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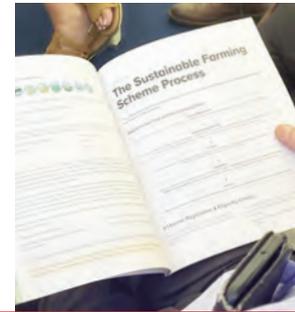
Royal Welsh Winter Fair round-up

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Join us for a farmhouse breakfast - dates and locations inside

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Summary of members' feedback on the SFS proposals

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“UAC yn parhau i fod yn ymrwymedig i frwydro dros fuddiannau ein haelodau”

gan Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC

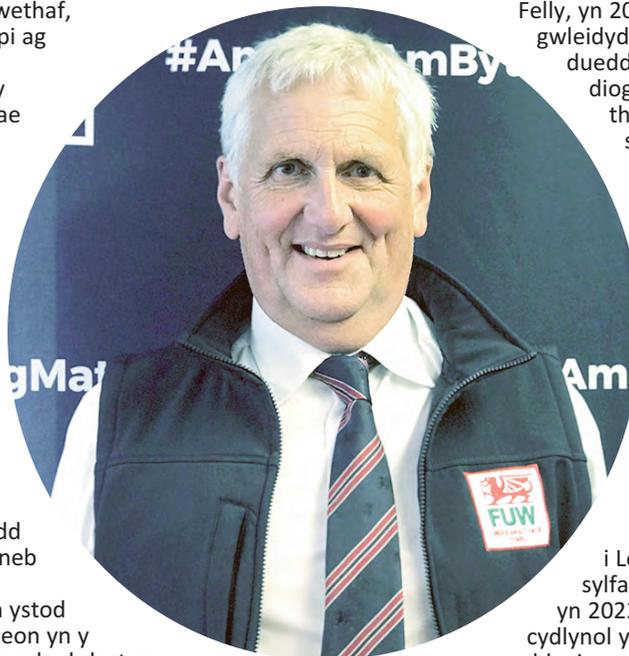
YN ystod yr wythnosau diwethaf, 'rydym wedi gorfod ymdopi ag amodau oer iawn sy'n dra gwahanol i aeafau mwyn y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae hyn yn ei dro wedi codi pryderon ynghylch effaith prisiau porthiant uchel, a llai o borthiant o ansawdd is - yn enwedig felly wrth edrych ymlaen ac ystyried pa dywydd a ddaw yn ystod y misoedd nesaf.

Ni fyddai'n ffermwyr na'r gwleidyddion wedi gallu rhagweld rhyfel Rwsia ar yr Wcráin, rhyfel sydd wedi arwain at gynnydd syfrdanol yng nghostau gwrtaith, tanwydd a phorthiant. Fyddai fawr neb wedi rhagweld chwaith y tywydd eithafol gafwyd yn ystod 2022. Fel y dywedwyd droeon yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf yng nghyd-destun coronafirws, ymosodiad Rwsia ar ei cymydog, newid hinsawdd neu ethol Liz Truss yn Brif Weinidog - yr unig beth sy'n sicr am y dyfodol yw ei ansicrwydd.

Serch hynny, wrth inni edrych ymlaen at 2023 mae gennym fantais amlwg. Mae'r tair blynedd diwethaf wedi profi'n glir pa mor gyflym y gall y byd newid mewn ffyrdd sydd bron yn annirnadwy, a gobeithio bydd rhai o'r gwleidyddion hynny sy'n gweld gwleidyddiaeth fel gêm tan yr etholiad nesaf yn dechrau sylweddoli bod angen llywodraethu gyda buddiannau cenedlaethol tymor hir mewn golwg.

Bellach, mae ein gwleidyddion yn gwybod y gall hyd yn oed pandemig cymharol gymedrol fygwth yn gyflym ein cadwyni cyflenwi allweddol yn lleol a byd-eang. Yr ydym wedi gweld fel y gall digwyddiadau sydyn, megis ymosodiadau ar wledydd sy'n allweddol o ran cynhyrchiant bwyd arwain at brinder byd-eang o nwyddau hanfodol sy'n uniongyrchol neu'n anuniongyrchol yn bwydo ein poblogaeth a chadw'r gwres a'r goleuadau ymlaen.

Ar ddechrau mis Mawrth 2022, fe wnaethom rybuddio arweinwyr gwleidyddol ychydig ddiwrnodau wedi ymosodiadau Rwsia y byddai ymgais Rwsia i oresgyn yr Wcráin yn debygol o gael ôl-ffeithiau negyddol am flynyddoedd. Mae'r holl dystiolaeth sydd ar gael ddeg mis yn ddiweddarach yn awgrymu fod hyn yn wir ac am greu problemau trwy gydol 2023 a thu hwnt.



Felly, yn 2023 mae gan ein gwleidyddion gyfle i wrthdroi'r duedd o fychanu pwysigrwydd diogelwch bwyd y DU a thanseilio'r ffermydd teuluol sy'n asgwrn cefn cynhyrchu bwyd domestig. Fe allant gefnogi'r angen am gam cadarnhaol o'r fath gyda thystiolaeth gadarn, sydd i'w weld y amlwg ar silff pob archfarchnad. Mae'r hyn sy'n digwydd o fewn ein diwydiant wyau a chywion ieir yn dysteb i'r hyn all digwydd i'r gadwyn gyflenwi fwyd oni bai ein bod yn gweithredu. Wrth i ni edrych dros y ffin i Loegr, lle cafodd taliadau sylfaenol eu torri o fwy nag 20% yn 2022 a dim golwg o gynllun cydlynol yn ei le, rhybuddiodd swyddogion yr NFU yn Loegr am effeithiau difrifol ar ffermwyr Lloegr a chynhyrchu bwyd. Fe allwn ac fe ddylwn fod yn ddiolchgar bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwrandao ar lobio brwd a chadarn UAC a symud oddi wrth y polisïau Seisnig yr oedd wedi'u paratoi'n wreiddiol. O fod wedi arafu mae'r cyfle'n bodoli i osod ffermydd teuluol, yr economi wledig, cynhyrchu bwyd a diwylliant y Gymru weldig yn uchel ar agenda'r Llywodraeth. Nid cyn pryd efallai ond gwell hwyr na hwyrach.

Fodd bynnag, bydd 2023 yn flwyddyn dyngedfennol o ran gweld a yw Llafur Cymru ac Aelodau o'r Senedd yn fodlon cefnogi Deddf Amaethyddiaeth i Gymru a fydd yn diffinio amaethyddiaeth ein cenedl am genhedlaeth neu fwy.

Gyda Bil Amaethyddiaeth (Cymru) eisoes wedi'i gyflwyno i'r Senedd, bydd yna lawer o adolygu a newidiadau i'r Bil ar ddechrau 2023, ac mae gan UAC lawer iawn o waith i'w wneud o ran ceisio sicrhau newidiadau a fydd yn gwreiddu'r addewidion i gadw ffermwyr ar y tir, diogelu cynhyrchu bwyd a sicrhau dyfodol yr economi wledig.

Unwaith bydd y Bil wedi cael Cydsyniad Brenhinol, bydd yn dod yn ddeddfwriaeth ymbarél ar gyfer y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy (SFS) a fydd yn disodli'r system gymorth bresennol ar ôl 2024. Gyda'r gwaith yn parhau ar 'gyd-ddylunio' y cynllun, gwaith sydd ar gweill ers cyhoeddi cynigion y Cynllun Ffermio

Cynaliadwy ym mis Gorffennaf 2022, bydd gwaith yr Undeb, sy'n anelu at sicrhau bod y cynigion yn llawer mwy ymarferol nag a gynigir ar hyn o bryd, hefyd yn parhau yn 2023.

“Mae'r cyfle'n bodoli i osod ffermydd teuluol, yr economi wledig, cynhyrchu bwyd a diwylliant y Gymru weldig yn uchel ar agenda'r Llywodraeth.”

Parhau ar dudalen 2

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FUW UPDATE

Another year gone too quickly

by Guto Bebb, FUW Group Managing Director

I'M not sure if it's an age-related issue but as I get older time seems to have sped up with each year seemingly getting shorter. It seems like yesterday when we were starting the year with all the offices closed again due to Covid restrictions and here I am now reviewing 2022 from the perspective of the FUW and Welsh Agriculture.

There were a lot of positives during 2022 but I suspect that the return of Agricultural Shows, a degree of normality in working methods following the pandemic and the continued success of the FUW, whether in lobbying for our members or in the commercial success of the insurance business, pale into insignificance when you look at some of the tragedies that have unfolded during the year.

Ten months after the ill-judged invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces the war continues with lives being lost and severe ramifications for the rest of the world. Whether it is the cost of energy, food and fertilizer in the West or the very real lack of food available in much of the third world, the consequences of the war continue to be felt and will be a drag on economic opportunities throughout 2023.

2022 was also far from being a model of probity from a political perspective here in the UK. The demise of the Johnson Government was probably a simple matter of time from the point at which Boris Johnson was entrusted with the leadership of the Conservative Party back in 2019. However, few political commentators could have foreseen the utter calamity that was the demise of Johnson and the subsequent navel gazing of the Conservative Party which led to the five disastrous weeks of the Truss premiership.

For several months at the height of a year of unprecedented economic challenges the United Kingdom was lacking in any decision making by Government as the Johnson Government imploded and the Conservative Party embarked on a ten-week process of talking to itself rather than working for the country. That this process ended in the calamity of that Budget is something that should shame all that were involved with the process.

With inflation at 10%, a war in Europe and industrial relations at a forty year low

it was quite remarkable that the response of the Truss Government was that budget. Thankfully, the Truss interlude was short lived and most of the ill-conceived policies announced back in September have subsequently been reversed but the damage done to the UK coffers is estimated at over £30 billion to the taxpayer and so much more in terms of interest payments on mortgages and business loans.

We will pay a price for a while yet for allowing ideology to triumph over good Governance and economic stability at a time of unprecedented challenges to our economic well-being.

However, despite all this 2022 was a good year for the FUW. Whilst we have said farewell to some long-standing staff members in both the FUW and FUWIS we have also recruited well and I look forward to exciting times for both the Union and the Insurance business in 2023. A dark cloud has hung over both the Union and FUWIS since I joined the Group back in 2020 but with our tax affairs now settled amicably and to our satisfaction we can as a team now concentrate on serving our members and ensuring the best possible level of service to our customers.

There will be plenty of challenges again in 2023 but I am of the view that the FUW Group are well placed to face them. Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi gyd.



Parhau o'r dudalen flaen

Beth bynnag fo ffurf cynlluniau newydd yng Nghymru (neu weddill y DU o ran hynny), bydd y gyllideb a fydd ar gael gan Lywodraethau'r DU a Chymru yn hollbwsig i gyflawni amcanion y cynllun a chynnal ffermydd teuluol a chynhyrchu bwyd. Er bod iaith Llywodraeth Cymru yn sicr yn ymddangos yn fwy cydymdeimladol at anghenion ein cymunedau amaethyddol mae'r parodrwydd i dorri £9 miliwn o'r gyllideb materion gwledig yn 2023-2024, er gwaethaf cynnydd bach yng nghyfanswm cyllid Llywodraeth Cymru, a ffigurau a ryddhawyd ochr yn ochr â'r Bil Amaethyddiaeth yn destun braw. Mae hefyd yn fater o bryder fod Llywodraeth y DU yn parhau i fynnu bod modd cyfiawnhau lleihau cyllideb PAC Cymru o £250m.

Mae camau o'r fath yn gwbl groes i ddatblygiadau yn yr UE, sy'n parhau i warantu cyllideb amlflwydd ac sydd wedi cymeradwyo biliynau o wariant i gefnogi ffermydd sy'n cael trafferth gyda chostau porthiant a gwrtaith ychwanegol.

Mae hefyd yn ymddangos yn debygol yn 2023 y bydd yr UE yn ildio'i reolau ar sut y cefnogir ynni adnewyddadwy, ac mae'n hanfodol bod Llywodraethau Cymru a'r DU yn dilyn yr un trywydd drwy ddarparu cymorth sy'n adfer twf mewn cynhyrchu ynni adnewyddadwy ar ffermydd. Fe fyddai hyn yn gam fyddai'n ategu a diogelu

ffynonellau ynni'r DU yn y dyfodol ac yn lleihau ôl troed carbon amaethyddiaeth wrth ddarparu incwm pwysig i deuluoedd ffermio.

Yr hyn sy'n peri pryder mwy uniongyrchol i ffermydd Cymru yw'r angen i gydymffurfio â lluo o ofynion newydd ac anodd iawn a gyflwynwyd yn y Rheoliadau Adnoddau Dŵr [NVZ] a hynny o'r 1af o Ionawr 2023 ymlaen. Mae 'na le i ddiolch fod cyfnod maith o lobio di-baid wedi arwain at newid bychan o ran terfyn nitrogen blynyddol fferm gyfan o 170kg fesul hecтар i 250kg ac yr ydym yn croesawu'r newid hwn. Serch hynny, fe fydd effaith y rheoliadau ychwanegol a ddaw i rym yn 2023 yn sylweddol gan olygu y bydd degau o filoedd o ffermydd Cymru yn treulio cyfnod y Nadolig yn straffaglu gyda chyfrifiadau cymhleth ac ymarferion mapio y byddai hyd yn oed y gwleidyddion a'r gweision sifil mwyaf addysgedig yn cael trafferth gyda nhw.

Mae UAC yn parhau i edrych ar sut y gall gynorthwyo aelodau gyda gwaith papur mor gymhleth, ac i'r perwyll hwn rydym wedi ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog, Lesley Griffiths, yn ei hannog i ddefnyddio'r SAF a data arall sydd ar gael i Lywodraeth Cymru i ddarparu dogfennau wedi'u llenwi ymlaen llaw a mapiau sy'n helpu ffermydd.

Mae gofynion newydd o'r fath, ynghyd â lluo o gynigion ar gyfer deddfwriaeth newydd na fydd yn berthnasol i ffermydd yn yr UE, yn atgyfnerthu unwaith yn rhagor y rhesymau pam y bu i UAC ddadlau y byddai Brexit yn

debygol o arwain at fwy, nid llai, o waith papur i ffermydd Cymru. Tydi gweld hyn yn dod yn wir ddim yn fater o falchder ac fe wnawn barhau i ymgychu i drio rheoli'r fath newidiadau.

Pa bynnag faterion sy'n codi yn 2023, mae UAC yn parhau i fod yn ymrwymedig i frwydro dros fuddiannau ein haelodau ym mhob rhan o Gymru. Fe fyddwn yn parhau i ddarparu gwasanaethau wyneb yn wyneb hanfodol ar lefel sirol - gwaith na fyddai'n bosibl heb ymrwymiad ein swyddogion etholedig a'n staff, ac mae ein dyled yn fawr iddynt.

Dymunaf y gorau i chi ar gyfer y flwyddyn newydd gan obeithio y bydd 2023 yn flwyddyn ffyniannus.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "FUW remains committed to fighting for the interests of our members," or from your local county office

"Dymunaf y gorau i chi ar gyfer y flwyddyn newydd gan obeithio y bydd 2023 yn flwyddyn ffyniannus."

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Concern over cuts to rural affairs budget and Rural Development Programme spend

MAJOR concerns have been raised at a meeting of the FUW Grand Council about cuts to the Welsh Government's Rural Affairs budget and potential further losses if Rural Development Programme funds are not spent.

The Welsh Government published its latest draft budget for the 2023-24 financial year on December 13, showing significant differences in budget amounts and allocations since the indicative budget was published in March.

While the UK Government's Autumn Statement resulted in a further £666 million in funding for the Welsh Government in 2023-24, the Welsh Government proposes cutting its rural affairs budget by nearly nine million pounds.

Speaking in response to the announcement, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "The fact that the budget allocation for rural affairs has decreased by a considerable amount in the draft budget whilst the overall Welsh budget has increased in nominal terms

represents a major concern for our members.

"We fully appreciate that the increase in Wales' block grant represents a real terms fall in funding due to the high rate of inflation - but the high rate of inflation also means that the nominal cut of almost £9 million to the rural affairs budget represents an even larger cut in real terms.

Mr Roberts said the decision was extremely concerning given the important work undertaken by the Welsh Government's rural affairs department at a time of major transitions and pressures for farmers

and the rural communities they support.

Despite such concerns, FUW Council members welcomed the Welsh Government's commitment to maintain a total budget of £238m for direct payments in 2023 and 2024, highlighting that this stood in stark contrast to the situation in England where such payments have been cut by an average of more than 20% in 2022, and are due to be further cut in 2023.

"However, it must be noted that the £238 million represents a significant real terms fall for Welsh farms given the current rate of inflation - especially when we consider the latest figures show the price index for agricultural inputs increased by 28.3% in the 12 months to October while increases in farmgate prices came nowhere close to this figure," said Mr Roberts.

FUW Council members also expressed their concerns that if Rural Development Programme funding was not spent by June 2023, Wales would have to return monies to the European Union.

"According to the latest figures, in September 2022 20% of Wales' RDP budget - around £181 million - remained unspent. £103 million of this is made up of EU funds, including £45 million taken from farm payments through the 15% Pillar 1 to Pillar 2 Transfer mechanism.

"Our understanding is that all unspent funds that derive from the EU must be returned if they have not been spent by June 2023, including money taken from farmers through the 15% Pillar Transfer."

Council members said it was imperative that the Welsh Government ensured that all RDP funds were spent by the deadline.

"It would be particularly galling if, having in 2014 introduced the highest level of 'tax' on farm payments in the whole of the EU at 15% to fund what was claimed would be a radical Rural Development Programme, Wales and Welsh farmers end up losing funding because money has to be sent back to the EU," added Mr Roberts.



Council members said it was imperative that the Welsh Government ensured that all RDP funds were spent by the deadline

Anwen elected as Vice President and Ian re-elected as Deputy President

CEREDIGION sheep farmer and former FUW Ceredigion County Chairman, FUW younger voice for farming Vice Chairman and Chairman of the FUW's Education and training committee, Anwen Hughes, has been elected as the FUW South Wales Vice President.

Anwen Hughes farms 80 acres at Bryngido farm, just outside of Aberaeron in Ceredigion, in partnership with her husband Rhodri. The family keeps around 200 Lleyn and Lleyn cross ewes on a low input-high output, grass based system. Anwen has been farming since 1995 and in addition also owns in partnership with her mother Betty Davies a further 48 acres which is rented to her oldest son Glyn.

Speaking about her appointment, she said: "I am delighted to take on the role as FUW Vice President for the South of Wales. In my new role I look forward to working with members, Union officials as well as our elected representatives in Cardiff and Westminster to ensure we have thriving, sustainable family farms here in Wales for generations to come."

Carmarthenshire hill sheep farmer Ian Rickman, has been re-elected the FUW Deputy President at its recent Grand Council meeting in Aberystwyth. Ian is a past County Chairman of the FUW in Carmarthenshire, and has previously held the position of Chairman of the hill farming and marginal land committee.

He was elected as Deputy President of the FUW in 2019 and has worked tirelessly to represent the Union and its members.

Ian is married to Helen and they have three sons. The family lives at Gurnos, an upland sheep farm near Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire. The farm extends to 220 acres with Common Grazing Rights on the Black Mountain, and Ian is a member of the Management Committee of the Black Mountain West Graziers Association.

Speaking about his re-election, Mr Rickman said: "These are turbulent times for the agriculture industry and never has it been more important for the voice of our farming families to be heard at all levels. I look forward to continuing my work on behalf of the Union and its members and thank our members for re-electing me to the role."



From left, re-elected Deputy President Ian Rickman, newly elected South Wales Vice President Anwen Hughes and FUW President Glyn Roberts.

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Constructive meetings with Members of the Senedd at Winter Fair

FUW officials have held constructive meetings with Members of the Senedd at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair, highlighting key concerns about the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, Sustainable Farming Scheme Proposals, the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021, as well as a variety of animal health issues, including Bovine TB.

Joining the FUW for discussions were Jane Dodds MS, Peter Fox MS, James Evans MS, Cefin Campbell MS and Mabon ap Gwynfor MS, as well as Sam Kurtz MS.

Regarding the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, Union officials outlined 8 key amendments which the FUW believes are essential to ensure that the economic stability and viability of farming families in Wales are protected in future support schemes, for example widening the definition of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) to recognise the interconnectivity and interdependence of land management and farm livelihoods and adding a 5th SLM Objective which explicitly seeks to ensure the economic sustainability of farming families in Wales, the provision of safe traceable food and the protection of global food security.

Union officials further outlined members concerns regarding the Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals and highlighted among other concerns that the Universal Action which requires all farmers in the scheme to achieve 10% tree cover area poses major challenges and logistical barriers to engagement in the scheme, particularly for tenants, commoners, and those with a large percentage of their farms as habitat land, coastal land, land above the treeline, or highly productive land. Committing to a permanent land use change in an uncertain economic climate is difficult, the Union stressed.

Discussing the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021, Members of the Senedd who joined the FUW heard that farmers across Wales welcomed the breathing space provided by the latest announcement and the opportunity to respond to the Welsh Government's consultation on the proposed licensing scheme, but that the Union remains outraged at the fact that Welsh farmers are still expected to build new slurry stores by August 2024 with the support of the additional funding, only for the Welsh Government to consider and potentially implement alternative technologies in 2025 which may then negate the need for closed periods and set slurry storage capacities in the future.

The FUW also stressed that anxiety and stress levels among farmers remained high given the ongoing animal health issues such as Bovine TB, sheep scab and BVD.

Speaking after the meetings, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "I thank the Members of the Senedd for meeting with us here at the Winter Fair to discuss the many issues on our members' minds. It is clear that there remains much work to do to ensure that we continue to see thriving, sustainable, family farms here in Wales and I hope that the spirit of co-operation and joint working can continue in the New Year."



From left, FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry, Sam Kurtz MS and FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies.



From left, FUW Policy Officer Elin Jenkins, James Evans MS and FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies.



From left, FUW President Glyn Roberts, Jane Dodds MS and FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman.



From left, FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry, FUW Group Managing Director Guto Bebb, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies, FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman and Peter Fox MS.



From left, FUW Head of Policy Dr Nick Fenwick, FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry, FUW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies, Mabon ap Gwynfor MS and Cefin Campbell MS.

Importance of export markets discussed

FUW officials have discussed the importance of maintaining and establishing favourable export markets for Welsh red meat with DEFRA Minister Mark Spencer at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair, stressing that good relations must be restored with our nearest neighbours.

Speaking after the meeting, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "We thank the Minister for speaking to us here at the Winter Fair and welcomed the opportunity to discuss the importance of favourable export markets and trade deals with him.

"The UK Government has been pursuing liberal trade deals that its own figures show will undermine UK food security. These deals have been shown to have

negligible benefits for the UK's economy whilst opening up UK markets to products that do not meet our own high standards. The UK Government needs to focus on trade policies that place UK food security and producers at the top of their agenda."

The FUW also highlighted members' concerns that the UK Government's Northern Ireland Protocol Bill

would break International Law and threaten our relationship with crucial EU markets secured with the TCA. "The UK Government should seek to have a much better working relationship with the EU in order to protect UK food exports and our food security and halt all unilateral actions in relation to the Northern Ireland Protocol," added Mr Roberts.



From left, FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman, Defra Minister Mark Spencer, FUW President Glyn Roberts, Fay Jones MP and FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies.



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Action plan for UK Government talks



From left, FUU Policy Officer Elin Jenkins, FUU Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry, FUU Head of Policy Dr Nick Fenwick, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Dr James Davies MP and FUU Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies.

FUU officials held discussions around actions the UK Government must take to ensure pressure on farmers, food producers and consumers is relieved in the immediate term, while bolstering food and energy security in ways which reduce the dangers of future exposure to global emergencies, when they met with Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Dr James Davies MP at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair.

Speaking after the meeting, FUU Head of Policy Dr Nick Fenwick said: "Only recently have we heard former Secretary of State for Agriculture George Eustice confirm that trade deals with Australia and New Zealand gave away massive access to the UK food markets in exchange for negligible benefits for the UK economy. We have always known and made clear that these deals sell Welsh farmers and UK food security down the river in exchange for virtually nothing and we stressed in our meeting with Dr Davies that the Wales Office should be robust in scrutinising and opposing any similar deals in future."

Dr Davies was also told of the importance of restoring better support for on-farm renewable energy in order to help tackle climate change and bolster UK energy security.

"Time for a renewable energy revolution"

IT'S time for a renewable energy revolution - that was the key message from FUU officials when they met with Brecon and Radnor MP Fay Jones at the Winter Fair.

The MP heard that reliance on and exposure to global fossil fuel markets has been exposed by the impacts of the pandemic and Russia's war on Ukraine.

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

The MP further heard that in 2018 50% per cent of the electricity consumed in Wales was generated from renewable energy sources, up from 19% in 2014 and 48% in 2017. A vast proportion of that energy, Union officials highlighted, was produced on Welsh farmland but growth in recent years has slowed

significantly as Government incentives for farmers have been removed.

"Both the UK and Welsh Governments must step up efforts that restore growth in the industry by incentivising on-farm production of renewable energy without compromising food production and agricultural land.

"The removal of business rate relief for privately-owned hydropower projects has served as a significant barrier to investment, while obstacles including landscape designations - such as the petition to designate the Cambrian Mountains as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - and disproportionate regulations continue to block developments," added the Union President.

Additionally, the FUU used the opportunity to highlight that countries across the EU have announced support packages worth hundreds of billions in order to support businesses suffering as a result of massive price rises and to bolster and boost food production.

"We used the opportunity to further highlight that the support provided in the UK compared to that by other EU countries, has been negligible, risking a reduction in our capacity to produce key commodities such as food and increasing our exposure to current global shortages," said Mr Roberts.

"Both the UK and Welsh Governments must step up efforts that restore growth in the industry."



From left, FUU President Glyn Roberts, Fay Jones MP and FUU Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies.

FUU competition winners



FUU's Christmas card competition Welsh category winner Life Taranenko (centre) receives her prize from Kate Miles, Charity Manager the DPJ Foundation and FUU President Glyn Roberts.



FUU's Christmas card competition English category winner Layla Williams (centre) receives her prize with, from left, Kate Miles, Charity Manager the DPJ Foundation; FUU Group Managing Director Guto Bebb; FUU President Glyn Roberts and Brecon & Radnor County Executive Officer Kath Shaw.



FUU's photography competition top prize winner Gerald Marsh (centre) receives a copy of the FUU 2023 calendar and his prize money from Kate Miles, Charity Manager the DPJ Foundation and FUU President Glyn Roberts.

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Profiad newydd yn arwain at lwyddiant i Rebecca!

gan Angharad Evans, Swyddog Cyfathrebu'r Iaith Gymraeg

BLWYDDYN Newydd Dda, a chroeso i golofn gyntaf Cornel Clecs yn 2023 - gobeithio wir y bydd pob un ohonom yn cael blwyddyn lawn o iechyd da, llwyddiant a hapusrwydd.

Edrychwn ymlaen gyda brwdfrydedd am galendr llawn o ddigwyddiadau unwaith eto eleni, a braf oedd cael y rhan fwyaf o'n prif ddigwyddiadau yn ôl i'w harfer llynedd. Roedd ein holl fudiadau cenedlaethol yn awchu am ddechrau i'r drefn arferol a gallu trefnu digwyddiadau cymdeithasol a

chystadlaethau unwaith eto, ac roedd mudiad y CFFI yn enghraifft berffaith o hyn wrth sicrhau bod pobl ifanc o bob cwr o Gymru yn medru cymdeithasu a chystadlu unwaith eto. Un o gyfleoedd mwyaf gwerthfawr y CFFI yw'r Cynllun Pesgi Moch Menter Moch Cymru. Mae'r fenter, sy'n anelu at ddatblygu'r sector moch yng Nghymru, yn brosiect, a ariennir gan Lywodraeth Cymru drwy Raglen Datblygu Gwledig 2014-2020, ac yn ymuno â CFFI Cymru i ddarparu cyfle unigryw a chyffrous i'w aelodau fagu profiad o gadw moch, ynghyd â chyfle i ddatblygu menter newydd.

Roedd y cynllun, sy'n agored i aelodau CFFI ledled Cymru, wedi dechrau ym mis Gorffennaf 2022, pan ddewiswyd chwe enillydd, sef Rebecca John o Sir Benfro (CFFI Abergwaun); Carys Jones o Sir Gaerfyrddin (CFFI Llangadog); Jack a Rhys Morgan o Abertawe (CFFI Gŵyr); Frances Thomas o Aberhonddu (CFFI Pontsenni), a Leah ac Alis Davies o Sir Ddinbych (CFFI Nantglyn). Derbyniodd pawb pum porchell i fagu a rhaglenni hyfforddi pwrpasol a ddyfeisiwyd gan Fenter Moch Cymru i'w helpu i ddatblygu'r sgiliau angenrheidiol i sefydlu a rheoli eu mentrau moch newydd. Roedd yr hyfforddiant yn cwmpasu pob agwedd o fagu moch, o hwsmonaeth, deddfwriaeth, a maeth, i helpu gyda marchnata eu porc - ynghyd â chymorth mentoriaid parhaus trwy Menter Moch Cymru.

Ar ôl wythnosau o ofalu, magu a pharatoi'r moch, cyhoeddwyd yn ystod y Ffair Aeaf yn Llanellwedd mai Rebecca John o Sir Benfro oedd enillydd y gystadleuaeth, ac mae Cornel Clecs yn falch iawn dweud bod Rebecca'n aelod ifanc o gangen UAC Sir Benfro. Ar ôl prysurdeb y Ffair Aeaf, cafwyd cyfle i sgwrsio gyda Rebecca am ei profiad a'i llwyddiant diweddar.

"Mwynheais yn fawr ac rwyf mor ddiolchgar o fod yn rhan o Gynllun Pesgi Moch Menter Moch Cymru a CFFI Cymru 2022," dywedodd Rebecca. "Yn dod o gefndir llaeth a heb unrhyw brofiad gyda moch yn flaenorol, mae'r rhaglen wedi bod yn agoriad llygad go iawn. O'r dechrau i'r diwedd roedd



O'r Chwith, Rebecca John; Ela Roberts; Daniel Morris; Rheolwr Prosiect Menter Moch Cymru Rhiannon Davies a Cadeirydd Materion Gwledig CFFI Dewi Davies.

y rhaglen yn llawn sesiynau ar-lein defnyddiol ar amrywiaeth o bynciau wedi'u cyflwyno gan bobl wybodus o fewn y diwydiant moch. Yn ogystal â'r sesiynau ar-lein, cawsom ymweliad â fferm Mr Dave Lang yn Llanellwedd. Roedd yn wych gallu gweld cenfaint Mr Lang o foch Du Mawr pedigri a dysgu am ei fenter moch. Mae'r fenter wedi dysgu cymaint i mi am fagu a dangos moch, a gwerthu'r porc. Mae cael y profiad o werthu fy mhorc fy hun a chael adborth cadarnhaol iawn gan gwsmeriaid wedi bod yn werth chweil."

[Ar ôl yr holl waith caled, sut deimlad oedd ennill?](#)

"Roedd dangos y moch yn Ffair Aeaf CAFC yn uchafbwynt gwych i mi, a'r goron ar y cyfan oedd clywed mai fi oedd enillydd y gystadleuaeth!" eglurodd Rebecca. "Cefais sioc pan glywais mai fi oedd yr enillydd gan fy mod yn teimlo y gallai unrhyw un ohonom ennill gan ein bod i gyd wedi gwneud gwaith gwych yn magu'r moch ar amrywiaeth o systemau gwahanol.

"Mae'r gystadleuaeth wedi rhoi'r hyder i mi weithio gyda moch ac wedi fy annog i gadw mwy o foch ar y fferm yn y dyfodol. Hoffwn ddiolch i Menter Moch Cymru a CFFI Cymru am y cyfle gwych hwn! Diolch hefyd i bawb sydd wedi fy helpu gyda'r moch ac wedi prynu'r porc wrthai. Da iawn pawb arall oedd yn rhan o'r fenter, roedd eich moch i gyd yn wych!"

Mae cangen UAC Sir Benfro yn hynod o falch o lwyddiant diweddar Rebecca, ac ar eu rhan dywedodd y Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol Rebecca Voyle: "Hoffem longyfarch Rebecca ar ei llwyddiant yng Nghystadleuaeth Menter Moch yn Ffair Aeaf Frenhinol Cymru, mae'n ysbrydoliaeth gweld ffermwr ifanc o Sir Benfro yn mentro i brosiectau newydd."

Longyfarchiadau enfawr i Rebecca, ac am fanteisio ar gyfle sydd, nid yn unig wedi rhoi profiadau newydd iddi, ond hefyd wedi arwain at lwyddiant a'r hyder i barhau gyda'r fenter newydd yn y dyfodol.

Stori wych yn llawn brwdfrydedd ar ddechrau blwyddyn newydd, mae'n argoeli'n dda am 2023!

*This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News:
"A new experience leads to success for Rebecca!" or from your local county office*

Kate retires after an exceptional 44 years

FUW Group Finance Officer Kate Ellis Evans retired at the end of December after 44 years of exceptional service to the Union. Kate joined the finance department on January 3 1979 as Finance Clerk and has been a loyal and hard-working member of staff from day one. Here are some tributes to Kate from past and present FUW officials and staff members:



Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC

"Fel Undeb, ac yn bersonol, hoffwn ddiolch yn fawr i Kate am ei gwasanaeth am flynyddoedd maith i'r Undeb. Rydym yn clywed am bobl wedi bod yn gweithio am 25 mlynedd yn yr un lle, ond mae Kate wedi rhoi 44 o flynyddoedd o wasanaeth i ni fel Undeb.

"Dechreuodd yn ôl yn 1979 yn nyddiau Myrddin Evans fel Llywydd ac Evan Lewis yn Ysgrifennydd Cyffredinol. Yn wir, o fewn dwy flynedd iddi gychwyn daeth Margaret i weithio i'r Undeb a dechreuwyd cyfeillgarwch oes rhwng y ddwy.

"Yn gyffredinol roedd Kate yn un weithgar iawn drwy helpu ar y fferm, a dwi'n cofio hi'n dweud fel y byddai yn helpu i bluo a gwneud y tyrcwn yn barod adeg y Nadolig. Byddai hefyd yn edrych ar ôl y tai gwyliau, helpu ei gŵr yn y siop cigydd, ac yn gweithio i'r Undeb, tipyn o gamp!

"I greadur braidd yn flêr hefo'i bethau fel fi, bu Kate yn wych yn fy nghynorthwyo i gael hyd i hyn a'r llall, a gwneud hynny bob amser yn llawen. Un peth roeddwn yn rhyfeddu at, pan fyddwn yn galw i mewn i'w swyddfa, bod ganddi'r ddawn unigryw i ddal i weithio'r un pryd a chynnal sgwrs.

"Roedd yn berson hawdd iawn i weithio hefo, ac mae gan bawb oddi fewn yr Undeb feddwl fawr iawn ohoni. Siŵr ar ôl 44 o flynyddoedd rydych yn haeddu ymdeoliad, a phob dymuniad da i chwi i'r dyfodol."

Bob Parry, cyn Lywydd UAC

"Roedd cyfraniad Kate wedi bod yn gymorth i'r Undeb, gyda'i phrofiad gyda chyllid ar adeg pan oedd yr Undeb yn datblygu. Cefais y fraint o weithio yn agos gyda hi llawer gwaith pan yr oedd eisiau gwybod, i'r geiniog, beth oeddwn wedi gwario. Yr oedd gwên ar ei hwyneb pan oeddwn yn ei gweld un a'i yn y swyddfa neu ar y stryd. Cefais aml air o gyngor ar beth i wneud neu beidio gwneud. Dymunaf y gorau iddi ar ôl ymdeol, a mwynha dy hun."

Peter Roberts, past FUW PR Director

"With her strong farming background Kate was forever committed to the Union's aims and aspirations. She was always trustworthy in her important position within the finance department and regularly passed on her helpful advice and assistance to fellow staff members.

"I also wish to praise her for her dedication to the Union over so many years - and thank her for being the best organiser of annual Christmas social gatherings for her staff colleagues!"

Wyn Lewis, FUW Group Finance Manager

"Kate has been an extremely loyal and dedicated member of the FUW Finance team for 44 years. She has overseen much change in that time, especially the evolution from manual records to IT systems.

"I have had the honour and privilege of working alongside her for the best part of 27 years, and I have been very fortunate to have had a colleague who has always been so dedicated and diligent to the FUW and her day-to-day job. She has a fantastic memory for all things FUW and has been a highly-valued source of knowledge to all in the Finance department over the years.

"Her aim every day has been to carry out the tasks attributed to her in an efficient and diligent way. What has been great about Kate is that she has not been slow to tell me and others if she thinks we are incorrect, and not slow in volunteering her views on separate issues - because she has cared passionately about her role and the FUW.

"Kate has been an incredible servant to the FUW for 44 years, and an outstanding colleague to so many over that time. More than anything though, she has been a good friend to so many of us and we will all miss her. I certainly will and I value her friendship and companionship very highly over 27 years, I wish her a long and happy retirement.

"The Welsh saying - 'Gwas da, gwas ffyddlon' sums up Kate's 44 years with the FUW perfectly."

Ian Rickman, FUW Deputy President

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Kate for the exceptional service she has given to the FUW over the last 44 years. Its becoming increasingly rare nowadays that someone devotes that length of their working life to one employer. So thank you Kate, and I wish you all the very best for the future."

Translations of the above tributes are available upon request from Angharad Evans, FUW's Welsh Language Communications Officer - angharad.evans@fuw.org.uk

"Energized Lamb Milk allows our lambs to reach their full potential."

Natalie Ingman
TNGB Key Accounts Manager
& Sheep Farmer

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How well does your farm deal with winter?

NOW that winter is in full swing and the weather remains unpredictable, we take a look at what steps you can take to prepare against most eventualities.

Keep your water moving

Every farm needs a reliable supply of water, particularly if you home livestock and equine. Yet, when the weather drops below 0 degrees, your pipes are at risk of freezing and blocking that supply. To prevent this, consider fitting insulating products or using a water pump to keep water moving. Thawing a frozen pipe can be a lot more time consuming and costly than taking these preventative steps in advance.

In the event of escape of water in areas that are less frequently used over the winter months, ensure you know where each of your stop valves are located.

If you are faced with an emergency, it helps to have the number of a reliable plumber on hand and ensure you have a contingency plan in place. Do you have a neighbouring farm that can help if your supply runs dry? You may be able to agree to help each other in advance.

Service your machinery and vehicles

Avoid damage caused by poorly maintained farm machinery over winter, which can stem from lack of servicing and cleaning vehicles and has the potential to result in fires, weather damage and more.

That's why it's important to fully service your vehicles and machinery before the winter season begins and ensure they are properly stored to avoid weather damage. If you have any tools or machinery that will not be used over this period, ensure they are properly and safely locked away to not only keep them dry, but also to keep them protected against opportunistic thieves and vandals.

Assess your outbuildings

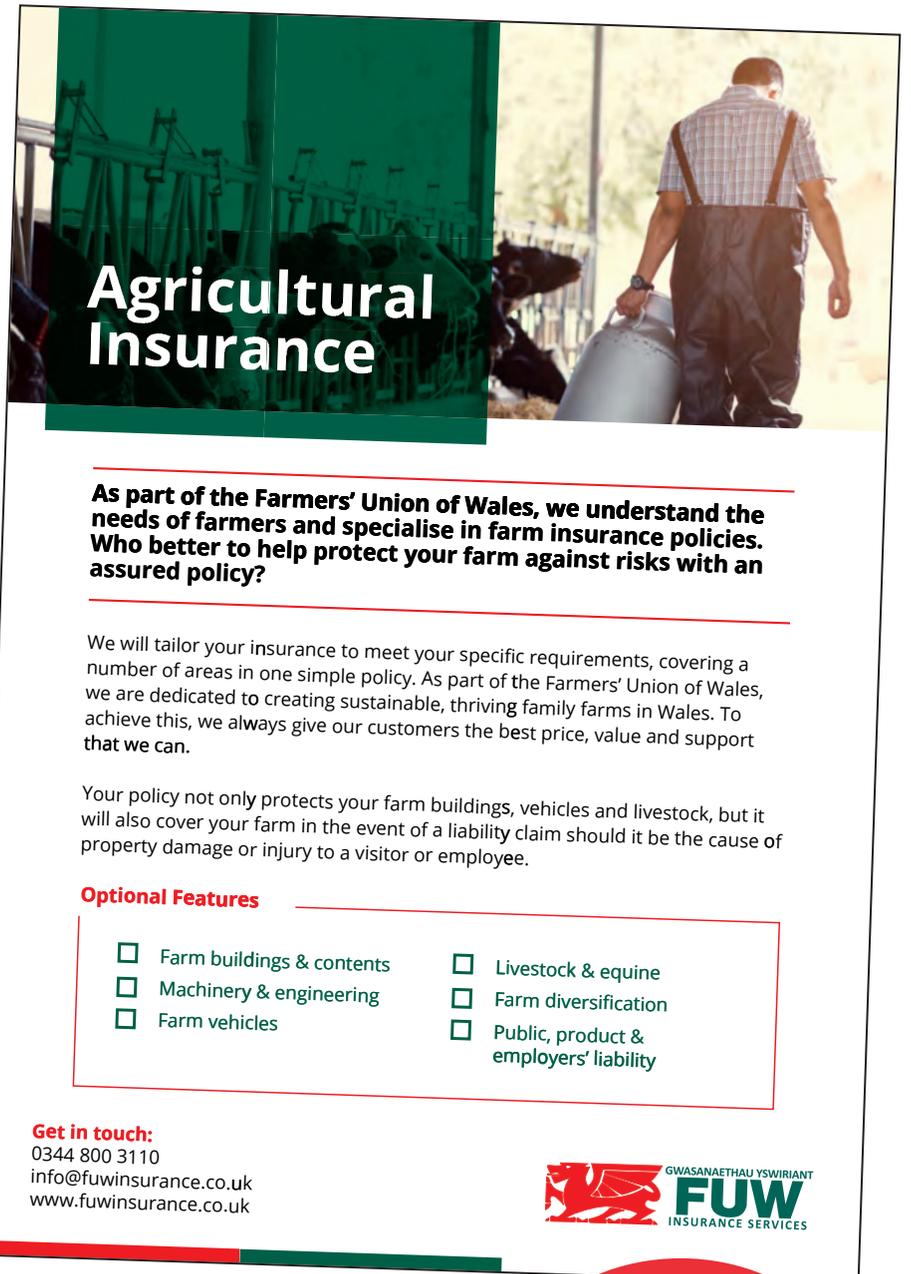
It's also a good idea to check the condition of your outbuildings and whether they are still fit to withstand harsh weather conditions. Having secure shelter in place will ensure that your livestock and equipment stay protected over these colder months.

Consider areas like your roofing and the stability of the interiors, as well as the types of locks and security measures you will be using to protect them. If you're not already part of a community watch scheme, now could be the time to get involved to help keep criminals at bay.

Get your insurance in order

It's important to ensure that when you're operating in a period of heightened risk, your current Farm Insurance is still up-to-date. If you have made any changes to your operation over 2022, during the COVID-19 crisis or otherwise, you may well be due a review.

To speak to a member of the team about your Farm Insurance and whether it's still up to the job, please don't hesitate to get in touch today. Contact your local Farmers' Union of Wales Account Executive on the numbers below or visit www.fuwinsurance.co.uk



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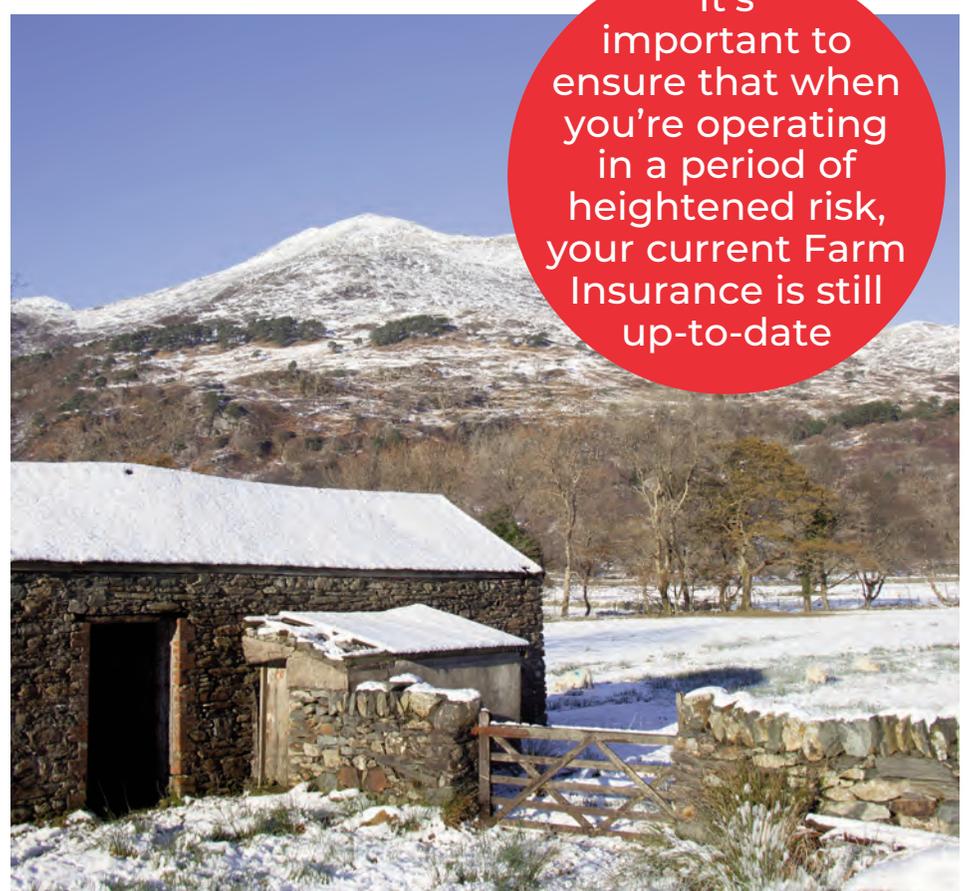
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Come and join us for a farmhouse breakfast

BREAKFAST is one of the most important meals of the day and it is a great opportunity to talk and share your thoughts before starting the day.

So in order to promote the health benefits and have a good catch up before the day starts, FUW teams across the country are once again hosting a variety of farmhouse breakfasts (Monday 23 - Sunday 29 January 2023) and the FUW is also again taking the farmhouse breakfast to Cardiff on Tuesday January 24.

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

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

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

Breakfast dates and locations below.



2023 Farmhouse Breakfasts

1. Gaerwen Mart
2. Caernarfon
3. Bangor
4. Aberdaron
5. Llannor
6. Bryncir
7. Llanfrothen
8. Betws y Coed
9. Cefnmeiriadog
10. Rhosesmor
11. Dyffryn Ardudwy
12. Carrog
13. Llanuwchllyn
14. Machynlleth
15. Llansilin
16. Welshpool
17. Pontarfynach
18. Caerwedros
19. Hermon
20. Crundale
21. Pontyates Hall
22. Llanarthne
23. Builth Wells
24. Penderyn
25. Crumlin
26. Cowbridge



County	Date & Time	Location	Map number
Anglesey	Saturday January 28 (9.30am - 12.30pm)	Gaerwen Mart Cafe	1
Brecon & Radnor	Tuesday January 24 (9.30am)	Bodwigiad, Penderyn, CF44 0SX (invitation only)	24
	Friday January 27 (9am onwards)	FUW Pavilion, Llanellwedd, Builth Wells, LD2 3NJ	23
Caernarfon	Saturday January 21	Canolfan Y Fron, Y Fron, Caernarfon, LL54 7BB	2
	Monday January 23	Ty'n Hendre, Tal-y-bont, Bangor, LL57 3YP	3
	Tuesday January 24	Bryn Hynog, Llannor, Pwllheli, LL53 5UG	5
	Thursday January 26	Becws Islyn, Aberdaron, LL53 8BE	4
	Friday January 27	Dylasau Uchaf, Padog, Betws y Coed, LL24 0NF	8
	Friday January 27	Caffi Mart Bryncir, Bryncir, LL51 9LX	6
Carmarthen	Thursday January 26 (8am - 11am)	Pontyates Hall	21
	Friday January 27 (8am - 11am)	Llanarthne Hall	22
Ceredigion	Wednesday January 25 (8.30am - 11.30am)	Canolfan Mynach, Pontarfynach	17
	Friday January 28 (8.30am - 11.30am)	Neuadd Caerwedros Hall	18
Denbigh & Flint	Friday January 27	Cefnmeiriadog Chapel Vestry	9
	Saturday January 28	Rhosesmor Village Hall	10
Gwent & Glamorgan	Thursday January 26 (8am - 11am)	Lesser Hall, Cowbridge, Vale Of Glamorgan, CF71 7DD	26
	Friday January 27 (8am - 11am)	Ty Oakley Farm, Hafodyrynys, Crumlin, NP11 5AY	25
Meirionnydd	Tuesday January 24	Caffi Cymunedol, Dyffryn Ardudwy, LL44 2BE	11
	Wednesday January 25	Caffi Siop Bentre, Llanfrothen, LL48 6AD	7
	Thursday January 26	Ty Mawr, Carrog, LL21 9BH	12
	Friday January 27	Neuadd Bentre, Llanuwchllyn, LL23 7NA	13
Montgomery	Tuesday January 24 (9am - 11.30am)	Cafe Maengwyn, Machynlleth, SY20 8EE	14
	Friday January 27 (9am - 11.30am)	Pen y Derw, Forden, Welshpool, SY21 8NH	16
	Saturday January 28 (9am - 12noon)	Wynnstay Inn, Llansilin, SY10 7QA	15
Pembrokeshire	Tuesday January 24 (8am - 10.30am)	Canolfan Hermon, Hermon, SA36 0DT	19
	Friday January 27 (8.30am - 11am)	Crundale Hall, Crundale, SA62 0DF	20

“NRW’s price hikes for regulation unacceptable in current climate”

PROPOSALS from Wales’ environmental regulator are unacceptable against the backdrop of the cost-of-living crisis, say the leaders of Wales’ farming community, the CLA, NFU Cymru and FUW. The Welsh Government’s agency Natural Resources Wales (NRW) plans to dramatically increase the cost of licences to carry out necessary and unavoidable operations on Welsh farms. For example, sheep-dip land-spreading costs are to leap up to 20 times the current cost for a new application.

The three organisations call on NRW to revisit the proposals in the context of unprecedented uncertainty in Welsh agriculture.

NRW’s 12 week consultation is seeking views on its new charging proposals for permits under NRW’s responsibilities for industry regulation, waste management, water quality and resources and reservoir compliance.

The fees cover the cost of licences to dispose of disease-preventing sheep-dip, abstraction of water, the handling of unavoidable by-products, and compliances. Farmers have few options about managing these, there’s little flexibility in the regulatory agency’s approach and no process for appeal.



The three bodies who represent Wales’ farmers and rural businesses will be scrutinising NRW’s impact assessments and arguing that where dramatic changes are to be introduced, they need to be graduated and greater flexibility introduced for new entrants. Support is needed for businesses struggling with input-cost inflation.

NRW’s charges are obligatory costs which have to be met by farmers to continue to produce our food. One way or another the cost must be absorbed in the supply chain affecting competitiveness and opening the door to low-cost imports.

The farming community understand that costs need to reflect inflation. However, it is highly irresponsible for an agency of the Welsh Government to put businesses at risk without properly considering cost savings and efficiencies in their processes to reduce costs.

The CLA, NFU Cymru and FUW are clear that farmers have already been hit by high costs of fuel, fertiliser and feed. As the cost-of-living crisis continues NRW need to urgently reconsider the proposals put forward that only add further costs to food production in Wales.

Beat the January blues with #Run1000 2023

THE FUW Ltd Group is once again taking part in one of the biggest walking and running challenges, as it joins five nations who have teamed up to inspire rural communities to take to the countryside to help improve their mental health in January.

The challenge, #Run1000, is calling on people to sign up to be part of one of five teams - England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and New Zealand. The competition will take place from 9 - 15 January 2023 and will see each team try to complete 1,000 miles, with the nation that reaches the milestone first announced as the winner.

The idea is for individuals to sign up with a £20 sign-up fee and contribute as many miles as they can during that week in January, whether that be 1 or 100.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: “As the DPJ Foundation is our charity, we want to help Wales win this race and of course also raise money for this tremendously important charity, beat the January blues and think about our own mental health.”

Wales Team captain Emma Picton-Jones said: “I am delighted to be back for the third year as the captain of Team Wales. January can be a difficult time of year for many and the positive impact of physical movement on our mental health is something that Run1000 promotes.

“The changes of Run1000 being only a week this year mean the pressure is on, Team Wales won in year 1 and lost out to England last year but with the ability to now use any miles - cycling, walking, running etc means more people can get involved and contribute. With all funds raised going to the DPJ Foundation, you can raise awareness and money for others’ mental health and support your own in the process!”

For details on how to get involved visit:

<https://www.run1000.org/signing-up> and you can sign-up to the Wales team here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/team-wales2>



Welsh Labour Observer Plus event

THE economy, climate, Wales’ culture and language were top of the agenda for FUW officials who virtually joined the Welsh Labour Observer Plus event. FUW President Glyn Roberts, FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman and FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies attended various virtual seminars including a Q&A session with First Minister, Mark Drakeford, where he raised the cost of living and direct impact of Brexit and UK Government budgets.

“We congratulated the Welsh Government on their free school meals policy and then went on to say that to farmers and rural communities, the UK Government promise of ‘not a penny less’ of funds to the Welsh Agricultural Budget was of paramount importance. We made it clear that as a Union we will do all we can to stress the importance of that promise in our conversations with Members of Parliament,” said FUW President Glyn Roberts.

In a seminar on the future of renewables in Wales hosted by Julie James MS and chaired by Huw Irranca-Davies MS, the FUW highlighted some common barriers faced by members wanting to diversify into renewable energy such as inadequate grid connection and a very slow planning system.

“However, we emphasised that there is great potential in Wales and for Welsh farmers to use more of our resources and increase renewable energy production without harming our food production,” said FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies.

Discussing how to accelerate Wales’ path to a decarbonised economy with Vaughan Gethin, a session chaired by the CEO of

Milford Haven Port, the Union noted the importance of proactively mitigating climate change and reducing emissions rather than relying on offsetting, particularly when that would take productive agricultural land out of use.

“The Minister noted how crucial it is to reach net zero and argued that it would probably require a combination of mitigation and offsetting. Whilst we understand his point, international companies offsetting their emissions on Welsh farmland would be problematic and should be opposed by the Welsh Government,” added FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman.

The importance of the Welsh language as part of Wales’ culture was highlighted by Education Minister, Jeremy Miles MS, in a seminar discussing the opportunities of tertiary education reform chaired by Hefin David MS.

“We congratulated Jeremy Miles on establishing Comisiwn Cymunedau Cymreig. We also highlighted our appreciation of the Welsh Government support for the Urdd, and asked what the Government’s view was on the contribution the YFC could make towards hitting that target,” said Glyn Roberts.

“We thank the Welsh Government for the warm welcome and look forward to our continued working relationship.”



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FUW feedback on the Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals



A detailed response was compiled and submitted in November, following more than 20 meetings with FUW members held throughout Wales and attended by more than 300 farmers. The full response can be found on the FUW website under Policy Reports. Many thanks to those committee members, county representatives and members who attended these meetings to provide the below feedback. Stakeholder meetings are ongoing with the Welsh Government to shape the 'co-design' of the scheme ahead of the final consultation in the Spring. All SFS information can be found at <https://gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme-guide>

Below and on pages 12 and 13 is a selection of FUW members' feedback to the Welsh Government (WG)

Welcomed Proposal	A selection of Member Recommendations	Statistics
Baseline (Stability) Payment Provision for undertaking 'Universal Actions'	The majority of the budget should be allocated to the baseline payment in order to cover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The capital and labour costs involved in undertaking universal actions - Complying with National Minimum Standards without a corresponding payment - unlike many other countries - Increased input costs and other inflationary pressures - Needing to compete against increased quotas of imported agricultural products produced to lower standards - Providing a fair income for farmers and the economic viability of many upstream and downstream businesses For the scheme to be a success, the Universal Actions must be practical and possible for the overwhelming majority of farms.	75% of the current budget goes towards the BPS (stability) payment. In England, BPS payments will be cut by 50-70% by 2024.
Continued use of RPW Online (including for the sustainability review)	RPW Online should continue to be utilised, improved and developed for scheme administration, prompt payments and the sustainability review as opposed to being conducted by individual advisors and complex contracts which would dilute the agricultural budget to farmers. Existing data should be utilised to prevent duplication and additional work for farmers and the WG e.g. calculation of hedgerow and tree cover for carbon footprinting, slope and risk maps for Agri Pollution regulation requirements, stock numbers synchronised with EID Cymru/BCMS etc. Much of the data required for the carbon and habitat baseline aspect of the Sustainability Review is already held by WG on RPW Online maps. New requirements should be phased in gradually from 2025 onwards to minimise the risks (rising costs, insufficient human resources, unmanageable administrative burdens, system failure, inaccurate data) associated with being overly ambitious in terms of what is asked for in year one, while also allowing farmers to become accustomed to the provision of more/different data over time.	RDP land-based projects (e.g. Glastir) are around 8 times more costly to administer per farmer than the BPS. RPW annually collects data related to 170 types of land use at a resolution of 0.01hectares, covering around 90% of Wales' land area.
Capping and redistributive (tapered) payments	Payment capping and redistributive payments should be maintained and enhanced under the SFS, coupled with a strict 'active farmer' criteria, to ensure money goes to the family farms that make the greatest contribution to rural economies and communities. The current capping rate should be lowered subject to careful consideration of factors such as the number of families a farm supports as partners and employees.	77% of Welsh farmers receive less than £20,000 through the BPS and the average payment is £15,000 whilst some e-NGO's, charities and businesses receive over £2 million per year.
Economic modelling analysis	The WG must follow through with their proposal to assess the impact the SFS will have on the rural economy, different farming sectors and regions before assigning payment rates, to ensure 'our family farms are fairly supported'. The economic modelling must be detailed and independent, and include thorough economic and socio-economic factors as lobbied for by the FUW since the 2018 Brexit and Our Land proposals, including for upstream and downstream businesses involved in Wales' agricultural supply chains, in addition to the impact on food production levels.	
Transition period up to 2029	The WG must also hold the UK Government to account on their Brexit promises in terms of replacing EU CAP funding. The scheme must be designed in such a way to ensure that the vast majority of all willing farmers can enter the scheme on day one to prevent the BPS phase out resulting in steep income declines for farmers.	By 2024 Wales will have received around £250 million less in CAP replacement funding due to UK Government decisions.

Concerns	A selection of Member Recommendations	Statistics
Agricultural Budget Provision	The latest SFS proposals were published before food inflationary pressures, food security concerns and increased input costs became ever more pressing. Therefore, the level of support and the focus of the scheme will need to be adapted accordingly with a view to ensuring that Welsh farmers' contribution to UK food security in the short, medium and long term is enhanced and not undermined by the scheme. The WG must ensure that the SFS is funded to, at the very least, the entire agricultural and rural development budget, particularly as the scheme has ambitious and wide ranging outcomes.	The average annual CAP budget (2014-2020), including WG co-financing was circa £365 million. Yet the Agriculture (Wales) Bill Regulatory Assessment assumes an annual budget of £278m.
National Minimum Standards	Members need to see further details and have full scrutiny of the proposed 'National Minimum Standards' (updated cross-compliance rules), particularly as these will apply even if a farmer chooses not to be part of the SFS. WG must consider the consistency and resource requirements for policing these standards, which risks unfairly criminalising farmers in comparison to the (simpler to administer) BPS penalties.	
Contract length (up to 5 years)	The SFS contract length needs to provide enough flexibility to enable succession, adding or removing land annually, as well as avoiding barriers to tenants or those with mixed length tenures/agreements. The option of an annual contract based on data submission and a commitment to certain standards should be maintained, as is possible with the current BPS, while those not able to meet longer term commitments due to the nature of their tenancies should not be unfairly penalised or discriminated against.	89% of all new FBTs are let for 5 years or less.



Continues on page 12

Concerns	A selection of Member Recommendations	Statistics
Farming Connect	The WG must ensure that the scheme and sustainability review is not overly bureaucratic or difficult to administer in the first instance, and therefore does not require a significant increase in funding for Farming Connect or similar advisory services/administration. The majority of the SFS budget must be used to directly reward farmers through the baseline payment, while additional payments should be provided for actions undertaken at farm level and capital investments.	Menter a Busnes (current Farming Connect contractors) are in the top two recipients of CAP payments in the UK (£11m).
Challenges for Commoners	The obstacles for commoners in terms of Universal and Optional Actions on common land must also be taken into account, as well as alternative measures to prevent discrimination, given the limited actions that are possible on common land for legal reasons compared with other land (for example, the need for Section 38 approval for works on common land).	Almost 20% of Welsh farms have an area of common land on their SAFs.
Challenges for Tenants	The WG should make changes to the details of its SFS proposals to ensure no Universal Action represents obstacles to tenants (e.g. habitat creation being at odds with 'good husbandry' requirements or landlords retaining the right to the woodland on farms). Flexibility should be allowed in order to avoid scenarios where participation in the SFS would lead to arbitration or friction with landlords (e.g. 10% tree cover requirements). Collaborative agreements should be made possible.	48% of Welsh holdings have tenanted land of varying contract lengths (9% are wholly tenanted). <i>Expert determination or arbitration between landlords and tenants are estimated to cost an average of £6,000 and £25,000 respectively and can take many months or years to reach resolution</i>
Sustainable Land Management Outcomes and Food Production	The SLM outcomes must be amended to include the economic sustainability of farming families, agricultural supply chains, rural communities and food production and food security explicitly. FUW members continue to believe the Welsh Way Forward principles of agricultural support, as formulated by the two Welsh farming unions and Wales Young Farmers' Clubs, should be key objectives of the SFS (Stability, Family Farms, Supporting Rural Communities and Welsh Jobs, Sustainable Agriculture and Rewarding Environmental Outcomes).	

2.2 Sustainable Land Management Outcomes

The Scheme sets out a range of actions farmers can undertake. However, it is important we make a clear connection between these actions and the outcomes they are seeking to deliver. These are:

Clean air
Air which has limited pollution (human made particles and harmful gases) including fine particulate matter, ammonia and non-methane volatile organic compounds.

Mitigate flood and drought risk
Farms prepare for periods of low or high rainfall, reducing the risks to the farm and communities from flooding, drought and coastal erosion.

Clean water
The water environment (including inland water) is sustainably managed to support healthy communities, flourishing businesses and biodiversity.

Protected natural landscapes and historic environment
Conserve and enhance natural beauty, cultural heritage and the historic environment.

Enhanced access and engagement
People are more easily able to enjoy the countryside for health and wellbeing benefits.

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
Farms reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, through making efficient use of fuel and energy, minimising external inputs and having productive livestock and crops.

High animal health and welfare
Animals are healthy, productive and have a good quality of life.

Resilient ecosystems
Maintaining and enhancing the resilience of ecosystems delivering benefits for biodiversity, species and habitats.

Maximise carbon storage
Creating new and enhancing existing carbon stocks on farms.

Resource efficient
Taking a circular approach by keeping resources and materials in use for as long as possible and avoiding waste.



Universal Actions	
A baseline payment will be made to farmers for undertaking the Universal Actions. All Universal Actions have to be carried out by farmers who join the Scheme. Capital Payments and Technical Support will also be available	The principle of undertaking Universal Actions and data submission in return for a baseline (or 'stability') payment is supported, notwithstanding some major concerns about some Universal Actions, in contrast to England where the BPS is being completely removed. However, the required actions must be proportionate and realistic and payments sufficiently high to protect the economic viability of farms and those who rely on Welsh agriculture as some farms will find the Universal Actions harder and more costly to achieve than others.

Resilient and Productive

Manage and optimise farm performance through measuring and monitoring

All farmers will complete a self-assessment once a year against a minimum of the sector and industry KPIs (Key Performance Indicators- two per sector or three in total, whichever is higher)

Member Recommendations

Members were supportive of the principle of supporting farmers to improve the resilience of their farm businesses and create productive farms, however, they required more details on the type of KPIs the WG were considering collecting. Some members suggested it would be more useful to have a number of different KPI/benchmarking options, with farmers given the choice as to which ones they submit - depending on which are the most useful/comparable benchmark for their particular system. Any nationwide data gathered should be used to promote Welsh farming and drive forward performance, not used to inform payment rates or penalise farmers.

Minimise the risk of catching and spreading diseases

All farmers have the necessary biosecurity measures in place. These are:

- * wash stations and disinfectant is available for people to clean their clothing, equipment and vehicles as they enter/exit the farm and any livestock areas
- * all enclosed land boundaries are secure to stop stock from straying
- * there is a dedicated secure store for deadstock, which can be cleaned and disinfected. It is away from livestock, feed and water
- * feed stores are secure to keep out wildlife and vermin
- * there is a pest control/management programme in place, which includes the responsible use of biocides

Member Recommendations

Members expressed concern around the practicalities of having wash stations at all farm entries - particularly for those with multiple public access routes. Furthermore, this could lead to liability issues around disinfectants and the public/their dogs. If excessive proposed NRW charges for land spreading of used farm disinfectants were implemented, this would be another burden on the farmer arising from a compulsory Universal Action.

Reduce, reuse and recycle inputs, nutrients and waste

Make best use of artificial fertiliser through nutrient management and soil testing

Carry out professional and farmer soil testing at Scheme entry and in time for contract renewal to include a combination of:

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

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

Member Recommendations

Members believed that any soil tests which had been done during the last three years should be used towards the submission and Universal Action eligibility, to prevent unnecessary additional testing expenses. Members were interested in knowing more about their Soil Organic Carbon content within this Universal Action, but felt the WG should consider laboratory capacity and staff available to complete the testing, and how expensive this would be to complete across 17,000 businesses. One of the scheme design principles includes 'building a prosperous and resilient agriculture industry', however the soil testing requirement appears to be the only Universal Action directly linked to supporting and rewarding the productive capacity of the farm. Members believed there could be better incentives or actions to directly support the productive efficiency of the farming business, referencing more of the 'optional actions'.

Minimise Use of pesticides/herbicides through integrated pest management

Collect and record data on Plant Protection Products use

Complete an IPM assessment

Reduce on farm emissions and maximise carbon sequestration

Animal Health Improvement Cycle (AHIC)

Farmers will need to:

- * carry out actions, identified by working closely with their vet, through the Animal Health Improvement Cycle
- * calculate and report the average amount of antibiotics used on the farm

Member Recommendations

The WG must ensure that veterinary capacity is addressed before adding additional requirements. Reporting antibiotic use should be streamlined with other reporting systems to prevent unnecessary additional paperwork - particularly as liberalised trade deals are opening the door to imports from countries with far less (if any) stringent control on antibiotic use and traceability. Animal health groups ran by vets was a popular scheme cited by members, in addition to online resources such as NADIS.

Statistic

Antibiotic sales for food-producing animals have halved since 2014 in the UK.

Restore semi-natural peatland
 Where peatland exists, farmers will need to manage it appropriately

Protect and enhance the farm ecosystem
Protect soils from erosion and degradation
 Have a multispecies cover crop on all land which is uncropped (bare soil) over winter

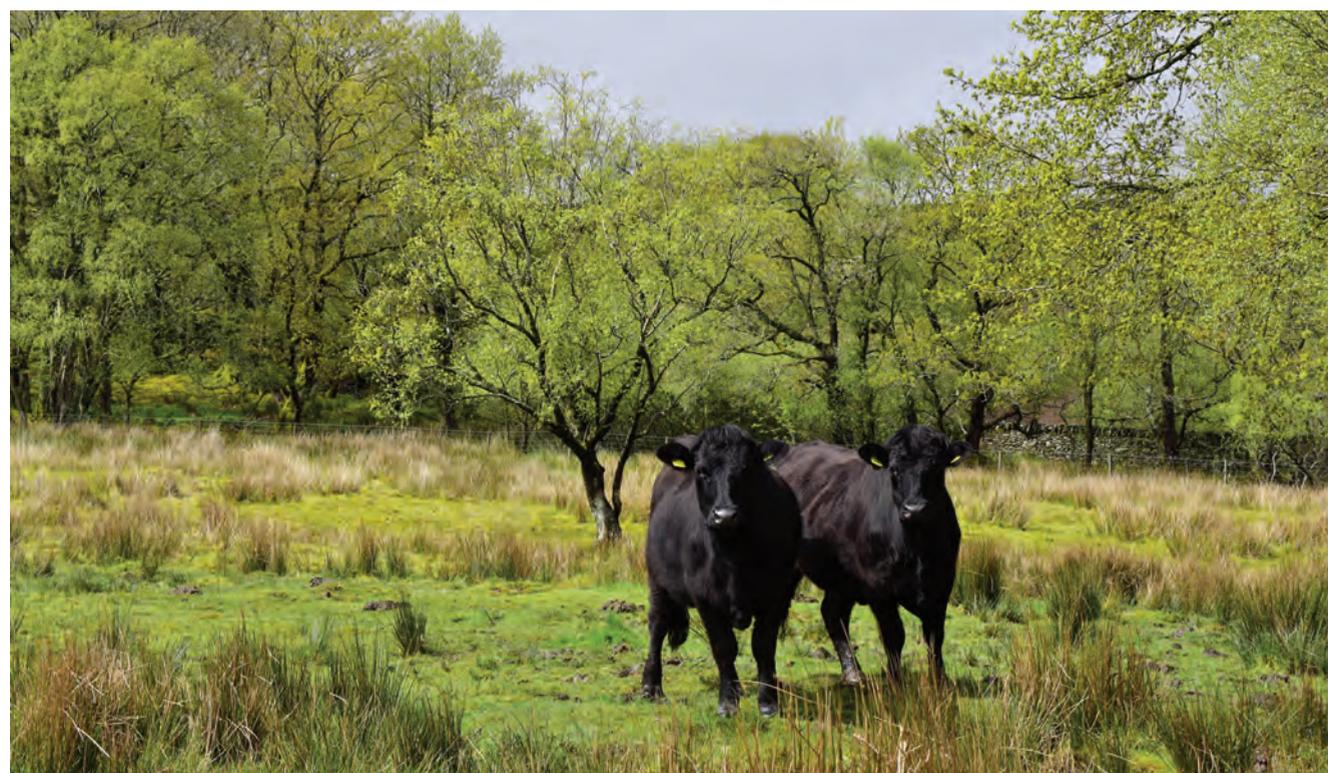
Create new and manage existing agro-forestry and woodland
 Farmers will:
 * have at least 10% tree cover on their farm. This should be managed in line with the UK Forestry Standard
 * manage new and existing hedgerows in line with the hedgerow management cycle

Member Recommendations
 Due to the challenges, complexities and inappropriateness of this requirement for many farmers who have a high percentage of their farm as habitat land, coastal land, land above the treeline, highly productive land, common land or tenanted land, the FUW does not believe that achieving 10% tree cover should be used as an eligibility criteria for farmers to access the SFS. Hedgerows should count towards either or both any habitat and tree cover requirements, due to their dual purpose in sequestering carbon and providing biodiversity benefits. The WG should clarify what is defined as 'tree cover' such as including hedgerows, trees along boundaries, natural regeneration of trees (e.g. willow), shelterbelts, productive woodland and dying ash tree or individual in-field trees in order to enable members to assess the proposals impact on their business. There should be more focus and support on payments for managing existing woodland, in addition to other carbon-sequestering management such as soil organic carbon and enhancing existing grazed habitats which work alongside producing food, as opposed to measures which may remove land from production.

Statistic
 Average existing tree cover on farmland in Wales is around 6.5%.

Manage habitats and species
 Farmers will need to actively manage at least 10% of their land to maintain and enhance semi-natural habitats. Where there is insufficient semi-natural habitat available, farmers will need to select actions to create permanent or temporary habitat features on other agricultural land

Member Recommendations
 Members emphasised the importance of recognising that much farmland provides wildlife and environmental value without currently being 'classified' or 'separated' as habitat, whilst crucially continuing to produce food. For ongoing habitat maintenance and management over the threshold, members believed payments must create genuine revenue streams as opposed to a calculation of 'income foregone'. For those farms who do not have sufficient semi-natural habitat, or have been unable to access agri-environment schemes in the past due to no fault of their own, incorporating temporary habitat features will be crucial to avoid having to reverse land improvements or lose productive land permanently. Examples included unsprayed cover or fodder crops, flowering herbal leys/clover leys or older leys flowering and setting seed, wild bird seed mixes or feeding, margins, riparian corridors and managing hedgerows.



Conserve and retain water: Ponds and scrapes
 Farms will have to restore and manage existing permanent wildlife ponds and/or create a number of temporary ponds (scrapes)

Member Recommendations
 Members suggested this would be more appropriate as an Optional Action, particularly for those with existing wetland habitats and features, or where obtaining planning permission could be an issue.

Benefit people, animals and place
Maintain and enhance the historic environment, heritage and beauty
 Farmers with historical environmental assets identified on their land will need to follow general guidance on how to manage them

Be proficient to practice safely and efficiently
 Farmers will be required to complete a minimum level of learning, including on Health and Safety

Member Recommendations
 Some members suggested training more akin to the old Agricultural Training Board framework where farmers locally would decide on the most useful practical training required (such as sheepdog skills, fencing, calving etc) whilst also using local experienced 'experts' to deliver the training. Members felt this was an opportunity to highlight, celebrate and enhance the diversity of skills within farming families - particularly rural skills which are kept alive through farming. Any compulsory health and safety training must be relevant, proportionate and useful to the farmer, as opposed to a patronising tick box exercise.

Our full response can be found on the FUW website under Policy Reports

What is missing
 Members wished to highlight the following additional points where they believed proposals were either lacking clarity or information, given insufficient weight or missing entirely:

- Reward mechanisms for producing sustainable food
- Financial support for renewable energy generation at a time of acute impacts of the UK's energy insecurity
- Support for Bovine TB measures
- Support for organic producers
- Support and a tailored scheme for young/new entrants
- Succession - enabling a mechanism to increase the opportunities for new entrants
- Support aimed at grazing livestock and enhancing permanent pastures and soils (in the context of improving livestock efficiency, carbon sequestration, reduced emissions and enhanced biodiversity)
- Reassurance that environmental actions will not be calendar year based as that is not how nature works. This was one of the main criticisms of Glastir and the Water Resources Regulations
- Force majeure provisions within multi-annual contracts for events such as bereavement and matters outside of the farmers' control

Designation of the Cambrian Mountains as AONB

Welsh Conservative Group urged to review its position

THE FUW has written to Welsh Conservative leader Andrew RT Davies on behalf of its members in Montgomeryshire, Ceredigion, Radnorshire and Carmarthenshire, as well as those in neighbouring counties who would be adversely affected by the designation of the Cambrian Mountains as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

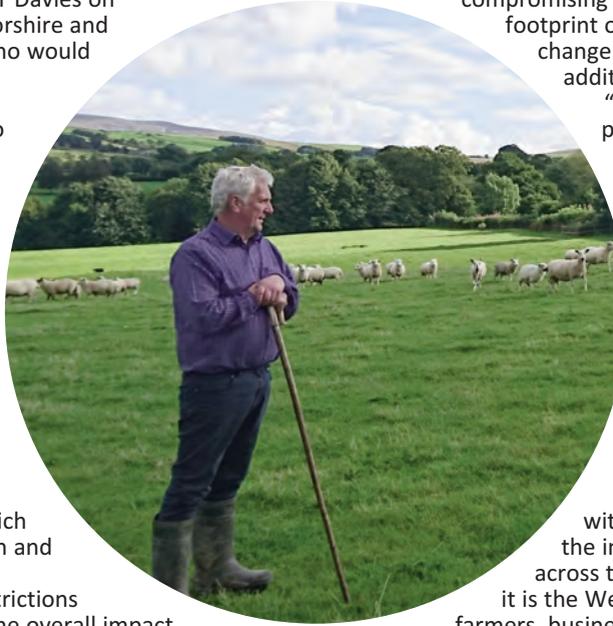
Members and residents in the region have reacted angrily to the fact that Welsh Conservative Shadow Minister for Social Partnership, Joel James SM, stated in the Senedd debate on the subject that “*in principle the Welsh Conservatives support*” the proposed designation.

The letter highlights that during the debate, Mr James referred to the benefits of designation that the FUW believes would be highly unlikely to materialise because many of the benefits he listed are unrelated to the legal purposes of an AONB. He also failed to offer any balance by referencing the significant adverse impacts for businesses, which many members and communities who farm in or close to existing AONBs and other designated areas are already subject to.

“These concerns were outlined in an FUW briefing sent to Senedd Members ahead of the debate, foremost amongst which is the additional costs for businesses and residents both within and adjacent to AONBs that would result from the introduction of additional planning restrictions and rules. These rules and restrictions mean that for the vast majority of residents and businesses, the overall impact would be negative,” said FUW President Glyn Roberts, *(pictured above)*.

In his letter, the Union President highlighted that examples quoted by members with experience of such matters in or adjacent to existing designated areas refer to costs caused by additional regulations and associated delays and processes that can add thousands or tens of thousands to bills and stifle or prevent economic development. These additional regulations also stifle actions aimed at tackling climate change, while adding significantly to the costs borne by Local Authorities.

Mr Roberts also expressed concerns regarding the adverse impact such a designation would have on renewable energy production. The FUW continues to stress the importance of ensuring farms can maximise renewable energy production without



compromising food production with the simple aim of reducing the carbon footprint of Welsh agriculture. This in turn would help mitigate climate change and increase UK energy security whilst providing important additional farm income.

“Not only is it clear that the proposed designation would prevent, restrict or at the very least add significantly to costs for those farms seeking to diversify into renewable energy; the creation of such obstacles is indicated as an explicit objective of the Cambrian Mountains AONB designation proposed by the petitioners. This is despite the clear evidence that we face a climate emergency and the obvious impact of energy insecurity currently being faced across society here in Wales,” said Mr Roberts.

During the debate, Mr James suggested that communities that were nervous about such designation were merely unaware of how it would positively impact them, and he effectively urged those who are supportive of the designation to educate farmers and others as to why they are wrong to oppose such a plan.

“Having recently met with land agents and others who assist with farm development and diversification across Wales to discuss the implications of the proposed designation, FUW members from across the Cambrian Mountains and in neighbouring areas believe that it is the Welsh Conservatives who need to recognise why the concerns of farmers, businesses and residents in the Cambrian Mountains are well founded and based on reality and the experience of others in areas already designated,” said the Union President.

The Cambrian Mountains continue to be an area of outstanding natural beauty and ecological importance, and, as others highlighted during the debate, their lack of designation over the past half century has had no impact on this - and nor has the designation of other areas reduced adverse ecological impacts in any discernible measure compared with non-designated areas.

“I would urge the Welsh Conservative Group to review its position on the proposed designation based on the facts and the genuine and well-founded concerns of those in the Cambrian Mountains,” concluded Mr Roberts.

PENODI AELODAU O FWRDD HYBU CIG CYMRU (HCC)

Fedrwch chi wneud gwahaniaeth go iawn i'r ffordd y mae cig coch Cymru'n cael ei ddatblygu, ei hyrwyddo a'i farchnata? Os ydych chi'n credu bod gennych yr angerdd a'r uchelgais i wneud gwahaniaeth i gorff sy'n gyfrifol am ddatblygu, hyrwyddo a marchnata cig coch, efallai y dylech ddod yn aelod o Hybu Cig Cymru (HCC).

Mae HCC am benodi unigolion brwd i ymuno â'u Bwrdd fydd wedi ymrwymo i wasanaethu'r cyhoedd, yn gallu meddwl yn wahanol ac yn benderfynol o wireddu'r amcanion hyn ledled Cymru. Rydym yn croesawu'n arbennig geisiadau gan ferched, bobl Dduon, Asiaidd a Lleiafrifoedd Ethnig a phobl anabl sydd heb gynrychiolaeth ddigonol.

Aelodau'r Bwrdd: ymrwymiad amser – 12 diwrnod y flwyddyn;

Tâl - £300 y dydd am yr amser a dreulir wrth y swydd, ynghyd â chostau teithio rhesymol.

Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer ceisiadau yw 12 Ionawr 2023.

Am ragor o fanylion ac i wneud cais, ewch i www.llyw.cymru/penodiadau-cyhoeddus neu e-bostiwrch PenodiadauCyhoeddus@llyw.cymru

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS TO HYBU CIG CYMRU (HCC) / MEAT PROMOTION WALES

Can you make a real difference to the development, promotion and marketing of Welsh red meat? If you believe you possess the passion and ambition to make a difference to an organisation responsible for developing, promoting and marketing red meat, then the role of member of Hybu Cig Cymru (HCC) might be for you.

HCC are seeking to appoint motivated individuals to join a Board who are committed to public service, have the capacity to think differently and are determined to achieve these ambitions across Wales. We particularly welcome applications from women, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic and disabled people who are under-represented on the Board.

Board Members: time commitment – 12 days per annum;

Remuneration - £300 per day covering time spent in role, plus reasonable travel expenses.

The closing date for applications is 12 January 2023.

For further details and to apply go to www.gov.wales/public-appointments or for queries contact publicappointments@gov.wales



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Brand new year, brand new ambitions?

by Anne Dunn, FUW Head of Communications



HERE we are again at the beginning of a New Year, with perhaps plenty of ambitions, resolutions and plans on what we can, should and want to achieve. There is nothing wrong with having a challenge ahead but it gets a bit tricky when those plans and ambitions start to

negatively affect our mental health. Surely, the main goal of those plans was to achieve something positive and to feel better about ourselves?

The winter months can also present a challenging time for our mental health, with having to face dark mornings and long dark nights, severe weather conditions and for some the worry of having to choose between eating and heating as the cost of living crisis continues to bite.

Whilst we are no mental health experts at the FUW, we have spoken to a few members of staff to find out what they do to manage their mental health over the winter months and how to boost their mood.

Some embrace each of the seasons and over the winter months try to take a bit of break, relax and enjoy being cosy at home with the family. Others try to manage expectations on what can be achieved in a day and prioritise the really important stuff over the nice-to-do things.

Others have said whilst they don't get much time on a busy day to do much for their mental health, they close their eyes and take a few deep breaths, which can be much helped when there's a nice smell around! This works well when you're in the shower with a nice smelling showergel or even when you're having a coffee, but at Christmas, there's lots of smells to try it with - from Christmas dinner and mince pies to cinnamon, hot chocolate and even a small glass of port!

What is important however is to be aware of how you are feeling, understand your triggers and most of all be kind to yourself and your loved ones. If you experience a change in mood or notice it in family and friends, please don't be afraid to seek help.

Many of the organisations listed below are just a phone call or a text away to help you and your family.



<p>Samaritans: 116 123 or Welsh Language Line (Llinell Gymraeg): 0808 164 0123</p> 	<p>DPJ Foundation: Call 0800 587 4262 / Text 07860 048799</p> 	<p>Mind Cymru: 0300 123 3393 / info@mind.org.uk / Text 86463</p> 	<p>FCN: 03000 111 999</p> 	<p>RABI: 0808 281 9490</p> 	<p>Tir Dewi: 0800 121 4722</p> 
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5 Years of Share the Load

by Kate Miles, Charity Manager and Elen Gwen Williams, Charity Marketing & Engagement Assistant, the DPJ Foundation

ON January 15 2023 we reach a milestone at the DPJ Foundation, our confidential Share the Load support helpline has been helping farmers and their families across Wales for 5 years. In that time, we have provided confidential professional counselling to more than 745 people throughout Wales.

When the helpline was first launched in 2018, it was expected to just help people in South West Wales. However, it quickly became apparent that there was a need for this service across the whole of the country and in the autumn of 2019 (thanks to funding from the Welsh Government) the service was rolled out Wales-wide.

In the 5 years of the Share the Load service, we have helped people with issues ranging from loneliness, feeling isolated and unhappy, to dealing with the fallout of a broken relationship, the loss of a family member or to having thoughts of suicide and not being able to see a way forward. We have been told by people who use our helpline and counselling service that their call to us saved their life.

One myth that we have been trying to bust is that the Share the Load service is only for people in a mental health crisis.

It's not, it is there for anyone who feels that they need someone to talk to and that they could benefit from an impartial and non-judgmental ear. If you call or text the helpline, you don't have to take up the counselling offer. However, around 80% of people do.

The pace of growth is accelerating. In 2018 we helped just 59 people, by 2021 that had grown to 182 people receiving support. At the point of writing this in December 2022, we have provided counselling to 232 people so far this year.

Now this doesn't necessarily mean that things are getting harder (though there is certainly an element of that) but rather that more people know about our service and are seeking help.

Some of the people we help first approached another charity (such as Tir Dewi, RABI or FCN) who identified that we could also provide support through our professional counselling alongside the support that they provide.

This is a message that we are keen to promote: don't worry about who you contact first, just pick up the phone. We all work together complimenting each other's services.

So what is the next challenge for Share the Load?

We are looking for some additional volunteers to start our training programme with a view to helping support on the helpline.

We are hoping to increase the number of people accessing our support from those parts of Wales with a lower uptake (in particular the South East and North East and the Valleys).

To do this, we will be working with our Regional Champions (volunteers who promote our services) to raise awareness as well as building links with other organisations.

We will also need some additional Regional Champions in the areas we have lower uptake (and elsewhere).

If you think that you could volunteer with DPJ, either on our Share the Load helpline or by helping to raise awareness as a Regional Champion, we would love to hear from you. Visit our website: www.thedpjfoundation.co.uk/work-with-us/ for details or call Kate on 07984 169652.

Working together, we can support even more people when they need it.

5 Years of SHARE THE LOAD

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Stop, think and stay safe on your farm

by Ian Rickman, FUW Deputy President

AT the beginning of a new year we are prone to making new year's resolutions and fully intend on sticking to them for the year. We aim to be happier, healthier, have better mental health, look after ourselves and our family, spend more time with loved ones - the usual suspects will be at the top of the list no doubt.

There is however one resolution we hope you will stick to and that is making the promise that you will come home at the end of the day. That you will make every effort to be safe on farm and manage the risks you face on a daily basis in such a way that your safety and that of those around you is not compromised in any way.

Last year was another year of tragedies on Welsh farms and too many families have been devastated by the loss of a loved one, or by incidents that have led to life-changing injuries.

Life is never the same again for family members left behind after a work-related death, or for those looking after someone with a long-term illness or serious injury caused by their work. All these farmers and their families are in our thoughts.

So at the beginning of this new year I ask every one of you to make the promise that this will be the year when you give farm safety some serious consideration.

"Make the promise that this will be the year when you give farm safety some serious consideration."

If there is anything you can do to make your

farm safer, then let this be the year when you find out what you should do to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.



Most of us know that there are a number of areas where we can probably do a lot better, such as keeping children safe, moving and overturning vehicles, handling machinery and livestock and working at heights but there are many more.

As a partner of the Wales Farm Safety Partnership Group, the FUW and FUW Insurance Services remind you that help is at hand and subsidised training courses, fully-funded guidance from a farm safety mentor, free guidance and publicity materials will all help you 'stop, think and stay safe on your farm.' In fact there are information sessions coming up towards the end of January and start of February that members are welcome to attend. They are free and will offer the chance to ask plenty of questions and get information on how to be safer on your farm.

Another good place to get further information is social media and we would encourage you to follow and like WFSP on the usual social media channels. Just look up Farm Safety Wales on Facebook and Twitter to find out what campaigns and themes are planned, what resources you can access and how you can make your farm a safer place.

Farm safety campaign helping school children recognise the risks

AT this year's Winter Fair in BUILT WELLS, Welsh Government Rural Affairs Minister Lesley Griffiths launched a new bilingual farm safety publicity campaign targeting primary-age school children in Wales.

Produced by the Wales Farm Safety Partnership (WFSP), a collaboration of some of the key rural stakeholder organisations in Wales, a short video together with two colourful A4 workbooks aimed at children aged from four to seven and from seven to eleven years old, will encourage these age groups to learn about the importance of farm safety and protect themselves from some of the most common hazards on farms.

The dangers of moving vehicles, falling from heights, slurry tanks and getting too close to animals are just a few of the 'high risk' areas that will be highlighted in the new campaign where hard-hitting facts will be easily understood through the highly engaging, informative video as well as the workbook puzzles, word-searches and quizzes. Each workbook will also contain a 'Farm safety emergency plan', which will encourage youngsters to sit down with older family members to complete and display this in a visible place, serving as a daily reminder of 'how to stay safe'.

The Minister, who was introduced by well-known television presenter and WFSP ambassador Alun Elidyr, explained that although farms can be a fantastic source of learning, both inspiring and informing youngsters to learn where their food comes from and to respect animals and nature, it is essential that they are made aware of the many hazards too.

"Farms are wonderful places for children to grow up and provide great experiences for them. However, farms can be dangerous places too and tragically, accidents relating to children continue to occur on farms here in Wales year after year - each one a heart-breaking tragedy that can devastate families, friends and rural communities," said the Minister.



From left, Television presenter and Wales Farm Safety Partnership (WFSP) ambassador Alun Elidyr, Sabrina Davies from Brynrhydd Farm, Howey with 3 year old daughter Tori who visited the WFSP stand and WFSP ambassador Glyn Davies.

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Testing times for farmers

FOLLOWING years of historically low interest rates the whole of the country is now facing potentially difficult and uncertain times ahead. The worry of how to mitigate spiralling costs is a very real concern for many farmers.

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NEWYDDION O'R SIR / FUW COUNTY NEWS



Blwyddyn Newydd Dda oddi wrth tîm UAC
Happy New Year from the FUW team

New roles for Gwynedd and Emyr



FUW County Executive Officers Gwynedd Watkin, (*pictured left*), from the Caernarfonshire branch and Emyr Davies, (*pictured right*), from the Montgomeryshire branch have been appointed as Senior County Executive Officers.

Gwynedd manages the Anglesey, Caernarfon, Carmarthen, Meirionnydd and Pembrokeshire branches while Emyr manages the Denbigh & Flint, Montgomery, Brecon & Radnor, Gwent, Glamorgan and Ceredigion branches.



anglesey@fuw.org.uk

ANGLESEY 01248 750250

Ymunwch â ni am frechwast!

Os byddwch chi ar yr Ynys fore dydd Sadwrn y 28ain o Ionawr, ewch da chi draw i Gaffi Mart Morgan Evans yng Ngaerwen rhwng 9.30yb a 12.30yp. Yno fe gewch wledd o gynnyrch lleol wedi ei goginio ar eich cyfer, bwyd maethlon a blasus i gyd o'r filltir sgwâr, am swm rhesymol gyda'r elw'n mynd tuag at elusen y Llywydd, sef y DPJ Foundation. Bydd angen archebu eich lle drwy alw 01248 750250, edrychwn ymlaen at eich gweld am lond bol o frechwast.



If you'll be on the Island on Saturday morning January 28, head over to the cafe at Morgan Evans Gaerwen Auction Centre between 9.30am and 12.30pm, where a feast of local nutritious and delicious food will be cooked for you, for a reasonable price with the profits going to the President's charity, the DPJ Foundation. You will need to book your place by calling 01248 750250, we look forward to seeing you for a hearty breakfast.

CAERNARFON

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Llwyddiant ysgubol gyda'u moch

Daeth llwyddiant a hapusrwydd mawr i deulu o Ogledd Cymru wrth gystadlu yn Ffair Aeaf Frenhinol Cymru gyda'u moch.

Enillodd Huw, Ela, Emyr ac Anest Roberts, Ffridd, Pwllheli, aelodau o gangen UAC Sir Gaernarfon, Bencampwriaeth y Pâr o Foch gyda dwy sbinwch wedi eu geni a'u magu ganddynt, a Phrif Bencampwriaeth y Moch Unigol, gyda mochyn pedigri Cymreig wedi ei eni ar Awst 23 2022. Llongyfarchiadau mawr iddynt.

A family from North Wales enjoyed huge success after competing with their pigs at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair. Huw, Ela, Emyr and Anest Roberts, Ffridd, Pwllheli, members of the FUW Caernarfon branch, won the Champion Pair of pigs with two gilts born and bred by the family, and the Singles Championship, with a Welsh pedigree pig born on August 23 2022. Congratulations to them.



O'r chwith, Anest, Ela a Huw Roberts gyda Swyddog Polisi UAC Teleri Fielden a fu hefyd yn cyflwyno rhaglenni Y Sioe o'r Ffair Aeaf ar gyfer SAC.

Sêl Nadolig Llanrwst



Llongyfarchiadau i Mr Gethin Jones, Garth y Pigau, Nant Y Rhiw, Llanrwst ar ennill Pencampwr yr Ŵyn Tew ym Marchnad Llanrwst.



Enillydd Pencampwriaeth Adran y Defaid oedd Trefor Jones o fferm Bodychain Uchaf, Llanllyfni.



Enillydd Pencampwriaeth y Gwartheg oedd Glyn Williams, Tyddyn Deicws, Gwytherin.

CARMARTHEN

carmarthen@fuw.org.uk

01267 237974

Cheque presentation



From left, RWAS Chair of Council, Mrs Nicola Davies, RWAS Chair of Board, Professor Wynne Jones, FUW President Glyn Roberts and FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman.

A staggering £2,034.45 has been raised for the Dai Jones Llanilar memorial fund at a recent dinner that was held in honour of Dai Lewis, John Davies and Steve Hughson within the county.

Bingo night

Join us for an evening of Bingo on Tuesday January 10 2023 at Y Mari Glyn (Talardd), Llanllwni, Pencader, 7.30pm prompt - Called by Mr Adrian Colbourne. Everyone welcome!

Sub-branch meetings

Dates for your diary - a member of the FUW's Policy team will be attending every meeting.

Southern Area Sub Branch Meeting - Clwb Top Tumble, Monday January 16 at 7.30pm.

Northern Area Sub Branch meeting - The Forest Arms, Brechfa, Thursday, January 19 at 7.30pm.

Eastern Area Sub Branch Meeting - The White Hart Inn, Llandeilo, Thursday February 9 at 7.30pm.

Western Area Sub Branch Meeting - The Llanboidy sports and social club, Thursday, February 16 at 7.30pm.

CEREDIGION

ceredigion@fuw.org.uk

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Llongyfarchiadau!



Llongyfarchiadau i Ddirprwy Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol UAC Ceredigion Mari Davies a'i phartner Ceredig ar enedigaeth eu bachgen bach Tomos Benjamin, a aned ar Dachwedd 28 yn pwysu 7 pwys 9 owns, brawd bach i Enfys Mair.

Congratulations to Ceredigion FUW Deputy County Executive Officer Mari Davies and her partner Ceredig on the birth of their little boy Tomos Benjamin, born on November 28 weighing 7lbs 9oz, a little brother for Enfys Mair.

Enillwyr Clwb 200 winners

Rhagfyr/December

1 - Rhif/No. 197 - Mr John Owen, Troedrhwasgrug, Llanbadarn

2 - Rhif/No. 2 - Mr W.O Thomas, Caeglas, Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn

3 - Rhif/No. 84 - Mr John Evans, Moelifor, Llanrhystud

MEIRIONNYDD

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Croeso cynnes yn Gwernhefin



O'r chwith, Is Lywydd UAC Eifion Huws, Swyddog Sirol Heledd Williams, Uwch Weithredwr Yswiriant FUWIS Gwenno Davies, Swyddog Polisi UAC Elin Jenkins, Gwynfor Jarman a Llywydd UAC Glyn Roberts.

Ar ddechrau mis Rhagfyr, trefnwyd ymweliad â fferm Gwernhefin, Y Bala drwy garedigrwydd Gwynfor Jarman, (gweler isod), a'r teulu. Roedd yn brynhawn gwyh yno gyda'n Llywydd Glyn Roberts, a Eifion Huws, Is Lywydd, a chafwyd trafodaeth dda am sefyllfa'r diwydiant.

Roedd yn ddiddorol dros ben clywed hanes datblygiad y fferm ers cychwyn y fuches odro 12 mlynedd yn ôl. Roedd yn braf iawn gweld buddsoddiad yn y parlwr godro newydd, ac fel mae ei agwedd positif, a'i ffordd o gymryd mantais o bob cyngor a chyfle wedi talu ar ei ganfed.

Diolch hefyd i staff y sir, ac Elin Jenkins

o Adran Bolisi'r Undeb am ymuno efo ni, a chynnig mewnbwn gwerthfawr i'r drafodaeth.

Dyma a ddywedodd Glyn Roberts, ein Llywydd Cenedlaethol: "Cawsom ymweliad fferm ysbrydoledig iawn yng Ngwernhefin, ac roedd tystiolaeth o waith caled a dyfalbarhad i'w weld yn llwyddiant y fferm. Un camgymeriad sydd yn cael ei wneud yn rhy aml ydi gobeithio drwy wneud yr 'run un peth tro ar ôl tro y bydd y canlyniadau yn wahanol, ond dydi hyn ddim yn digwydd.

"Yng Ngwernhefin gwelsom enghraifft berffaith o hyn gan nad oedd Gwynfor Jarman, y ffermwr, yn teimlo bod pethau'n gweithio gystal ag y dylent. O ganlyniad, aeth ati i wneud rhywbeth am y peth. Teimlai nad oedd cadw'r fuwch sugno yn ddigon effeithiol, rhaid oedd gweithredu ag ailstrwythuro'r busnes.

"Edrychodd ar y posibilrwydd o newid o'r fuwch sugno i'r fuwch laeth - dyna felly a wnaeth! Rwy'n siŵr ers hynny, nad yw wedi edrych am yn ôl. Er bod hyn wedi bod yn siwrnai o ambell flwyddyn, un peth yn sicr ar yr ymweliad, oedd bod ffrwyth ei lafur i'w weld yn amlwg - ac yn blodeuo!

"Ar nodyn personol, o nabod Gwynfor ers yr oedd yn ei ardegau, roeddwn i'n gwbl hyderus y byddai'n gwneud ei orau, yn wir, os lwyddith rhywun - mi lwyddith Gwynfor Jarman! Mae ganddo hen ben ar ysgwyddau ifanc. Erbyn hyn, mae Beca, y ferch hynaf, ym Mhrifysgol Durham a braf gweld fod Gwenno, yr ail ferch, yn dilyn ôl troed ei thad ac yn astudio amaethyddiaeth yn y brifysgol yn Aberystwyth, tybed fydd yr oen yn dysgu'r ddafad sut i bori?! Pob bendith i'r dyfodol i Gwynfor, Leusa a'r plant oll."

At the beginning of December, a visit to Gwernhefin farm, Y Bala was arranged through the kindness of Gwynfor Jarman, (pictured below), and the family. It was a great afternoon with our President Glyn Roberts and Eifion Huws, Vice President, and there was a good discussion about the industry's current situation. It was extremely interesting to hear how the farm has developed since introducing the dairy herd 12 years ago. It was nice to see how the investment in the new milking parlour, Gwynfor's positive attitude, and the fact that he's taken advantage of every advice and opportunity has paid off. Thank you also to the county staff, and Elin Jenkins from the Union's Policy Department for joining us, and offering valuable input to the discussion.

Glyn Roberts, President said: "We had a very inspiring farm visit at Gwernhefin, and evidence of hard work and perseverance could be seen through the success of the farm. One mistake that is often made is hoping, that by doing the same thing over and over again the results will be different, but this does not happen.

"In Gwernhefin we saw a perfect example of this as Gwynfor Jarman, the farmer, felt that things were not working as well as they should. As a result, he set out to do something about it and felt that keeping suckler cows was not effective enough.

Something needed to change and the business needed to be restructured. He looked at the possibility of changing from the suckler cow to the dairy cow - and that's what he did! Since then, I'm sure he hasn't looked back.

Although this has been a journey over a few years, one thing is certain, the fruits of his labour are clearly visible - and blooming!

"On a personal note, having known Gwynfor since he was a teenager, I was fully confident that he would do his best, indeed, if someone would succeed - Gwynfor Jarman would succeed! He has an old head on young shoulders. Beca, the eldest daughter is at Durham University, and it's nice to see that Gwenno, the second daughter, is following in her father's footsteps and studying agriculture at Aberystwyth University, I wonder if the lamb will teach the ewe to graze?! We wish Gwynfor, Leusa and all the children the very best for the future."



Cyfarfod Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod gyda staff Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru yn y swyddfa sirol cyn y Nadolig i drafod y buddsoddiad sydd ei angen o fewn ardaloedd traenio mewnol. Dywedwyd fod tir amaethyddol da yn dirywio, a bod rhaid cael datrysiad. Diolch i Mabon ap Gwynfor AS am ddod atom a chynorthwyo i fynd a hyn i lefel uwch.

A meeting was held with NRW staff before Christmas to discuss the investment needed within Internal Drainage Districts. It was noted that good agricultural land is deteriorating, and that we must get solutions to the problem. Many thanks to Mabon ap Gwynfor AS for attending and assisting in taking this further.



MEIRIONNYDD

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Cymhorthfa yn Ninas Mawddwy

Ychydig cyn y Nadolig, daeth Mabon ap Gwynfor AS a Liz Saville Roberts AS i Neuadd Dinas Mawddwy i gynnal cymhorthfa. Bu'n gyfle gwych i'r gangen sirol i drin a thrafod nifer o faterion megis y diweddaraf gyda'r Mesur Amaeth a'r gwelliannau sydd ei angen, argymhellion y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy, sefyllfa ddiweddaraf gyda'r NVZ a nifer o faterion lleol o fewn Meirionnydd. Hefyd bu trafod cyffredinol ar yr heriau sy'n wynebu ein hardaloedd gwledig, ein pryderon a'n gobeithion i'r dyfodol.



O'r chwith, Swyddog Sirol Huw Jones, Mabon ap Gwynfor AS, Liz Saville Roberts AS a Swyddog Sirol Heledd Williams.

Just before Christmas, Mabon ap Gwynfor MS and Liz Saville Roberts MP came to Dinas Mawddwy Hall to hold a surgery. It was a great opportunity for the county branch to discuss a number of issues such as the latest with the Agriculture Bill and the improvements required, the recommendations of the Sustainable Farming Scheme, the latest situation with the NVZ and a number of local issues within Meirionnydd. There was also a general discussion on the challenges facing our rural areas, and our concerns and hopes for the future.

Cyfarfod Blynyddol - cofiwch y dyddiad

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Blynyddol Cangen Meirionnydd o'r Undeb Nos Wener 27ain Ionawr yng Nghlwb Rygbi Dolgellau am 7.30yh. Siaradwyr: Guto Bebb, Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Grŵp UAC, Cefin Campbell AS a Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones, Rheolwraig Cwmni Cyfreithwyr Agri Advisor.

FUW Meirionnydd will be holding their AGM on Friday January 27 at Dolgellau Rugby Club at 7.30pm. Speakers: Guto Bebb, FUW Group Managing Director, Cefin Campbell MS and Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones, Manager of Agri Advisor.

Cyfraniad i'r DPJ Foundation

Ychydig cyn y Nadolig, cyflwynwyd sic am £400 gan Ferched Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru cylch Penllyn ac Edeyrnion i'r elusen DPJ Foundation. Roedd hyn yn dilyn cyfraniadau a gafwyd ym mhabel yr Undeb yn Sioe Sir Feirionnydd a gynhaliwyd ar ddiwedd mis Awst llynedd. Rydym yn diolch yn fawr iawn iddynt am eu gweithgarwch a'u cymorth parod i'r Gangen Sirol bob amser.

Just before Christmas, a cheque of £400 was presented by the Women of Penllyn and Edeyrnion, Meirionnydd FUW to the DPJ Foundation charity. This followed donations received in the Union tent at the Meirionnydd County Show held at the end of August last year. We thank them very much for their help as always to the county branch.



MONTGOMERYSHIRE

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Hafren Hedging Match 2022

Hedgelayers from as far afield as Herefordshire, Llangernyw, Llandrindod Wells and Corwen showed their skills at a hedgelaying competition held recently at Penrhallt, Llanidloes by kind permission of Graham and Jan Breese.

Carwyn Jones, Tŷ Mawr, Dolanog was named Match Champion and best Montgomery style hedger. The Youngest Competitor Award went to Hywel Jones, Blowty, Llangadfan who also won the Best Growth (under 26) from the 2021 Match. The winner of the Miniature Hedge was Berwyn Harding, Hafan, Aberangell who also won the Best Growth (Open) from the 2021 Match.



Match Champion and best Montgomery style hedger - Mr Carwyn Jones, Tŷ Mawr, Dolanog.

Other results include

Montgomeryshire Open: 1. Carwyn Jones; 2. Cliff Hamer; 3. Aled Roberts.

Montgomeryshire Intermediate: Emlyn Jones.

Montgomeryshire Under 26: 1. Eifion Jones.

Montgomeryshire Under 21: Hywel Jones.

Veteran (Any Style): 1. Rita Jones.

Brecon Open: 1. Mark Pritchard; 2. Neville Powell; 3. Brian Price.

Farmers Class: 1. Edward Gethin; 2. Bryn Jones; 3. Rhys Jones.

The Hafren Hedging committee wish to thank all who made the event a success.

Contact details: Cliff Hamer (Chairman) 01686 412496 / Bronwen Harding (Secretary) 01686 420606.

Success for Montgomeryshire YFC

Montgomeryshire YFC members excelled themselves at the Winter Fair in Llanelwedd coming joint overall stock-judging winners, individuals also picked up awards in the chicken jointing, Christmas card and decorating a yule log competition, there really is something for everyone!



Overall stock-judging winners at the Winter Fair.

PEMBROKESHIRE

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01437 762913

Welsh Multibreed Calf Show

Congratulations to the following members who won prizes at the recent Welsh Multibreed Calf Show held in Carmarthen Mart on December 10.

- Any Other Native Breed won by Ben Reynolds & Rebecca John with their Aberdeen Angus Penguin Whitney who won the Female Champion and the Overall and The Gravells Perpetual Shield.
- Young Handlers 12 years and under won by 8 year old Eifion James from the Cleddau Herd of Herefords.

200+ Club Winners

The winners of our latest 200+ Club quarterly draw are:

£60 - Young, Upper Bastleford

£30 - Howells, East Atheston

£20 - Williams, Ynys Deullyn

If you would be interested in joining the 200+ Club or would like an extra number for only £5 per year contact us in the county office.

Land transfers and field boundary changes

Do you have any land changes for 2023? 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

If you have any changes for 2023 get in touch with us.

Charity Breakfasts



As you will have seen on page 9 we are once again holding our charity breakfasts in aid of the DPJ Foundation, if you would be interested in providing sponsorship, helping at the events or just joining us for breakfast please contact the county office on 01437 762913.

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MEAT MATTERS

Teachers crucial to balanced food, environment and nutrition messaging

by Elwen Roberts, Hybu Cig Cymru/Meat Promotion
Wales Consumer Executive

FOLLOWING on from the launch of a new suite of education resources and website for children and teachers, HCC has been taking every possible opportunity to engage with education professionals. This included a series of key events at the end of 2022, and the programme will continue this year.

It's impossible for HCC and farming organisations to be present in every school in every corner of Wales. But what we can do is help to give those at the front line each day - teachers and classroom assistants - information, help and resources. Anti-meat campaigners are certainly trying to engage in education, so it's essential that schools get a balanced message.

HCC therefore joined well over 100 organisations in participating in the National Education Show in City Hall, Cardiff, in November where the new teacher-approved resources and bespoke website www.redmeathub.wales were on show. After this event, HCC staff also took part in a series of training events organised by the Welsh Joint Education Committee in every corner of the country with teachers of food, cookery and nutrition.

Among the key themes of HCC's presence, and of the schools resources themselves, is the need for children to eat healthy balanced diets, the background of how food is produced, and information on different types of farming and environmental sustainability.

Developing these new education resources and engaging with teachers and other education professionals has been a top priority for HCC over the past two years.

There was a real lack of materials which

provided full and evidenced information on how the pasture-based farming systems we have in Wales differ from some other types of food production.

We have also taken the opportunity to present new ideas for teachers on how to include local produce such as PGI Welsh Lamb and PGI Welsh Beef in practical lesson plans, and to help educate children about balanced and nutritious diets.

The events were extremely worthwhile, and we hope to build further on our resources at redmeathub.wales for teachers and children over the next few months.

HCC will be speaking to secondary school educators, alongside AHDB and other partner organisations, at the 'Food a Fact of Life' event in Cardiff in March.

Yn dilyn lansio cyfres newydd o adnoddau addysg a gwefan i blant ac athrawon, mae HCC wedi bod yn achub ar bob cyfle posibl i ymgysylltu â gweithwyr addysg broffesiynol. Roedd hyn yn cynnwys cyfres o ddigwyddiadau allweddol ar ddiwedd 2022, a bydd y rhaglen yn parhau eleni.



PROPERTY MATTERS

Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016

by Kathryn Williams, Director,
Davis Meade Property Consultants

THE Renting Homes (Wales) Act

2016 presents major changes to Welsh residential tenancy law. Many of these changes came into force recently, on December 1 2022, and not only apply to new lettings but also to many existing tenancies that will convert under the new legislation.

The introduction of the legislation creates two new types of letting contracts - "secure contracts" that are aimed more towards local authority and housing association lets and secondly "standard contracts" that relate to private landlord lets.

The RH(W)A excludes some existing letting arrangements such as, but not limited to, caravans, mobile homes, tenancies under the Rent Act 1977 or the Rent (Agriculture) Act 1976, agricultural tenancies under both the Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 and Farm Business Tenancies under the Agricultural Tenancies Act 1995.

Predominately the new legislation will affect assured shorthold tenancy agreements and assured tenancies previously under Housing Act 1988 and where these agreements were with a private landlord, they will have converted to standard contracts from December 1 2022. Existing tenants will become "contract holders" and they must be provided with a new written form of contract by May 31 2023. If a new contract is granted on or after December 1 2022 the landlord must provide a new written contract within 14 days or they could face a penalty for non-compliance.

An important point to note under the new legislation is that properties will be required to meet 'fitness for human habitation' standards, with particular note to smoke alarms and electrical safety standards. There are 29 standards listed under the Statutory Instrument and these must all be fulfilled at the start of a new contract term i.e. before occupation and for the duration of the term too. In relation to existing tenancies that will have converted, landlords will have a grace period until November 30 2023 to meet some of the new FFHH standards such as electrical safety and wired smoke alarms, however the majority of the standards, including the standard relating to carbon monoxide will apply from December 1 2022.

There will also be a number of requirements that a landlord must have fulfilled in order to be able to serve a termination notice. This includes being registered under Rent Smart Wales, protecting the tenants deposit properly, meeting the fitness for human habitation standards, issuing valid gas safety and EPC certificates and providing certain information to the tenant about the landlord or their agent.

Under a new periodic standard contract, the landlord will only be able to serve a termination notice 6 months after the written contract has been provided to the contract holder. In relation to existing AST agreements that have converted, at present there is still scope to serve a 2 month termination notice (not within the first 4 months), however there are proposals to amend this to bring the termination procedures in-line with the new legislation.

For more information contact Kathryn Williams on kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com / 07971 583638.

Mae Deddf Rhentu Cartrefi (Cymru) 2016 yn cyflwyno newidiadau mawr i gyfraith tenantiaeth breswyl Cymru. Daeth llawer o'r newidiadau hyn i rym yn ddiweddar, ar 1 Rhagfyr 2022, ac maent yn berthnasol, nid yn unig i osodiadau newydd, ond hefyd i lawer o denantiaethau presennol a fydd yn trosi o dan y ddeddfwriaeth newydd. Am fwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Kathryn Williams ar kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com / 07971 583638.



MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

"Braf gweld y wlad a'r dref yn dod yn un"

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

CARWN yn gyntaf ddymuno Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i bawb yn 2023. Mae'n braf edrych ymlaen at y dyfodol, ond hefyd edrych yn ôl a gwerthfawrogi cyfraniad gwych pawb yn y gorrffennol.

Roedd y Ffair Aeaf yn Llanellwedd yn achlysur braf iawn a hoffwn longyfarch pawb a ddaeth ynghyd yn gystadleuwyr, cefnogwyr ac yn wir pawb a ddaeth i gymdeithasu - mae'n braf gweld y wlad a'r dref yn dod yn un i werthfawrogi bwyd da a chwmmiaeth arbennig. Roedd gennym dros 140 o gystadleuwyr a hoffwn longyfarch:

Janet Evans o Beulah; Ysgyfarnog neu Gwningen Meinir Roberts, Llwyndyrus; Eitem Nadoligaidd Mim Roberts, Meirionnydd; Seren unrhyw gyfrwng

Margaret Williams, Abernant; Cacen Nadolig i unigolyn (gweler uchod)



Diolchwn hefyd am gael nosweithiau difyr fel cracer Nadolig a noson yn creu torchau, mae yn braf cael rhoi llwyfan i dalent arbennig.

Edrychwn ymlaen at gael cymdeithasu gyda'n gilydd yng nghiniawau Llywydd y de a'r gogledd ac i baratoi at amrywiaeth eang o weithgareddau cymdeithasol. Mae'n braf medru rhannu engreifftiau o'n gweithgareddau ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol ac ysbrydoli eraill i fwynhau ein harlwy.

Trwy dudalennau ein cylchgrawn "Y Wawr" rhoddir gofod gwych i rannu straeon calonogol ac engreifftiau o fusnesau bach llewyrchus, ac unigolion sy'n gwneud gwahaniaeth o fewn y fro.

Merched y Wawr would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and look forward to the various events that are planned for 2023, ranging from dinners to a variety of social gatherings.



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Political Matters

by Libby Davies, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer

BY the time you're reading this, I hope we will have all enjoyed a lovely Christmas and welcomed in the new year - Happy New Year everybody!

Looking back at December we held a virtual meeting with Newport East MS John Griffiths where we discussed our key asks of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill and the Sustainable Farming Scheme. We also spoke about ways we can build relationships with inner-city communities to aid a better understanding of farming, the countryside and food production.

The Royal Welsh Winter Fair is always a welcome opportunity to see members, celebrate agriculture and for many marks the start of the festive season. It also provides great political engagement opportunities.

Over the two days in Llanelwedd we met with various elected representatives raising both overarching policy matters such as the recently launched consultation on a licence to increase the annual holding nitrogen limit and renewable energy, as well as local issues which we know are also important to members including Gilestone Farm and the Cambrian Mountains AONB.

We met local representatives Fay Jones MP and James Evans MS, Mid and West Wales MS Jane Dodds, Plaid Cymru MSs Cefin Campbell and Mabon ap Gwynfor and Shadow Minister for Rural Affairs Sam Kurtz MS.

During these meetings we also outlined our 8 key amendments for the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, including the need for a 5th Sustainable Land Management Objective which explicitly seeks to ensure the economic sustainability of farming families in Wales, the provision of safe traceable food and the protection of global food security. Something the FUW called for during the Senedd

Committee evidence session and has since been raised with various Senedd Members

The Winter Fair also saw us meeting with Peter Fox MS, giving us the chance to discuss his Food (Wales) Bill which aims to establish a more sustainable food system in Wales. The Bill will be scrutinised in the Senedd by the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee and as a Union we'll be following the Bill's progression through the Senedd closely.

At the Winter Fair we also had our first meeting with the new Wales Office Minister Dr James Davies MP when we highlighted our concerns about the reduction to the Welsh Agriculture Budget imposed by the Westminster Government. We also stated our strong view that moving forward we need a much better negotiation strategy and genuine consideration of the needs of the agriculture sector in future trade deals.

Furthermore, we welcomed Farming Minister, Mark Spencer MP, to our stand, where we again highlighted our concerns about trade deals whilst also discussing the skills and opportunities offered by Young Farmers' Clubs, an issue close to the heart of the Minister who is a former Chairman of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs.

Away from the showground, myself, FUW President Glyn Roberts and FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman attended the virtual Welsh Labour Observer Plus event which facilitated a number of sessions with Welsh Government Ministers including a Q&A with the First Minister.

Other sessions looked at Renewable Energy in Wales with Climate Change Minister Julie James MS, and Decarbonising the Economy with Economy Minister Vaughan Gething MS. The event provided the opportunity to engage with elected officials and ask questions on behalf of our members directly to Ministers.

January, of course, brings our Farmhouse Breakfast week and I look forward once again to meeting members, politicians and stakeholders while celebrating Welsh produce and raising money for charity!

New county vice-chair for FUW Glamorgan

THE Glamorgan branch of the FUW elected its new vice chair at a recent meeting of the county executive committee.

Taking over the role is FUW Glamorgan founder member John Llewellyn's daughter Charlotte Llewellyn, (pictured above), who farms 225 acres at Cefn Colstyn Farm, Pentyrch, on the outskirts of Cardiff. John Llewellyn passed away in 2018 leaving behind a legacy of work on behalf of the FUW which Charlotte hopes to continue.

Speaking about her appointment, Charlotte said: "I'm honoured to have been elected as the counties vice-chair and look forward to working with Union officials, staff and members to ensure that we have thriving, sustainable family farms here in the county of Glamorgan."

"In my new role as vice-chair I look forward to tackling farming matters with our elected representatives on behalf of the members of Glamorgan," she added.



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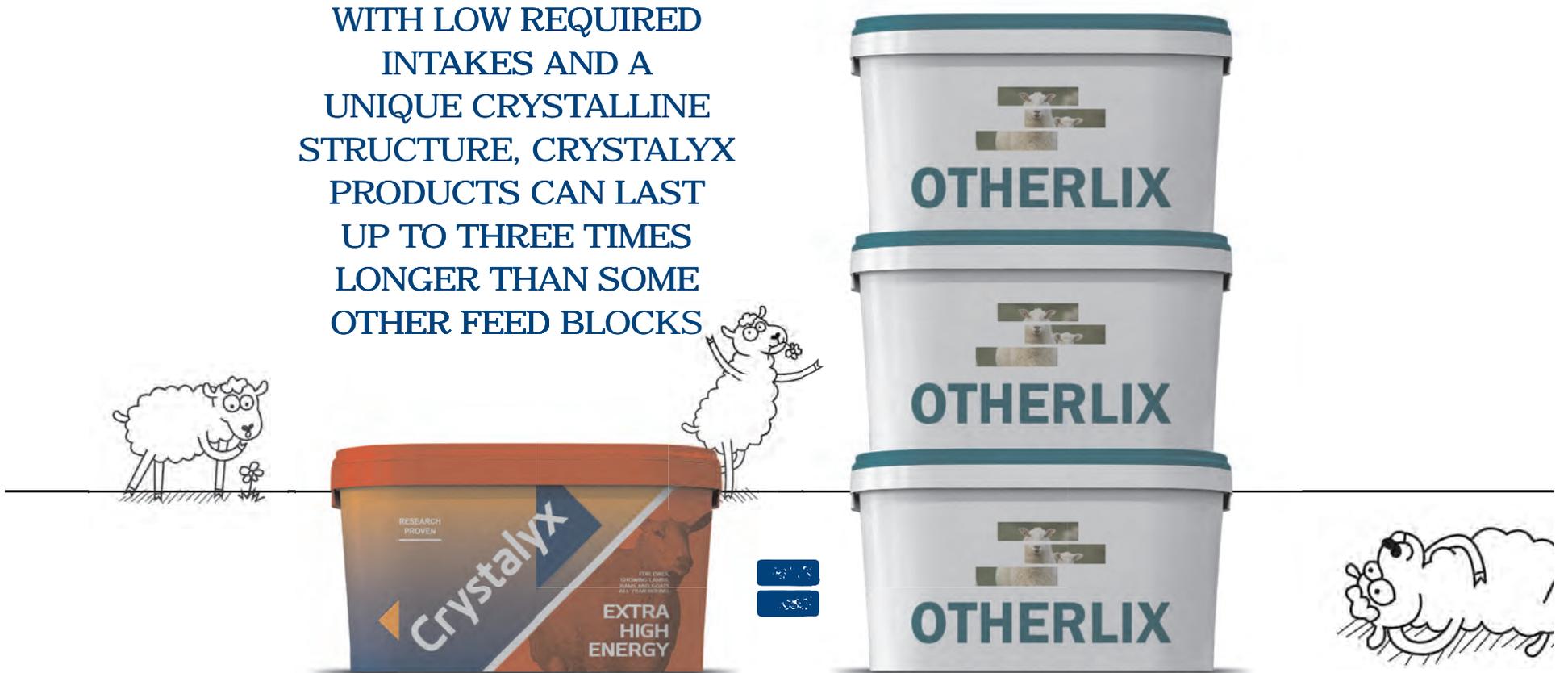
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