farm for appropriate disposal. Without intervention, additional taxes will effectively substantially increase the costs of purchased plastic products we need in agriculture.

We aim to keep our collection costs as low as possible by prioritising and increasing collection points where we can collect groups of farmers together. We reduce our wagon costs and pass that saving onto farmers.

We will also be able to collect direct off farm with our self-loading lorry if customers are unable to deliver to a collection point.

Additional details, including costs and named collection points will be provided shortly. But to confirm your interest in having your polythene collected on the routes planned for early spring - please email your details through to: office@birchfarmplastics.co.uk - Tel: 01792 869776.

We will then email details of materials we can currently collect and provide an information leaflet detailing charges before calling to book the collection of your polythene at a time to suit you. We very much look forward to hearing from you.



European Union Settlement Scheme

THE EUSS is a mandatory scheme in which all residents of the UK with EU citizenship (as well as EEA and Swiss citizens) need to apply and gain either settled or pre-settled status before June 30 2021, in order to continue living and working in the UK, as well as continuing to receive access to certain benefits and services.

Please note, if a citizen of EU origin does not gain settled or pre settled status they are putting their residency, employment and rights to certain benefits and services within the UK at risk.

There are a few exemptions to this and more details can be found on: <http://www.eusswales.com/en/index.html> and to apply directly please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The good news is that there is a significant amount of help and resources available to applicants and their families, all of which is completely free to access, details of the third sector organisations which have been commissioned by the Home Office to assist applicants can be found on the website above.



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Porc Belly Cubano sandwich - give it a go!

FOOD writer and broadcaster-turned-restaurateur Simon Wright grew up in Cardiff, and after editing the AA Restaurant Guide and advising on Channel 4's Kitchen Nightmares with Gordon Ramsay, he set up his own farm and became a partner in Y Polyn restaurant. He currently runs Wright's Food Emporium in Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire.

To celebrate Porc From Wales Week which ran from January 18 - 24, Simon is sharing the recipe of one of his restaurant's signature dishes: Porc Belly Cubano. This crowd-pleasing sandwich has its origins in Florida, being created by Cuban immigrants as a filling and easy to eat lunch; it is best served hot and oozing with juicy marinated meat, cheese and pickles.

Simon said: "For me, pork is right up there with lamb as some of the finest food that we produce in Wales. Great food doesn't have to be complicated, and as my recipe shows, the taste of quality ingredients will always shine through.

"Our Porc Belly Cubano sandwich really is a thing of beauty and is one of our most popular dishes at the restaurant. But it is totally dependent on the quality of the pork, because that's the main ingredient. I'm a great believer in cooking with quality, locally sourced produce and we're very lucky in Wales to be blessed with some fantastic pork producers, why not give it a go!"

Serves: 5 | Prep Time: 25 minutes + marinating and resting time | Cooking Time: 2 hours 40 minutes

Ingredients

- 1kg porc belly
- 5 thick slices of gammon ham
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1 tbsp caster sugar
- 4 tbsp mayo
- 1 tsp sriracha
- 1 tsp mustard powder
- 200g grated Welsh Cheddar
- 5 large gherkin pickles, sliced
- 5 large fresh ciabatta buns, warmed



Method

1. Firstly, two days in advance of wanting to eat your Cubanos, rub the salt and sugar on both sides of the belly and leave to marinate in the fridge overnight.
2. Remove the porc belly from the fridge and put into a roasting pan. Cook at 240°C / 220°C fan / Gas Mark 9 for 30 minutes and then turn down to 180°C / 160°C fan / Gas Mark 4 for a further 2 hours.
3. Place the porc into a clean roasting tray and cover with baking parchment; place another tray on top, weighted, to press the porc flat. Leave to cool again overnight in the fridge.
4. Cut the porc into 10 roughly equal strips when you are ready to make the sandwich.
5. Heat a dry frying pan until very hot.

Put the belly pieces in, skin side first, and sear on all sides until crispy and hot.

6. In the meantime, slice some freshly baked gammon ham (or the best quality pre-cooked you can buy) and combine the mayo with the sriracha and mustard powder.

7. Finally, assemble your Cubano in the warmed bun: and remember, in a sandwich, bread is two thirds of the equation so use the best quality fresh bread you can buy. Spread sriracha mayo on both sides of the cut bun and layer 2 porc strips per roll, then the sliced ham, one fifth of the pickles and Cheddar.

8. Your amazing porc sandwich is ready to eat! A word of advice: do not take it apart and eat with a knife and fork, it's a sandwich and needs to be eaten that way (though cutting it in half is acceptable)!

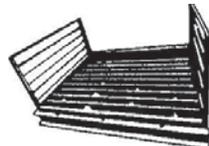
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ANGLESEY

Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Gwaith



Bydd Dr Nick Fenwick, Pennaeth Adran Polisi'r Undeb, (*gweler ar y chwith*), yn ymuno a chyfarfod Pwyllgor Gwaith y mis hwn sydd i'w gynnal ar nos Fawrth y 9fed o Chwefror. Byddwn yn trafod ymgyngoriad 'Papur Gwyn' Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae'r papur yn nodi'r cynlluniau ar gyfer cam nesaf y polisi amaethyddol yng Nghymru ac yn gosod y cefndir ar gyfer Bil Amaethyddiaeth (Cymru) sydd i'w gyflwyno yn nhymor nesaf y Senedd. Mae'r ddogfen yn seiliedig ar nifer o'r argymhellion a gyflwynwyd yn ymgyngoriad 'Ffermio Cynaliadwy a'n Tir' yn 2019, wedi eu haddasu yn dilyn yr ymatebion a dderbyniwyd. Os hoffech ymuno a'r cyfarfod drwy Zoom, cysylltwch â ni am y manylion.

Dr Nick Fenwick, Head of the Union's Policy Department, (pictured left), will join this month's Executive Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 9. We will discuss the Welsh Government's 'White Paper' consultation. The paper outlines plans for the next phase of agricultural policy in Wales and explains the background of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill that will be introduced in the next Parliamentary term. The document is based on a number of recommendations put forward in the 'Sustainable Farming and Our Land consultation in 2019, which has been adapted following the responses received. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting, please contact us for details.

is based on a number of recommendations put forward in the 'Sustainable Farming and Our Land consultation in 2019, which has been adapted following the responses received. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting, please contact us for details.

Gwirio negeseuon ar eich cyfrif RPW ar-lein



Dyma nodyn i'ch atgoffa nad yw Taliadau Gwledig Cymru bellach yn anfon unrhyw ohebiaeth drwy'r post ac felly mae'n hollol angenrheidiol eich bod yn gwirio eich negeseuon drwy'ch cyfrif ar-lein yn rheolaidd. Yn aml bydd TGC yn cysylltu i ofyn am wybodaeth ychwanegol er mwyn gallu cwblhau ceisiadau megis 'Rheoli fy Nhir', ac os nad ydych yn ymateb gall hyn achosi oedi ym mhrosesu eich cais ac unrhyw daliadau cysylltiedig megis y Taliad Sengl.

Mae'r Undeb yn cynnig gwasanaeth Asiantaeth arbennig am gost ychwanegol, sy'n cymryd cyfrifoldeb am wirio eich negeseuon yn ddyddiol, cysylltwch â ni am fanylion pellach.

Just a little reminder that Rural Payments Wales no longer send any correspondence through the post, so it is absolutely essential that you regularly check your messages via your online account.

RPW will often contact you to request additional information to enable applications such as 'Manage my Land' to be completed, and if you do not respond this may delay the processing of your application and any associated payments such as the Single Payment. The Union offers a special Agency service at an additional cost, which takes responsibility for checking your messages on a daily basis, please contact us for further details.

Anglesey FUW member elected President

In September, The Oxford Down Sheep Breeders' Association elected their first Welsh President and Chairman in it's 131 years history!

O Tudur Jones, who is the son of the late Anglesey FUW area secretary - Glyn Jones, currently owns two of the oldest flocks within the breed and is based near Llangeifni in Anglesey. He is delighted to see that there is a current resurgence of the breed in North Wales.

He has kept Oxfords since 1984 and along with the pure breed, Tudur also uses his rams to cross with Lleyn ewes for butchers' lambs production.

This is not the first time he has made history as he was also the first Welshman to judge the breed at the former Royal of England Show, and over the years he has judged and shown his Oxfords all over the UK.

The Association has a dedicated website <https://www.oxforddownsheep.org.uk> and a very active Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/oxforddownassociation>



O Tudur Jones at the 2014 Royal Welsh Show.

Photo by 1st Class Images

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BRECON & RADNOR

First County Executive Committee of 2021

Members of the Brecon and Radnor Executive Committee enjoyed their first meeting of 2021 on Tuesday January 5. The speaker was Sioned Thomas from FUW corporate partners RDP Law, (*pictured right*), who explained issues surrounding succession planning and the importance of making a will. RDP Law offer a free 30 minute consultation to full FUW members.

Our County Executive meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month via Zoom, if you would like to join us please contact the County Office.



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CAERNARFON

Trafod diogelwch fferm



Cafwyd cyfarfod difyr iawn o Bwyllgor Gwaith y sir fis diwethaf gydag Alun Edwards, sef Llysgennad Partneriaeth Diogelwch Fferm Gogledd Cymru, (*gweler ar y chwith*), yn bresennol i roi cyflwyniad i ni am waith y bartneriaeth.

Cafwyd sawl gair o gyngor ganddo gan bwysleisio'r angen i gynllunio unrhyw waith cyn ei ddechrau, a hynny er mwyn sicrhau gallu gorffen y gwaith yn ddiogel, boed yn torri coed neu yn ofalu am fuwch a llo, ac os ydych yn gweithio ar eich pen eich hun mae angen sicrhau bod rhywun yn gwybod ble fyddwch chi - rhag ofn!

Trafodwyd elfennau lechyd a diogelwch o gwmpas y fferm a phwysleisiodd y manteision o gael rhywun arall yn bresennol wrth ddefnyddio peiriannau neu yn cario allan unrhyw weithgaredd peryglus, yn enwedig o ystyried mai'r ddau brif achos o ddamweiniau sydd yn digwydd amlaf ar ffermydd yw disgyn

o uchder a chael eich taro gan beiriant. Tynnwyd sylw at y ffaith bod Cyswllt Ffermio yn cynnal nifer o gysiau lechyd a Diogelwch ar lein ac anogwyd pawb i'w mynychu.

Yn ogystal, cafwyd trafodaeth ar ddwy ddogfen ymgyngorol dan arweiniad Teleri Fielden, sef allforion a chludo da byw a safonau cynllun y tractor coch, a chytunwyd ar ymatebion priodol.

A very interesting meeting of the county's Executive Committee was held last month with Alun Edwards, Ambassador of the North Wales Farm Safety Partnership, (pictured above), present to give us a presentation on the partnership's work. He gave several words of advice emphasising the need to plan any work before starting it, in order to ensure that the work can be completed safely, whether it is felling trees or looking after cows and calves. If you are working on your own, make sure someone knows your whereabouts - just in case! Health and safety elements around the farm were discussed and the benefits of having someone else present when using machinery or carrying out any dangerous activities were highlighted, especially considering that the two main causes of accidents that occur most often on farms are falling from a height and being hit by a machine. It was noted that Farming Connect run a number of online Health and Safety courses and everyone was encouraged to attend those. We also discussed two consultation documents, exports and transport of livestock, and the red tractor scheme standards under the guidance of Teleri Fielden, and appropriate responses were agreed.

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CARMARTHEN

County Exec meeting

A very interesting County Executive meeting was held on Thursday January 7 via Zoom. A big thank you to Teleri Fielden, FUW Policy Officer, (*pictured right*), for being our guest speaker for the evening, various different topics were discussed.

Cafwyd cyfarfod diddorol iawn a'r Zoom ar Ionawr 7fed. Diolch i Teleri Fielden Swyddog Polisi UAC, (gweler ar y dde), ein siaradwr gwadd am y noson a chafodd llawer o wahanol bynciau eu trafod.



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CEREDIGION



George Llwynbrain

Davies Lloyd Jack

Morgans Pensarnau

Thomas Panfeillionen

Gwynne Cefnbanadl

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DENBIGH & FLINT

Taith Tractor

Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol Mari Dafydd Jones gyda'i phlant Elsi ag Effi yn stiwardio taith tractor Rhuthun a Dinbych i hel arian at y DPJ Foundation. Cafodd £1,750 ei hel. Diolch i'r aelodau am stiwardio ar fyr rhybudd, gobeithio fod pawb wedi mwynhau.



County Executive Officer Mari Dafydd Jones and her children Elsi and Effi stewarding for a Ruthin and Denbigh tractor run to raise money for the DPJ Foundation where £1,750 was raised. Thank you to all members who were stewards during the day, it was nice to see everyone smiling during these hard times.

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GLAMORGAN

RABI presentation



We had a good turnout at our recent County Exec meeting where we heard from Linda Jones, Regional Manager for RABI Cymru, (pictured left), who discussed the importance of the RABI Big Farming Survey 2021, as well as the new Well-being service provided on the RABI website.

Members discussed the important proposals made in the Animal Welfare in Transport consultation as well as other issues relating to agriculture in Glamorgan.

We look forward to seeing our members again at a joint Zoom meeting with Gwent members on February 16 at 7.30pm to discuss the Agriculture Bill.

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GWENT

Rural crime reporting

Following the November article in Y Tir we have been in contact with the Rural Crime Team of Gwent Police, who have provided us with guidelines, to follow in reporting any incidents.

These guidelines are applicable to report any thefts, suspicious persons, as well as livestock worrying incidents and illegal off-roading.

Firstly call 101 to give full details of the incident, and obtain a log number, then email the rural crime team on ruralcrimeteam@gwent.pnn.police.uk quoting the log number and brief details. This will enable the team to build a full picture of the scale of the problems and help them to obtain increased resources to tackle these issues.

Sergeant Allan Mills, from the Rural Crime team said: "It is vital that these incidents are reported, in order for their true impact to be realised. We are then in a far better position to argue for increased patrols, specialised vehicles etc. to fight these problems."



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MEIRIONNYDD

Diweddariad am y sector wllân

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod yng nghanol mis Ionawr gan gynrychiolwyr y ddwy Undeb amaeth ym Meirionnydd drwy Zoom i drafod sefyllfa ddiweddaraf Gwllân Prydain yn y cyfnod anodd sydd ohoni. Cadeiriwyd gan yr Aelod Seneddol Liz Saville Roberts, ac yn bresennol yr oedd Prif Weithredwr y Bwrdd Gwllân Andrew Hogley, ynghyd â Gareth Jones, y Pennaeth Marchnata.

Roedd llawer o ohebu wedi bod ynglŷn â Chanolfan Dinas Mawddwy a chafwyd sicrwydd na fyddai yn cael ei israddio yn ystod 2021. Roedd hyn i'w goesawu, ond pwysleisiwyd pwysigrwydd cadw Dinas yn agored a pheidio israddio yn y tymor hir hefyd.

Trafodwyd yn fanwl y cyfnod heriol presennol, yr angen i ail-strwythuro ac arbed costau. Er mynegiant o anffodlonrwydd, dywedwyd yn anffodus nad oedd dewis ond gweld canolfan raddio Porthmadog yn cau, a chael canolfan gasglu o'r newydd yn yr ardal gyfagos.

Pwysleisiwyd yr angen i ystyried torri costau ar lefel uchel y Bwrdd Gwllân, yn ogystal â'r canghennau, er mwyn cael y pris gorau i'r cynhyrchwr. Os na wneir hyn, roedd perygl gweld mwy o ffermwyr yn gwerthu yn uniongyrchol i brynwyr preifat. Dywedwyd fod rhaid gweld ymdrechion parhaidd i farchnata, parhau'r ymchwil i gael deunyddiau newydd i wllân, a gwneud pob ymdrech i oroesi'r cyfnod anodd.

Cytunodd Liz Saville Roberts AS i drafod ymhellach gyda Phrif Weithredwr Gwllân Prydain i weld os oedd unrhyw gamau y gellid ei wneud i ymgyrchu i gael cyllid cefnogaeth busnes yn sgil Covid-19, sydd wedi ei wrthod i'r Bwrdd Gwllân gan y llywodraeth hyd yma.

Diolchwyd i bawb am y deialog positif - bydd cyfarfod arall i'w drefnu yn yr Hydref i adolygu'r sefyllfa.

A meeting was held in mid January by representatives of the two farming Unions in Meirionnydd via Zoom to discuss British Wool's latest situation during these difficult times. The meeting was chaired by Member of Parliament Liz Saville Roberts, and was attended by Chief Executive of the Wool Board Andrew Hogley, and Gareth Jones, Head of Marketing. There has been numerous correspondence regarding the Dinas Mawddwy Centre and assurances were given that it would not be downgraded during 2021. This was welcomed, but the importance of keeping Dinas open and not downgrading it in the long term was also emphasised. The current challenging period, the need for restructuring and saving costs were discussed in detail. Despite expressions of dissatisfaction, unfortunately, it was said that there was no alternative but to close Porthmadog's grading centre, and to have a new collection centre in the surrounding area. The need to consider cutting costs at the higher level of the Wool Board, as well as the branches, was emphasised in order to get the best price for the producer. If this is not done, there is a danger of more farmers selling directly to private buyers. It was stated that there must be continued marketing efforts, continue the search for new wool materials, and make every effort to survive this difficult time. Liz Saville Roberts MP agreed to discuss further with the Chief Executive of British Wool to see if there were any steps that could be taken to campaign for business support funding in the wake of Covid-19, which has so far been rejected for the Wool Board by the government. Another meeting will be arranged in the autumn to review the situation.

Pwyllgor Gwaith

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Sirol yng nghanol Ionawr, a daeth nifer dda iawn ynghyd ar Zoom. Roedd Pennaeth Polisi'r Undeb Dr Nick Fenwick gyda ni i drafod y prif bynciau, yn eu mysg, y trefniadau newydd gyda masnachu efo cyfandir Ewrop, torri cyllideb amaeth Cymru, ymgyngoriad ar newid rheolau cludo anifeiliaid a'r argymhelliad i ddo ac allforion byw i ben, adolygiad rheolau mynediad cefn gwlad, Papur Gwyn Amaeth Cymru a nifer o faterion eraill.

Diolch yn fawr iawn i Nick, a hefyd am y cyfraniadau gwych gan y cynrychiolwyr. Braf iawn oedd gweld nifer o wynebau newydd yn y cyfarfod, ac roedd croeso mawr iddynt.

A meeting of the County Committee was held in mid-January, which was very well attended via Zoom. The Head of Union Policy Dr Nick Fenwick joined us to discuss the main topics, including the new trading arrangements with Europe, Welsh agricultural budget cuts, consultation on changing animal transport rules and the recommendation to end live exports, a review of the countryside access rules, the Welsh Agriculture White Paper and many other issues. Many thanks to Nick, and for the great contributions from the delegates. It was fantastic to see a number of new faces at the meeting, which were very welcome.

Diolch i Arfon Jones

Yn ystod Pwyllgor Sirol Meirionnydd a gyfarfu yng nghanol Ionawr, adroddwyd y newyddion fod Arfon Jones, (gweler ar y dde), wedi penderfynnu sefyll i lawr fel Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd Gogledd Cymru yn yr etholiadau nesaf, a mynegwyd ein gwerthfawrogiad o'i waith a'i gyfraniad.

Bu yn y swydd ers 2016, ac roedd wedi sicrhau fod y tîm troseddau gwledig yn cryfhau o dan ei arweiniad. Bu yn ŵr gwadd mewn nifer o ddigwyddiadau gan Gangen Sirol yr Undeb, a bu o gymorth hefyd mewn sawl achos unigol yng nghyswllt plismona gwledig. Diolchwyd yn fawr iawn iddo.

During the Meirionnydd County Committee meeting held in the middle of January, it was reported that Arfon Jones, (pictured above), had decided to stand down as the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner at the next elections, and we expressed our appreciation of his work and contribution. He has been in the post since 2016, and has ensured that the rural crime team has strengthened under his leadership. He has been a guest at a number of Union County Branch events, and also assisted in many individual rural policing cases. We are very grateful of his work.



Brecwastau fferm wahanol eleni

Bu'r wythnos brecwastau fferm yn wahanol iawn eleni - dim eistedd oddi amgylch y bwrdd i fwynhau sgwrsio a thynnu coes! Fodd bynnag bu nifer o gigyddion a siopau yn cymryd rhan ac yn darparu pecynnau o gynnyrch lleol ar ei orau. Rhaid cydnabod yn arbennig Cigydd Aberdyfi Butchers; Cigydd Y Bala Butchers; London House Stores Dyffryn Arduw; Prysor Service Station, Trawsfynydd; Roberts Bros; Butchers Dolgellau; Siop Y Garreg Llanfrothen a T J Roberts & Son, Y Bala. Diolch yn fawr iddynt oll am eu cefnogaeth. Gobeithio yn fawr y gallwn fynd yn ôl i drefn y flwyddyn nesaf, edrychwn ymlaen! Lluniau'r brecwastau ar dudalennau 15 a 22.

Farmhouse Breakfast Week has been very different this year - no sitting around the table to enjoy chatting and sharing a joke or two! However, a number of butchers and shops participated and provided packages of local produce at its best. We are very grateful to Cigydd Aberdyfi Butchers; Cigydd Y Bala Butchers; London House Stores Dyffryn Arduw; Prysor Service Station, Trawsfynydd; Roberts Bros; Butchers Dolgellau; Siop Y Garreg Llanfrothen and T J Roberts & Son, Y Bala, for all their support. Hopefully we can look forward to getting back to normal next year! Breakfast pictures are on pages 15 and 22.

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MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Farmer Christmas appeal



The Farmer Christmas Appeal, launched in December, has raised an amazing £9,193.02 for The Salvation Army.

Iwan Pughe Jones, (pictured left), Vice Chairman of Montgomeryshire FUW made the suggestion at a meeting in early November, he said: "To think

everyone pulled together to organise the Appeal in the space of three weeks shows that the rural community is resilient and caring to think of other families and people going through dark times during the Pandemic."

A chore group helped to organise everything and they invited Glandon Lewis, Director of Welshpool Livestock Sales and Rhys Davies, Managing Director of Farmers Marts to a meeting to see if they would be able to organise the Sales in December. When they presented the idea at the meeting they instantly agreed and with their input and organisation sales were held in Welshpool, Dolgellau, Oswestry, Machynlleth and Rhayader

Auction Markets and farmers donated their proceeds to the Charity.

The Group also had assistance from Randall Parker Foods and Dunbia Llanybydder in promoting the event to their livestock producers. Iwan said: "The success of the Appeal was due to all the staff in Auctions and Abattoirs professional service and the volunteers who helped organise the event to raise funds. I would also like to thank Lloyds Bank for their match funded donation to the Appeal."

George Baker Divisional Commander for The Salvation Army South and Mid Wales said: "The old song tells us that Christmas is *"the most wonderful time of the year"*, but for many people, the stark reality is very different - as they are faced with choosing between having presents, heating or food. The Farmer Christmas Appeal was, quite literally, an answer to prayers at a time when we were supporting people who had lost their jobs through COVID-19 and helping others who were recovering from the disease itself or were isolating because of it, with no-one around to help.

"We were, and will always remain, overwhelmed at the total raised and want to sincerely thank those in the farming community for assisting our work in Mid Wales."



NFYFC pass the welly campaign

NFYFC started a campaign to support all counties within the movement to raise their profile and funds to help them get back up and running during the coronavirus pandemic. The campaign was to pass a welly the length of each county through England and Wales allowing counties to raise funds on the way. Montgomeryshire YFC were passed the welly by Dorset YFC, over the following 7 days, members from across the county walked, ran, cycled or rode the 180 miles to raise money for Montgomery Federation, this is the distance between all 18 Clubs! Well done to everyone that took part.

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PEMBROKESHIRE

Agriculture (Wales) Bill - meeting

The Agriculture (Wales) Bill is the next step in the Welsh Government's consultation process in developing the future of support for the agricultural industry in Wales. Teleri Fielden, FUW Policy Officer, will be attending our County Executive

Committee meeting on Tuesday March 2 2021, at 7.30pm, to outline the proposals and to seek members' feedback. The meeting will be held via Zoom, so if you are interested in joining us please contact the county office for further information.

MP joined the January Exec Committee



Stephen Crabb MP (pictured left), joined members of the County Executive Committee at their January meeting held via Zoom. Discussions focussed on the Brexit deal, post Brexit trading and future treasury allocations of agricultural and rural development funding for Wales following the cuts announced in the 2020 Spending Review.

The importance of local marts, concerns around rural planning with a particular focus on One Planet Developments and the current bovine TB situation were also raised.

Land Transfers and Field Boundary Changes

Please remember that you are still required to notify RPW of certain changes to land within 30 days of the change taking place in order to avoid penalties. A Manage My Land form needs to be submitted via RPW Online when you:

- Buy or sell land
- Rent new land in that you have the management control of at May 15
- The boundary of a field is changed on a permanent basis
- A field is amalgamated or divided on a permanent basis
- A field is being registered and mapped for the first time
- The permanent feature area recorded in a field increases or decreases



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Neilltuwch 15 munud i lenwi'r Arolwg Ffermio Mawr

MAE RABI wedi lansio'r arolwg mwyaf erioed o'i fath yng Nghymru a Lloegr, gyda tharged o dderbyn 26,000 o ymatebion gan bobl sy'n ffermio. Nod yr Arolwg Ffermio Mawr yw dod i ddeall sut mae'r heriau fwyfwy cymhleth yn y sector yn effeithio ar les meddyliol a chorfforol pobl, ynghyd ag iechyd busnesau ffermio.

"Mae RABI yn ymwybodol dros ben o'r pwysau cynyddol yn y sector," meddai'r Prif Weithredwr, Alicia Chivers. "Er mwyn gwasanaethu ein cymuned yn effeithiol, mae angen gwella'n deallwriaeth o sut mae'r ffactorau hyn yn effeithio ar fywyd bob dydd, a dyna pam rydym wedi lansio'r Arolwg Ffermio Mawr."

"Mae'n hanfodol bod lleisiau pobl sy'n ffermio'n cael eu clywed. Dim ond 15 munud sydd angen i lenwi'r holiadur a bydd pawb sy'n cymryd rhan yn gwneud cyfraniad pwysig. Trwy bennu'r nod uchelgeisiol o 26,000 o ymatebion, byddwn yn sicr o fedru creu'r darlun mwyaf cynhwysfawr o fywyd ym byd amaeth heddiw. Bydd yr ymchwil yn ein galluogi i lunio offer a strategaethau cymorth mwy effeithiol er mwyn gwella lles ffermwr nawr ac yn y dyfodol."

Cyflwynir yr Arolwg Ffermio Mawr mewn partneriaeth â'r Ganolfan Ymchwil Gwledig ym Mhrifysgol Caerwysg gyda chymorth gan bartneriaid a rhanddeiliaid allweddol ar draws y diwydiant amaeth. Mae'n agored i ffermwr, gweithwyr fferm, eu cymheiriaid, a phlant sy'n oedolion.

Mae'r Arolwg Ffermio Mawr yn faes allweddol o strategaeth 5 mlynedd uchelgeisiol RABI a fydd yn galluogi'r elusen i gyrraedd cynulleidfifa ehangach o lawer. Mae'n gam pellach tuag at gyflawni eu gweledigaeth, sef na ddylai unrhyw ffermwr fyth wynebu caledi ar ben ei hunan.

"Rydym yn fwyfwy ymwybodol bod angen deall materion lles sylfaenol sy'n bodoli ym myd ffermio yn well a mynd i'r afael â nhw. Rydym yn gweithio gydag amrywiaeth o bartneriaid fel y gallwn ddatblygu gwasanaethau ataliol, effeithiol a fydd yn diwallu anghenion pobl sy'n ffermio ac yn gwneud gwahaniaeth gwerthfawr."

"Mae pobl sy'n ffermio'n cael eu magu i fod 'yn gryf' ac 'yn wydn', ond nid yw'r disgwyliadau hyn yn realistig o gwbl. Dydym ni ddim yn annistriadwy. Drwy gychwyn sgyrsiau agored a gonest, rwy'n credu y gallwn ddechrau 'normaleiddio' ein gwendidau. Yn y pen draw, bydd dymchwel y rhwystrau cudd hyn yn grymuso pobl sy'n ffermio - gan sicrhau y gallant symud ymlaen yn fwy cadarnhaol at y cymorth sydd ei angen arnynt," ychwanegodd Alicia.

Mae'r arolwg yn rhedeg tan 31 Mawrth 2021 a gellir ei gwblhau ar-lein: rabi.org.uk/BigFarmingSurvey. Neu, gellir gofyn am gopïau printiedig yn Gymraeg a Saesneg drwy e-bostio farmsurvey@exeter.ac.uk

"Bydd yr ymchwil yn ein galluogi i lunio offer a strategaethau cymorth mwy effeithiol er mwyn gwella lles ffermwr nawr ac yn y dyfodol."

Cyfrannwch at yr arolwg mwyaf erioed o bobl sy'n ffermio

RABI

ex.ac.uk/BigFarmingSurvey #BigFarmingSurvey

Be part of the largest ever farming survey

RABI has launched the largest ever survey of its kind in England and Wales, with a target of achieving 26,000 responses from farming people. The Big Farming Survey aims to identify how increasingly complex challenges within the sector are impacting people's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as the health of farming businesses.

"RABI is acutely aware of the mounting pressures in the sector," says Chief Executive, Alicia Chivers. "To serve our community effectively, we require a greater understanding of how these factors affect daily life which is why we've launched the Big Farming Survey."

"It is vital that the voices of farming people are heard. It only takes 15 minutes to complete the questionnaire and everyone who participates will be making an important

Play your part!

Identify the challenges farming people face today to shape the support services we deliver tomorrow

ex.ac.uk/BigFarmingSurvey



#BigFarmingSurvey

University of Exeter and supported by key stakeholders and partners across the agricultural industry, the Big Farming Survey is open to all farmers, farm workers, spouses and adult-aged children.

The survey runs until March 31 2021 and can be completed online at rabi.org.uk/BigFarmingSurvey. Alternatively, printed copies in English and Welsh can be requested by emailing FarmSurvey@exeter.ac.uk

contribution. Setting the ambitious goal of 26,000 responses will ensure we can build the most comprehensive picture of life in agriculture today. The research will enable us to formulate more effective tools and support strategies to enhance farmer wellbeing now and into the future."

Delivered in partnership with the Centre for Rural Research based at the

Celebrating 3 years of helping farmers to Share the Load



THE DPJ Foundation is celebrating a milestone as since January 15 2021 the "Share the Load" service has been operating for 3 years. During that time more 330 people have benefited from the service that now operates across the whole of Wales.

Charity Founder Emma Picton-Jones said: "When I set up the DPJ Foundation I expected it to be a small charity that would help people in my corner of Pembrokeshire, however, it became clear that there was a real demand for the help we were offering and I'm immensely proud that we are able to help people anywhere in Wales to get the support they need, when they need it."

Share the Load is a confidential call line that operates 24 hours a day, every day. It is staffed by volunteers who are able to supportively listen to the callers needs and

can then provide rapid access to counselling.

Kate Miles, Charity Manager of the DPJ Foundation emphasised: "What is so special about our service is that we give callers access to counselling, with trained counsellors, within 7 days of them contacting us. We offer the counselling in a way that works for them. We know that the NHS is under a huge strain at the moment and unfortunately waiting times for NHS counselling can be lengthy. We are helping to take strain by allowing farmers and those within agriculture to access support when they need it most. Because our volunteers understand agriculture and its unique challenges, they are able to empathise and certainly won't judge."

Delyth, a volunteer, said: "I feel grateful that the person has phoned and that hopefully my little part in the process will help."

Charity extends outreach and support in Wales



FARMING support charity The Farming Community Network (FCN) has increased the availability of support to Welsh farmers and their families during this period of immense change in Welsh agriculture.

FCN has developed and launched a new 'FCN Cymru' brand, highlighting its commitment to supporting those living and working on farms in Wales. FCN has also hired a new Development and Outreach Officer, William Shilvock, who is from Llyn Peninsula in North West Wales, near the town of Pwllheli.

Wil has experience within beef, sheep and dairy farming, and has a degree in Agriculture and Countryside Conservation from Aberystwyth University. Prior to joining FCN, Wil worked for the National Trust as Assistant Farm Adviser in North Wales. Wil's role will involve helping to promote FCN Cymru throughout Wales and working with FCN volunteers across the country.

Wil said: "FCN offers a valuable service to the agricultural industry in times of difficulty. I hope that within my post as Development and Outreach Officer in Wales I can ensure more individuals are aware of the service and can benefit from what is available."

FCN provides a confidential national Helpline (03000 111 999) and e-Helpline (help@fcn.org.uk) which is open every day of the year, from 7am-11pm.

MEAT MATTERS

2020 was an unusual year for the lamb and beef sectors

by Glesni Phillips, Data Analyst, Meat Promotion Wales

NOW that almost all the data is to hand, it's time to look at the factors which made 2020 such an unusual year for the lamb and beef sectors.

COVID led to changing patterns of consumer demand, which has obviously been a major factor. Lockdown in March and April of 2020 had a serious impact on Easter lamb sales as families could not come together, however, there was a strong rebound in domestic retail sales from the summer right through to Christmas, with demand in July and August for instance 24% higher than in 2019.

Consumers responded very well to promotions encouraging them to try out new recipes at home, which helped make up for the loss of much of the eating out market.

Supply and trade factors also impacted on market prices. There was a tightening in the UK sheepmeat supply, along with a drop in carcase weights, which led to a 3.3% year-on-year decrease in total sheep meat production for the period from January to November 2020.

Imports of lamb into the UK were down around 9% overall, with a particularly sharp drop in the spring. COVID also disrupted exports, although these did recover during the year. The volume of sheepmeat exported from the UK fell by around 10%, although thanks to a favourable exchange rate the value of those exports were up on last year.

Countries where more Welsh Lamb is sold through retail as opposed to foodservice recorded strong export growth, with sales to Italy growing by 39%, with encouraging export figures to the Middle East.

After serious instability in the first lockdown, as consumers panic-bought cheaper cuts, the beef trade settled into a much more steady pattern than 2019, helped by strong support from the retail consumer. Sales in restaurants received a boost from the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme during August with many consumers trading up to steak, but this recovery was hit by the tightening of Covid-19 restrictions.

The volume of beef exports look set to be down around 12% on the year, but this is offset by lower imports and strong domestic demand. Prices trended above the 5-year average for the second half of the year, despite slightly increased production with similar abattoir throughputs but somewhat heavier carcase weights.

Regular market intelligence updates are available at www.hybu.cymru

Roedd 2020 yn flwyddyn anarferol ar gyfer y sectorau cig oen ac eidion am wahanol resymau. Newidiodd Covid batrwm prynu cwsmeriaid, gyda'r galw ym mis Gorffennaf ac Awst 24% yn uwch nag yn 2019. Effeithiodd ffactorau cyflenwi a masnach ar brisiau'r farchnad hefyd.

PROPERTY MATTERS

Opportunity to engage in the reform of Agricultural Support system in Wales

by Edward Page, Associate Director, Davis Meade Property Consultants

THE Welsh Government has released a White Paper with a period of consultation that will help legislators find the next layer of detail for the Agriculture (Wales) Bill. This White Paper document provides an insight into the direction of travel towards reform of the agricultural support system and current Government recommendations.

The reform of Basic Payment Scheme in England has detail emerging regarding a transition period as can be reviewed in the document "Path to Sustainable Farming".

Whilst it is accepted that both Governments target similar outcomes in terms of achieving a sustainable agricultural industry and taking steps towards national environmental targets, Welsh farmers and land managers should not assume that the two national systems will follow the same means of achieving these end goals.

We might expect further divergence from other UK Governments in terms of the roll out of domestic support to our industry so a close eye should rest on the legislative process through the Senedd.

A principle theme within this consultation and clear objective of the subsidy reform is the move away from a system that subsidises maximum food production techniques that rely on external inputs and farming practices that are detrimental to environmental and social national priorities.

Enter the Sustainable Land Management framework which brings with it a new era of focus and support to Welsh agriculture. Its economic core is to support business resilience from external factors, offer advice to farmers to achieve diversified income streams and manage historic reliance on inputs.

The Sustainable Land Management Framework will look to support farmers and land managers in the production of non-market goods (such as healthier soils, increased biodiversity, cleaner water) and "ensuring the long-term potential of these resources and the maintenance and enhancement of their environmental benefits".

Following previous industry consultations, it is expected that the BPS and EU agri-environmental support schemes will be replaced by a single scheme, "Sustainable Farming Scheme" (SFS). Initial comments are that SFS will reward farmers for "the delivery of social and environment outcomes alongside, and as a consequence of, food production". Again, as previous consultations have shown, to be able to target outcomes at farm level there will be a need for advice and support for each farm wishing to enter the scheme.

The Welsh Government has acknowledged the merit of an initial review of the farm's environmental enhancement potential which may well become mandatory entry requirement of the scheme.

The Government will in due course propose measures and processes to ensure initial farm sustainability assessments, scheme monitoring and reporting, all of which will provide the necessary evidence to demonstrate the sustainability of farm products from farms within the scheme. Long term targeting for each desired outcome, ongoing monitoring and evaluation approach might well be part of proposed measures.

Other points of note within the consultation, under the proposed Sustainable Land Management umbrella framework, include National Minimum Standards which look to consolidate and clarify agricultural regulations into once piece of legislation. These standards might initially be based on Cross Compliance Regulations (SMR's and GAEC's) and with a single set of rules for all farmers which would come with a new domestic enforcement procedure.

The Agricultural (Wales Bill) Consultation paper can be found at <https://gov.wales/agriculture-wales-bill> with responses to be made by March 21.

Edward Page of Davis Meade Property Consultants can be contacted on 01691 659658 or email edwardpage@dmpcuk.com

Mis yma mae Davis Meade Property Consultants yn canolbwyntio ar gyhoeddiad Papur Gwyn Llywodraeth Cymru gyda chyfnod o ymgynghori a fydd yn helpu deddfwyr i ddod o hyd i'r haen nesaf o fanylion ar gyfer Bil Amaethyddiaeth (Cymru).

MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Clytwaith crefft cefn gwlad Cymru

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

MAE clytwaith yn ddarlun sy'n denu sylw - oherwydd y lliwiau godidog, yr amrywiaeth o ddefnyddiau neu'r pwythau amrywiol sy'n dod a'r cyfan at ei gilydd yn un darn hyfyd gorffenedig. Yr un fath mae nifer o aelodau wedi pwytho darlun cain yn arddangos ffurf caeau eu ffermydd, pob un mewn pwyth gwahanol, lliw gwahanol neu yn wir yn dangos enw'r cae.

Rydym fel mudiad yn ymddiddori mewn gwaith creadigol ac yn edmygu talentau ein haelodau ac yn mawr obeithio creu llyfr yn arddangos y crefftau y maent wedi bod yn ymddiddori ynnddo yn ystod y cyfnod clo.

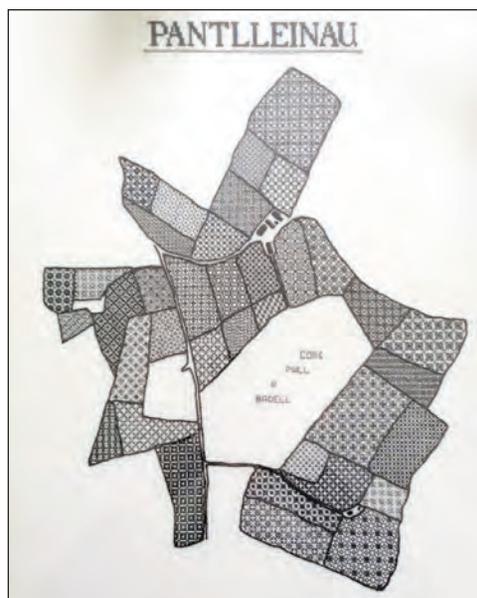
Onid ydyw tirwedd Cymru'r un mor fendigedig? Gwaith cywrair yr amaethwyr yn diogelu, datblygu a gweithio ar y tir yn sicrhau darlun arbennig o glytwaith creadigol - gyda'r gorau a welch ar draws y Byd i gyd. Gellir cymharu plygu perthi i bwyth arbennig sy'n denu edmygedd, ac aredig cae yn creu patrwm a lliw tra gwahanol i'r hyn ydoedd cynt. Felly mae yna gelfyddyd a gofal gan y crefftwyr a'r ffermwyr wrth iddynt ddatblygu eu sgiliau a'u crefftau.

Mae Mentergarwch Merched yn thema gyson gennym a ninnau yn ceisio hyrwyddo llwyddiannau'r merched mentrus sydd wedi arallgyfeirio, sy'n gweithio yng nghefn gwlad ac yn wir sy'n hoelion wyth eu cymunedau lleol.

Diolchwn am fedru rhannu rhai o'r talentau ar "Curo'r Corona'n Crefftio" ac erbyn hyn mae nifer o'n haelodau hefyd yn rhannu eu hoff eitem o grefft ar ein cyfryngau cymdeithasol.

Cofiw'n hefyd am eiriau ein cân "O enwau gwyn fy mro, Ar dy a nant, Fe gadwant yn fy ngo nes dod yn eiddo'r plant." Ac wrth barhau i rannu traddodiadau, trosglwyddo sgiliau a chydweithio fe allwn drwy'r genhedlaeth nesaf sicrhau dyfodol i gefn gwlad Cymru, Cymreictod a diwylliant.

As an organisation, Merched y Wawr takes an interest in the creative work and admires the talents of its members. The plan is to create a book showcasing the crafts that members have been interested in during the lockdown period. Merched y Wawr are also proud of the success of women who have diversified, work in the countryside and who are pillars of the community.





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*SRUC research

Toyota's Hilux pick-up now a 'smoother operator'

by Huw Thomas, Vice Chairman, Welsh Motoring Writers

NEXT year will mark a half-century for the Hilux here. Now the 8th edition of Toyota's pivotal pick-up has been given a 'mid-life' revamp. A 10/11-year production run has been the norm hitherto - 7th generation came in 2005 and current 'Gen.8' in 2016.

But much goes on during each product cycle. A new 2.5 D-4D 120 engine arrived in 2006 and a 3.0 D-4D 170 unit added in 2007. A limited-run 200ps version appeared in 2008 and a revised 2.5 D-4D the following year. Interiors grew more comfortable and equipment levels improved: touch-screen connectivity, rear-view camera, etc.

Edition 8 debuted with Toyota's new 'Global Diesel' 2.4 litre engine. A taller and wider vehicle, off-road capability was also enhanced. Variants such as "Invincible X" and "Limited Edition" were introduced in 2018, active safety features in 2019.

Headlines for the 2021 Hilux are a gutsier 2.8-litre engine option (top two "Invincible" models) together with improved on/off-road handling. Equipment also sees a further step-up. A limited-slip differential ("Icon" and above) benefits on-road 4x2 behaviour.

Spring rates and shock absorbers have been reworked. Layout remains traditional (independent front; semi-elliptic for the rear beam axle) but lengthened main leaf springs at the rear make for a subtler response to poorer surfaces. Variable power steering lightens for tight manoeuvring and eases off as pace quickens.

Off-road, apart from the traditional transfer-box-enabled High/Low Ratio gearing, revisions include press-button-activated Automatic Electronic Control. This replicates the effect of a mechanical limited-slip differential (when in HR rear wheel drive '4x2' mode). It's in addition to the existing Active Traction Control when in LR 4x4.



Toyota Hilux.

Familiar electronic assets, Hill Start and Downhill Assist Control ("Icon" models and above) are retained together with Vehicle Stability and Trailer Sway Controls. Engine idling speed is now lower and accelerator response returned.

Toyota's Hilux remains a tough 4x4 pick-up well up for a long life of hard work. To its credit (and perhaps as a reflection of this) manual transmission models are in the majority: 7 to 4. Both manual and auto 'boxes are 6-speed. Clear performance gains flow from the return to a big bore 4-cylinder engine and plentiful torque delivery.

Apart from switchgear, few controls are "finger-tip light" but the driving experience is not tedious. 'New-tech' or not, everything works well and that sense of durability and longevity remains. Front seats however could

be deeper and more supportive. That said however, Toyota's tough pick-up has become a distinctly smoother operator.

Model Range: Single, Extra & Double Cab "Active", "Icon", "Invincible", "Invincible X" (all Double Cab); £22,466-£33,783 (excluding VAT).

Competition: Ford Ranger; Mitsubishi L200; Nissan Navara; SsangYong Musso; Isuzu D-Max; VW Amarok.

Facts & Figures: Invincible 6-speed Man. 2.8-litre 204ps £29,554 (excl.VAT); 109mph; 0-62mph 10.13secs; 31.3-33.2mpg (official); 29mpg (Trip Computer Avg on test); Road Tax LGV TC39 £265; CO2 224-236g/km; Ins Grp 42D; Payload 1,015kg; Max Braked Trailer 3,500kg; Ground Clearance 310mm; Approach & Departure 29&26Deg; Max Wading 700mm; Warranty 5yrs or 100,000 miles.

New Isuzu D-Max arrives next month

A strengthened chassis, re-worked suspension, all-new bodywork together with a raft of active safety and connectivity improvements are some of the features high-lighted by Isuzu for its latest D-Max as it arrives here next month. More on this soon.

Correction:

LWB Musso report (Dec.'20) should have stated rear suspension was semi-elliptic rather than standard Musso's coil set up. Apologies for any confusion.

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