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Mental health warning following latest Bovine TB Programme proposals



THE FUW has warned that proposals contained within the recent Welsh Government Refreshed TB Eradication Programme consultation could cause significant declines in the mental health of the rural community.

Alongside proposals to significantly reduce the compensation paid for cattle compulsorily slaughtered due to bovine TB, the latest plans, if taken forward, would significantly increase the number of cattle tests being conducted and lengthen the breakdown movement restriction duration by at least two months.

FUW Animal Health and Welfare Committee chairman Ian Lloyd, (pictured left), said: "Irrespective of farm TB history, the stress and anxiety endured during TB testing, and the fear of facing a potential TB breakdown, continues to hammer the mental health of farmers across Wales and the veterinarians conducting the test.

"Fifty agricultural workers take their own lives each year and veterinarians are 3 to 4 times more likely to commit suicide than any other profession. The Welsh Government must seriously consider the effects its proposals will have on the mental state of the rural community."



In its response to the consultation, the FUW has made clear that it is unacceptable to issue such proposals without any attempt to determine the expected impact on cattle welfare and human health and safety due to the increased gathering and handling required to comply with the testing proposals in the consultation.

Mr Lloyd added that the RABI Big Farming Survey 2020 showed that 31% of the farming community cited financial pressures as a cause of stress.

"The fundamental lack of any impact assessment to ascertain the catastrophic effects that these proposals will incur is wholly disrespectful to the farming community and the enormous challenge that mental health charities supporting the rural community already currently face.

"Collectively these proposals will create a culture of fear and anxiety and directly contradict the aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 where public bodies are required to think about the long-term impact of their decisions on the health, economy and communities of Wales," he said.

Glamorgan farmers discuss food procurement and school meals with Cardiff Central MS

FARMERS from Glamorgan and FUW officials have discussed food procurement and school meals with Cardiff Central Member of the Senedd Jenny Rathbone, when they met at a local farm recently.

Hosting the meeting was FUW Glamorgan member Charlotte Llewellyn, who farms 225 acres at Cefn Colstyn Farm, Pentyrch, on the outskirts of Cardiff. Here Charlotte farms 25 purebred limousin suckler cows and 64 meatline cross breeding ewes. There is also the addition of tack sheep and horses on the land at various times of the year which is a much needed reliable source of income. The lambs are sold privately through a meatbox scheme. The farm is organic and fertiliser hasn't been used at Cefn Colstyn for approximately 30 years.

Cefn Colstyn Farm is stocked with the amount of animals it can grow grass for and Charlotte encourages nitrogen fixing plants like Red Clover and Birds Foot Trefoil as it acts as a natural wormer.

Showing the local MS around and discussing food production on the farm and in Wales, Charlotte Llewellyn said: "I farm organically here and our livestock are raised to leading health and welfare standards. We farm with biodiversity in mind and haven't used manufactured fertiliser on the farm for nearly three decades. Our food should be in every school, canteen, nursing home and hospital across Wales.



From left, FUW Gwent and Glamorgan County Executive Officer Sharon Pritchard, FUW Gwent and Glamorgan Policy Officer Libby Davies, Jenny Rathbone MS, Charlotte Llewellyn, FUW President Glyn Roberts and Martin Gower (Community Liaison officer with Jenny Rathbone MS).

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FUW UPDATE

The Australian High Commissioner and some tall tales!

by Guto Bebb, FUW Group Managing Director

THE Australian High Commissioner, the Hon. George Brandis QC, who is an old acquaintance of mine, visited farmers in Montgomeryshire and Ynys Môn recently to share a platform with local Members of Parliament and try and give a more positive view of the free trade agreement recently agreed between Australia and the UK.

The FUW were present at both meetings. As a Union we have grave doubts about this agreement - doubts which are highlighted by the UK Government's impact assessment that show UK GDP growth of only 0.02% over fifteen years as a result of this agreement. The red meat sector is shown to suffer a £29m hit. The Australian Government's press statement extolls the fact that within ten years their beef quota will expand from 35,000 tonnes to 110,000 tonnes with the sheep meat quota expanding from 25,000 tonnes to 75,000 tonnes. No wonder the UK Government predicts that hit of £29m to the red meat sector.

To counter the above the High Commissioner made two specific points;

1. The £29m hit to the red meat sector was a 'rubbish' figure because it was based on an assumption that there would be no changes to trading patterns as a result of the deal.

2. Australia is at peak capacity and even if they wanted to produce more, they could not do so with the country currently failing to service the demands of their neighbours in the 'near north' as Mr Brandis referred to the economies of Asia.

I am somewhat underwhelmed by these arguments. If Australia are at peak capacity and unable to grow their output and failing to serve the demands of their 'near north' then why on earth were the Australian Trade negotiators so keen to triple their quota for sheep meat and more than triple their quota for beef?

I was also struck by a contradiction between Mr Brandis's rubbishing of the UK Government figures on the hit to the UK red meat sector as being based on no change to trading patterns as a result of the deal. Surely if his argument is that we can ignore the £29m figure because UK farmers will respond to the opportunity arising from the deal is it not also the case that Australian farmers will also respond

to their vastly increased market opportunity? If there is no ability to increase volumes in Australia then why on earth seek such an extension to their quota?

Secondly, I was intrigued by the idea that Australian producers would always gravitate towards their neighbours in their 'near north'. Call me a cynic, but if you do the maths Beijing, for example, is closer to London than Sydney so these warm words about the 'near north' had just a touch of spin to them I would argue.

In truth, I think the Australian Government has negotiated extremely well on behalf of their farmers in order to give them an insurance policy. With geo-political tensions between Australia and China high, as evidenced by the recent significant warship deal with the UK and submarine deal with the UK and the US, the Australian Government are concerned about the potential negative impact of China flexing their muscle from a trade perspective.

The Australian Trade negotiators should be applauded for putting their farmers first and ensuring that they have a fallback position just in case China slaps 200% tariffs on Australian meat as they did recently on Australian wine. I have no beef with Mr Brandis or the Government he so ably represents. I do however question the fact that Welsh MPs for rural constituencies seem to be more interested in allowing Mr Brandis to sell the very thin benefits of the deal rather than asking very real questions of the Government which seems to have seen the interests of UK agriculture as nothing more than a pawn to be sacrificed to achieve the PR success of securing a deal.



Caution over recent Welsh Bovine TB proposals

PLANS which could potentially penalise cattle keepers who 'fail to take notice' of TB information when purchasing stock have been strongly opposed by the FUW in its response to the latest Welsh Government Refreshed TB Eradication Programme consultation.

Risk Based Trading proposals contained within the consultation could mean that there are 'implications' for cattle keepers that make cattle purchases regardless of 'highlighted risks' in the TB information provided at point of sale.

Dr Hazel Wright, FUW Senior Policy Officer said: "Although the consultation contains proposals for mandatory TB information at point of sale, it remains unclear what criteria would be used to determine the relative risk of stock. We would urge caution on this issue as poorly developed Risk Based Trading proposals can make it extremely difficult for purchasers to make informed judgements when buying stock."

In its consultation response, the FUW has called on the Welsh Government to establish a Risk Based Trading group in order to ensure that the information provided at point of sale is not too crude to be useful or too complex to be usable.

"Whilst the FUW does not oppose Risk Based Trading per se, any moves to effectively penalise certain types of purchases will inevitably make some Welsh cattle unsaleable and the FUW would query whether the Welsh Government would be willing to compensate those cattle keepers that have received a Government endorsed 'black mark' against their stock.

"It is essential that the industry is able to fully participate in Risk Based Trading discussions prior to the implementation of proposals which could have significant consequences for both sellers and buyers of cattle," added Dr Wright.



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SAF period, TB crisis and political conferences keeping us busy over the next few months

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

FROM now on we can expect to see countryside lanes explode with daffodils and other spring flowers as we hope to leave the dreary, wet and cold weather of winter behind. We hope for a mild spring that is easy on us and our livestock as lambing is in full swing. Some of you have of course already finished and lambs are out and about in the fields. Here is also hoping for plenty of grass growth to save a few pounds on feed and fertiliser!

March also kicks off our SAF period, one of the busiest times for our county staff. We are looking forward to helping members with the forms once again this year and our staff have had all the right training to ensure that SAF doesn't turn into a paperwork headache for you. So if you haven't called the office for your appointment yet, please do to allow plenty of time for us to see you.

Whilst things usually get a bit brighter this time of year, the days are longer and by the end of the month our clocks spring forward, the ongoing bovine TB crisis keeps a dark cloud over many of our farm yards. Responding to the recent Welsh Government Refreshed TB Eradication Programme consultation we left no doubt in anyone's mind what members thought of it. It required a robust response and that's what we delivered.

The consultation document, which our policy team, county staff and members have scrutinised in detail, contains significant and costly proposals which, if brought in, could see a significant rise in the number of cattle TB tests conducted, an increase in the number of cattle slaughtered and a reduction in compensation payments of around one third.

Worryingly, the consultation contains no assessment of

the impact of these proposals on farm finances, cattle welfare, farmer mental health and veterinary capacity.

In our response we opposed plans which could potentially penalise cattle keepers who 'fail to take notice' of TB information when purchasing stock. Although the consultation set out proposals for mandatory TB information at point of sale, it remains unclear what criteria would be used to determine the relative risk of stock and the degree to which cattle could become unsaleable.

Another worrying aspect of the wider reaching consequences of these proposals is the impact they could have on our mental health. Alongside proposals to significantly reduce the compensation paid for cattle compulsorily slaughtered due to bovine TB, the latest plans, if taken forward, would significantly increase the number of cattle tests being conducted and lengthen the breakdown movement restriction duration by at least two months.

Irrespective of farm TB history, the stress and anxiety endured during TB testing, and the fear of facing a potential TB breakdown, continues to cause unnecessary stress, anxiety and depression in our farming communities, badly impacting the mental health of farmers across Wales and vets conducting the tests.

I can assure members that we are continuing to fight these proposals every step of the way. It is not acceptable that after so many decades of trialling, testing and skirting around issues that we all know need to be addressed, bovine TB remains unsolved.

In a few weeks time we will be attending both the Welsh Labour Party Conference in Llandudno and the

Plaid Cymru Party Conference in Cardiff and I look forward to the opportunity to raise many issues with our elected politicians and ensure the voice of our members is heard loud and clear.

Through fringe events at both conferences, we will put a focus on the Agriculture (Wales) Bill and the future Sustainable Farming Scheme - both issues that will shape the future of farming here in Wales considerably, not just for us but for the next generation of farmers.

On a final note this month, I'd like to wish all our county staff a successful SAF period. It is an intense time for the staff, working long hours ensuring that these incredibly important forms are submitted correctly. I encourage our members and first time form fillers to contact their local office as soon as possible to book an appointment if they need help with filling out the form, office telephone numbers below.

Mae'r golofn yma yn Gymraeg ar dudalen 13: "Cyfnod SAF, argyfwng TB a chynadleddau gwleidyddol yn ein cadw ni'n brysur dros y misoedd nesaf."



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"What is a concern though when we talk about local food production is that our small abattoirs have nearly all gone. The UK in fact has lost 90% of its abattoirs and there are concerns that what is left will close in the next five years if nothing is done. If that happens we will lose further opportunities to provide local food and supply niche markets."

FUW Glamorgan County Chairman Richard Walker, who also attended the visit, said: "The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us how sensitive food supply chains and the Welsh agricultural industry can be to sudden changes in global markets. It also showed us the importance of maintaining a strong domestic production base so we can supply commodity products to UK domestic markets.

"With trade deals being negotiated across the world, we must grasp the opportunity to look after our food producers here at home and put our money where our mouth is. Procuring food locally is one way of doing that and publicly funded authorities should lead the way."

Union officials further stressed that whilst the proportion of local produce procured by some public bodies has increased over recent years, there remain significant numbers of administrations which fail to

support Welsh agriculture, choosing instead to accept produce from countries which often fail to meet the high production standards which are a requirement in Wales.

Moreover, the nature of some procurement contracts means that what appears to be a commitment to procuring Welsh and British produce within procurement rules can be circumvented by carefully worded clauses.

FUW Gwent and Glamorgan Policy Officer Libby Davies added: "Public procurement of food provides an opportunity to shorten supply chains, support the high production standards Welsh farmers must adhere to, invest in Welsh businesses and avoid the negative externalities of the consumption of cheap imported food on Welsh citizens and the environment. This aligns with the aspirations of the Welsh Government's Agriculture (Wales) White Paper and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

"The FUW therefore expects to see leadership from the Welsh Government in ensuring the public and private procurement of Welsh produce alongside fairness throughout the supply chain by supporting Wales' producers, processors and abattoirs - especially with the free school meals plan in place."

"With trade deals being negotiated across the world, we must grasp the opportunity to look after our food producers here at home and put our money where our mouth is. Procuring food locally is one way of doing that and publicly funded authorities should lead the way."



Jenny Rathbone MS (left) and Charlotte Llewellyn.

Welsh Government consultation on planning legislation for second homes - FUW response

by Gareth Parry, Senior Policy and Communications Officer

ON February 22 we submitted our response to the Welsh Government consultation on planning policy and legislation for second homes and short-term holiday lets.

The paper, which sets out proposals relating to the classification of use for dwellings and whether planning permission should be required to change between such use classes, follows the first consultation on local taxes for second homes which the FUW responded to in November last year and is part of a series of recommendations the Welsh Government is considering to tackle the issues associated with second homes.

In fact, many of the points the FUW raised in response to the consultation on local taxes were just as relevant in the response submitted today. For instance, data which highlights that the top nine counties in Wales account for 88% of all second homes in Wales.

While nearly a quarter (22%) of second homes in Wales are located in Cardiff and Swansea, it is notable that two-thirds (66%) are located in rural and coastal counties which contain all three national parks in Wales and a high proportion of Welsh speakers in relation to the rest of Wales.

While nearly a quarter (22%) of second homes in Wales are located in Cardiff and Swansea, it is notable that two-thirds (66%) are located in rural and coastal counties which contain all three national parks in Wales and a high proportion of Welsh speakers in relation to the rest of Wales

The data available demonstrates how second home ownership is more prominent in certain parts of Wales and therefore it portrays the view that it shouldn't be considered as a pan-Wales issue.

However, given that around 80% of the total agricultural land in Wales is situated in the seven counties which contain two-thirds of all second homes, the FUW strongly believes that it should in fact be considered as a pan-Wales issue for the agricultural community.

The FUW also supported the principles of Recommendations 9: Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils' 'Local Market Housing' Scheme, 10: the creation of a new use class for short-term holiday accommodation and 11: trialling a new use class for second homes from Dr Simon Brooks' 'Second Homes: Developing new policies in Wales' report.

Therefore, the Welsh Government's consideration of such recommendations in this consultation was welcomed.

Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987

In principle, the FUW supported the proposal to amend the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (the UCO) to accommodate three separate use classes for primary homes, secondary homes and short-term holiday lets.

While the Welsh Government must ensure that the criteria for each of the three classes is strict enough to ensure that they aren't open to abuse, there remains a big question mark above how they propose for Local Authorities (LAs) to monitor and enforce the use of dwellings effectively.

And notwithstanding the fact that the revised UCO would allow for dwellings to be classified as mixed use, the FUW is concerned that there is currently no form of registration or monitoring requirements for accommodation platforms such as AirBnB making it difficult to enforce those who use second homes for short term letting.

Therefore, we have proposed that a statutory registration scheme is introduced in order to closely monitor the number of AirBnB and holiday home type properties in Wales alongside identifying the bureaucratic barriers landlords are facing when attempting to provide for the rented sector.

Care also needs to be taken to avoid unforeseen circumstances as regards to accommodation provided during periods of the year to agricultural workers in houses that are owned by farm businesses, since such accommodation provides significant advantages for workers and the farming community.

In this context, we also emphasised the importance of rural enterprises dwellings as part of Technical Advice Note (TAN) 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities for farmers seeking to build retirement dwellings or accommodation for agricultural workers despite some restrictions and difficulties such as mortgage availability.

While the proposed changes to use classes would allow LAs to better distinguish between such dwellings, they would not go far enough in helping to tackle the issues associated with second homes and short-term holiday lets without being supported by the following proposals.

Primary Legislation

The FUW is fully supportive of amending the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) (TCPA) to ensure that primary legislation considers the change of use from a primary home to a secondary home or short-term holiday let as a 'material change of use'.

This proposal, as suggested by the FUW Diversification Committee in response to the Welsh Government consultation on local taxes, would go a step further than Recommendation 11 as planning permission would then be required for all changes of use rather than being subject to conditions such as the number of second homes in the local area for example.

Although amending Section 55 of the TCPA would require the passing of a Bill in the Senedd, the attention drawn to the impacts of second homes over the previous two years would suggest that representatives of rural and coastal constituencies would fully support such an amendment.

Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995

While we accept the Welsh Government's concern that the proposed changes are likely to generate additional work for all local planning authorities, the FUW would argue that the revised use classes would only generate a significant amount of extra work for those planning authorities in areas where there is a high prevalence of second homes and short-term holiday lets.

As a result, the FUW opposed allowing unlimited changes between the new use classes without requiring planning permission under permitted development rights for this reason.

Although the Welsh Government states that LAs "would be able to use existing powers to issue a direction using Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (GPDO) to remove the permitted development rights", this would only be applicable when a 'material change of use' occurs.

Whilst amending the TCPA would address this concern, there remains the risk that such changes to primary legislation are not passed in the Senedd.

In order to ensure that the revised use classes remain somewhat effective if amendments to primary legislation are not passed in the Senedd, we proposed that changes of use from secondary homes, short-term holiday lets or mixed use dwellings to primary homes should be allowed under permitted development rights.

Changes from primary homes to either secondary homes, short-term holiday lets or mixed use would therefore require planning permission, as would changes between secondary homes, short-term holiday lets and mixed uses.

While it is understood that the proposed changes will not impact on existing second homes and short-term holiday lets, the above would make it easier for dwellings classified as secondary homes and short-term holiday lets to change to primary homes in future, potentially reversing some of the impacts associated with increasing numbers of second homes Wales has experienced in recent years.



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Article 4

LAs currently have the ability to apply Article 4 directions to remove permitted development rights on a case by case basis. This does not stop the development, instead it requires planning permissions to be obtained which ensures that the impacts can be considered.

The FUW therefore fully supports the proposal to provide LAs with the powers to target certain areas where evidence suggests that permitted development rights would have an impact on the local community and amenity.

While amending the TCPA would ensure that any changes of use between the revised use classes are subject to planning permission, the FUW believes that LAs should still be provided with such powers to help address issues beyond those associated with second homes.

In the event of unlimited changes between the revised use classes being allowed under permitted development rights, providing these powers to LAs will be evermore important. We have also emphasised that Article 4 directions must be reasonably enforced in future in order to ensure that changes of use are effectively monitored.

Planning Policy Wales

One of the aims of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is to ensure there is an adequate supply of sites for new homes for local people. As part of this process, LAs must understand aspects of their housing markets and the factors influencing housing requirements in their area.

With this in mind, we fully support the proposal for PPW to ensure that the prevalence of second homes and short-term holiday lets in a local area are taken into account when considering housing requirements and policy approaches in Local Development Plans.

The FUW would also support the option to restrict new homes to primary dwellings and permitted development rights to control changes of use of existing houses within local communities.

While the Welsh Government must recognise that building estates of social and affordable housing for the benefit of local people cannot be considered as a silver bullet for solving the second home crisis, the increasing demand for housing will inevitably result in further pressure to build more homes and therefore the above will ensure that such developments take local issues and needs into account.



Article 4 Compensation

Furthermore, compensation is paid in certain cases where permitted development rights are withdrawn and where, on application for planning permissions for that development, the application is refused or permission is granted subject to conditions.

In respect of change of use to a second home or short-term holiday let, the FUW strongly believes that applicants should not be entitled to claim compensation if a local planning authority refuses planning permission or grants permission subject to conditions other than those imposed by the GPDO within the first 12 months of an Article 4 direction being made.

If applicants were entitled to claim compensation under such a scenario, it is highly likely that those seeking to buy a dwelling and change its use would attempt to do so with the knowledge that they would not be accountable for paying any associated costs in the event of the planning permission being granted subject to conditions or refused.

Other Considerations

The FUW recognises the Welsh Government's concerns in regards to the possible consequences of the proposed changes, in particular those relating to local housing markets and prices and the implications for LAs.

While there will be positive and negative consequences of such changes, the FUW strongly believes that close monitoring and enforcement will be essential for understanding the implications of any policy changes designed to tackle the impacts associated with second homes and short-term holiday lets.

It is also proposed that any additional revenue generated from increases in planning applications should be used to ensure that planning authorities receive sufficient funding and support to administer such applications in a timely manner.

In addition, in the 'Second Homes: Developing new policies in Wales' report, Dr Brooks highlighted that *"the conversion of more dwelling houses into second homes could be very detrimental to the Welsh language as well as being unacceptable from a social justice perspective."*

The Welsh Government's own figures show that 43% of workers within the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors speak Welsh in comparison with education at 27%, the sector with the second largest percentage share, and 17% for all Welsh workers.

This means that the prevalence of Welsh speakers in the agricultural industry is 153% higher than for Wales as a whole and suggests that the impacts predicted by Dr Brooks to be significantly more acute for agricultural and rural areas.

Furthermore, in 2019, the agricultural sector was responsible for 3.5% of the Welsh labour force (52,860 persons), compared with 1.1% in England and 2.5% in Scotland. However, it must be noted that the local percentage employed in agriculture in Wales is between 15% and 28% in large areas of Wales.

To this end, Dr Brooks' predictions and the data on the locality of second homes demonstrates a clear case that the impacts associated with such dwellings are likely to be most prominent in rural and designated areas where agriculture is one of, if not the largest employer of local Welsh speaking workers.

Political Matters

by Libby Davies, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer

THE opportunities to improve local procurement have long been discussed by politicians in both Cardiff Bay and Westminster. However in the wake of Brexit, and with the Welsh Government-Plaid Cymru Cooperation Agreement promising to increase local procurement and offer free school meals to all primary school pupils in Wales, public procurement of local food has once again been brought to the forefront of discussions.

The draft Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill has recently been published by the Welsh Government, with the intention to ensure social responsibility within procurement processes. It is likely this Bill will be introduced to the Senedd around the same time as the UK Government Procurement Reform Bill, under which the provisions for Welsh contracting authorities will be made.

It is also worth noting that Conservative MS for Monmouth, Peter Fox's Food Bill won support of the Senedd late last year, with plans to deliver a more sustainable, localised food system.

We took the opportunity to discuss local food procurement with Cardiff Central, Labour MS, Jenny Rathbone on a farm visit in Glamorgan. The FUW believes that the opportunity to increase local food procurement, especially in school meals is imperative. In doing so, we ensure our children are eating sustainable and healthy produce, whilst also supporting farmers, businesses and the local economy. We are committed to working with MSs, MPs and local authorities to increase local food procurement. Hence, for the first time, the FUW will be launching a local election manifesto for the upcoming elections in May.

We also had positive conversations with Jenny Rathbone MS on the necessity of payment capping and redistributive payments, while we continue to ask the Welsh Government to commit to said policies in the Agriculture (Wales) Bill. As well as discussing tree planting targets and reiterating that whilst tree planting can aid net zero targets, it is of the utmost importance that we plant the right tree, in the right place, for the right reason. We do not want to see productive agricultural land and family farms

lost to a policy which is yet to be fully thought through.

On a separate matter, in the same week that the UK Government Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee heard oral evidence on the impact of the UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on UK agriculture, the FUW met with Welsh Government Minister for the Economy, Vaughan Gething MS to discuss shared concerns over the UK-Aus FTA. We thanked the Minister for raising concerns over the impact of the FTA on Welsh agriculture and highlighted that this, and all future trade agreements must not undercut our domestic agricultural industry. The FUW remains opposed to the agreement in its current form.

Coming up, the FUW will be attending both the Welsh Labour Party Conference in Llandudno and the Plaid Cymru Party Conference in Cardiff later this month, as well as the Welsh Conservative Party Conference later in May. We will be hosting fringe events focusing on the Agriculture (Wales) Bill and the future Sustainable Farming Scheme at the Plaid Cymru Conference and a more general 'get to know farming' event at the Labour Conference. We hope to see as many Members of the Senedd and Parliament there as possible, showing their support for Welsh agriculture.



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Calon ein cymunedau amaethyddol

gan Angharad Evans, Swyddog Cyfathrebu'r Iaith Gymraeg

WRTH dyfu lan yn yr wythdegau (wedai ddim yn union pa flynyddoedd, neu byddai'n datgelu gormod o gyfrinachau am fy oedran!), nid oedd llawer o sôn am fynd ar wyliau dramor. Yr uchafbwynt bob gwyliau i mi oedd cael mynd am drip i'r mart lleol, boed hynny yn Aberystwyth neu yn Nhregaron. Roeddwn wrth fy modd yn cerdded lan a lawr pob ali yn edmygu'r stoc, ond gallai hynny gymryd peth amser wrth gwrs, pan fyddai angen stopio'n aml i siarad â hwn a'r llall.

Mae diwrnod mart yn parhau i fod yn ddiwrnod pwysig hyd heddiw, ac wedi cyfnod hir o fod yng nghau, dychwelodd y bwrllwm nôl i galon mart Caerfyrddin ar ddechrau'r mis. Roedd tipyn o edrych ymlaen at weld y lle'n ail agor, gan mae dyna'r mart lleol i nifer o'n haelodau'n Sir Gaerfyrddin a chyfagos ac yn cynnig cyfleusterau gwych a chyfleus i werthwyr a phrynwyr.

Cwmni Nock Deighton Agricultural LLP sydd bellach yng ngofal gweithredu mart Caerfyrddin, ond beth yn union yw pwysigrwydd sicrhau mart lleol i amaethwyr? Dyma Mark Burgoyne o'r cwmni i ddweud mwy: "Nid yw bob amser yn amlwg i'r cyhoedd beth yw prwpas mart, ond mae cau mart yn creu gwactod enfawr yn y gymuned amaethyddol na ellir ei lenwi'n hawdd. Mae'n newyddion gwych bod Mart Caerfyrddin wedi ail agor ar yr 2il o Fawrth," dywedodd Mark.

"Mae diwrnod mart yn rhoi amser oddi ar y fferm i ffermwyr, lle gallant werthu eu da byw a'u troi'n arian parod ar gwmp morthwyl yr arwerthwr. Ers canrifoedd mae'r mart wedi bod yn ganolbwynt cymdeithasol i'r sector gwledig lle gall bobl o'r wlad, o'r un anian siarad am y materion sydd o ddiddordeb iddynt neu sy'n eu poeni, fel arfer yng nghysur caffir mart. Ni fyddai ffermwyr sy'n gweithio ar ben eu hunain mewn ardaloedd anghysbell iawn yn gweld llawer o bobl oni bai am y mart.

"Mae masnachwyr cysylltiedig yn aml yn mynychu mart ac mae masnachu arall yn digwydd, gan sicrhau bod y diwrnod yn fwy na gwerth chweil i bawb dan sylw.

"Mae partneriaid *Nock Deighton Agricultural LLP* wedi ymrwymo'n llwyr i'r sector ac maent bellach yn rhedeg tair mart yng Nghymru a Swydd Amwythig."

Wrth lawenhau bod y mart nôl yng Nghaerfyrddin unwaith eto, mae yna ardal arall yng Nghymru'n gobeithio y bydd modd iddyn nhw ddathlu hefyd yn y dyfodol agos. Collwyd mart y Bont-faen ychydig flynyddoedd nôl, ond a oes yna lygedyn o obaith ar y gorwel? Dyma Sharon Pritchard, Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol Morgannwg i ddweud mwy: "Wrth galon ein cymunedau amaethyddol a gwledig mae'r mart. Mewn rhai achosion mae'r mart ar y stepen drws i rai, ac i eraill mae'n daith ddwy awr," esbonia Sharon.

"Yn cael ei hadnabod fel tref farchnad ers

750 o flynyddoedd, saif y Bont-faen bellach heb y prysurdeb a ddaw yn sgil dydd Mawrth. Byddai tref farchnad draddodiadol bob amser yn denu ffermwyr a'u teuluoedd yn wythnosol. Galw i mewn gyda'r masnachwyr porthiant, siopa bwyd a'r daith bwysig i'r banc. Teimlwyd yr effaith o golli mart y Bont-faen ar draws ardal eang, ond yn enwedig gan y cymunedau lleol - gyda cholli busnes i fusnesau'r stryd fawr, ac o ganlyniad i gyfleusterau bancio. Ar ôl blynyddoedd o werthu da byw mae'r

mart bellach wedi'i dymchwel ac yn cael ei defnyddio fel maes parcio.

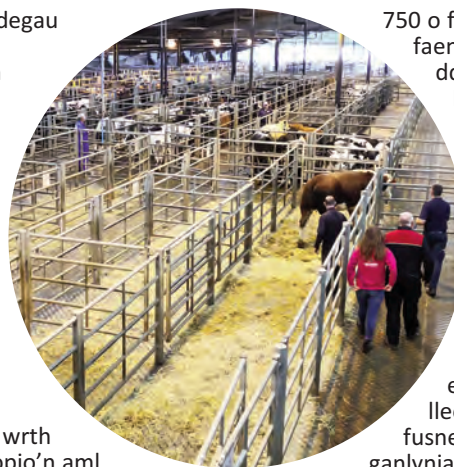
"Y Mart, Y Farchnad ni waeth pa air a ddefnyddiwyd i ddisgrifio'r canolfannau gwerthu da byw, nid dyna'i hunig ddiben. Cynhelir ambell i ddadl dros banded a brecwast gan ddod â'r eneidiau unig sy'n ffermio wythnos ar ôl wythnos yn gwbl ynysig at ei gilydd. Lle i rannu gofid a phryderon ac i'ch cysuro pan fydd pethau'n mynd yn anodd. Mae'r farchnad yn cynnig ymdeimlad o gymuned a'r drws agored hollbwysig hwnnw sy'n croesawu pawb. Mae yna ganran o ffermwyr sy'n byw ac yn gweithio ar ben eu hunain ac mae peidio â gweld neb am wythnosau yn realiti llym i'w galwedigaeth. Pan fydd y pryderon yn pentyrru, gall arwain at ganlyniadau dinistriol.

"Ni fu erioed amser pwysicach mewn amaethyddiaeth a'r cymunedau gwledig i ddod ynghyd ac i rannu eu gofidiau a'u pryderon. Gydag amaethyddiaeth bellach yn canolbwyntio ar effeithlonrwydd a chynaliadwyedd, mae'n rhaid i ni fel diwydiant edrych ar sut y gallwn leihau allyriadau. Wrth dymchwel mart y Bont-faen, mae'n rhaid gyrru awr i'r naill gyfeiriad neu'r llall i werthu gwartheg neu ddefaid. Gyda chyfyngiadau ar gludo da byw dros 65km, mae hyn yn gost ychwanegol i gynhyrchwyr, ynghyd â'r effaith ar eu hól troed carbon.

"Mae UAC yn cynnal trafodaethau gyda'r cynghorau lleol er mwyn datblygu'r prosiect. O sgwrsio gyda ffermwyr lleol, ffermwyr iau a'r rhai yn y cymunedau cyfagos, rydym am alluogi'r ardaloedd cyfagos i elwa o ased a fydd yn rhan o Hyb Gwledig neu Hyb Amaeth. Rhagwelwn y bydd yna ystafell gyfarfod, cyfleusterau rhannu desgiau ar gyfer pob math o fusnesau, cyfleusterau arllwyo a'r adeilad yn un amlbwrpas os yn bosibl. Rydym yn croesawu pob adborth ynglŷn â pha weledigaeth sydd gan ein haelodau ar gyfer hyn. Mae croeso i chi ffonio neu e-bostio gyda gwybodaeth am y prosiect hwn."

Wrth ddathlu bwrllwm mart Caerfyrddin unwaith eto, a gobeithio mae'r un fydd yr hanes yn ardal y Bont-faen yn y dyfodol, mae un peth yn gyffredin, y mart lleol yw calon ein cymunedau amaethyddol, hir oes iddynt!

This column is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "The heart of our agricultural communities."



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Ymwadiad SAF disclaimer 2022



Fel rhan o becyn aelodaeth pob aelod o'r Undeb, rydym ar gael i'ch cynorthwyo i gwblhau eich Ffurflen Cais Sengl (SAF) 2022. Er mwyn ein caniatáu i gyflwyno eich cais bydd angen i chi ddarllen a chytuno i'r ymwadiad isod (yn berthnasol i apwyntiadau dros y ffôn). Bydd staff yr Undeb yn egluro i chi sut byddwn yn cofnodi eich cadarnhad.

As a part of your membership package of the Union we offer assistance with your Single Application Form (SAF) 2022. In order to submit your claim we will need you to read and agree to the disclaimer below (this applies to phone appointments). Your local FUW staff will be in touch with details on how we record this confirmation.

Ffurflen Ymwadiad SAF 2022 (dros y ffôn)

Rydw i/Rydym ni.....(Enwau)

O.....

.....(Cyfeiriad)

Drwy hyn yn cadarnhau ac yn datgan bod:

- Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru (UAC) wedi esbonio i fi/ni na fydd yn derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb o ran ei hun neu unrhyw aelodau o'i staff (drwy'r gyflogaeth) boed mewn cytundeb, camwedd (gan gynnwys esgeulustod) neu fel arall mewn cysylltiad â'r broses o gwblhau fy/ein ffurflen cais sengl.
- Deallaf mai fy/ein cyfrifoldeb ni yw darparu gwybodaeth lawn a chywir yn ôl y gofyn er mwyn cwblhau'r ffurflenni sydd o dan sylw ac ni fydd UAC yn derbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb am wybodaeth anghywir a roddir.
- Deallaf bod UAC yn gallu cynorthwyo gyda chwblhau a chyflwyno y ffurflenni.
- Fy nghyfrifoldeb i/ni yw edrych dros y ffurflen sydd wedi ei chyflwyno a sicrhau ei bod hi'n gywir ar ôl ei chyflwyno ar-lein i Lywodraeth Cymru.
- Unwaith mae'r ffurflen wedi ei chwblhau ac wedi ei chyflwyno rydw i/ni yn cadarnhau ein bod yn ymwybodol bod cyfnod o 30 diwrnod (yn cychwyn o'r ddyddiad cau i gyflwyno y ffurflen) lle gellir gwirio am unrhyw gamgymeriadau amlwg. Rydw i/ni yn cytuno i wirio y ffurflen sydd wedi ei chyflwyno o fewn yr amser perthnasol ac y byddaf i/byddwn ni yn hysbysu UAC am unrhyw gamgymeriadau yn y wybodaeth ar y ffurflen a gyflwynwyd neu os oes unrhyw wybodaeth wedi ei hepgor o'r ffurflen a gyflwynwyd.
- Fy/ein nyletswydd i/ni yw sicrhau fy mod/ein bod yn sicrhau fy mod/ein bod yn derbyn llythyr/e-bost sydd yn cynnwys gwybodaeth am fanylion y caeau a chynlluniau sydd i'w hawlio oddi wrth Lywodraeth Cymru (o fewn 10 diwrnod o gyflwyno'r ffurflen) ac mae'n ddyletswydd arnaf/arnom i edrych dros y wybodaeth sydd ar y llythyr/e-bost yma er mwyn darganfod unrhyw gamgymeriadau, a byddaf/byddwn yn hysbysu UAC yn syth.
- Fy nyletswydd/ein dyletswydd ni yw edrych dros y wybodaeth ar gopi caled/electroneg o ffurflen y cais sengl a gyflwynwyd er mwyn darganfod unrhyw gamgymeriadau a byddaf/byddwn yn rhoi gwybod i UAC yn syth a dim yn hwyrach na'r 15fed o Fai o'r flwyddyn berthnasol neu unrhyw ddyddiad arall a benodir yn lle y dyddiad hwn gan yr awdurdod perthnasol.
- Rydw i/ni yn cydnabod oherwydd lledaeniad o'r coronafeirws a mesuriadau y Llywodraeth sydd mewn grym neu yn cael eu cynghori sy'n rhwystro fi/ni rhag cyfarfod wyneb yn wyneb gyda UAC, fy mod i/ni yn cytuno i'r holl gymorth a roddir dros y ffôn a/neu trwy e-bost. Rydw i/ni yn cydnabod ac yn cytuno bod y penderfyniad i gynnig cymorth dros y ffôn a/neu trwy e-bost o fewn disgrisiwn llwyr UAC ac fy mod i/ni yn cytuno i barhau yn unol ag unrhyw ofynion a osodir gan UAC sydd wedi ei gymryd er mwyn amddiffyn iechyd cyhoeddus.
- Rydw i/ni yn caniatáu i UAC gwblhau a chyflwyno y ffurflen ar fy/ein rhan ac yn cadarnhau bod yr holl wybodaeth sydd wedi ei gyflwyno i UAC yn gyflawn a chywir. Rydw i/ni yn cydnabod a chytuno na fydd gan UAC unrhyw atebolrwydd i fi/ni mewn achos lle rydw i/ni wedi darparu gwybodaeth anghywir neu gamarweiniol neu os ydw i/ni heb ddarparu unrhyw wybodaeth perthnasol i UAC.
- Rydw i/ni yn cytuno i indemnio UAC yn erbyn unrhyw golledion a ellir ei ddioddef gan UAC neu ei ennyn o ganlyniad i wybodeth anghywir neu gamarweiniol a ddarparwyd gen i/ni i UAC neu os ydw i/ni yn hepgor gwybodaeth i UAC.
- Rydw i/ni yn cydnabod boed bynnag y dull o gymorth a roddir i mi gan UAC bod yr ymwadiad yma yn weithredol ac na fydd gan UAC unrhyw atebolrwydd am unrhyw wybodaeth anghywir yn y ffurflen nac fod gen i/ni unrhyw hawl am ddigolledu yn erbyn UAC am unrhyw wybodaeth anghywir, camgymeriadau neu unrhyw wybodaeth wedi ei hepgor ar y ffurflen a gyflwynwyd.
- O ddarllen y ffurflen yma, rydw i/rydym ni yn ymwybodol o'r ymwadiad uchod ac yn cadarnhau fy mod/ein bod yn ymwybodol o'n hawl i gael cyngor cyfreithiol annibynnol ac wrth barhau i gyfarwyddo UAC yn cadarnhau fy mod/ein bod yn derbyn yr ymwadiad uchod ac yn deall ei ganlyniadau.

Arwyddwyd gan

Ar ran (teitl masnachu'r busnes)

Dyddiad

SAF Form Disclaimer 2022 (phone appointment)

I/We.....(Names)

Of.....

.....(Address)

Hereby confirm and declare that:

- It has been explained to me/us that the Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) accepts no responsibility on the part of itself or any members of staff (through their employment), whether in contract, tort (including negligence) or otherwise in connection with the assistance provided in completing my/our SAF form.
- I understand that it is my/our responsibility to provide full and accurate information as requested for the completion of the said forms and that the FUW do not accept any responsibility for incorrect information given.
- I understand that the FUW is able to assist with the completion and submission of the forms.
- It is my/our responsibility to check the completed forms for accuracy after the form is submitted online to the Welsh Government.
- Once the form has been completed and submitted I/we confirm that I/we am/are aware that there is a 30 day period (running from the date of the deadline to submit the form) in which the form can be checked for any obvious errors. I/we agree that I/we will check the submitted form within the relevant period and that I/we will notify FUW if there is any incorrect information on the submitted form or if any information has been omitted from the submitted form.
- It is my/our duty to monitor and ensure that I/we receive a SAF acknowledgement letter/email including details of field and schemes claimed data from the Welsh Government (within 10 days of form submission) and that it is my/our duty to check the data on this letter/email in order to identify any errors of which I/we will then immediately notify the FUW.
- It is my/our duty to check the data on the hard/electronic copy of the submitted SAF in order to identify any errors of which I/we will then immediately notify the FUW no later than the 15th of May of the relevant year or any other date that might be issued in place of this date by the relevant authority.
- I/we acknowledge that due to the outbreak of coronavirus and the Government measures either in place or advised prevent me/us from meeting in person with FUW and that I/we agree to all assistance being provided by telephone and/or email. I/we acknowledge and agree that the decision to provide assistance by telephone and/or email shall be at FUW's sole discretion and I/we agree to proceed in line with any requirements imposed by FUW that are taken with a view to protecting public health.
- I/we consent to FUW completing and submitting the form on my/our behalf and confirm that all information provided to FUW will be full and correct. I/we acknowledge and agree that FUW shall have no liability to me/us in the event that I/we provide incorrect or misleading information or if I/we omit any relevant information to FUW.
- I/we agree to fully indemnify FUW against any losses that FUW might suffer or incur as a result of incorrect or misleading information provided by me/us to FUW or if I/we omit relevant information from being provided to FUW.
- I/we acknowledge that regardless of the method of assistance provided by FUW the disclaimers in this document apply and that FUW shall have no liability for incorrect information in forms nor that I/we have any recourse against FUW for any inaccurate information, errors or omissions on submitted forms.
- By reading this form I/we am/are now aware of the above disclaimer and confirm that I/we am/are aware of my/our right to obtain independent legal advice and that by continuing to instruct the FUW confirm that I/we accept the above disclaimer and understand its consequences.

Signed

On behalf of (trading title of business)

Dated

How safe is your tractor?

AGRICULTURAL incidents may be few and far between, particularly when compared to motorbike and car incidents, but when they do occur they often have serious - and sometimes fatal - consequences. Back in 2009, a 26-year-old farm worker was killed when the tractor she was driving overturned in a field. After an inquiry was carried out it was discovered that the tractor had no seatbelt or rollover protection. Her employer was fined £80,000; though no amount of money could compensate the loss of a life.

In recent years, tractors have advanced both in terms of capability and speed. Larger tyres allow for better control on demanding terrain and the installation of roll bars can help to prevent serious injuries and death. If you operate a tractor, under The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulation 1992 and Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER), your vehicle must be able to move around in a safe manner, be adequately maintained, and anyone who operates the vehicle must receive sufficient training.

Accidents don't just happen, they are caused. Bearing the following in mind will help to minimise risk and prevent injury to you and your employees:

- Safety checks to your tractor should be carried out each morning before use. Create a checklist, using the manual as a guide, ensuring you include the following: the braking system (including discs and pads), oil and fluid levels, coolant levels, fan belt and tyre pressures.
- It's vital for employees to receive adequate training on how to safely operate the tractor. Are they medically fit to operate it?
- If they aren't fitted as standard, make sure you have a seat belt and a roll-over protection structure (ROPS) installed within the driver's cab. The condition of the ROPS should be checked on a regular basis; incorrect mounting of bolts and/or corrosion can cause the structure to fail in the event of an overturn
- If a trailer is used, you must check its braking system and ensure that loads do not exceed the maximum limit.
- Legally, passengers are only allowed to ride in the driver's cab when they have a designated seat.
- Appropriate clothing must be worn at all times when driving the tractor.

We are proud to support farmers with the best advice we can. That's why we recommend that all farm businesses should have their engineering inspection certificates and appropriate handler training/certificates



Clothes should be well-fitted to prevent them from getting caught on moving parts; sturdy work boots with good grip should be worn to operate the pedals; long hair should be tied up; and any jewellery should be removed.

- It's against the law to give rides to children under the age of 13, regardless of whether there is a passenger seat.
- When driving the tractor, ensure there are no loose objects in the cab as these could prove hazardous in the event of an overturn.

- Carbon monoxide kills - never start the tractor's engine in a shed or garage unless all doors are open and the area is well ventilated.

- If a hitch system is used, ensure it's the correct one for your tractor and carry out regular checks on the equipment, including skids, jacks and other supports.

- The 'safety stop' should be carried out each time the tractor is brought to a halt. This involves applying the handbrake, putting controls in neutral, switching the engine off and removing the key.
- Be particularly cautious when carrying out work on slopes. Use wide wheels if possible, never turn down a slope and always descend down the slope with the gentlest gradient. In the event of an overturn, the driver should remain in their seat and must not attempt to jump out of the cab.

Most accidents are caused by user negligence. Carrying out regular checks on your tractor and ensuring that it's operated in an appropriate manner will help to prevent accidents and keep you and your employees safe.

For more information about managing your risks, contact your local Account Executive today, office telephone numbers below.



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Carmarthen	01267 222570
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Cowbridge	01446 773108
Abergavenny	01873 859833
Llanrwst	01492 642683
Dolgellau	01341 421290
Newtown	01686 623093
Haverfordwest	01437 783969

Lack of Bovine TB impact assessment is a disservice

THE FUW has expressed extreme concern that the recent Welsh Government Refreshed TB Eradication Programme consultation has been produced without any assessment of the ground-level impacts of the proposals.

The consultation, which closed on February 8 2022, contains significant and costly proposals

which, if brought in, could see a significant rise in the number of cattle TB tests conducted, an increase in the number of cattle slaughtered and a reduction in compensation payments of around one third.

Dr Hazel Wright, FUW Senior Policy Officer, (*pictured below*), said: "Given the significance of this consultation, it is fair and reasonable for the FUW to expect an assessment of the ground-level impacts of the proposals to have been conducted and provided within the document.

"However, the consultation contains no assessment of the impact of these proposals on farm finances, cattle welfare, farmer mental health and veterinary capacity. Given the interconnectivity between many of these proposals, it is extremely frustrating that no attempt has been made to identify the detrimental consequences of these proposals on the viability of farm businesses."

One area of particular concern to FUW members is the proposal to significantly reduce the compensation paid for cattle compulsorily slaughtered as part of the Welsh Government's TB Programme.

"The proposal to move to average table values for TB compensation would have reduced the compensation received by the industry in 2020 -2021 by around 5 million pounds. However, the administrative and financial costs of gathering cattle more often, paying for additional tests and losing more stock have not been considered within the proposals.

"Without a proper impact assessment it is difficult to determine the true cost of these proposals to the industry and it leads to an unbalanced consultation which does a tremendous disservice to the Welsh cattle sector," added Dr Wright.



Book your SAF 2022 appointment

IT'S that time of year again when we start thinking about Single Application Forms (SAF). The application window opened on March 1 and the FUW is reminding its members that county staff are here to help and ready to take the stress of filling the form away.

The FUW provides this service exclusively to all paid-up members as part of their membership package, which has proved invaluable for thousands of members over the years - saving them time and a paperwork-headache.

FUW Special Policy Advisor Rebecca Voyle said: "The SAF completion process is probably the single most important form completion exercise being carried out by Welsh farmers since 2004, and the financial repercussions of errors on the forms are severe. Our staff are not only well trained but very well practised in

dealing with the complex application process."

Since the Welsh Government mandated that all applications should be done online, the FUW has focused on providing the best possible service to its members.

"I encourage our members and first time form fillers to contact their local office as soon as possible to book an appointment if they need help in filling out the form," added Rebecca Voyle.

You will find a copy of the SAF disclaimer form on page 7, which must be completed, signed, dated and sent (either scanned, photo on email or posted), back to your local county office before staff can start to assist you with your form - this applies to phone appointments. If you have any concerns, please get in touch with your local county office who will be able to answer your questions.

Our Farmer Directors

by Ian Rickman, FUW Deputy President

AS Deputy President of the FUW, part of my role is to serve on the Remuneration Committee, which is a sub committee of the main FUW board.

Recently we have been reviewing and updating the role descriptions of board members to ensure that they remain relevant, and as part of this work we have updated the role description of the Farmer Director.

We have three Farmer Directors and going forward there will be an election for one of these Farmer Director positions at the Grand Council in June every year. The current farmer directors are Darren Williams and Iwan Jones who were elected in 2017 and Alan Gardner who was elected last year. The term of appointment is three years, with a maximum of three terms service.

Iwan is standing down this year, and so there will be an election in June.

The role of Farmer Director is an important one and one that brings an important element and valuable contribution to board our discussions. They represent the interests of all members in directing the activity of the Union, and ensure that the interests of the members are protected and delivered. They also, along with other board members, ensure that the Union articles of association are followed.

Since the establishment of the board, the Farmer Directors have been invaluable in supporting the strategic work of the FUW, using their independent judgement for the best interest of the Union. They have provided constructive challenge and strategic guidance and advice.

We will be recruiting one new Farmer Director at the June Grand Council and so we are currently seeking nominations from the Counties. If any member is interested in the role, or in understanding more about the work of the board and the Farmer Directors, please do contact me on ian.rickman@fuw.org.uk



The Farmer Directors have been invaluable in supporting the strategic work of the FUW, using their independent judgement for the best interest of the Union.



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*References available on request

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Authorise us to deal with APHA on your behalf

In order for the FUW to deal with APHA on your behalf, the Union will now need a signed APHA authorisation form (below). This form authorises the Union to access your data held by the APHA and to act as a representative on your behalf. Representation could include disease control management issues, such as those relating to bovine TB.

If there is no authorisation form, then questions can only be asked in general terms and cannot relate specifically to individual circumstances. Completed forms can be sent to your local county office. Authorisation can be withdrawn at any time. To withdraw authorisation simply email or write to APHA using the information below.

Completed forms can be sent to your local county office

Er mwyn i UAC allu delio a'r Asiantaeth Iechyd Anifeiliaid a Phlanhigion (APHA) ar eich rhan, bydd angen i'r Undeb nawr gael ffurflen awdurdodi APHA wedi'i llofnodi (isod). Mae'r ffurflen hon yn awdurdodi'r Undeb i gael mynediad at eich data a gedwir gan APHA ac i weithredu fel cynrychiolydd ar eich rhan. Gallai'r gynrychiolaeth gynnwys materion rheoli clefydau, megis y rhai sy'n ymwneud â TB. Os nad oes ffurflen awdurdodi, dim ond mewn termau cyffredinol y gellir gofyn cwestiynau ac ni allant ymwneud yn benodol ag amgylchiadau unigol. Gellir anfon ffurflenni wedi'u cwblhau i'ch swyddfa sirol leol. Gellir tynnu caniatâd yn ôl unrhyw bryd. I dynnu caniatâd yn ôl, anfonwch e-bost neu ysgrifennwch at APHA gan ddefnyddio'r wybodaeth isod.

Email/E-bost: apha.cymruwales@apha.gov.uk / Post: Gwasanaeth Maes Cymru/Wales Field Services, Swyddfeydd Penrallt Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1BN

To be completed by CPH (County Parish Holding number) owner

Section 1: your details

Full name:

Email address:

Telephone number:

Business or trading name:

Address:

CPH number:

Section 2: named third party, representative or agent

Provide the contact details of the named third party, representative or agent
Business or organisation:

Full name:

Relationship to applicant:

Address:

Email address:

Telephone number:

Section 3: type of permission

In accordance with the provisions and schedules of the Data Protection Act 2018 and **Article 6 (1) (a), of the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.**

I give explicit consent to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to share the following information they hold in relation to myself or my business with third party identified in Section 2.

I authorise the named third party described in Section 2 to access my data or act as my representative or agent with APHA in the capacities identified below, (place an X in the appropriate section to confirm what type of permission you are giving)

Type of permission given	Permission confirmation
1. To access personal records or data (not financial)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. To access financial records	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. To act as my representative or agent	<input type="checkbox"/>

I take responsibility for the actions of the named party in Section 2 in respect of their subsequent use of my data held by APHA and understand that I and the named party in Section 2 are responsible for ensuring the protection of that shared data.

Print Name Signature Business Name Date

Data Protection

For information on how we handle personal data read the Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter on GOV.UK

I'w cwblhau gan berchennog y Rhif Daliad

Adran 1: eich manylion

Enw llawn:

Cyfeiriad e-bost:

Rhif ffôn:

Enw'r busnes neu'r enw masnachu:

Cyfeiriad:

Rhif y Daliad:

Adran 2: trydydd parti, cynrychiolydd neu asiant a enwir

Rhowch fanylion cyswllt y trydydd parti, cynrychiolydd neu asiant a enwir:

Enw llawn:

Perthynas â'r ymgeisydd:

Cyfeiriad:

Cyfeiriad e-bost:

Rhif ffôn:

Adran 3: math o ganiatâd

Yn unol â darpariaethau ac atodlenni Deddf Diogelu Data 2018 ac **Erthygl 6 (1) (a) o Reoliad Cyffredinol ar Ddiogelu Data 2018.**

Rwy'n rhoi cydsyniad penodol i'r Asiantaeth Iechyd Anifeiliaid a Phlanhigion (APHA) rannu'r wybodaeth ganlydol sydd ganddi amdanaf i neu fy musnes â'r trydydd parti a nodir yn Adran 2.

Rwy'n awdurdodi'r trydydd parti a enwir, a nodir yn Adran 2, i gael mynediad at fy nata neu weithredu fel fy nghynrychiolydd neu asiant gydag APHA yn y rhinweddau a nodir isod, (rhowch X yn yr adran briodol i gadarnhau pa fath o ganiatâd rydych yn ei roi)

Math o ganiatâd a roddir	Cadarnhau'r caniatâd
1. Mynediad at gofnodion neu ddata personol (nid rhai ariannol)	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Mynediad at gofnodion ariannol	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Gweithredu fel fy nghynrychiolydd neu asiant	<input type="checkbox"/>

Rwy'n cymryd cyfrifoldeb am weithredoedd y parti a enwir yn Adran 2 o ran ei ddefnyddu dilynol o'm data sydd gan APHA, ac rwy'n deall fy mod i a'r parti a enwir yn Adran 2 yn gyfrifol am sicrhau y caiff y data hynny a rennir eu diogelu.

Enw mewn priflythrennau Llofnod Enw'r Busnes Dyddiad

Diogelu Data

I gael gwybodaeth am y ffordd rydym yn trin data personol, darllenwch Siarter Gwybodaeth Personol yr Asiantaeth Iechyd Anifeiliaid a Phlanhigion ar GOV.UK

Big Farmland Bird Count events shed light on positive work being done on farms

THE FUW once again joined forces with the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) to showcase the important role farmers play when it comes to looking after farmland birds, as well as helping farmers understand what they can do on their farms to protect birds.

Arranging a series of events in aid of the Big Farmland Bird Count (4-20 February), the FUW jointly hosted a webinar with the GWCT at the start of February, as well as 2 on-farm information events.

Guest speakers at the webinar, which was chaired by FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman, included Matthew Goodall from the GWCT, who talked about the importance of taking part in the Big Farmland Bird Count, the background behind the initiative and how farmland bird numbers will can be increased; FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry addressed policy issues that affect how we produce food and look after the environment for the benefit of Wales' bird species and the webinar will also heard from Welsh beef and sheep farmer and former FUW Meirionnydd county chairman Geraint Davies, who has previously participated in the Big Farmland Bird Count.

Speaking at the webinar FUW Senior Policy and Communications officer Gareth Parry addressed the impact agri-environment schemes have had and said: "The Population Status of Birds in Wales report in 2018 revealed that farmland bird species have declined significantly since around 2004-2005. Why? Well the majority of the decline in UK farmland bird species occurred between the late 1970s and the 1980s, largely due to the rapid changes in farmland management during this period.

"The same can be said about Woodland bird species due to a lack of woodland management in addition to changes in farmland management including the removal of hedgerows.

"Despite the overall decline in bird species, some species such as wood pigeons have in fact benefited from increased availability of their food throughout the winter due to the autumn sowing of crops.

"Agri-environment schemes and other conservation initiatives have included the provision of over-wintered stubbles and planted wild bird crop covers to provide seed in the winter, uncropped margins on arable fields and management of hedgerows.

"However, the Population Status of Birds in Wales Report states that none of the birds of farmed habitat red-listed in 2002 have moved to lower lists, which indicates that measures put in place to help them, such as agri environment schemes, are yet to be successful."

This, Mr Parry added, is despite the fact that during the past two decades, the proportion of Welsh farmland in environmental management agreements has increased from around 19% in the mid-2000s to around 36% in 2019.

"The NRW State of Natural Resources Report states that using land for food production is an essential part of natural resource use and management - While agricultural intensification has undeniably had an impact, there is evidence to suggest that other factors, including afforestation and reductions in agricultural activity, have also had severe impacts.

"A mix of changes to agricultural support policies, the introduction of agri-environment rules, and the impact of

animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth and bovine TB have all led to marked reductions in grazing on hill and mountain land during the past 25 years or so.

"Such reductions in grazing, and the resultant loss of vegetation structure has had adverse impacts for species such as Golden Plover and Curlew. Moreover, research has shown that reductions in sheep numbers is associated with falls in both Golden Plover and

Wheatear numbers, while a different study found that trebling sheep

numbers

led to the

largest

increase

in

species

diversity

on

mountain

land

compared

with either

the removal of

sheep or the

introduction of cattle."

The audience further heard that since 1918, woodland cover in Wales has quadrupled, with the vast majority of the increase down to the planting of non-native conifers. Such increases were particularly notable in the uplands; for example between 1948 and 1983 the area of the Cambrian Mountains under conifer plantations increased seven-fold, to 21%.

"The effective replacement of existing ecosystems with non-native species has had severe impacts on Welsh habitats and species, with such woodland cover associated with population declines in a number of species, including wader populations.

"While predators can have both positive and negative impacts on species diversity, rises in predator, and in particular generalist predator numbers, coupled with changes to habitats which aid predators and predation,

"The important job now is to ensure that future policies provide the stability and support for farmers to be able to strike the balance between food production and the environment for the benefit of Wales' bird species."

can have severe impacts on some species which are of conservation concerns. The abundances of foxes and crows are associated with lower numbers of ground nesting species such as Golden Plover, Red Grouse and Curlew. For example, a study of Curlew breeding success in Northern Ireland found that 82-95% of breeding attempts failed at the nesting stage, with predation - primarily by foxes and crows - accounting for about 90% of nest failures.

"Therefore, given the predominance of Welsh Government forestry plantations in many upland areas where species such as ground nesting birds have declined dramatically, it is worth noting that the number of foxes culled in such forests in Wales fell from between 10,000 and 15,000 per annum in 2003/4 to just 313 in 2011/12," he told the audience.

Mr Parry further highlighted that a survey of badger numbers between November 2011 and March 2013 found that badger numbers in England and Wales have increased by between 70% and 105% in the past 25 years, and this rise is also associated with declines in some species - in particular ground nesting birds.

"Despite agri-environment schemes providing positive benefits for a number of plant and wildlife species, some agri-environment prescriptions appear to have had negative impacts for other species compared with land not under such management agreements - an impact that may well be associated with limits on grazing levels and other agricultural activities which are important for biodiversity," said Mr Parry.

Continues on page 13



Matthew Goodall.



Geraint Davies.



Gareth Parry.



Farm walk at Glyn Roberts' farm Dylasau Uchaf in North Wales.

Continued from page 12

Meirionnydd beef and sheep farmer Geraint Davies, who spoke about his farm management system in the Snowdonia National Park told the audience: "My father and grandfather are still scratching their heads about the things I'm doing on the farm now to try and introduce a more suitable habitat for birds on the farm."

"The key is that policies of the past have really pushed the more intensive parts of our farms to produce more for an ever growing population. It's going to be tricky going forward to strike the balance. Producing food and caring for the environment must go hand in hand and that's what we try to do here on the farm."

As part of the land management strategy Geraint pays particular attention to soil health and recognises the link between healthy soils and thriving bird populations. He said: "The soil health has a direct impact on the bird population. In spring we love seeing our curlews and lapwings arriving back as they migrate back to the uplands here and they always want healthy soils to get their food from."

"We've struck that balance from being a farm that had such important birds in the early 1990s and then losing them all of a sudden, it's such a pleasure to see them coming back."



Enjoying the farm tour at Ian Rickman's farm in Carmarthenshire.

Head of Education at the GWCT, Matthew Goodall, who spoke at the FUW's webinar and at the 2 on-farm events, said: "There's lots of fantastic work already being done out there on Welsh farms, so a big part of the Big Farmland Bird Count is about collecting that information and showcasing it. It's also a fantastic opportunity to highlight what more can be done for farmland birds, and we've got great examples where declines have been reversed alongside productive farming. With biodiversity a big part of future payments farms will need to demonstrate what they've got, and the Big Farmland Bird Count is a great way to collect that information."

In addition to the webinar, the FUW also hosted 2 on-site events for members. The first event was held at FUW President Glyn Roberts' farm Dylasau Uchaf in North Wales and the second event was hosted by FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman at Gurnos in Carmarthenshire.

Members joining the events enjoyed a tour of the respective farms and heard about the different things they can actively do on their land to increase the breeding populations of much loved farmland birds.

Speaking after the farm walk FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "The aim of the Big Farmland Bird Count is to raise awareness of the great conservation work being done on farms across Wales and to highlight what can be done to help farmland birds survive this difficult time of year so that the breeding populations are increased. It was good to hold this event as it shows how farming and nature can and do work in harmony together."

FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman added: "The BFBC is a useful reminder that just making small changes on our farms, such as helping to provide food through the difficult winter months, can help to increase the numbers and diversity of our farmland birds."

"The important job now is to ensure that future policies provide the stability and support for farmers to be able to strike the balance between food production and the environment for the benefit of Wales' bird species."



Bird spotting on Ian Rickman's farm.

Cyfnod SAF, argyfwng TB a chynadledau gwleidyddol yn ein cadw ni'n brysur dros y misoedd nesaf

gan Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC

O HYN ymlaen gallwn ddisgwyl gweld lonydd cefn gwlad yn ffrwydro gyda chennin pedr a blodau eraill y gwanwyn wrth i ni obeithio am roi'r tywydd diflas, gwlyb ac oer y gaeaf y tu cefn i ni. Gobeithiwn am wanwyn mwyn sy'n garedig i ni a'n hanifeiliaid gan fod wyna yn ei anterth. Mae rhai ohonoch wrth gwrs wedi gorffen yn barod ac mae'r wyn allan yn y caeau. Dyma obeithio hefyd am ddigon o dyfiant o ran porfa i arbed ychydig bunnoedd ar borthiant a gwrtaith!

Mae mis Mawrth hefyd yn dechrau ein cyfnod SAF, un o'r adegau prysuraf i'n staff sirol. Rydym yn edrych ymlaen at helpu aelodau gyda'r ffurflenni unwaith eto eleni ac mae ein staff wedi cael yr holl hyfforddiant cywir i sicrhau nad yw'r gwaith papur SAF yn troi'n gur pen i chi. Felly os nad ydych wedi ffonio'r swyddfa ar gyfer eich apwyntiad eto, gwnewch hynny er mwyn caniatáu digon o amser i ni eich gweld.

Tra bod pethau fel arfer yn mynd ychydig yn fwy gobeithiol yr adeg yma o'r flwyddyn, gyda'r dyddiau'n hirach, a'r clociau'n symud ymlaen erbyn diwedd y mis, mae'r argyfwng TB parhaus yn parhau i ledaenu cwmwl tywyll dros lawer o'n buarthau fferm. Wrth ymateb i ymgynghoriad diweddar Llywodraeth Cymru ar Raglen Ddiwygiedig ar gyfer Dileu TB, nid oedd gennym unrhyw amheuaeth nghylich barn yr aelodau ohoni. Roedd angen ymateb cadarn a dyna a gyflwynwyd gennym.

Mae'r ddogfen ymgynghori, y mae ein tîm polisi, staff sirol ac aelodau wedi craffu'n fanwl arni, yn cynnwys cynigion sylweddol a chostus a allai, o'u cyflwyno, weld cynnydd sylweddol yn nifer y profion TB, cynnydd yn nifer y gwartheg sy'n cael eu lladd a gostyngiad mewn taliadau iawndal o oddeutu traean. Mae'n destun pryder nad yw'r ymgynghoriad yn cynnwys unrhyw asesiad o

effaith y cynigion hyn ar gyllid fferm, lles gwartheg, iechyd meddwl ffermwyr a gallu milfeddygol.

Yn ein hymateb, gwrthwynebon ni gynlluniau, a allai o bosib, gosbi ceidwaid gwartheg sy'n 'methu â chymryd sylw' o wybodaeth TB wrth brynu stoc. Er bod yr ymgynghoriad wedi nodi cynigion ar gyfer gwybodaeth orfodol am TB yn y man gwerthu, mae'n parhau i fod yn aneglur pa feini prawf a fyddai'n cael eu defnyddio i bennu risg gymharol stoc ac i ba raddau y gallai gwartheg ddod yn anwerthadwy.

Agwedd bryderus arall ar ganlyniadau ehangach y cynigion hyn yw'r effaith y gallent ei chael ar ein hiechyd meddwl. Ochr yn ochr â chynigion i leihau'n sylweddol yr iawndal a delir am wartheg sy'n cael eu lladd yn orfodol oherwydd TB, byddai'r cynlluniau diweddaraf, o'u dwyn ymlaen, yn cynyddu'n sylweddol nifer y profion gwartheg sy'n cael eu cynnal ac yn ymestyn hyd y cyfyngiad ar symud anifeiliaid gan o leiaf ddau fis.

Waeth beth fo hanes TB ar fferm, mae straen y profion TB, a'r ofn o wynebu achos posibl o TB, yn parhau i achosi straen, pryder ac iselder diangen yn ein cymunedau ffermio, gan effeithio'n wael ar iechyd meddwl ffermwyr ledled Cymru a'r milfeddygon sy'n cynnal y profion.

Gallaf sicrhau aelodau ein bod yn parhau i frwydro yn erbyn y cynigion hyn bob cam o'r ffordd. Nid yw'n dderbyniol, ar ôl cymaint o ddegawdau o dreialu, profi a mynd i'r afael â materion y mae pob un ohonom yn gwybod bod angen mynd i'r afael â hwy, bod TB heb gael ei ddatrys o hyd.

Ymhen ychydig wythnosau byddwn yn mynychu Cynhadledd Llafur Cymru yn Llandudno a Chynhadledd Plaid Cymru yng Nghaerdydd ac edrychaf ymlaen at y

cyfle i godi nifer o faterion gyda'n gwleidyddion etholedig a sicrhau bod llais ein haelodau yn cael ei glywed yn uchel ac yn glir.

Drwy ddigwyddiadau ymylol yn y ddwy gynhadledd, byddwn yn canolbwyntio ar Fil Amaethyddiaeth (Cymru) a'r Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy yn y dyfodol - y ddau fater a fydd yn llywio dyfodol ffermio yma yng Nghymru yn sylweddol, nid yn unig i ni ond ar gyfer y genhedlaeth nesaf o ffermwyr.

Cyn cloi'r mis hwn, hoffwn ddymuno cyfnod SAF llwyddiannus i'n holl staff sirol. Mae'n amser dwys i'r staff, yn gweithio oriau hir er mwyn sicrhau bod y ffurflenni hynod bwysig hyn yn cael eu cyflwyno'n gywir. Rwy'n annog aelodau a'r rhai sy'n llenwi ffurflenni am y tro cyntaf i gysylltu â'u swyddfa leol cyn gynted â phosibl i fwcio apwyntiad os oes angen cymorth arnynt i lenwi'r SAF.

This column is in English on page 3: "SAF period, TB crisis and political conferences keeping us busy over the next few months."



New Countryside Code guidance to support farmers



WITH more people enjoying the outdoors than ever before, Natural Resources Wales and Natural England have set out new guidance for land managers to help them ensure that visitors to the countryside can enjoy it in a responsible way.

Published under the Countryside Code family, the update provides recommendations to land managers on making rights of way accessible, creating safer environments and installing clear signage to help the public respect, protect and enjoy the countryside.

The new guidance advises farmers and land managers on how to make land more accessible, for example by adding self-closing gates instead of stiles where possible and using better signage, and how to report anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, littering, livestock worrying and other offences correctly.

These changes will allow more people to access nature safely whilst also supporting land managers and helping to avoid damage to property, livestock and wider anti-social behaviour.

Chief Executive of Natural Resources Wales, Clare Pillman said: "The Countryside Code is a trusted tool that helps people enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits that nature offers while protecting the environment and respecting others.

"As the days lengthen and people enjoy more time outdoors, we hope the new advice will be helpful to land managers in maintaining an environment where it's easy for visitors to keep to the Countryside Code.

"I would like to thank all of our partners that have contributed to the creation of the advice for land managers."

Natural England and Natural Resources Wales have worked alongside stakeholders, including the National Farmers Union (NFU), Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW), Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Country Landowners Association (CLA), to develop advice which offers clear guidance to land managers and ensures the public can enjoy the countryside in a safe and respectful way.

FUW Policy Officer, Bernard Griffiths, (pictured right), said: "The FUW supports the responsible use and access of Wales' countryside and understands the important role that access to outdoor spaces can play in maintaining good health and wellbeing, as well as its contribution to the rural economy.

"A Countryside Code which is obeyed by all visiting the countryside and supported by an advisory guidance document for landowners will help deliver the required objectives."

Natural Resources Wales urges land managers in Wales to follow the updated guidance, which can be found on its website: www.naturalresources.wales/land-manager-advice



Rebated fuel (red diesel) use from April 1st 2022

IN the 2020 budget, the UK government announced that it was removing the entitlement to use rebated red diesel from most sectors from April 1 2022. Not included are the agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fish farming, and rail sectors and its use for non-commercial heating.

This means that farmers, and contractors hired to perform an agricultural operation on the land, will continue to be able to use rebated fuel in agricultural vehicles and machines used for accepted purposes in the agriculture sector.

Accepted purposes in the agriculture sector include the breeding or rearing of any animal kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur, growing or harvesting of crops, fodder as fuel, growing or harvesting of flowering or ornamental plants, growing or harvesting of timber or other forestry products and the upkeep of agricultural land under environmental management schemes.

If contractors are contracted to carry out agricultural work at a farm, such as silage making, slurry spreading or fertilising the land, they can use rebated diesel in the tractor, when driving to and from the farm, carrying and transporting the materials or equipment that is needed to do the work, and to remove any produce or waste.

The use of rebated fuel is permitted for transporting agricultural supplies; such as seed, fertiliser, fence posts, and so on, for use on the farm, and for transporting livestock between different areas of land occupied by the same farmer and for transporting livestock to a place where the animals will be sold or processed.

In addition, farmers may use rebated fuel in agricultural vehicles to cut grass banks, hedges and



trees alongside roads, clear snow and apply grit, and assist in any clear-up work following flooding.

Some activities are not accepted as falling within the definition of agriculture, horticulture, or forestry. For example, these include, breeding, rearing any animal for sport or recreation, landscaping and flood protection.

Farmers who may run a parallel business from the same premises, that carry out activities that may not be classified as agricultural, should seek guidance if they are unsure whether they can legally use red diesel for those purposes.

Further information and guidance can be obtained from the agricultural unions, HMRC and online from www.gov.uk/guidance/fuels-for-use-in-vehicles-excise-notice-75#memorandum-of-agreement

Operators should note that the guidance is used to support the interpretation of primary and secondary legislation relating to fuel duty, and as such is not definitive.

Silage wrap exclusion from packaging tax welcome news for industry

THE FUW has welcomed an announcement from HMRC that silage wrap will no longer be included in agriculture packaging tax from 1 April. It has been recognised as essential in the fermentation of grass, to produce silage as a quality feed for ruminants, during the winter months and other periods of decreased grass growth.

Speaking from his North Wales farm, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "Without the concession a tax of £200 tonne on all single use plastic packaging would have been introduced, adding to the financial burden placed on the industry already.

"Input costs are at an all time high if we consider energy, fertilizer and fodder costs. With this in mind we welcome HMRC's decision to exclude silage wrap from the plastic packaging tax for agriculture."

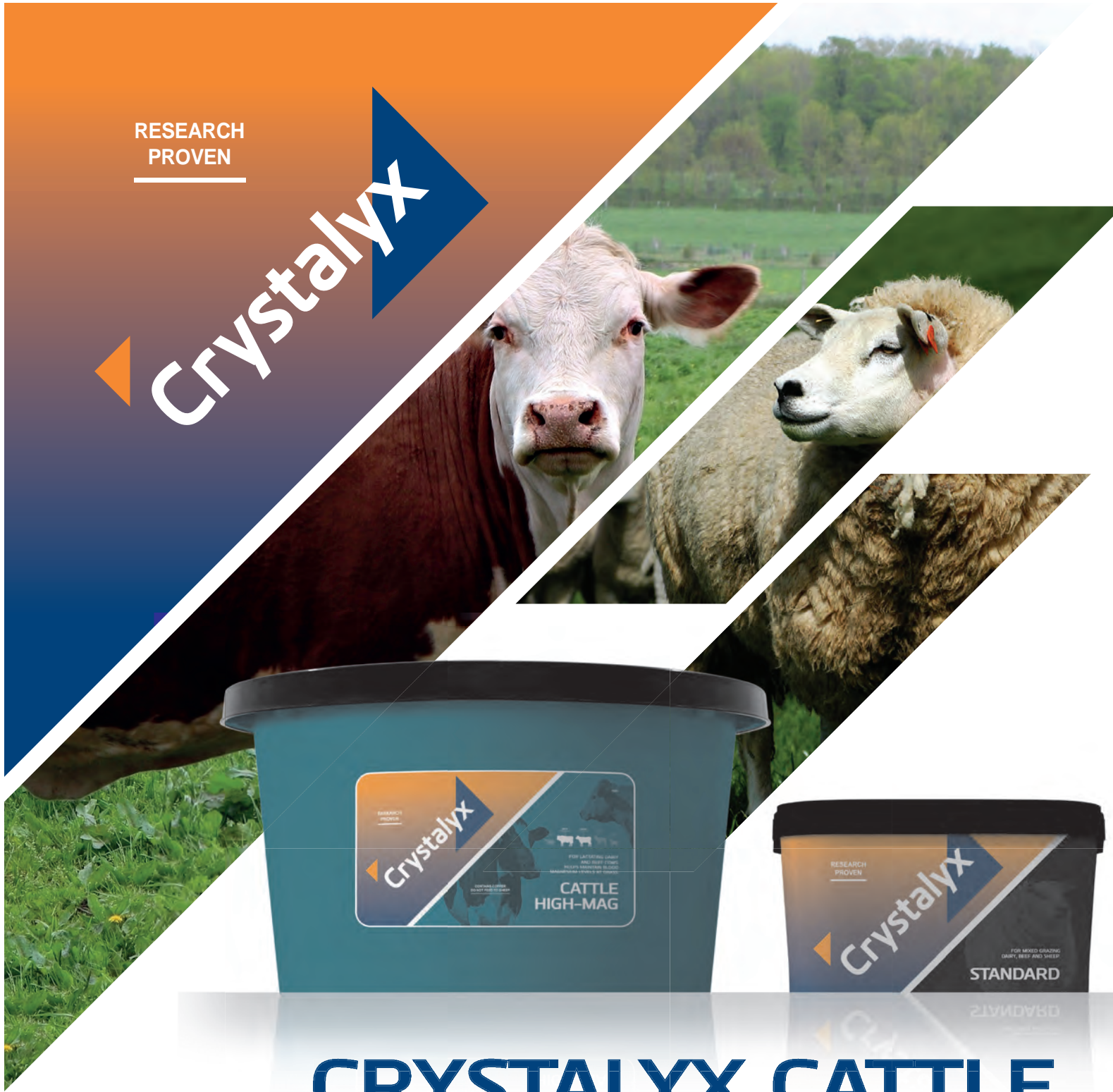


Upcoming EOI window details

Scheme	Summary	Window closes
Welsh Government Badger Vaccination Grant	The Badger Vaccination Grant provides farmers, landowners and other organisations with the opportunity to apply for financial support. £100,000 has been made available for this grant window. Successful applicants receive up to 50% of the eligible costs of badger vaccination. Successful applicants will be able to begin vaccinating from May 2022 subject to obtaining a badger vaccination licence. If you have any questions, or would like to apply for the grant, please contact: Lydia Chambers, BVG Manager. Tel: 03000 255494 / Email: bovineTB@gov.wales	March 10 2022
BPS Transfer of Entitlements	The transfer notification facility for 2022 entitlements is available on RPW Online. RPW must be notified by May 15 2022 in order for the recipient to make a claim on entitlements they are receiving for the 2022 BPS scheme year. FUW members are welcome to contact their local County Office for assistance.	May 15 2022

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- Provides livestock with a valuable source of additional vitamins, minerals and trace elements needed to balance spring grass
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Crystalalx UK

Putting in the miles for #Run1000 challenge

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

The challenge, #Run1000, called on people to sign up to be part of one of five teams - England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and New Zealand.

Winning the overall challenges this year was the English team, who took the lead with a total of 12,893.2 miles; Scotland took second place with 11,226.35 miles; Wales came in third with 9,484 miles, followed by Ireland who put in 2,746.29 miles and New Zealand who added 2,586.94 miles. Collectively the teams covered 38,936.78 miles.

The FUW team proudly added 1,035.4 miles to Wales' overall total. Participating as part of Team Wales were Elin Jenkins, Alaw Mair Jones, Gwenno Davies, Angharad Thomas, Heledd Teleri Williams, Delyth Edwards, Haf Puw, Kath Shaw, Gwynedd Watkin, Huw Jones and Angela Williams.

Putting in the most miles for the group was Gwynedd Watkin who covered a total of 159.1 miles, followed by Gwenno Davies who added 151 miles and in third place for the FUW group was Kath Shaw who covered 143.4 miles.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "I'm so proud of the FUW team! What an amazing effort from everyone. Not only did they collectively contribute just over a thousand miles to the Wales total, they also did an amazing job raising awareness of the importance of good mental health, whilst looking after their own mental health in a proactive way and raising money for the DPJ Foundation.

"I'm pleased that so many took part and although we didn't win the overall challenge this year, it can only be an inspiration to get more people involved and cover the extra few miles for next year."

Wales team captain Emma Picton-Jones added: "#Run1000 2022 was a different experience for many this year. Last year we were in lockdown and for many, experiencing a slower pace of life.

"2022 has brought us back to reality and to see how many people who still took part, despite leading busy lives themselves, shows the importance of this topic.

"Poor Mental Health continues to be one of the leading issues in our sector but

#Run1000 provides the opportunity to talk about it and bring it to the forefront. A huge thank you to all at FUW for their

continued support and the huge amount of miles put in for Team Wales."

"Poor Mental Health continues to be one of the leading issues in our sector but #Run1000 provides the opportunity to talk about it and bring it to the forefront."



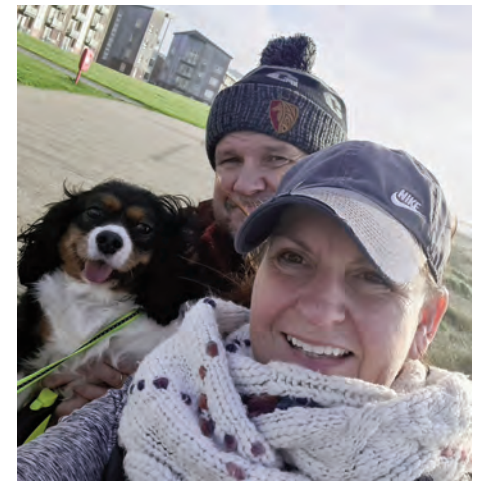
Gwenno Davies.



Gwynedd Watkin.



Kath Shaw's muddy walk.



Angela and Mark Williams.

Teamwork makes dreams work

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

AS the saying goes, 'teamwork makes dreams work', and it's true. Without all our Regional Champions, Share the Load volunteers, Trustees, staff and counsellors, we couldn't be there for farmers and make a difference in the rural communities of Wales. But what is everyone's job in the charity?

Regional Champions

The role of a Regional Champion is to be the eyes, ears, and presence of DPJ on the ground in your area. Our Regional Champions are based all over Wales and work within their local community. They are our local representatives for the DPJ Foundation, are part of the farming community and know what farming in Wales is all about.

What do they do?

- Attend events as a DPJ ambassador

- Speak at events or clubs and groups
- Spread awareness
- Donation collection

If you see someone out in market, at a show or doing a talk, they will be a Regional Champion.

Share The Load volunteers

Our Share the Load volunteers are the ones who are on the other side of the phones, answering calls and text messages from people who need someone to talk to. Share The Load is a 24/7 confidential call and text line with a free counselling referral service, specifically for those in Welsh agriculture. We pride ourselves on our non-judgmental, Samaritans-trained volunteers who are always there when needed.

Share the Load is different to many helplines as it gives the option of fully funded professional counselling in English or Welsh to those who want it.

We have over 30 Share the Load volunteers all over Wales, most of whom are involved in agriculture in some way. They take part in a monthly rota and they usually volunteer for one shift a week. Sometimes, people worry about calling our helpline in case they know the person at the end of the phone. Whilst this rarely happens, whatever you speak to them about will remain confidential in any case. However, if you are worried about this, you can always text us on our text line if you have concerns about speaking to a particular person and ask to speak to someone else.

Trustees, staff and counsellors

We have 9 trustees whose role is to ensure that the charity is governed correctly and legally and that we are

meeting the objectives we were set up for. We have 3 employees: Kate Miles, Kay Helyar and myself.

I look after our social media and marketing and you might see me at shows, in market doing talks or on TV helping to raise awareness of the DPJ Foundation. Kay develops and delivers our training and also oversees the Rural+ training project. Kate manages the charity, looking after our financial and governance matters, building links with other organisations and oversees the Share the Load service, ensuring that our volunteers and staff have the support they need to help you.

We also have a sessional administrator who coordinates the counselling side of Share the Load, Kath Lee. Kath (who is not from the farming community) is the person who will contact you with information if you use our service.

We have a team of around 50 professional counsellors across the whole of Wales who deliver the counselling service.

They are all qualified and affiliated to a professional counselling association (usually the BACP or UKCP). Many thanks to all our team who help to make a difference to Welsh farmers.

If you feel lonely, are going through a difficult time in a relationship, grieving or not feeling like yourself, we are here to help you, confidentially, every hour of the day.

Call Share the Load

I siarad / to talk:
0800 587 4262

neu testun / or by text:
07860 048799

Ar agor / open: 24/7

#ShareTheLoad
#RhannwchYBaich



Keeping Contractors safe on your farm

The law

The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 places duties on the employer and contractors to protect, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of employees and other people who may be affected by your work activities. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require all employers who share a workplace, including on a temporary basis, to co-operate with each other and co-ordinate their work to make sure everyone can comply with the law.

Contractors

Contractors are often used for particularly hazardous jobs, such as cleaning glasshouse roofs, repairing other fragile roofs, or cleaning out slurry stores. Some routinely visit farms, eg for seasonal work or for technical expertise, such as agronomists.

If you use contractors for any work, whether short-term, such as for silage making, or for major construction projects, such as building a grain store, you cannot simply tell them what to do and let them get on with it. Incidents may happen because contractors do not know about dangers on the farm or your workers do not realise that contractors are on site.

Selecting the contractor

When engaging any contractor, whether an individual or business:

- appoint the right people by assessing whether they are competent. Talk to them about their experience and skills in the type of work you want done. Ask neighbours who have used them about their performance. Check for evidence of appropriate pesticide or chainsaw certification (eg certificates of competence), or check their membership of a trade or professional body;
- check they have enough resources, such as people and equipment, to do the work safely;
- provide information they need to carry out risk assessments relevant to the hazards on your farm, such as where overhead power lines run, or risks from working in areas occupied by animals. You and your workers may be familiar with them, but contractors may not;
- check they understand the standards of health and safety management you expect of them;
- agree how you will co-operate and co-ordinate with each other.

Planning the work

If you want the job to be done properly it is worth agreeing beforehand exactly what is to be done, by whom, and how. Talk about the working arrangements with the contractor, in particular what procedures for safe working will be followed. Consider:

- safe systems of work generally, eg on fragile roofs, or separating people from moving vehicles in the farmyard;
- your own operations which may affect the contractor's work, eg the need for cattle to be brought into the yard where work is going on;
- what machinery and equipment will be used, eg are edges of ditches, dykes or slurry lagoons strong enough to support the weight of the machinery?
- what the arrangements for supervision will be. Make sure that someone keeps an eye on contractors on site and that they follow the safe method of working;
- work that is particularly hazardous, where the safe method may be too complex for people to remember and should be written down. Method statements, permits-to-work or similar tightly controlled systems of work will be needed for tasks such as working in a confined space in a sealed grain or forage silo.

Make sure the contractor's employees understand your rules for safe working, as well as the hazards and precautions, and that you understand theirs.

Each new employee coming on site should receive appropriate instruction and training and be made aware of the hazards in your workplace and any emergency plans, eg what to do if there is a fire.



Halcyon

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sales@halcyonplants.co.uk

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Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Gwaith

Bydd Mr Rhys Llywelyn, Rheolwr Datblygu'r Farchnad Hybu Cig Cymru yn ymuno â ni fel gŵr gwadd ar gyfer cyfarfod mis Mawrth sydd i'w gynnal ar-lein nos Fawrth Mawrth 8fed am 7.30yh. Cawn gyfle i glywed mwy am y cynllun gwaith marchnata diweddaraf i hyrwyddo cig Cymreig, os hoffech ddysgu mwy mae croeso cynnes i chi ymuno â ni i glywed yr hyn fydd gan y gŵr gwadd i'w ddweud. Cysylltwch â ni ar 01248 750 250 / anglesey@fuw.org.uk i dderbyn y manylion i fewngofnodi.



Mr Rhys Llywelyn, Market Development Manager for Meat Promotion Wales will be joining us as our guest speaker for the March meeting which is to be held online on Tuesday March 8 at 7.30pm. We'll have a chance to hear more about the latest marketing action plan to promote Welsh meat. If you would like to learn more, you are welcome to join us to hear what the guest speaker has to say. Contact us on 01248 750250 / anglesey@fuw.org.uk for the login details.

CEREDIGION

ceredigion@fuw.org.uk

01570 424515

Bore brecwast 2022

Cafwyd tri bore brecwast prysur iawn yn y sir yn ddiweddar. Cynhaliwyd yr un cyntaf yng Nghanolfan Cymunedol Mynach, Pontarfynach ar ddydd Mercher, 9fed o Chwefror, yr ail yn Neuadd Caerwedros ar y 10fed, a'r un olaf yn Neuadd Felinfach ar y 11eg.

Gwelwyd dros 150 o bobl yn dod drwy'r drysau i fwynhau cymdeithasu a chychwyn y diwrnod gyda brecwast o safon uchel yn defnyddio cynnyrch lleol. Diolch yn fawr iawn i'r canlynol am eu rhodd arbennig: CCF, Wynnstay, NISA Ffosyffin, Dunbia, Bara Gwalia, Wyau Fferm Pengraig, Llaeth Gwarffynnon, Llaeth Teulu Jenkins, Ben Evans, Cigydd Llanon a Chigydd Bow Street.

Diolch arbennig hefyd i'r rhai fuodd yn helpu drwy goginio, gweini, golchi llestri ayyb. Codwyd dros £1,500 tuag at Sefydliad DPJ.

The county recently organised three very busy breakfast mornings. The first was held at Mynach Community Centre, Devil's Bridge on Wednesday February 9, the second at Caerwedros Hall on the 10th and a final one at Felinfach Hall on the 11th. Over 150 people enjoyed the socialising and kicked off their day with a high quality breakfast using local produce. Many thanks to the following for their donations: CCF, Wynnstay, NISA Ffosyffin, Dunbia, Bara Gwalia, Wyau Fferm Pengraig, Llaeth Gwarffynnon, Llaeth Teulu Jenkins, Ben Evans, Llanon Butcher and Bow Street Butcher. Special thanks also to those who helped with the cooking, serving, washing up etc. Over £1,500 was raised for the DPJ Foundation.



CARMARTHEN

carmarthen@fuw.org.uk

01267 237974

Carmarthen mart reopens

We're looking forward to welcoming members and customers back to Carmarthen Mart this month. The mart officially reopened on Wednesday March 2 following a significant refurbishment by Carmarthenshire Council.

Local marts like this one have a crucial role to play in the community, as well as helping us keep our food miles down and saving farmers travelling long distances unnecessarily. Carmarthen Mart is more than just a livestock market, the excellent facilities support a range of rural businesses. FUW Insurance look forward to returning to their mart office to provide a personal service to new and existing clients.

glamorgan@fuw.org.uk / 01446 774838

GLAMORGAN & GWENT

gwent@fuw.org.uk / 01873 853280

Congratulations!



Huge congratulations to our Glamorgan County Chairman Richard Walker and our Acting Vice Chair Rachel Edwards, who got married recently.

Reviving rural connections

by Darren Johns, Wildlife and Rural Crime Officer within South Wales Police

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and paint a brief picture of who I am and what my intentions are in working with you and for you, within my role of Wildlife and Rural Crime Officer within South Wales Police.

I am currently the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer based in Cardiff Bay police station, I have in excess of 28 years service within South Wales. This has predominantly been within the role of Detective. Investigative serious, complex and organised crime across Wales. I have the fortunate experience of being part of investigations that have incorporated some of the most vulnerable and exploited individuals. I have trained officers in the investigation of such crimes, developed programmes of development and directed investigations.

You may ask the questions, how and why has this Detective become the Wildlife and Rural Crime Officer?

The answer is simple, during the most challenging period for us all, resulting from the pandemic, I was seconded to police the covid legislation, jointly with key agencies. It was during this time I was able to experience just some of the issues you were experiencing within the farming community. I was introduced to an area of policing that I had not experienced in all of my service and knew I was not only able to, but determined to try and make a difference within it.

I have had the pleasure of working on and within the farming community in West Wales, which has given me a respect for your situation and highlighted to me how isolated some of you can be.

I knew from this point that I wanted to be a part of this community and wanted to make a difference. This starts with you believing in me.

I, and a group of officers, in South Wales police have been tasked with reviving the connections between SWP and the rural communities, and our hope is to improve your trust and confidence in South Wales Police.

However, this is also dependant on the information and reporting of issues from you as the rural community, without these reports we have no evidence of the issues that currently exist which makes it difficult to raise the profile of them.

I am here to listen and learn, in order to be able understand more of the way in which our organisation is able to protect and, very simply, support our farming community.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. If you know someone who hasn't read this, then tell them about this copper who exists and how you have read about who wants to get stuck in.

Please do not hesitate to contact me - Darren.johns@south-wales.pnn.police.uk

MEIRIONNYDD

meirionnydd@fuw.org.uk

01341 422298

Cyfarfod Blynyddol y gangen

Cynhaliwyd Cyfarfod Blynyddol y gangen ar nos Wener olaf mis Ionawr, a braf oedd gweld nifer dda iawn wedi dod ymlaen ar Zoom. Thema neu deitl y noson eleni oedd 'Beth fydd yn cynnal ein ffermydd teuluol i'r dyfodol' a chafwyd noson ddiddorol a buddiol dros ben.

Roedd gennym ddau ŵr gwadd arbennig, sef Mr James Owen, Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr, Is-Adran diwygio Tir, Llywodraeth Cymru, a Dr Prysor Williams, Uwch ddarlithydd Rheolaeth Amgylcheddol, Ysgol Gwyddorau Naturiol, Prifysgol Bangor.

Gyda newidiadau sylweddol a phwysig iawn yn ein hwynebu yn ystod y blynyddoedd nesaf, dyma beth sydd ar feddwl llawer, sef ffynhonnell ein cynhaliaeth fel amaethwyr i'r dyfodol. Bydd deddfwriaeth yn fuan yn amlinellu'r Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy newydd, a bu trafod brwd ar yr heriau sy'n ein hwynebu, a'r opsiynau sydd gerbron. Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb am ymuno.

The branch's AGM was held on the last Friday of January, and it was good to see a very good turnout on Zoom. The theme or title of this year's event was 'What will sustain our family farms in the future' and we had a very interesting and informative evening.

We had two guest speakers, Mr James Owen, Deputy Director, Land Reform Division, Welsh Government, and Dr Prysor Williams, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Management, School of Natural Sciences, Bangor University.

With significant and very important changes facing us over the next few years, the source of our future support as farmers will be at the forefront of all our minds. Legislation will soon outline the new Sustainable Farming Scheme, and there was a vigorous discussion on the challenges we face, and the options we have. Thank you to everyone for joining.

Croesawu aelod newydd o staff

Braf yw cyhoeddi fod Sam Robinson wedi ei benodi yn Ddirprwy Swyddog Sirol Meirionnydd (rhan amser). Bydd yn gweithio am 2 ddiwrnod yr wythnos am y misoedd cyntaf. Mae Sam o Rydychen yn wreiddiol, ond bellach yn byw ym Machynlleth, ac wedi dysgu Cymraeg yn rhugl. Ar ôl graddio o Brifysgol Caerdydd, datblygodd ddiddordeb brwd mewn amaeth a chefn gwlad, ac mae'n aelod o'r Undeb ers tua 3 blynedd. Rydym yn ei longyfarch, ac edrychwn ymlaen at ei gyflwyno i'r aelodau. Pob dymuniad da iddo.

It is with pleasure to announce that Sam Robinson has been appointed as Meirionnydd Deputy County Executive Officer (part-time). Sam will work 2 days a week for the first few months. Sam is originally from Oxford, but now lives in Machynlleth, and has learned Welsh fluently. After graduating from Cardiff University, he developed a keen interest in agriculture and the countryside, and has been a member of the Union for about 3 years. We congratulate him, and look forward to introducing him to members. We wish him well.



Brecwastau llwyddiannus

Ar ddechrau Chwefror cynhaliwyd dau frefcwest gennym fel cangen i godi arian i'r elusen DPJ Foundation, un yn Nyffryn Ardudwy, ac un yn Nhrwysfynydd. Daeth Mabon ap Gwynfor AS atom, ynghyd â Elen Gwen Williams o'r elusen DPJ. Cafwyd digwyddiadau llwyddiannus iawn, a rhaid diolch yn ddiffuant iawn i bawb ddaeth i gefnogi, ac i gwmmi Castell Howell am noddi'r digwyddiad yn Nhrwysfynydd.

Diolch yn arbennig i staff Caffi Neuadd Gymunedol Dyffryn Ardudwy, a staff Canolfan Prysor/Caffi Llyn Trawsfynydd am y croeso a'r cydweithrediad. Diolch arbennig hefyd i O G Thomas am ei gyfraniad a'i gymorth gyda'r brecwast yn Nyffryn Ardudwy.

Codwyd arian sylweddol i'r elusen DPJ, sydd yn gwneud gwaith mor werthfawr yn codi ymwybyddiaeth am iechyd meddwl - a'r neges bwysig i beidio gadael i iechyd meddwl bwyso ar neb - 'does neb ar ben ei hun ... mae rhywun yna i helpu ... a siarad yw'r ffordd fwyaf effeithiol o ddelio gydag iselder ac iechyd meddwl gwael.

At the beginning of February we held two breakfasts to raise money for the charity DPJ Foundation, one in Dyffryn Ardudwy, and one in Trawsfynydd. We were joined by Mabon ap Gwynfor MS, accompanied by Elen Gwen Williams of the DPJ Foundation. The events were very successful, and our sincere thanks must go to all those who supported, and to Castell Howell for sponsoring the event in Trawsfynydd. Special thanks to the staff of Dyffryn Ardudwy Community Hall Cafe, and the staff of Canolfan Prysor/Llyn Trawsfynydd Cafe for their welcome and co-operation. Special thanks also to O G Thomas for his contribution and help with the breakfast at Dyffryn Ardudwy. Significant funds have been raised for the DPJ Foundation, which does such valuable work in raising awareness about mental health - and the important message is not to let mental health weigh on anyone - no one is alone ... someone is there to help ... And talking is the most effective way of dealing with depression and poor mental health.



MONTGOMERYSHIRE

montgomeryshire@fuw.org.uk

01686 626889

Minister visits county



On Friday February 11, Rebecca Pow MP, Minister for Water for UK Government visited Cylwedog Reservoir, Llanidloes. The visit was arranged by Craig Williams MP, in which it was a roundtable discussion with Natural Resources Wales, Environment Agency, Severn Trent/Hafren Dyfrdwy, FUW, NFU Cymru and Russell George MS.

The discussion included water security and the role of reservoirs in flood management. More importantly there was a discussion about how important Clywedog Reservoir is towards the flood management on the River Severn within the County of Montgomeryshire and further afield.

PEMBROKESHIRE

pembrokeshire@fuw.org.uk

01437 762913

Busy month ahead

Following a busy February putting all the preparations in place for the 2022 SAF exercise we are looking forward to an even busier March. We will be meeting with Cefin Campbell MS, Regional Member for Mid & West Wales, to discuss the wide range of issues which are currently affecting the agricultural industry in Pembrokeshire and we are looking forward to providing sponsorship for Pembrokeshire YFC's 'An Audience With' competition on March 24 and 25.

In addition, we will be assisting members with the completion of the 2022 SAF, so don't forget to contact us to book your appointment.

200 Club results

February

£25 - Lloyd, Cilshafe

£10 - Thomas, Brynawel

£10 - Young, Upper Bastleford





Knowledge grows

Gwrtait NPKS o ansawdd o'r Ffatri i'r Maes



Rydych chi eisiau gwybod eich bod chi'n defnyddio'ch gwrtait yn gywir i sicrhau bod pob planhigyn yn derbyn y maeth cywir. Mae gwrtaitwyr YaraMila yn gyfansoddion cymhleth. Mae hyn yn golygu eu bod yn cynnwys pob maetholyn ym mhob gronyn. Mae'r gronnau hyn i gyd yr un maint a dwysedd sy'n golygu nad oes gwahanu yn digwydd. Ymddiriedwch yn YaraMila i gael lledaeniad cyson a hyd yn oed cynyddu eich cynnyrch i'r eithaf.



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Cyflwyno Phil Ellis - Prif Weithredwr newydd CFFI Cymru



YN flaenorol, roedd Phil Ellis yn rheolwr gweithrediadau yn ArloesiAber, parc gwyddoniaeth sy'n ymwneud yn benodol â thechnoleg amaethyddol, a dechreuodd yn ei swydd fel Prif Weithredwr Ffederasiwn Ffermwyr Ifanc Cymru ar 22 Tachwedd 2021. Ers hynny, mae eisoes wedi bod yn rhan o brif ddiwyddiadau'r mudiad sy'n dechrau blwyddyn y CFFI: yr Eisteddfod a'r Ffair Aeaf. Ac yntau wedi bod yn y rôl am ychydig fisoedd yn unig, mae gan Phil gynlluniau mawr at ddyfodol y mudiad erbyn hyn, a'i brif ffocws yw'r ymateb wedi COVID ar gyfer clybiau lleol, ac iechyd meddwl a llesiant yr aelodau.

Dywedwch ychydig amdanoch chi eich hun

Yn byw yng nghefn gwlad canolbarth Cymru, rwyf bob amser wedi gweithio gyda phobl ifanc mewn gwahanol sefydliadau ac mae'r Ffermwyr Ifanc bob amser wedi bod yn amlwg oherwydd eu gwaith caled, eu hymroddiad a'u hangerdd dros eu mudiad. Dyna un o'r rhesymau pam y gwnes i ymgeisio am y swydd hon gyda CFFI Cymru. Yn byw yng nghanolbarth Cymru, rwy'n mwynhau cerdded brynau, gwersylla ac rwy'n un o selogion mawr Fformiwla 1 a Rygbi.

Pam wnaethoch chi ymgeisio am y swydd?

Deilliodd fy nghymhellant o weld y gwaith gwych y mae'r mudiad yn ei wneud ar gyfer pobl ifanc mewn lleoliadau gwledig, ac fel y Prif Weithredwr newydd, teimlaf y gallaf gyfrannu fy mhrofiad a helpu i adeiladu ar fudiad sydd eisoes yn flaengar a gwefreiddiol.

Beth hoffech chi ei gyflawni gyntaf yn eich swydd newydd?

Heb os, y peth cyntaf ar y rhestr fydd adfer yn sgïl COVID. Mae wedi bod yn gyfnod anodd iawn dros y ddwy flynedd diwethaf i bawb, felly ein prif flaenoriaeth nawr fydd cefnogi aelodau, clybiau a ffederasiynau sirol i ddychwelyd i ryw fath o normalrwydd mewn ffordd ddiogel. Yn dilyn y cyfnod cythryblus hwn, rwyf am ddo â rhywfaint o gysondeb yn ôl i fywydau ein haelodau, yn ogystal â darparu cymorth gydag adnoddau iechyd meddwl a lles.

Yn dilyn hyn, hoffwn roi cyfle i'n haelodau amrywiol i ddatblygu a thyfu, ac ar yr un pryd, mwynhau eu hamser gyda'r mudiad. Hyrwyddo pobl ifanc mewn ardaloedd gwledig ledled Cymru fydd y gwaith y bydd gennym ar y gweill, a byddwn yn cydweithio'n agos â Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflawni hyn.

Pa Heriau y mae angen eu goresgyn?

Mae Iechyd Meddwl bob amser wedi bod yn her i'n pobl ifanc, yn enwedig i'r rhai sy'n byw mewn ardaloedd gwledig. Mae COVID wedi gwaethgu hyn; fodd bynnag, bellach, ein cyfrifoldeb ni fel mudiad yw mynd i'r afael â hyn yn uniongyrchol. Daeth pethau i stop yn llythrennol y llynedd, ond nawr, mae gennym ni gyfle unigryw i ailystyried ac ailasesu ein blaenoriaethau, a dechrau â syniadau newydd ynghylch sut i dyfu a datblygu'r mudiad ar draws Cymru, â dymuniadau ein haelodau'n llywio ein penderfyniadau.

Ar ôl i Lywodraeth Cymru lacio'r cyfyngiadau, mae'r gorwel yn edrych ychydig yn fwy disglair nawr i'r aelodau a'r mudiad yn ei gyfanrwydd. Mae'r calendr hefyd yn llawn, ac mae'n edrych yn addawol y bydd modd cynnal cystadlaethau a digwyddiadau unwaith eto. Y digwyddiad cyntaf ar y rhestr honno fydd y gystadlaethau Siarad Cyhoeddus ar ddiwedd mis Mawrth, ac yna'r Diwrnod Chwaraeon ym mis Ebrill. Mae'n deg dweud bod cyfnod cyffrous ar y gweill i CFFI Cymru!

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "Introducing Phil Ellis - New Chief Executive of Wales YFC."

Bwciwch eich apwyntiad SAF 2022

MAE'R amser yna o'r flwyddyn wedi cyrraedd unwaith eto wrth i ni ddechrau meddwl am y Ffurflenni Cais Sengl (SAF). Mae'r cyfnod ymgeisio wedi agor ers Fawrth 1taf ac mae UAC yn atgoffa ei haelodau bod staff y sir yma i helpu ac yn barod i ysgwyddo'r baich o lenwi'r ffurflen.

Mae UAC yn darparu'r gwasanaeth hwn yn arbennig ar gyfer aelodau llawn fel rhan o'u pecyn aelodaeth, sydd wedi bod yn amhrisiadwy i filoedd o aelodau dros y blynyddoedd - gan arbed amser a phenbleth gwaith papur.

Dyweddodd Ymgynghorwr Polisi Arbennig Rebecca Voyle: "Yn ôl pob tebyg, y broses o gwblhau'r SAF yw'r un ymarferiad cwblhau ffurflen bwysicaf sy'n cael ei wneud gan ffermwyr Cymru ers 2004, ac mae canlyniadau ariannol gwallau ar y ffurflenni yn ddifrifol. Nid yn unig mae ein staff wedi'u hyfforddi'n dda ond mae ganddynt brofiad helaeth o ymdrin â'r broses ymgeisio gymhleth."

Ers i Lywodraeth Cymru orchymyn y dylid gwneud pob cais ar-lein, mae UAC yn canolbwyntio ar ddarparu'r gwasanaeth gorau posibl i'w haelodau.

"Rwy'n annog ein haelodau a'r rhai sy'n llenwi ffurflenni am y tro cyntaf i gysylltu â'u swyddfa leol cyn gynted ag y bo modd i drefnu apwyntiad os oes angen help i lenwi'r ffurflen," ychwanegodd Rebecca Voyle.



Fe welwch gopi o ffurflen ymwadiad SAF ar dudalen 7, y mae'n rhaid ei chwblhau, ei llofnodi, ei dyddio a'i hanfon (naill ai wrth gael ei sganio, llun ar e-bost neu ei phostio), yn ôl i'ch swyddfa sirol leol cyn y gall staff ddechrau eich cynorthwyo gyda'ch ffurflen - mae hyn yn berthnasol i apwyntiadau ffôn. Os oes gennych unrhyw bryderon, cysylltwch â'ch swyddfa sirol leol a fydd yn gallu ateb eich cwestiynau.

MEAT MATTERS

Retail Data Shows Improving Carcase Balance in Beef Sales

by Glesni Phillips, HCC Data Analyst

NEW British retail data for 2021 shows that the carcase balance issue which had caused a real problem for the beef sector is improving. Although, with the cost of living rising across the board, we need to remain wary that consumers may drift back to demanding cheaper cuts.

Figures from the consumer research specialists Kantar on beef retail trends show that premium cuts such as steaks and roasting joints are forming a higher percentage of the meat that British consumers are buying.

Overall, consumption of beef by British shoppers in 2021 was down slightly on the unusually strong year of 2020 when Covid lockdowns had a profound impact on the retail sector, but was still comfortably above 2019 levels.

People in Britain spent £2.4 billion on beef in 2021, amounting to a total volume of 297,000 tonnes, which is 8.1% below the exceptional year of 2020 but 6.5% above the pre-pandemic trends.

Volume sales of roasting joints in 2021 were 16% up on 2019, accounting for 16.5% of beef sales as opposed to 15% two years ago. Steak sales are also up against the same benchmark, now accounting for 18.8% of the volume of beef sold in British shops, compared to 17.6% in 2019. The proportion of beef sold as mince is falling, from 53.1% in 2019 to 50.4% in 2021.

A balance of sales of premium and more affordable cuts is essential for the profitability of the beef sector. The large proportion of the carcase sold as mince was a real concern in the years leading up to 2019, but it's promising that this trend has reversed, and the reopening of the foodservice sector following Covid restrictions may also help.

The situation will still have to be monitored, however, as the rising cost of living may make value products more attractive.

HCC will continue to inspire consumers to try new recipes with premium cuts. Promotions such as our 'Meat the Challenge' steak sandwich contest proved popular in 2019 and 2020, as did new family recipes using larger joints. These were promoted through online videos and in partnership with both large retailers and independent butchers.

We launched a Welsh Beef competition around Valentine's Day, and our website has a new complete guide to cooking and preparing steaks. For inspiration, head over to eatwelshlambandwelshbeef.com/simply-splendid-steak

Mae data manwerthu newydd ym Mhrydain ar gyfer 2021 yn dangos bod y mater o gydbwysedd carcass a oedd wedi achosi problem wirioneddol i'r sector cig eidion yn gwella. Er, gyda chostau byw yn codi'n gyffredinol, mae angen i ni fod yn wylidwrs y gallai defnyddwyr droi'n ôl at doriadau rhatach. Bydd HCC yn parhau i ysbrydoli defnyddwyr i roi cynnig ar ryseitiau newydd gyda thoriadau premiwm.



PROPERTY MATTERS

The history of rent reviews

by Kathryn Williams, Director, Davis Meade Property Consultants

THE procedure to review rents was first introduced in the Agricultural Holdings Act 1948 and allowed for reviews to take place and for the matter to be referred to an Arbitrator if necessary.

There was no guidance to show the Arbitrator how he should arrive at the "rent properly payable." This created a wide variation in rents fixed by arbitration.

Section 2 of the Agriculture Act 1958 was enacted with a view to standardising rents and it set out specified factors that were to be regarded, such as what the holding might reasonably be expected to be let in the open market by a willing landlord to a willing tenant.

Landlords became concerned with granting tenancies providing significant periods of security of tenure and therefore the supply of tenanted farms onto the market became restricted.

When a farm did become available there was such high demand and many established farmers wishing to increase their acreage were prepared to tender well in excess of market value or the financial returns that they could achieve from farming the holding.

Many Landlords asserted that the high tendered bids represented open market value and began to pursue sitting tenants for increases that could not be met or generated from farming their holdings.

Following this phenomenon of high tendering within the 1960s and 1970, concerns amongst industry bodies were soon beginning to mount. Subsequent reports such as the Northfield Report, published in 1979 were commissioned, which looked at growing concerns about large financial institutions purchasing land. Input from a number of agricultural industry bodies led to amendments to the Agricultural Holdings legislation.

The Agricultural Holdings Act 1984 received Royal Assent on July 12 1984 and came into force on September 12 1984. One of the revisions was a rental formula that looked to ensure a competent tenant farming the holding could pay a reasonable rent based upon the agricultural economic climate at the time of the review.

The 1948 Act and its amending statutes including the AHA 1984 were later all repealed and re-enacted in the current consolidating statute, the AHA 1986, within which Section 12 and Schedule 2 set out a procedural code for rent reviews.

The procedure to calculate the rent properly payable considers the terms of the tenancy, the character and situation of the holding, the productive capacity and related earning capacity of the holding and all other relevant factors.

Cyflwynwyd y drefn i adolygu rhenti am y tro cyntaf yn Neddf Daliadau Amaethyddol 1948 ac roedd yn caniatáu cynnal adolygiadau ac i'r mater gael ei gyfeirio at Gyflafareddwr os oedd angen. Nid oedd unrhyw ganllawiau i ddangos i'r Cymroeddwr sut i gyrraedd y "rhent sy'n daladwy'n briodol." Creodd hyn amrywiaeth eang yn y rhenti a bennwyd drwy gyflafareddiad.



MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Amser i fwynhau'r gwanwyn

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

MAE mis Mawrth yn un o fy hoff fisoedd, y gwanwyn yn ei anterth, yr ŵyn bach yn llenwi'r caeau a phrydferthwch cefn gwlad ar ei orau. Ond dwi hefyd yn gwybod fod mis Mawrth yn medru bod yn flinedig ac yn heriol i nifer sy'n gweithio yn y diwydiant amaeth.

Un peth sydd wedi fy nhristau ydyw'r ffaith fod scamwyr bellach yn anfon e-byst crediniol yn y Gymraeg a Saesneg yn enw rhywun yr ydych yn adnabod yn gofyn am arian neu gerdyn rhodd - peidiwch byth ag ymateb - cysylltwch gyda'r person honedig yn bersonol. Ac yn ddiweddar mae cynnydd sylweddol yn y galwadau ffôn crediniol gan rai sy'n honni ei bod yn gweithio i'r heddlu yn eich rhybuddio fod ymchwil ar y gweill a bod eich cyfrinachedd yn eithriadol o bwysig, eto os ydi hyn yn digwydd peidiwch byth a rhannu unrhyw wybodaeth am eich banc na'ch cardiau ond cysylltwch gyda'r banc dan sylw trwy alw 159 neu cysylltwch gydag *action fraud* neu'r heddlu go iawn.

Mae Dathlu Dydd Gŵyl Dewi wedi digwydd ar draws Cymru a diolch i bawb a fu yn addurno eu ffenestri yn lliwgar. Fe lanswyd gwefan newydd i Ferched y Wawr a chyhoeddi ein cylchgrawn 'Y Wawr' o dan olygyddiaeth Elin Angharad.

Rydym wedi cael cychwyn gwych i'r gwanwyn gyda myrdd o weithgareddau yn cynnwys sesiwn grefft, coginio, garddio, trafodaeth am ddyfodol yr iaith ac amryw o is-bwyllgorau gweithgar a llawer o edrych ar faterion yn ymwneud gydag iaith a Gofal.

Nawr edrychwn ymlaen at Ebrill lle y byddwn yn lansio prosiect y Llywydd Cerdd a Cherdded. Yn y cyfamser, gobeithio bydd pawb yn mwynhau'r gwanwyn.

With signs of spring starting to appear, it is also a very tiring and challenging time for the agricultural industry. Merched y Wawr would like to thank everyone who colourfully decorated their windows to celebrate St David's Day and a new Merched y Wawr website was also launched. In April, the President's project, 'Cerdd a Cherdded' will be launched.



Agrifood Brief: CAP 2.0 or not?

by Natasha Foote, EURACTIV.com

THE UK's departure from the EU now means that it is free to design its own menu of agricultural policies, à la carte, to replace the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

So naturally, like nosy curtain-twitching neighbours, we're all wondering what is going on over the other side of the Channel.

Well, the UK is pitching their new agricultural subsidy as a greener, keener, cleaner CAP 2.0. "The concept behind the approach that we are taking now to future policy is fundamentally different to that which we inherited from the EU," UK Environment Secretary George Eustice gleefully proclaimed in a recent speech during the annual Oxford farming conference at the start of this year.

Is it though? Let's dig in

The main objective of the UK is to shift from direct payments (Pillar I, in CAP jargon) to focus on the principle of "public money for public goods", aka paying farmers and land managers for delivering on environmental benefits rather than the amount of land they farm (aka, the CAP's rural development funding).

This is because the UK government considers direct payments to be a poor use of public money.

"What's become increasingly apparent in recent years is that a subsidy on land ownership or land tenure can be every bit as distorting as an old-style production subsidy," Eustice said.

(FYI, in 2018, UK farmers received around £3.5 billion per year in CAP payments, 80% of which came from direct payments).

This has "inflated land rents, it's caused people to hold onto land just to collect the payment when they might otherwise rent that land out," he said.

The idea, then, is a complete shift from area-based subsidies to full environmental conditionality, achieved via the new Environmental Land Management Scheme



(ELMS). This comprises three elements - the Sustainable Farming Incentive, a local Nature Recovery Programme, and a landscape Recovery Scheme - which, together, aim to transform the UK's subsidy programme.

The new regime will be introduced gradually over a seven-year 'agricultural transition period' from 2021-2028.

So how does this compare with the CAP? Is this approach a different kettle of fish? Or are these plans actually two peas in a pod?

According to Eustice, whereas the EU regime was "very much a single subsidy based on land ownership and land tenure, and then a single complex book of rules that everybody needed to follow," the UK's new approach will be "phase out those subsidies [and] dispense with that old-style, rigid, top-down rulebook".

But it's worth pointing out that, contrary to Eustice's

claims, the core of this CAP reform is actually to shift responsibility from Brussels to member states.

The main vehicle for this are the national strategic plans, through which EU countries detail how they will meet the nine EU-wide objectives of the reformed CAP while responding to the needs of farmers and rural communities.

In other words: While the European Commission will be setting out the general direction of the future CAP, the "how" will be up to national administrations this time (so if anything, one single book of rules now becomes 27 books of rules).

Essentially, the ball is more in member states' court than it has ever been before.

Granted, it's true that the EU has no plans to do away with direct payments any time soon (as Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski told us in an interview back in May: "Without support, we will not have farmers in the EU. This is no choice, we need to support our farmers"), which still make up the lion's share of the CAP budget.

But it is disingenuous to say CAP funding is solely based on land ownership.

As a reminder, a fair whack of the €387 billion budget (€95.5 billion, to be precise) is also earmarked as support for rural development, a higher percentage of which is devoted to climate and sustainability measures, and which is also bolstered by €8 billion from the NextGenerationEU Fund.

Meanwhile, the UK's not the only one to have shiny new sustainable farming schemes – the CAP also has eco-schemes, for which 25% of direct payments will be allocated.

Focusing on a common list of action areas defined at the EU level, member states can choose to support practices such as organic farming, agro-ecological practices, precision farming, agro-forestry or carbon farming, as well as animal welfare improvements.

So, is it the promised agricultural revolution?

As is most often the case, the truth lies in a grey zone somewhere in between. But it's true that the two sides of the Channel might well be sharing more common ground than they think.

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FARM HEALTH FIRST By **chanelle PHARMA**

Growing plants using artificial light

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

THE technology of controlled environment agriculture (CEA) is fast developing and is increasingly recognised as an important component of future food production, to ensure food security in a world where climate change may make food production more challenging.

A key advancement which has enhanced the potential for this approach to horticultural production has been the introduction of light emitting diode (LED) technology. LEDs are much more efficient than previous horticultural lighting options, such as high-pressure sodium bulbs, both for the amount of energy consumed and the amount of photosynthetically active radiation (PAR) that can be delivered to the plant leaf. LEDs also offer huge flexibility with regard to the composition of light which is emitted, meaning that light can be tailored to specifically match the requirements of the plant, increasing efficiency.

Light is an essential component of plant development and is crucial for photosynthesis. Light also acts as an environmental prompt, informing a plant about the world in which they exist. This is an important strategy for sessile organisms that are unable to simply move to more favourable situations. In nature, changes in light spectral composition will alter how a plant grows, in response to factors such

as shading. In controlled conditions using this insight means changing light composition can be used to modify plant growth behaviour.

Thus, by using LED lighting technology it is possible to alter the composition of light in order to elicit a targeted growth response in plants. The ability to manipulate the composition of light, and an understanding of the biological mechanisms at the heart of plant responses to different light compositions and availabilities, can therefore be used to 'instruct' plants as to how you want them to grow.

The motivations for doing this are varied, but this can offer opportunities to alter the shape and appearance of the plant, or change its chemical composition, to make it more appealing to a customer and therefore more commercially attractive.

The selection of spectra can be complex however, as including, or excluding, light from a given wavelength will have both direct effects and indirect effects. Nevertheless, manipulating light in this way offers the horticultural sector many options to optimise growth regimes, or to determine recipes for light provision that can result in novel structures, or bio-compound production, that may offer enormous commercial advantage.



By using LED lighting technology it is possible to alter the composition of light in order to elicit a targeted growth response in plants

Help is available for poor broadband

FUW members Dylan and Lisa James are third generation farmers and they run a business from their home at Babel, near Llandovery. They have a flock of pedigree Pentan Blue Texels, Poll Dorset and black Welsh mountain sheep and Lisa also runs her own business, *Lisa's Rug Wash*, washing and repairing horse rugs, dog bedding and sheep rugs. Running two businesses means that a fast and reliable internet connection is essential to be able to carry out online registrations for the sheep, receive sales enquiries and to promote their sheep and the company.

Along with their three children Beth 17, Rhys 12 and Sarah 5, Dylan and Lisa have struggled with very slow broadband for many years, especially during the pandemic when Beth had to go and stay with a family member just to be able to have access to fast broadband for her A Level studies.

In the meantime, the rest of the family continued to struggle with slow broadband at home, not just for their businesses, they were also unable to use facilities such as Netflix and iPlayer, and other online activities that have become so essential in modern life.

What the family did next

We contacted Conway Staley and Andrew Hornung of CS Cymru, Brecon, to ask for assistance in obtaining fast broadband. They explained everything clearly and the process was fast and simple. They then came and carried out a survey at our house to see if we were entitled to apply for the grant - which we were - they helped us to complete the grant application which we then sent to Welsh Government.

Once our application was approved we received our free of charge broadband system paid for by Welsh Government and installed by Conway and Andrew. The equipment is very neat with a small aerial on the wall that's about the size of a tea plate. There is a router inside the house that gives us Wifi just like BT provide and it works very well and is so much better than what we had before.



From left, Dylan, Rhys and Lisa James on the day of installation.

"Within weeks of applying we were up and running - it works very well."

The outcome

Within weeks of applying we were up and running. We were very relieved as we are out in the sticks and there was no sign of fast broadband coming to us.

We would like all FUW members to know about this scheme because until we were told we didn't even know that the grant from the Welsh Government existed and that help was available.

Conclusion

Dylan and Lisa can now easily complete their day-to-day online activities, including online form submission and online banking as well as using Netflix, BBC iPlayer and other streaming services.

The kids are also happy leaving mum and dad to concentrate on running their home and business.

If you are suffering from poor broadband visit www.cscymru.com or call Conway 07593 279053 or Andrew 07950 000292 for free help and advice.

Shape the future of dairy - have your say

by Delyth Lewis-Jones, Head of Dairy Development Wales, AHDB Dairy



YOU will hopefully have read that Defra has launched a consultation to reform AHDB, which aims to deliver greater accountability and value for money for farmers across the UK.

It proposes that levy payers will have a greater say on how the levy is spent, through a vote on sector plans every five years.

The first opportunity takes place this April, where you'll get to have your say on the challenges you want AHDB to focus on and the services we will deliver for you in the future.

That could be our consumer marketing campaigns such as the 'We Eat Balanced' campaign which returned to our TVs in January along with adverts in newspapers, supermarkets and across social media with the aim of presenting the facts and busting the myths around food and farming from the UK.

It might be our dairy market intelligence work which provides the latest analysis, prices, consumer trends and market outlook to inform business decisions. Or it could be our collaboration with others in the industry on areas such as the Dairy Roadmap with the aim of setting targets and drive progress on the environmental ambitions and commitments made by the UK dairy sector.

You may value our independent genetics and genomics work, our efforts to open up overseas exports markets or our network of strategic dairy farms which allows the sharing of good practice and helps you to learn from your fellow farmers.

Whatever your views, this is your chance to influence how your levy is spent on the things that matter the most to you.

To have your say, please spare five minutes to register before March 31 at ahdb.org.uk/shape-the-future

"This is your chance to influence how your levy is spent."

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