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page 4



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pages 14 &amp; 15



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page 20

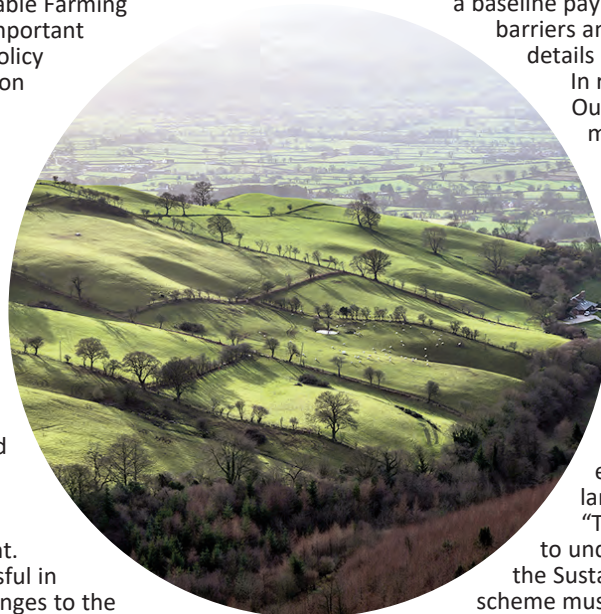
## Members urged to engage with Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals

THE FUW is urging its members to engage with the latest proposals of the Sustainable Farming Scheme, stating its the most important change to Welsh agricultural policy since the genesis of the Common Agricultural Policy in 1962.

The Welsh Government launched the pivotal consultation on the future of the Sustainable Farming Scheme on December 14 2023, the mechanism through which farmers will receive support in Wales from 2025 onwards.

Speaking in response to the announcement, FUW President Ian Rickman said: "We have repeatedly consulted with our members on several versions of this scheme since 2018 and are now at the most critical stage of its development.

"While we have been successful in lobbying for certain crucial changes to the



scheme since its inception, including the provision of a baseline payment, a number of significant barriers and questions around certain details remain."

In response to the initial Brexit and Our Land Consultation, the FUW maintained that any future payment scheme based on environmental and public goods outcomes must also protect family farms, support rural communities and Welsh Jobs and ensure that agriculture is both sustainable and rewarding. To fail to do so would most likely lead to serious damage to Wales' family farms and the role they play in Wales' economy, society, culture and landscape.

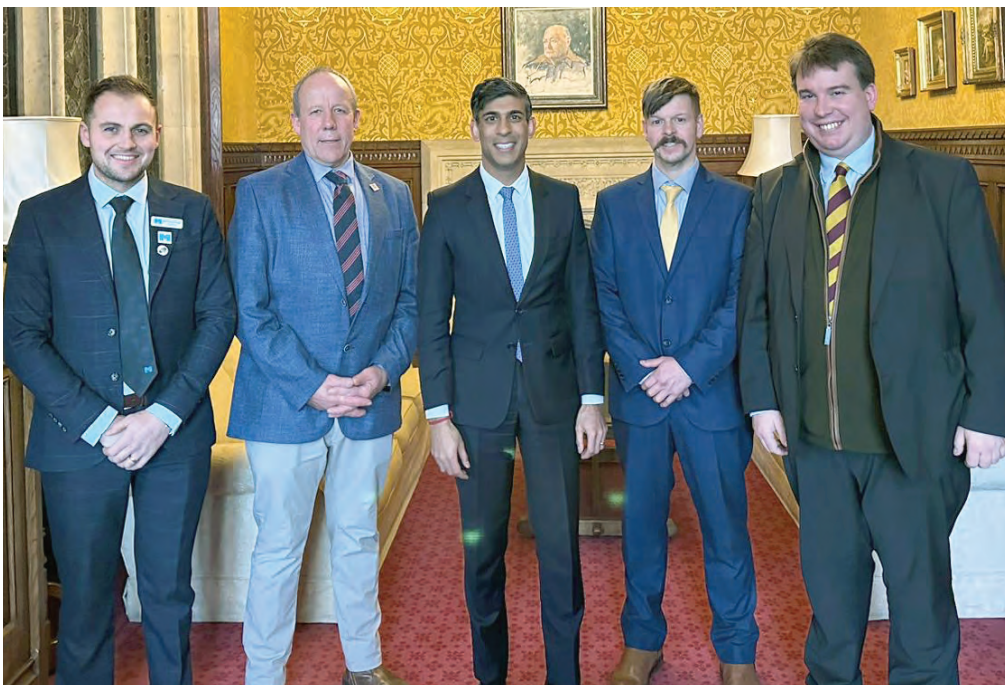
"These policy priorities continue to underpin our key asks in relation to the Sustainable Farming Scheme - this scheme must be practical for all farmers in

County branch meetings have been arranged to discuss the SFS consultation, details on page 7

Wales and deliver on our economic, environmental and social sustainability.

"We will be thoroughly dissecting the consultation document and will consult with members in detail on the proposals. This consultation outlines the most important change to Welsh agricultural policy since the genesis of the Common Agricultural Policy in 1962 and I therefore urge every member to engage and contribute to the Union's response," said the FUW President.

## Taking the farming story to Westminster



FUW President Ian Rickman and the Montgomeryshire delegation took the opportunity to highlight the importance of farming when they met with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak during Montgomeryshire Day.

Full story and more pictures on pages 12 and 13.

From left, Montgomery YFC County Chair Alun Tudor-Thomas, FUW President Ian Rickman, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, FUW Montgomeryshire County Chair Iwan Pugh Jones and Craig Williams MP.

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## FUW UPDATE

# 2024 - a crucial year for the future of agricultural support from Government

by Guto Bebb, Group Chief Executive

BY the time you read these few notes it will be 2024. I hope that you enjoyed a good Christmas and welcomed 2024 with some optimism and positivity and why not? The farming sector has always faced uncertainty and whilst there are many challenges ahead it should be remembered that the industry has a decent track record for being robust and resilient so those positive New Year thoughts are not entirely misplaced!

2023 was a busy year for the FUW from a lobbying perspective and both Presidents, Glyn in the first part of the year and Ian during the later part of 2023, have worked tirelessly to ensure that every single opportunity to meet with politicians and stakeholders and share our thinking on the future of farming in Wales has been taken. They have been very well supported in this work by our policy team and specifically Libby and Lauren, both of whom have served as Parliamentary and Senedd Liaison Officers for the Union during 2023. I don't think we could have done more to get our message across but still it seems as if there is a reluctance from our Governments, whether in Westminster or Cardiff Bay, to provide a degree of long-term certainty for the sector.

Just before Christmas the final consultation on the Welsh Government's Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) was announced quickly followed by the Welsh Government Budget for 2024/25. Both the SFS consultation and the budget allocation will have a significant impact upon the future of farming here in Wales and we will be consulting fully on these matters with our members throughout January. Our county staff are preparing meetings for members to discuss these matters with our policy team and there will also be an opportunity to understand the potential impact on farms of the funding allocation made by Welsh Government with respect to the Basic Payment Scheme for the next financial year. These meetings are a service to members and I would encourage all of you to



attend so that you can question and understand what has changed within the SFS or to get a feel for what the BPS will be worth during the next financial year. I have a huge amount of confidence in the expertise and knowledge that our officials bring to the table and I would say, with some confidence, that the opportunity to question them and understand their perspectives in the context of your own circumstances is an opportunity that should be taken.

Clearly, we still have a huge amount of work to do with the Welsh Government but the same is true with both the Conservative Government and the Labour Opposition at Westminster. It would be a shock to most political commentators if we did not have a General Election during 2024 and this remains a crucial election for farming and rural communities.

We need to see some certainty from the main political parties as to what we should expect from them if they were to form a Government after the next General Election.

As I have said previously, and I make no apology for repeating myself, we can and will continue to work to ensure that we get a farming support scheme from the Welsh Government that supports, rather than hinders, farmers. However, any scheme outlined for consideration here in Wales will only work if we manage to attract sufficient funding from Westminster to make it a success. We have a lot of work to do during 2024!

Finally, I am aware that it will be 2024 by the time you read this but can I thank you all for your support of the FUW during 2023? May I also take this opportunity to thank all the Group staff for what has been a challenging year within both FUW Limited and FUW Insurance Services Limited. Together we have made a real difference during 2023 and I am certain that we will endeavour to do the same during 2024.

## FUW report highlights importance of farm support in Wales' livestock supply chains

THE FUW has emphasised the importance of maintaining agricultural support to the rural economy and agricultural production after publishing a report highlighting the role of direct support to Wales' livestock supply chains.

The report, entitled 'The role of farm support in Wales' livestock supply chains' uses five years of Welsh Farm Business Survey figures to investigate what increases in profits or reductions in selected input costs would be needed to maintain average livestock farm profits if direct support was cut by 50% and 100%.

FUW President Ian Rickman said: "Wales has already lost more than £200 million as a result of UK Treasury cuts to our agriculture budget, and the Welsh Government has recently cut this year's rural affairs budget by a further £37 million.

"This means there will be less money not only for farms, but also for the tens of thousands of Welsh non-farming businesses that provide services and goods to our farms."

Mr Rickman said it was essential for politicians and policy makers to fully

understand the economic role played by farm support in supply chains and the dangers of cuts and changes proposed by some, but that few analyses had been undertaken by governments ahead of proposing or implementing policy changes.

"We calculate that without direct support, expenditure by Welsh livestock farms would be vulnerable to cuts of £38.87 million for feed, £12.15 million for veterinary treatments and medicines, £9.83 million for paid labour, £10.56 million for contracting and £26.34 million for fuel and repairs.

"Such figures are estimated by reducing expenditure in each of the farm business survey expenditure categories by a fixed percentage in order to 'balance the books'. But in reality farms would decide to focus cuts in some areas more than others based upon business decisions. That means the cuts in receipts for some kinds of non-farming businesses could be far higher in such a scenario."

Mr Rickman said that any cuts, however large, would have a knock on effect on many Welsh non-farming businesses, and in the worst case scenario some non-farming business sectors would lose tens of millions in income, with inevitable impacts for business viability and employment.

"We naturally hope that budgets and policies would never be changed in a way that resulted in such horrendous impacts for our farms and those who rely on them, but we are all aware of the pressures to make sweeping changes.

"Concerningly, the trend in both London and Cardiff has been to move forward with proposals and changes without undertaking the detailed investigations and financial analyses such massive changes warrant," he added.

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Continued from page 2

The report also highlights the significant increases in profit from livestock rearing and sales that would be required to make up for cuts to support.

For a scenario where direct support is reduced by 50%, a required increased profit per ewe of between £18.09 (hill cattle and sheep farms) and £24.06 (lowland cattle and sheep farms) coupled with an increased profit per cow of between £120.63 (hill cattle and sheep farms) and £160.39 (lowland cattle and sheep farms) is required to maintain overall farm profits in the scenario investigated - figures that are doubled for the scenario where direct support falls to zero.

"These are vast increases that look difficult or impossible to attain without major changes to what consumers pay for food and how money is distributed along the supply chain, emphasise the dangers that changes to support represent for Welsh food production," said Mr Rickman.

The report also emphasises the limited scope there is for diversification to fill any gaps left by government cuts, stating that while some may be able to change to what have over recent years been more profitable agricultural sectors, such as dairy or poultry production, while others may successfully diversify into tourism or other sectors, as well as being limited for many by affordability, legal restrictions and land topography and fertility, diversification into any area is also limited by ceilings relating to market saturation.

"It should also be noted that the skillset of a vast proportion of those who may attempt to diversify their income by working off-farm will be primarily in agriculture - a sector that, by definition, would be far less able to afford the services of those with such a skillset in the advent of such cuts to support.

"As such, policy makers and others must be sober and realistic about the limited scope for diversification to make up significantly for losses imposed as a result of such changes," said Mr Rickman.

However, he emphasised that the results represented a necessarily simplistic analysis of the impacts of cuts to the BPS or equivalent funding to Welsh agriculture, and are therefore not a precise prediction of what would happen in the event of such cuts. Rather, they illustrate and attempt to quantify the role of direct support in livestock



supply chains and various pressures that such cuts would bring for farms and other businesses, and ultimately the wider Welsh population.

"Nevertheless, this work demonstrates the need for the UK and Welsh Governments to maintain and protect overall agriculture and rural development funding, as well as the need to carefully investigate how policies may impact not only farms but also the businesses and food production that relies on them.

"At a UK Government level, we expect them to honour their commitments to guarantee annual CAP replacement funding at 2019 levels for the next financial year.

"However, we should not forget that the total Welsh CAP budget should now total around £500 million in comparison to when the 2014-20 CAP budget was allocated in 2013 given levels of inflation, and that, had we remained in the EU and accessed all available funding, our agricultural budget would now be far higher than it currently is."

Mr Rickman emphasised that the FUW had never advocated keeping the status quo and had put forward proposals for a new scheme that it was confident would maintain the role of Wales' family farms in supporting other businesses and producing top quality food, while bringing major environmental benefits for Wales.

"The Welsh Government needs to ensure its design and implementation of the new Sustainable Farming Scheme is thoroughly investigated in terms of the type of impacts revealed in our report and takes our concerns and proposals into account," added Mr Rickman.

*Mae'r erthygl yma yn Gymraeg ar dudalen 11.*

**"At a UK Government level, we expect them to honour their commitments to guarantee annual CAP replacement funding at 2019 levels for the next financial year."**

## Brian Jones honoured with 'FUW Award for Outstanding Services to Welsh Agriculture'

THE FUW has honoured the founder of Castell Howell Foods with an award for 'Outstanding Services to Welsh Agriculture' at a recent dinner held in honour of Brian Jones at the Halliwell Centre in Carmarthen.

After presenting Mr Jones with the award, FUW President Ian Rickman said: "35 years ago Brian Jones and Castell Howell Foods officially started their journey to being one of the largest independent food wholesalers to the foodservice sector in the UK.

"From the company's inception in 1988, the business has grown to employ in excess of 800 colleagues, list a range of over 14,000 products, delivering to 5,000 customers across Wales and the border counties every week.

"The work Brian has done on behalf of agriculture, food production and promotion of Welsh produce over the years has been exceptional and for that we thanked him with this special award."

Castell Howell are proud of their Welsh agricultural roots with the promotion of local and regional foods a core value. The range of Welsh dairy products, meats, dry and frozen food is unparalleled, and the company is proud to act as an intermediary for many indigenous businesses, purchasing in excess of £37 million of food and services from Welsh suppliers in the past 12 months.

Thanks to his dedication to the food sector, and supporting the communities where the business operates Brian was awarded an MBE, has had the honour of being President of both the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society and Pembrokeshire Show, and is a Fellow of Aberystwyth University.

FUW Group Chief Executive Guto Bebb added: "I thank the Carmarthen team for their hard work in pulling this event together. It has been a triumph for agriculture and we are proud to have stalwarts such as Brian Jones in our industry ranks. The award is very well deserved and I congratulate Brian on his achievements."



From left, FUW Group Chief Executive Guto Bebb, FUW President Ian Rickman, Brian Jones and his wife Helen and Chief Executive of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Aled Jones.



From left, David Lewis, last year's recipient of this award, Mr William McNamara of Bluestone, Gareth Roberts of Llaeth y Llan and Laurence Harris, Daioni.



From left, Cefin Campbell MS, Chief Executive of Wales YFC Mared Rand Jones, FUW Carmarthen County Chair Ann Davies and Kees Huysmans of Tregroes Waffles.

## Tribute to First Minister Mark Drakeford



THE FUW has paid tribute to Wales' First Minister Mark Drakeford, (pictured above), who stood down as Welsh Labour leader on Wednesday December 13 2023 and will be stepping down as First Minister in March 2024.

Mr Drakeford said nominations for his successor as leader will open shortly, and the process will be concluded by the end of the Senedd Spring term, enabling the contest winner to be put to the Senedd before Easter recess. He will remain as First Minister until that time but will stand down as Leader of Welsh Labour immediately.

Commenting on the news, FUW President Ian Rickman said: "We thank the First Minister Mark Drakeford for his service to Wales and wish him the best in his future endeavours.

"As a Union we know that family farms in particular are at the heart of our rural economy, caring for our landscape, and of course our culture, and they make innumerable other contributions to the well-being of Wales and the UK.

"We look forward to working with the next First Minister and Welsh Labour Leader to be appointed, ensuring that we continue to see thriving, sustainable, family farms in Wales."



# Come and join us for a farmhouse breakfast



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

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

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

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

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

Breakfast dates and locations below

## 2024 FUW Farmhouse Breakfasts

1. Llangefni
2. Caernarfon
3. Bangor
4. Y Ffôr, Pwllheli
5. Botwnnog, Pwllheli
6. Bryncir
7. Betws y Coed
8. Cefnmeiriadog
9. Rhosesmor
10. Llangwm
11. Blaenau Ffestiniog
12. Cwmtirmynach
13. Bala
14. Dolgellau
15. Oswestry
16. Welshpool
17. Machynlleth
18. Newtown
19. Devil's Bridge
20. Felinfach
21. Llandysul
22. Hermon
23. Crundale
24. Pontyates
25. Llanarthne
26. Gwynfe
27. Builth Wells
28. Penderyn
29. Treorchy
30. Cowbridge
31. Hafodyrynys



County	Date	Location	Map number
Anglesey	Saturday January 20	Llangefni Rugby Club	1
Brecon & Radnor	Tuesday January 16	Bodwigiad Farm, Penderyn	28
	Friday January 19	FUW Pavilion, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells	27
Caernarfon	Saturday January 13	Caffi Y Fron, Y Fron, Caernarfon	2
	Monday January 15	Ty'n Hendre, Tal-y-bont, Bangor	3
	Wednesday January 17	Hendre Feinws, Y Ffôr, Pwllheli	4
	Thursday January 18	Neigwl Plas, Botwnnog, Pwllheli	5
	Friday January 19	Dylasau Uchaf, Padog, Betws y Coed	7
	Friday January 19	Caffi Mart Bryncir, Bryncir, Garndolbenmaen	6
Carmarthen	Wednesday January 17	Gwynfe Community Hall	24
	Thursday January 18	Pontyates Welfare Hall	26
	Friday January 19	Llanarthne Village Hall	25
Ceredigion	Tuesday January 16	La Calabria, Ffostrasol, Llandysul	21
	Wednesday January 17	Mynach Hall, Devils Bridge	19
	Friday January 19	Felinfach Hall, Felinfach	20
Denbigh & Flint	Monday January 15	Corlan Diwylliant, Llangwm	10
	Friday January 19	Neuadd Owen, Cefnmeiriadog	8
	Saturday January 20	Neuadd Bentref Rhosesmor	9
Glamorgan	Thursday January 18	Aberthin Village Hall, Aberthin Ln, Aberthin, Cowbridge	30
Gwent	Friday January 19	Ty Oakley Farm, Hafodyrynys	31
	Saturday January 20	Cwm Farm Shop, Ynyswen Rd, Ynyswen, Treorchy	29
Meirionnydd	Monday January 15	Cross Foxes, Trawsfynydd, Blaenau Ffestiniog	11
	Wednesday January 17	Y Sospan, Dolgellau	14
	Friday January 19	Neuadd Bentref Llanuwchllyn, Llanuwchllyn, Bala	13
	Saturday January 20	Neuadd Mynach, Cwmtirmynach	12
Montgomery	Tuesday January 16	Maengwyn Cafe, 57 Heol Maengwyn, Machynlleth	17
	Wednesday January 17	Dyffryn Cafe & Restaurant, Foel, Welshpool	16
	Thursday January 18	The Bull & Heifer, Bettws Cedewain, Newtown	18
	Saturday January 20	The Wynnstay Inn, Llansilin, Oswestry	15
Pembrokeshire	Tuesday January 16	Canolfan Hermon, Hermon	22
	Friday January 19	Crundale Hall, Crundale	23



# Here for our members whatever 2024 brings

by Ian Rickman, FUW President

2024 promises to be a momentous year not just for agriculture in Wales, as we engage with the final Sustainable Farming Scheme consultation, but also across the political realm with a General Election on the horizon and we will also see a new First Minister with Welsh Labour about to embark upon a leadership election following the decision by Mark Drakeford to announce his retirement.

For Wales and farming there are big issues at stake. At the front of our minds is the final Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) consultation. The SFS is going to form the mechanism through which farmers will receive support in Wales from 2025 onwards. I urge members to engage fully with us on this as a matter of urgency. It is the most important change to Welsh agricultural policy since the genesis of the Common Agricultural Policy in 1962 and we as an Union know that we can't afford to get this wrong.

Any future payment scheme based on environmental and public goods outcomes must protect family farms, support rural communities and maintain employment in rural Wales. Such a scheme must ensure that agriculture is both sustainable and rewarding. To fail to do so will most likely lead to serious damage to Wales' family farms and the role they play in Wales' economy, society, culture and landscape.

Policy priorities that we have outlined time and time again during 2023 and over the various other



consultations over the past five years continue to underpin our key asks in relation to the Sustainable Farming Scheme. This SFS must be practical for all farmers in Wales and deliver on our economic, environmental and social sustainability goals. There might be some among us who can manage without that direct support, but looking at the Welsh Farm Business Survey, the majority of us rely on such support for the survival of our farm business. It would be folly to suggest that as a sector we can manage and thrive without any support.

Securing funding for the sector therefore remains an essential element of our focus for this coming year. Whilst we recognise the challenges that the Welsh Government must contend with, the entire Departmental Rural Affairs Budget of £482 million represents just 2% of the Welsh Government Budget. It is vitally important that as a minimum, this budget is maintained to ensure that our obligations and ambitions in relation to food, nature and climate are achieved.

If you have read our 'The role of farm support in Wales' livestock supply chains' report, it is clear what would need to change if the direct support payments were to be reduced significantly. We used five years of Welsh Farm Business Survey figures to investigate what increases in profits or reductions in selected input costs would be needed to maintain average livestock farm profits if direct support was cut by 50% and 100%. The resulting figures make for very uncomfortable reading and should serve as a warning to those who think that the industry can continue to

**“Securing funding for the sector remains an essential element of our focus for this coming year.”**

produce food whilst also delivering on the many other key asks made of agriculture by the Government.

As we go into a New Year that may well see a change of Government at Westminster and new leadership within Government here in Wales it is more important than ever for politicians and policy makers to fully understand the economic role played by farm support within the context of our rural economy.

Let me be absolutely clear - any cuts, however large, will have a knock on effect on many non-farming businesses here in Wales with our modelled worst case scenario showing that some non-farming business sectors would lose tens of millions in income. The inevitable impact of such a decline in business activity here in rural Wales will undoubtedly have a direct impact on business viability, rural employment and the very communities that are the backbone of rural Wales. There is also a very clear disconnect between Government aspirations to have environmental policies and the failures (as we have seen with the Habitat Wales Scheme) to support such schemes with adequate funding.

This coming year will no doubt bring with it many challenges but we will be there for our members, striving to ensure we have thriving, sustainable, family farms in Wales for generations to come.

**Mae'r golofn yma yn Gymraeg ar wefan UAC - Newyddion - Newyddion Y Tir: "Yma i'n haelodau beth bynnag a ddaw yn 2024," neu o'ch swyddfa sirol leol.**

## Cuts to rural affairs budget major blow to industry

THE FUW has responded with criticism to the news that 13% has been cut from the draft Rural Affairs budget.

The publication of the Welsh Government draft budget for 2024-25 has revealed that the total funding for rural affairs will be cut by a total of £62 million, around 13%, compared with the final 2023-24 budget as announced in February, to help address the approximate £1.3 billion shortfall.

Whilst it has to be welcomed that the Welsh Government draft budget for 2024-25 for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) is maintained at £238 million for 2024, the overall backdrop of this budget reinforces uncertainty for the sector.

Speaking in response to the statement, FUW President Ian Rickman said: "The cuts made to Wales' rural affairs funding in the Welsh Government's draft budget for 2024-25 are a serious cause for concern, not least because replacement EU CAP funding alone should now equal around £440 million when taking inflation into account.

"At a time when Welsh farmers face huge uncertainty around future farm support and the actions they will be required to undertake in order to receive such support, it's of paramount importance that the Welsh Government recognises the sustainable food our farmers produce and the contributions they make to the environment and wider rural economy when allocating funds to the rural affairs portfolio."

The FUW recently published its report on the role of farm support in Wales' livestock supply chains, revealing the stark impacts cuts to direct farm support could have on the wider rural economy and as such welcomed that at least some clarity was offered around the BPS.

"The level of clarity around the BPS provides some much needed certainty for our members for next year and will also allow us to provide some indicative figures for the minimum financial support they can expect to receive during the transition into the Sustainable Farming Scheme.

"We welcome the announcement which recognises the significance of the Basic Payment Scheme for around 16,000 farm businesses in Wales, and the thousands of tertiary businesses situated within rural communities which rely directly or indirectly on farms for a proportion of their income, however, the overall shortfall to the sector has to be reviewed and addressed."






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### Fferm Mynachlog Fawr.

BLWYDDYN Newydd Dda, a chroeso i golofn gyntaf Cornel Clecs yn 2024 - gobeithio wir y bydd pob un ohonom yn cael blwyddyn lawn o ieched da, llwyddiant a hapusrwydd.

Er ein bod ar gychwyn blwyddyn newydd, rwyf am fynd a chi yn ôl i ddiwedd llynedd ac am rannu fy ymweliad a fferm Mynachlog Fawr gyda chi, sy'n rhan o Ystrad Fflur, ger Pontrhydfendigaid yng Ngheredigion. Wrth deithio yno, roedd llais fy niweddar nhad yn dod i'r cof - roedd yn hoff iawn o adrodd y gerdd enwog 'Ystrad Fflur' gan T Gwynn Jones, a gyda'r frawddeg, "Mae dail y coed yn Ystrad Fflur, Yn murmur yn yr awel," ar flaen fy meddwl, dyma gyrraedd lle sydd a cymaint o hanes yn perthyn iddo.

Mae Ystrad Fflur yn lle arbennig, ac mae'r tir o'i gwmpas yn gyfoethog o hanes drwy'r canrifoedd. Yn sefyll ar dir yr abaty, mae fferm Mynachlog Fawr. Adeiladwyd rhan o'r ffermdy rhestredig Gradd II\* yn wreiddiol yn yr unfed ganrif ar bymtheg allan o olion ffreutur yr Abaty, ac yn esiampl o'r bonedd yn troi rhannau o'r prif adeiladau mynachaid yn breswylfa. Yna cafodd ei ailadeiladu fel plasty yn 1670-80.

Sefydlwyd Ymddiriedolaeth Ystrad Fflur fel elusen yn 2006 a phrynodd fferm Mynachlog Fawr yn 2016. Tri phrif nod yr Ymddiriedolwyr yw: diogelu ac adfer yr holl adeiladau, gan ddefnyddio dulliau cynaliadwy a'r technolegau gorau sydd ar gael; sefydlu Canolfan Ystrad Fflur sy'n rhannol-breswyl i helpu pobl i ddysgu am dreftadaeth a chadwraeth, materion amgylcheddol, ac iaith a diwyllianau Cymru a rhoi croeso cynnes i ymwelwyr, preswylwyr a phobl leol a'u helpu i fwynhau amgylchedd, hanes a diwylliant cyfoethog yr ardal.

Yn rhan o'r ymweliad a drefnwyd gan y gymdeithas leol, Cymdeithas Cyfeillion Cofadail, cawsom gyfle i weld y gwaith adfer sydd wedi cael ei wneud gan yr Ymddiriedolaeth hyd yn hyn, a'r cyfle i fynd mewn i'r Tŷ Pair a'r cartws, ar eu newydd gwedd. Agorwyd Arddangosfa Mynachlog Fawr i'r cyhoedd yn 2021. Yno gwelsom arddangosfa o ddogfennau, gwrthrychau'r cartref ac offer amaethyddol o'r fferm.

Diddorol oedd gweld yr holl offer, a phob un ohonynt a hanes ac yn rhoi cipolwg i ni o sut oedd bywyd ym Mynachlog Fawr.

O'r hen fangl a oedd yn declyn hanfodol i'r gorchwyl o olchi dillad i Gadair Eisteddfod a enillodd Dafydd Jones, perthynas i'r teulu Arch, yn yr eisteddfod leol ym Mhontrhydfendigaid ym 1943, roedd hi'n braf gweld bod dodrefn gwreiddiol Mynachlog Fawr yn cael eu harddangos yn barchus ac yn sicrhau bod y cenedlaethau i ddod yn dysgu ychydig o hanes am sut oedd bywyd cyn yr holl dechnoleg fodern sydd gyda ni heddiw.

Yn ystod yr ymweliad cefais y cyfle am sgwrs gyda Carys Aldous-Hughes, Cyfarwyddwr Ymddiriedolaeth Ystrad Fflur, a'i holi am gefndir yr ymddiriedolaeth a'r cynlluniau ar gyfer y dyfodol. Dyma Carys i egluro mw: "Mae Ymddiriedolaeth Ystrad Fflur yn elusen sy'n gweithio i warchod treftadaeth hanesyddol a phensaernïol adeiladau Fferm Mynachlog Fawr yn Ystrad Fflur a hyrwyddo addysg y cyhoedd am Ystrad Fflur a'r dirwedd a'r dreftadaeth o'i chwmpas.

"Ar ôl trawsnewid y Beudy yn ofod cymunedol a swyddfa yn 2019, a'r Tŷ Pair a'r cartws yn Arddangosfa Mynachlog Fawr yn 2021, mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth bellach yn y broses o sicrhau'r cyllid sydd ei angen ar gyfer cam nesaf y gwaith, sef creu Canolfan Ystrad Fflur, lle bwriedir cynnal ystod o gyrsgiau a bod y ffermdy rhestredig Gradd II\* hanesyddol ar agor i'r cyhoedd.

"Ar hyn o bryd mae'r Ymddiriedolaeth yn cynnal arddangosfa rhad ac am ddim sy'n adrodd hanes Mynachlog Fawr, ystod o gyrsgiau trwy gydol y flwyddyn, gan gynnwys ysgol faes archaeoleg flynyddol, a phrosiect ymgysylltu ac allgymorth treftadaeth."

Mae'n braf iawn gweld bod prosiectau fel hyn yn diogelu rhan mor bwysig o'n treftadaeth a'n diwylliant. Os ydych yn cynllunio rhestr o lefydd i ymweld â nhw yn ystod 2024, mae'n werth rhoi Ystrad Fflur a Fferm Mynachlog Fawr ar y rhestr honno - ni chewch eich siomi.

[www.strataflorida.org.uk](http://www.strataflorida.org.uk)  
[info@strataflorida.org.uk](mailto:info@strataflorida.org.uk)

*This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News:  
"Mynachlog Fawr Farm and its treasures," or from your local county office*





# New farming entrant on Anglesey highlights concerns to local MP

A NEW entrant to farming on Anglesey has highlighted his concerns about the future of the farming industry to local MP Virginia Crosbie, when he welcomed her to his tenant farm Tywrideen, Rhoscolyn, Caergybi.

Cai Jones, a young farmer who set up his own holding around 2 years ago after gaining tenancy at Tywrideen, farms around 300 acres of land all of which is rented. The farm business is run in partnership with his younger brother Osian.

The land is of less favourable qualities and the majority lies on the coastline, and the brothers are all too clear that the future of farm payments and agri environment schemes is crucial to this type of farm.

Both Cai and Osian work off the farm on a regular basis carrying out casual labour jobs on local farms to boost their income. This is in addition to keeping 450 ewes and 30 suckler cows of their own.

“As young, tenant farmers, we need as much certainty as possible on what the future of agricultural funding is going to look like.

Maintaining agricultural support is absolutely crucial to the rural economy and agricultural production,” said Cai Jones.

Union officials stressed the point that funding cuts for agriculture would have severe consequences for the rural economy and farming businesses.

“We are looking at less money not only for farms, but also for the tens of thousands of Welsh non-farming businesses that provide services and goods to our farms. With a reduction in funding, we also have to recognise the environmental goals and net zero ambitions are put at great risk. If there are no farmers to look after the land and produce food, our landscape, rural economy and food security are at great risk - a risk that is avoidable,” added Cai.

FUW Anglesey county executive officer Alaw Jones added: “It is essential for politicians and policy makers to fully understand the economic role played by farm support in supply chains and the dangers of cuts and changes proposed by some.”

The brothers are also concerned about the trade deals with Australia and New Zealand, which open the door to cheaper food imports.

“The UK Government has been pursuing liberal trade deals that its own figures show will undermine UK food security. These deals have been shown to have negligible benefits for the UK’s economy whilst opening up UK markets to products that do not meet our own high standards.

The UK Government needs to focus on trade policies that place UK food security and producers at the top of their agenda,” said Osian Jones.

In addition the Union also highlighted concerns around livestock worrying and

highlighted to the MP that at present, neither the police nor other agencies are required by the Home Office to record statistics of livestock attacks or mortalities and the FUW believes that this crime remains significantly under-reported and under-recorded.

“The inability to officially monitor the extent and impact of the issue - coupled with a lack of police powers to bring offenders to justice - has eroded confidence in reporting amongst our membership.

“The evidence surrounding the nature and extent of dog attacks on livestock means that the only way to properly tackle such crimes is by introducing new legislation which is fit-for-purpose and which recognises the significant - and avoidable - losses experienced by hard-working farming families following a dog attack.

“It is now incumbent on the Government to protect rural communities by ensuring that these elements of the UK Kept Animals Bill are brought forward,” added Alaw Jones.

“Maintaining agricultural support is absolutely crucial to the rural economy and agricultural production.”



From left, Cai Jones, Virginia Crosbie MP, Osian Jones and FUW Anglesey County Chair William Hughes.

## SFS consultation county meetings

FUW county offices are holding meetings for members to discuss the final consultation on the Welsh Government’s Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS). The FUW policy team will be present at these meetings. More information available from your local county office. Dates and locations below.

County	Date and time	Location
Anglesey	January 30 - 7.30pm	Canolfan CFFI, Cae Sioe Môn
Brecon & Radnor	January 29 - 7pm	FUW Pavilion, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells
Caernarfon	January 22 - 7.30pm	To be confirmed
Carmarthen	January 25 - 7.30pm	Carmarthen Athletic RFC
Ceredigion	January 23 - 7.30pm	Aberaeron Rugby Club
Denbigh & Flint	January 24 - 7.30pm	Canolfan Genus, Ruthun
Glamorgan	January 25 - 7pm	Grove Golf Club Ltd, Porthcawl
Gwent	February 1 - 7pm	Monmouthshire Livestock Market
Meirionnydd	February 1 - 10am	Fferm Sylfaen, Bermo, Gwynedd
Montgomeryshire	February 6 - 7.30pm	Welshpool Livestock Market
Pembrokeshire	January 25 - 12noon	Clarbeston Road Memorial Hall

## #FarmingMatters discussions



Our heads of Policy and Presidential teams took the opportunity to meet with Conservative MS Sam Kurtz, Plaid Cymru MS Cefin Campbell and Labour Minister for Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths MS in the Senedd following the release of the final round of the SFS Consultation. Discussions were also held around the impending Welsh Government Draft Budget, and the potential implications on rural Wales.





# Yswiriant Bywyd

## Ydych chi wedi cynllunio ar gyfer dyfodol eich teulu?

Mae yswiriant bywyd yno i amddiffyn chi a'ch teulu - gan sicrhau bod y bywyd rydych chi'n rhannu gyda'ch gilydd wedi'i ddiogelu, hyd yn oed ar ôl i chi farw.

## Gall yswiriant amddiffyn unigol gynnwys:

- Yswiriant Bywyd
- Yswiriant Salwch Difrifol
- Diogelu Incwm

## Sut mae Yswiriant Bywyd yn gweithio?

Meddylwch am yswiriant bywyd fel rhwyd diogelwch. Gallai dalu swm o arian petaech chi'n marw yn ystod cyfnod y polisi. Neu os ydych chi'n cael diagnosis o salwch difrifol, mi all yr yswiriant iawn wneud cyfandaliad i liniaru'r effaith ariannol arnoch chi a'ch teulu. Petaech chi'n cael diagnosis o salwch difrifol, gall yswiriant diogelu incwm sicrhau eich bod yn parhau i dderbyn swm misol nes ichi allu dychwelyd i'r gwaith.

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# Bovine TB policy discussions welcomed

THE FUW has welcomed the decision by the Welsh Government to change a policy proposal which would have prohibited the feeding of unpasteurised milk to livestock on Officially TB Withdrawn (OFTW) premises.

The proposal, which was put forward in the Government's 2021 Refreshed TB Programme consultation, was opposed by FUW members due to factors such as cost, the impracticalities of attempting to pasteurise individual mothers milk for each calf and the welfare benefits of colostrum in the first few days of life.

Following the consultation, the FUW repeatedly met with Welsh Government staff and officials to highlight members' concerns and to discuss the relative cost-benefit of introducing this measure.

Dr Hazel Wright, FUW Acting Head of Policy, (pictured left), said: "We have spent a great deal of time and effort presenting our concerns to the Welsh Government over successive meetings on this issue. We are therefore extremely pleased that our concerns have been heard and that this has resulted in a positive policy change."



"It is important for calf welfare that calves are provided with their mothers colostrum and milk for the first few days of life. Given the immense impracticalities of attempting to pasteurise individual mothers milk for each calf, this proposal could have detrimentally affected calf welfare."

As part of its consultation response the FUW highlighted that while there may be significant risk in individual cases, the overall importance of milk borne transmission in the epidemic is probably low or negligible. Given the relative risk, the Union did not believe that this was a priority issue and believed resources would be better spent elsewhere.

"Whilst this proposal will not now be taken forward, we are encouraging cattle keepers to speak to their vet to understand the risk posed by milk borne transmission on their own individual premises," added Dr Wright.

"Given the immense impracticalities of attempting to pasteurise individual mothers milk for each calf, this proposal could have detrimentally affected calf welfare."

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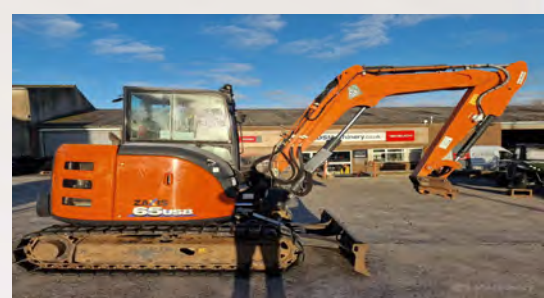




Fendt Farma 309 Turbomatik. G reg. 4000 hours approx. Rare tractor. Nice to drive.



John Deere 5125. Year 2018. Hours 942 Approx. 3 Spools, Front weights. Low Hours. Mint Condition



Hitachi Zaxis 65 USB. Year 2020. 2100 hours approx.. New track pads, Hyd hitch. Very Good Condition



Valtra T234A. Year 2018. Hours 2950 Approx. 4 Spools. Front Links. Excellent Condition throughout.



Valtra T254 Versu. Year 2020. Hours 2763 Approx Smart Touch Screen. GPS and Auto Steer Ready. Electric Spools. Front links and PTO



Solis 50RX. Year 2020. Hours 97 Approx. 50hp. Manual Transmission 2 Rear Spools. 2WD/4WD. Front Weights



Takeuchi TB228. Year 2015. Hours 2514 Approx. Manual, semi quick hitch. Three buckets. Very good condition.



Takeuchi TL12R2. Year 2018. Hours 225.7. 5.7" Colour Display, Rear Camera..Suspension Seat Loading Bucket. Excellent Condition



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# Amlygu pwysigrwydd cymorth fferm o fewn cadwyni cyflenwi da byw Cymru

MAE UAC wedi pwysleisio'r pwysigrwydd o gynnal cefnogaeth amaethyddol i'r economi wledig a chynhyrchu amaethyddol ar ôl cyhoeddi adroddiad yn amlygu rôl cefnogaeth uniongyrchol i gadwyni cyflenwi da byw Cymru.

Mae'r adroddiad, 'Rôl cymorth i ffermydd o fewn cadwyni cyflenwi da byw yng Nghymru' yn defnyddio gwerth pum mlynedd o ffigurau Arolwg Busnes Ffermydd Cymru i ymchwilio mewn i'r math o gynnydd o ran elw, neu ostyngiad o ran costau mewnbwn dethol y byddai eu hangen i gynnal elw da byw cyfartalog ffermydd petai'r cymorth uniongyrchol yn cael ei gwtogi 50% a 100%.

Dyweddodd Llywydd UAC Ian Rickman: "Mae Cymru eisoes wedi colli dros £200 miliwn i'n cyllideb amaethyddiaeth o ganlyniad i doriadau Trysorlys y DU, ac yn ddiweddar mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi torri £37 miliwn arall ar gyllideb materion gwledig eleni.

"Mae hyn yn golygu y bydd llai o arian, nid yn unig i ffermydd, ond hefyd i'r degau o filoedd o fusnesau Cymreig sy'n darparu gwasanaethau a nwyddau i'r ffermydd."

Dyweddodd Mr Rickman bod hi'n hanfodol bod gwleidyddion a llunwyr polisi yn llwyr ddeall y rôl economaidd mae cymorth fferm yn ei chwarae o fewn cadwyni cyflenwi a pheryglon y toriadau a'r newidiadau a gynigir gan rai, ond mai ychydig o ddadansoddiadau a wnaed gan lywodraethau cyn cynnig neu weithredu newidiadau polisi.

"Rydym yn cyfrifo, heb gymorth uniongyrchol, bydd gwariant gan ffermydd da byw Cymru yn agored i doriadau o £38.87 miliwn am borthiant, £12.15 miliwn ar gyfer triniaethau milfeddygol a meddyginiaethau, £9.83 miliwn am lafur, £10.56 miliwn ar gyfer contractio a £26.34 miliwn ar gyfer tanwydd ac atgyweiriadau.

"Mae ffigurau o'r fath yn cael eu hamcangyfrif trwy leihau gwariant ym mhob un o gategoriâu gwariant yr arolwg busnes fferm gan ganran sefydlog er mwyn 'mantoli'r llyfrau'. Ond mewn gwirionedd byddai ffermydd yn penderfynu canolbwyntio toriadau mewn rhai meysydd yn fwy nag eraill yn seiliedig ar benderfyniadau busnes. Mae hynny'n golygu y gallai'r toriadau ar gyfer rhai mathau o fusnesau fod yn llawer uwch mewn sefyllfa o'r fath."

Dyweddodd Mr Rickman y byddai unrhyw doriadau, waeth pa mor fawr, yn cael effaith ar lawer o fusnesau eraill yng Nghymru, ac yn y sefyllfa waethaf byddai rhai busnesau yn colli degau o filiynau mewn incwm, gydag effeithiau anochel ar hyfywedd busnes a chyflogaeth.

"Yn naturiol, rydym yn gobeithio na fyddai cyllidebau a pholisïau byth yn cael eu newid mewn ffordd sy'n arwain at effeithiau mor erchyll i'n ffermydd a'r rhai sy'n dibynnu arnynt, ond rydym i gyd yn ymwybodol o'r pwysau i wneud newidiadau ysgubol.

"Yn bryderus, y duedd yn Llundain a Chaerdydd fu symud ymlaen gyda chynigion a newidiadau heb gynnal yr ymchwiliadau a'r dadansoddiadau ariannol manwl sydd angen ar newidiadau mor enfawr," ychwanegodd.

Mae'r adroddiad hefyd yn tynnu sylw at y cynnydd sylweddol mewn elw o fagu da byw a gwerthiant a fyddai'n ofynnol i wneud iawn am doriadau i gymorth.

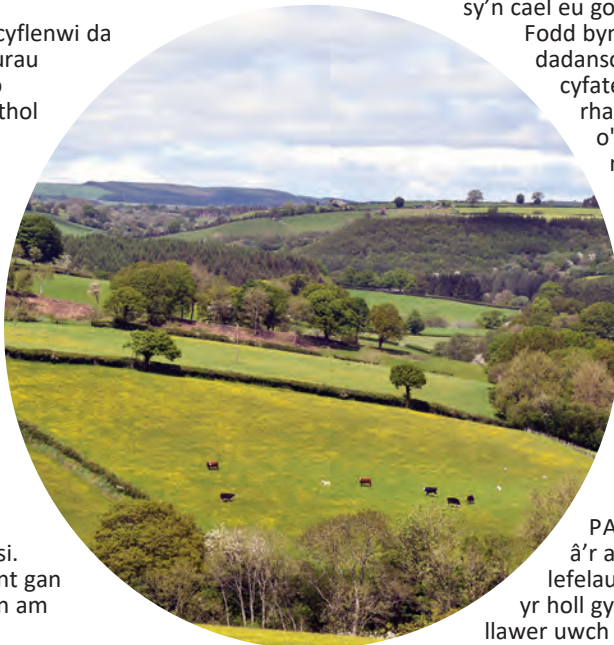
Ar gyfer sefyllfa lle mae cymorth uniongyrchol yn cael ei leihau 50%, bydd angen cynnydd mewn elw fesul dafad o rhwng £18.09 (ffermydd gwartheg a defaid mynydd) a £24.06 (ffermydd gwartheg a defaid tir isel) ynghyd ag elw uwch fesul buwch o rhwng £120.63 (ffermydd gwartheg a defaid mynydd) a £160.39 (ffermydd gwartheg a defaid tir isel) i gynnal elw cyffredinol y fferm yn y sefyllfa yr ymchwiliwyd iddo - ffigurau sy'n cael eu dyblu ar gyfer y sefyllfa lle mae cymorth uniongyrchol yn disgyn i sero.

"Mae rhain yn gynnydd enfawr sy'n edrych yn anodd neu'n amhosibl eu cyflawni heb newidiadau mawr i'r hyn y mae defnyddwyr yn ei dalu am fwyd a sut mae arian yn cael ei ddosbarthu ar hyd y gadwyn gyflenwi, sy'n pwysleisio'r peryglon y mae newidiadau i'r cymorth yn eu cynrychioli ar gyfer cynhyrchu bwyd yng Nghymru," meddai Mr Rickman.

Mae'r adroddiad hefyd yn pwysleisio nad oes yna fawr o gyfle i arallgyfeirio er mwyn llenwi unrhyw fylchau a adawyd gan doriadau'r llywodraeth, gan nodi er y gallai rhai newid i'r sectorau amaethyddol sydd wedi bod yn fwy proffidiol dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, megis cynhyrchu llaeth neu ddofednod, tra bod eraill yn gallu arallgyfeirio'n llwyddiannus i dwristiaeth neu sectorau eraill, yn ogystal â bod llawer yn cael eu cyfyngu gan fforddiadwyedd, cyfyngiadau cyfreithiol a thirwedd a ffrwythlondeb tir, mae arallgyfeirio i unrhyw faes hefyd wedi'i gyfyngu gan uchafsymiau sy'n ymwneud â dirlawnder y farchnad.

"Dylid nodi hefyd y bydd set sgiliau cyfran helaeth o'r rhai a all geisio arallgyfeirio eu hincwm drwy weithio oddi ar y fferm yn bennaf mewn amaethyddiaeth - sector a fyddai, trwy ddiffiniad, ddim yn gallu fforddio gwasanaethau'r rhai sydd â set sgiliau o'r fath yn natblygiad toriadau o'r fath i gymorth. "Fel y

"Mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru sicrhau bod ei dyluniad a'i gweithrediad o'r Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy newydd yn cael ei ymchwilio'n drylwyr o ran y math o effeithiau a ddatgelwyd yn ein hadroddiad ac yn ystyried ein pryderon a'n cynigion."



cyfryw, mae'n rhaid i lunwyr polisi ac eraill fod yn bwylllog ac yn realistig ynglŷn â'r cyfleoedd cyfyngedig ar gyfer arallgyfeirio i wneud iawn yn sylweddol am golledion sy'n cael eu gorfodi o ganlyniad i newidiadau o'r fath," meddai Mr Rickman.

Fodd bynnag, pwysleisiodd fod y canlyniadau yn cynrychioli dadansoddiad sy'n rhy syml o effeithiau toriadau i'r BPS neu gyllid cyfatebol i amaethyddiaeth yng Nghymru, ac felly nid ydynt yn rhagfynegiad manwl cywir o'r hyn fyddai'n digwydd pe bai toriadau o'r fath yn digwydd. Yn hytrach, maent yn darlunio ac yn ceisio meintio rôl cymorth uniongyrchol mewn cadwyni cyflenwi da byw a'r pwysau amrywiol y byddai toriadau o'r fath yn eu rhoi ar ffermydd a busnesau eraill, ac yn y pen draw, ar boblogaeth ehangach Cymru.

"Serch hynny, mae'r gwaith hwn yn dangos yr angen i Lywodraethau'r DU a Chymru gynnal a diogelu cyllid cyffredinol amaethyddiaeth a datblygu gwledig, yn ogystal â'r angen i ymchwilio'n ofalus i sut y gall polisïau effeithio nid yn unig ar ffermydd ond hefyd ar y busnesau a chynhyrchiad bwyd sy'n dibynnu arnynt.

"Ar lefel Llywodraeth y DU, rydym yn disgwyl iddynt anrhydeddu eu hymrwymiadau i warantu cyllid disodli'r PAC blynyddol ar lefelau 2019 ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf.

"Fodd bynnag, ni ddylem anghofio y dylai cyfanswm cyllideb PAC Cymru bellach ddod i gyfanswm o tua £500 miliwn o gymharu â'r adeg y rhannwyd cyllideb PAC 2014-20 yn 2013 o ystyried lefelau chwyddiant, a petai ni wedi aros yn yr UE a chael mynediad at yr holl gyllid sydd ar gael, byddai ein cyllideb amaethyddol bellach yn llawer uwch nag y mae ar hyn o bryd."

Pwysleisiodd Mr Rickman nad oedd UAC erioed wedi dadlau o blaid cadw'r sefyllfa bresennol a'i bod wedi cyflwyno cynigion ar gyfer cynllun newydd a oedd yn hyderus y byddai'n cynnal rôl ffermydd teuluol Cymru wrth gefnogi busnesau eraill a chynhyrchu bwyd o'r safon uchaf, wrth ddod â manteision amgylcheddol mawr i Gymru.

"Mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru sicrhau bod ei dyluniad a'i gweithrediad o'r Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy newydd yn cael ei ymchwilio'n drylwyr o ran y math o effeithiau a ddatgelwyd yn ein hadroddiad ac yn ystyried ein pryderon a'n cynigion," ychwanegodd Mr Rickman.



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# FUW holds successful Montgomeryshire Day

THE Montgomeryshire team of the FUW took the farming story to Westminster in a bid to showcase the importance of agriculture and food production, as well as providing an opportunity to showcase Montgomeryshire demonstrating the sheer quality and diversity of its produce, producers and organisations.

Working jointly with Craig Williams, Member of Parliament for Montgomeryshire, the Union and exhibitors had a successful 'Montgomeryshire Day', which was hosted in the Jubilee Room in the House of Commons on Wednesday December 6 2023.

Joining the FUW for the event were The British Wool Marketing Board, Montgomeryshire YFC, Cakes and Bakes, Craig Farm Organics, Vintage Land Rover Tours, Get Jerky, LunchLocker and Mid Wales Tourism.

The delegation enjoyed an evening at the Wales Office meeting with Minister of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Mark Spencer MP, Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Steve Barclay MP, and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Wales Office Fay Jones MP.

FUW President Ian Rickman said: "I would like to thank Craig Williams for the excellent opportunity to bring not just the story of farming and Montgomeryshire right into the heart of London, but also providing members with an opportunity to speak to Ministers about the farming matters that are of concern to them."

Union officials also met with Steve Reed MP, Shadow Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the Wednesday morning, discussing funding commitments, the importance of farming to the rural economy and wider manifesto commitments including the need for food security, and Jo Stevens MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Wales to discuss the Unions key asks looking ahead to a possible General Election.

In the afternoon, following Prime Minister's Questions, Montgomeryshire Day welcomed guests to taste Montgomeryshire produce and speak to producers and Union officials about wider farming matters. Union President Ian Rickman also welcomed the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, highlighting the concerns farmers have in Wales.

Speaking after the event, The Rt Hon. Craig Williams MP said: "It was a pleasure to welcome all of our exhibitors and guests to Westminster. Our aim was to showcase Montgomeryshire and promote a county that is filled with wondrous landscapes and blessed with so many successful businesses, from small to large scale.

"I would like to pay tribute to everyone who has been involved in Montgomeryshire Day, and in particular to everyone who has travelled to London. Finally, a massive thank you to the Farmers' Union of Wales, who have been instrumental in pulling the event together."

FUW Montgomeryshire County Executive Officer, Emyr Wyn Davies, said: "Montgomeryshire Day provided an excellent opportunity to showcase our agricultural and rural talents in the House of Commons, whilst also showing those MP's not representing a Welsh constituency what we have to offer.

"As a Union we know that family farms in particular are at the heart of our rural economy, caring for our landscapes and of course our culture, and they make innumerable other contributions to the well-being of Wales and the UK. That was clearly visible at Montgomeryshire Day and members across the Union will be pleased to know that their Union stressed the importance of a thriving, sustainable, farming sector in Wales with everyone they spoke to during the course of the event."



From left, FUW Montgomeryshire Assistant Administrator Lynne Baker, FUW Montgomeryshire County Executive Officer Emyr Wyn Davies, FUW Montgomeryshire County Vice Chair Wyn Williams and FUW Montgomeryshire County Chair Iwan Pugh Jones.



FUW President Ian Rickman (left) with Steve Reed MP, Shadow Secretary of State for DEFRA.



DEFRA Minister Mark Spencer MP (left) with FUW President Ian Rickman.



From left, FUW Montgomeryshire County Executive Officer Emyr Wyn Davies, FUW Montgomeryshire County Vice Chair Wyn Williams, Craig Williams MP, FUW Montgomeryshire County Chair Iwan Pugh Jones and FUW President Ian Rickman.



From left, FUW President Ian Rickman, Virginia Crosbie MP for Anglesey and FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Liaison Officer Lauren Price.



From left, FUW Montgomeryshire County Vice Chair Wyn Williams, DEFRA Secretary of State Steve Barclay MP and FUW President Ian Rickman.



From left, FUW Montgomeryshire County Executive Officer Emyr Wyn Davies, Rt Hon David TC Davies MP - Secretary of State for Wales and FUW Montgomeryshire County Chair Iwan Pugh Jones.



Junior Minister in the Wales Office Fay Jones MP with FUW Deputy Head of Policy Gareth Parry.





# NVZ Support Service

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

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

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

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

### Our NVZ Support Service includes:

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

**From £350+VAT for members and £450+VAT for non members**

Prices start from £350+VAT for members and £450+VAT for non members. Contact your local office to receive a quote for this service or ring us on 01970 820820 to make an appointment today



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# Veterinary Attestation - your questions answered

In January 2022, “regular veterinary visits” became a requirement of the European Union’s Animal Health Regulation. This means that farms producing animals or products of animal origin which are exported to the EU must comply with this regulation. In order to maintain trade with the EU a temporary measure, in the form of a “farmer’s attestation” was introduced, however this does not comply with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons certification requirements. Therefore, from December 13 2023, the temporary agreement of “farmer attestation” came to an end being replaced by the requirement of a Veterinary Attestation.



## What is a Veterinary Attestation?

A Veterinary Attestation is an EU requirement that certifies a regular on-farm visit by a veterinary surgeon to verify the absence of notifiable disease, a visual animal health assessment and provide advice on farm biosecurity. Evidence of this visit will then be passed to the certifying Official Veterinarian at the end of the food chain.

Without evidence of regular veterinary visits, the slaughterhouse Official Veterinarian will not be able to sign the ‘Support Health Attestation’ document which accompanies products being exported to the EU.

## I’m a member of a farm assurance scheme, do I need a Vet Attestation?

You do not need to arrange a vet visit if you are a member of one of the following schemes, membership of these farm assurance schemes is accepted as evidence that a premises meets the regulation requirement of regular health visits by a veterinarian:

- Farm Assured Welsh Livestock Beef and Lamb Scheme (FAWL) / Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers Ltd (WLBP)
- Red Tractor
- Lion Quality
- Poultry Health Scheme
- England only - Pathway Vet visits under the annual health and welfare review, government scheme

## I’m not a member of a farm assurance scheme, do I need a Vet Attestation?

If you produce livestock that is destined for slaughter, then it is strongly recommended that you arrange a visit by your vet to obtain a Veterinary Attestation Certificate.

It is the farmers’ responsibility to arrange a vet attestation visit. The vet visit doesn’t need to be for the sole purpose of providing a vet attestation, it could be done in conjunction with other routine work.

## I don’t sell livestock directly to slaughter, do I need a Vet Attestation?

Livestock that are not being sold directly to slaughter do not require a VAN. However, there may be occasions where a direct to slaughter route might need to be taken, which would require an attestation.

## What happens if I don’t have a Vet Attestation?

Without a vet attestation, the official veterinarian at the slaughterhouse would not be able to sign a Support Health Attestation which is a requirement for EU export of products from animal origin. Your produce will not be allowed to be sold and exported to EU markets.

In order to maximise full carcass value, many parts of the carcass, including some fifth quarter produce, are exported and will require evidence of a veterinary visit in order to fulfil the export criteria.

## I’ve booked a veterinary visit, now what?

To meet the requirements of the declaration the visit will incorporate a visual animal health inspection and provide advice on any biosecurity concerns. The purpose of the visit is to evaluate for disease prevention and detection of biosecurity risks.

Following successful inspection you’ll receive a Veterinary Attestation Certificate that will state your Veterinary Attestation Number (VAN).

## What is a Vet Attestation Number (VAN)?

The VAN number is your unique reference number provided by the vet to certify that an on farm veterinary visit has taken place. It is this VAN number that you’ll need to provide to onward buyers, whether that be to livestock markets or direct to the slaughter house, for them to include on subsequent paperwork, the Food Chain Information (FCI) document.

The VAN is a 20 digit number that comprises the veterinarian’s Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) number, the County Parish Holding (CPH) number that the VAN corresponds to and the expiry date of the certificate.

(RVCS number)-(CPH number)-(Expiry date)

## What should I do with the paper copy of the Veterinary Attestation Certificate?

As the farmer you should keep this certificate with your farm records and a copy will be kept on your veterinary practise database. You don’t have to send paper copies of the certificate with animals to market or slaughter, it is the VAN number only that follows the animal to slaughter.

## How long is the Veterinary Attestation Certificate valid for?

The vet attestation is valid for 12 months, and it is the farmers responsibility to renew the certificate annually and ensure that the new VAN is updated on relevant documentation such as the FCI.

A  
Veterinary  
Attestation  
is an EU  
requirement that  
certifies a regular  
on-farm visit by  
a veterinary  
surgeon





**I have several CPH numbers and temporary CPHs, will I need a VAN for each holding?**

Farms that have more than one site under the same CPH number will need to have all sites assessed for the vet to issue the attestation for the whole CPH number. However:

- A VAN can be issued if the visiting vet is confident that the premises and the relevant areas or locations related to that premise is/are subject to regular veterinary visits or are within the routine control of the farm vet.
- If the last holding prior to movement to a slaughter market or abattoir is from a temporary CPH, the requirement has been met if the main CPH in the movement chain has had a vet visit and a VAN issued.

**Can one Vet Attestation cover multiple species, for example cattle and sheep?**

Yes, more than one species on one holding can be covered by one Vet Attestation visit, providing the vet assesses the health and biosecurity criteria for all species on that site during the visit.



**Where do I log the VAN?**

As a vendor or seller of livestock destined for slaughter, you will be required to provide the auctioneer or purchaser with the VAN number of the last premises that the animals were resident.

Sheep movement forms (AML-1) have been amended to include an area to note the VAN (see form below), if your movement forms do not contain this area then the VAN can be noted on the back of the form in the 'Additional FCI' section.

Cattle; the VAN should be provided to the market, usually on the market entry form or FCI

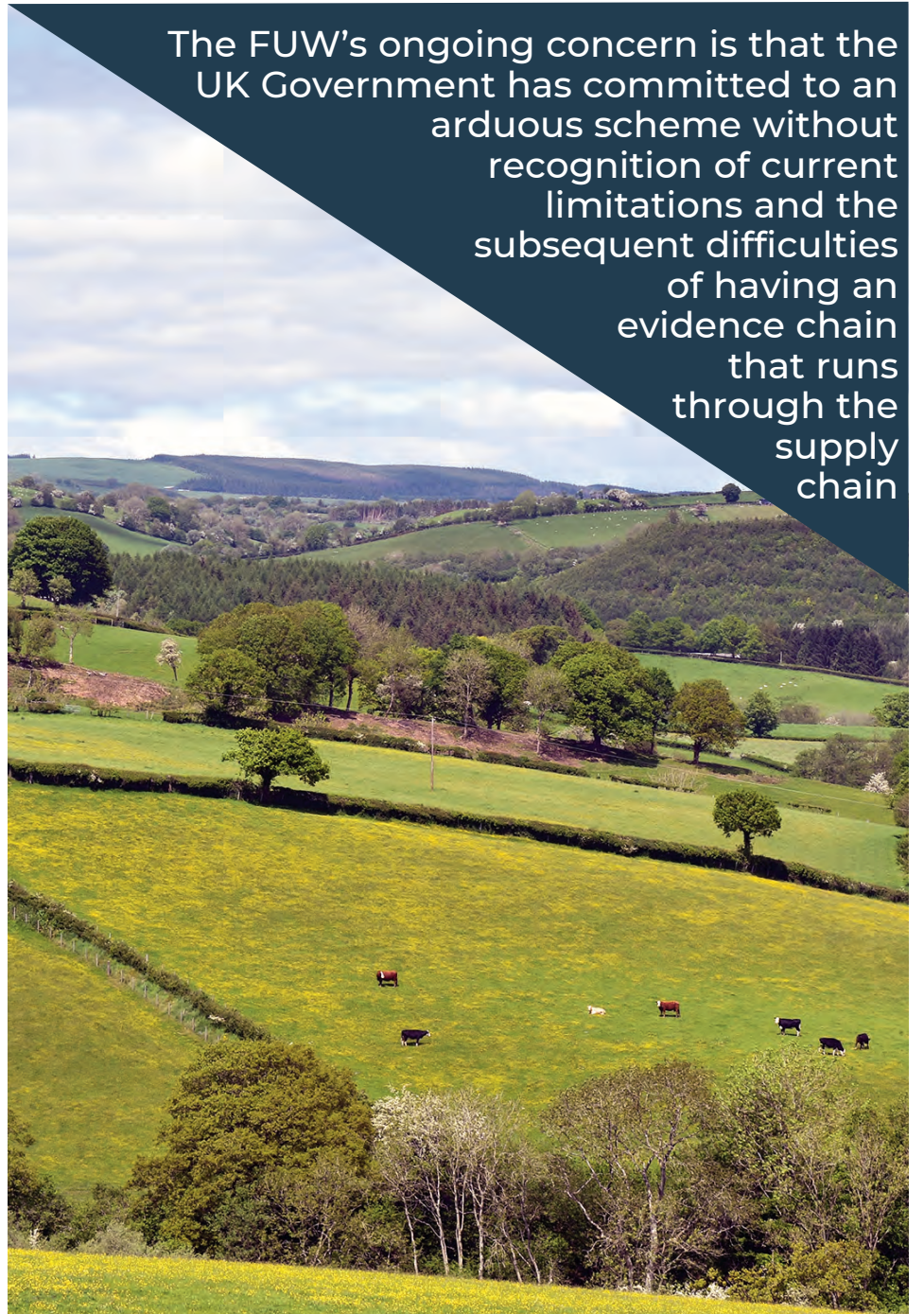
Pigs digital eAML2 system has been updated to accommodate the VAN

**Can the VAN be logged digitally?**

Currently there is no capacity to incorporate the VAN into digital cattle movements, the VAN has to be manually given to the market or written on FCI documentation. Similarly the digital platform for sheep movements in Wales, EID Cymru, cannot accommodate the VAN number.

The Welsh Government are exploring digital solutions for the longer term, however no timeframe has been given for this work.

Since December 13 2023 most livestock markets will request and upload your VAN number to their market systems, this allows for the VAN (or assurance number) of each lot to be provided to the purchaser on their sale invoice.



The FUW's ongoing concern is that the UK Government has committed to an arduous scheme without recognition of current limitations and the subsequent difficulties of having an evidence chain that runs through the supply chain

**FUW Lobbying**

The FUW believes that the requirement for an annual veterinary attestations for export represents yet more 'gold-plating' of EU regulations. The relevant EU regulation simply states that veterinary animal health farm visits will be required 'when appropriate; and that the frequency should be 'proportionate to the risk'.

Whilst now accepting that the new regulations have come into force on December 13 2023, the FUW's ongoing concern is that the UK Government has committed to an arduous scheme without recognition of current limitations and the subsequent difficulties of having an evidence chain that runs through the supply chain.

Looking forward, FUW will be lobbying the Welsh Government to develop the integration of the VAN into the digital multi species EID Cymru platform. In addition, the FUW will lobby to ensure that any requirement for animal health and welfare, biosecurity and on farm veterinary visit held within the proposals of the future Sustainable Farming Scheme would be accepted as proof of veterinary attestation to allow for EU exports.

**Sheep and Goat Movement Document – AML1**

Please read the important notes overleaf before completing using CAPITAL letters and pressing firmly with a BALLPOINT pen.

**1. Departure Location**

Departure CPH: / /

Departure Address

Postcode

Arrival Address

Postcode

Sheep  
 Goats

Total number moved

Ewes/Rams/Lambs/Goats/Kids	Individual Identification or Flock/Herd mark (if EID slaughter tags)

**2. Please tick box if:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Moving to/returning from rounding up on common land	<input type="checkbox"/> Moving animals to a Central Point Recording Centre
<input type="checkbox"/> Using a continuation sheet (AML1A) or animal numbers printout stapled to this form	<input type="checkbox"/> Movement has been recorded online at EIDCymru.org and can be accepted

**3. Assurance Scheme or Vet Attestation Number. PLEASE COMPLETE ONLY ONE (please refer to back page Note 6)**

Farm Assurance scheme number

Vet Attestation Number (VAN), enter all 20 digits.

**4. Food Chain Information (FCI) – Declaration for sheep and goat movements to slaughter (tick 1 box)**

i. All the animals listed in this consignment satisfy the FCI statements detailed on the reverse of this form.

ii. The FCI statements are not satisfied for all the animals listed in the consignment and additional information is provided on the reverse of the pink copy or on an attached document.

**I declare that the details provided are correct**

Keeper's signature <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Departure date <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>
Print name <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Date of loading (if different) <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>
Phone number <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Time first animals loaded <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>
Name of owner if different to keepers named above <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Time of departure <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>
e-mail address <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Expected duration of journey <input style="width: 50%;" type="text"/>



# Political Matters

by Lauren Price, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Liaison Officer

THERE'S something to be said for being thrown in at the deep end and hoping you can swim, and just over two months ago when I joined the FUW, it feels as though I did just that. Having worked in the constituency office of a Welsh MP for the last 3 and a half years, I was very excited to be offered the opportunity to develop my career in policy and politics by joining the FUW as Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer. With big boots to fill, I have been grateful for a very busy time in politics and farming to give me plenty to sink my teeth into.

I began the role in the midst of the Habitat Wales Scheme Expression of Interest window and a time of real uncertainty for the farming industry and wider communities. However, my first couple of months have been a fantastic opportunity to meet with members and elected representatives, to discuss concerns, gain different perspectives and learn as much as I can for my new role.

My first event was a visit to a very wet Dairy Show in Carmarthen and despite a slightly flooded stand, the warm cups of tea, Welsh cakes and plenty of members to chat to meant I felt I was off to a great start. The first political meeting on my agenda was to join a meeting with Emyr Davies, County Executive Officer in the Newtown office, where he had invited Russell George MS to meet with him to discuss the concerns that had arisen from the Habitat Wales Scheme. Mapping issues and payments rates being top of the agenda, Russell was very keen to listen to the FUW's perspective, and subsequently put forward a question to the minister

regarding the HWS and the concerns raised by the FUW's Newtown staff.

One of my favourite parts of the role so far have been farm visits with politicians. We can take our cause to the Senedd and to Westminster, but it is invaluable for politicians to be on farm, to meet the people living and breathing farming in Wales and to really understand the difficulties we face. Since October, we have met the leader of Plaid Cymru Rhun ap Iorwerth MS, Llŷr Gruffydd MS, Ben Lake MP, Elin Jones MS, Virginia Crosbie MP and Sam Kurtz MS on farm, raising a range of issues both for Welsh and UK Governments to address. High on the agenda have been budget cuts and future funding, bovine TB, Habitat Wales Scheme, Sustainable Farming Scheme, sustainability and just how do we continue to survive and thrive in such uncertain times. We have got several more farm visits in the pipeline and I look forward to welcoming more politicians to learn from our members in 2024.

Away from our usual agricultural lobbying, myself, FUW President Ian Rickman and Head of Communications Anne Dunn went to the White Ribbon Day event at the Senedd. This was an incredibly moving day, and it is important to learn, share from and support these important events. As an organisation that has deep roots in our rural communities, we have not just an opportunity but a duty to highlight this problem and be clear that we will not be silent bystanders.

The Winter Fair came around very quickly, and a busy two days saw us meeting and discussing the most urgent farming matters with a range of politicians and parties. During the two days, we met with Craig Williams MP, Sam Kurtz MS, Fay Jones MP, Cefin Campbell MS, Llŷr Gruffydd MS, James Evans MS, the TFA, National Trust and prospective Brecon and Radnorshire parliamentary candidate David Chadwick.

During these meetings we discussed the need for a fair funding framework, the Unions modelling on the economic impact of the reductions of BPS, SFS and Habitat Wales Scheme. Away from the formal

meetings, the stand never seemed to slow down, with tea, coffee and FUW calendars flying off the counter, this was a great opportunity to meet members, discuss their concerns and watch the cattle in the ring when I could sneak a 5 minute break!

At the beginning of December, I was very excited to be able to be a part of Montgomeryshire Day, organised by the Montgomeryshire arm of the Union and sponsored by Craig Williams MP.

A very busy two days saw myself, Ian Rickman and FUW Deputy President Dai Miles travel to London ahead of the others, so that we could squeeze in a few meetings on Tuesday afternoon. We were delighted to meet with Jo Stevens MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Wales, and James Davies MP. During these meetings we raised some of our key concerns ahead of the upcoming (possibly sooner than we would hope) General Election. That evening, at a drinks reception hosted in the Wales Office, we were fortunate enough to be able to share a drink and chat with the DEFRA Minister Mark Spencer MP, DEFRA Secretary of State Steve Barclay MP and Junior Minister in the Wales Office Fay Jones MP.

The following day saw another meeting with Steve Reed MP, Shadow Secretary of State for DEFRA, where we discussed funding commitments, the importance of farming to the rural economy and wider manifesto commitments including the need for food security.

That afternoon was the Montgomeryshire Day, following a fantastic mention from the Prime Minister in PMQ's, we welcomed politicians from every party, Ministers, Members of the House of Lords, staffers and Ian Rickman was fortunate enough to get a quick meeting with the PM in his office. This gave us the fantastic opportunity to showcase what Montgomeryshire has to offer and to share the Unions knowledge and expertise with MP's. Members can rest assured their voices were heard loud and clear in Westminster over the two days.

By the time you read this the final SFS consultation will have been released, some lovely bedtime reading for us all over the Christmas period! And we will also have had a meeting with Leslie Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs with the SFS consultation and future funding at the top of the agenda.

I just want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome in joining the FUW, the busy time has really helped me to hit the ground running and I look forward to my future with the FUW. Diolch!



"The busy time has really helped me to hit the ground running and I look forward to my future with the FUW. Diolch!"



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## Shepherd's crook for Glyn



Past FUW President Glyn Roberts (left) being presented with a shepherd's crook from FUW President Ian Rickman at the recent FUW AGM as a thank you for all his hard work during his term as President and FUW Board Chair.



# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Whilst I am very pleased that county staff are now able to help members comply with the Agri Pollution regs by completing the workbook and risk maps required, I am concerned that suggested rates of uptake are very limited. Not only are farmers required by law to comply and could be fined and criminalised if they don't, but they could also be in danger of losing subsidy and scheme payments. The Agri Pollution regs now form part of the Cross Compliance conditions that you agree to before claiming BPS, or accepting the Habitat Scheme contract, or a grant contract.

Compliance with the Regulations will form part of the cross-compliance inspection regime. You will have to comply with the Regulations to be entitled to full payment - failure to comply could lead to deductions. (The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 Guidance for Farmers and Land Managers)

I know there will be some that feel that this service should be offered free of charge, and maybe a sliding scale would be more appropriate - there is more work involved if you have a slurry store for example, however I believe that this should be a chargeable bolt on to the basic membership fee. This requirement was brought in by Welsh Government without thought for the implications to farmers. The form is nigh on impossible to complete without help, and there are financial penalties for not complying with the law as well as reductions in subsidy for not complying with Cross Compliance. If consultants are used to helping complete the workbook etc there will be a greater charge than if county staff help you to comply.

If we looked at the area NRW classed as an NVZ, the majority of us would be farming outside that critical area. We all need to be aware and prevent pollution incidents where we can, slurry and manure is too valuable a commodity to waste, so if you have slurry making sure you have capacity for stock levels and diverting rainwater to avoid overflowing pits are all sensible suggestions. As is farming with the weather and not by calendar - but that involves trusting farmers to do the right thing at the moment - the technology developed at Gelli Aur does not yet cover the whole of Wales, just some of the REAL Nitrogen Vulnerable Zones. I also feel that the majority of us should not be required to complete the workbook, at least not in full. Anyone with a N loading of below 100kgN/ha should not have to complete the rest of the workbook as they are way below the critical level and I don't think anyone can afford to spread more artificial fertiliser than the crop will take.

Now that the Agri Pollution regs are law FUW head office team now has to impress upon members the importance of complying, however the regs are up for review in 2025. Now that we are experiencing the challenges of complying, that you have to be computer literate and know how to handle spreadsheets, that in reality you need a computer and broadband connection (paper versions are available), that the figures

are complex to work out accurately and this is after all a legal document and whatever the trainer says I'm not sure that "best guess" would work on an inspector or a court of law, that this an extra cost at a time of diminishing returns, now is the time to say "Let's keep lobbying", every MS needs to hear these issues, time and time again. Invite them to your farms, sit them down with your stock movements and ask them to try and complete the workbooks. I realise this is a hard ask as it seems some do not seem to realise that they have any farmers as constituents, the amount of interest they take.

I spoke to 6 MS' at the summer shows, not one realised what farmers were actually being asked to do. By the time these regs are up for review, MS' need to be fed up with hearing about them, and be glad to get the forms simplified so that we no longer have to pay for them to be completed by county staff.

But at the moment every farmer in Wales (whether they claim subsidy or not) is legally required to complete the workbook and risk maps. If you sign a Habitat Scheme contract you have already agreed to be Cross Compliant and therefore be compliant with the Agri Pollution Laws. When you complete your SAF in March the workbook for the year ended 31 October 2023 should already be complete. For the sake of their sanity, please don't expect county staff to be able to complete your Workbook and Risk Maps when completing SAF!

Yours

Charlotte Llewellyn

FUW Glamorgan County Chair



## Editor's note

The NVZ Service provided by the FUW is calculated on a sliding scale but as the letter highlights, this is a complex issue and between supporting members in completing the workbook and making time available to deal with follow-up questions the costing structure reflects the time commitment required to make this service work for both members and the Union.

## Presidential team visit IBERS



From left, FUW Policy Officer Elan Evans, FUW Regional Vice President's Alun Owen and Anwen Hughes, FUW President Ian Rickman, FUW Regional Vice President Brian Bowen, FUW Policy Officer Elin Jenkins and FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Liaison Officer Lauren Price.

THE FUW Presidential Team visited the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences (IBERS) where they learnt of the vast array of research and development in plant breeding being undertaken at the institute.

IBERS has been located at Gogerddan, Aberystwyth since the 1950's and is nationally and internationally recognised for housing one of the most important collections of 35 thousand seeds in its seed bank. The research and development work undertaken at IBERS is of economic importance to agriculture with 40% of grasses and clovers sold in the UK being bred at IBERS.

Looking forward, the team learnt that IBERS are continuing to develop grasses and crops

focusing on the many issues facing agriculture currently and in the future, such as extreme growing conditions of drought and heat stress to the potential limited availability of nutrients and manufactured fertilisers.

The visit ended with a tour of the cutting-edge facilities at AberInnovation, where both experts and technology were on hand to facilitate the development of the next steps in manufacturing initiatives from agricultural products.

The Presidential team would like to give thanks to John Davies, IBERS Business Development Manager for coordinating the visit and to all the team at IBERS for their welcome and informative talks and tour of the facilities.

## Gostyngiadau i aelodau UAC FUW member discounts



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# “Pwyll pia hi wrth fynd ati i greu diwydiant diogel ar gyfer y dyfodol”

gan Alun Edwards, Llysgennad Partneriaeth Diogelwch Fferm Cymru

AR ddechrau blwyddyn fel hyn, dwi am erfyn ar bob ffarmwr i wneud addewid i fod yn fwy gofalus wrth fynd ati i gynllunio tasgau gwaith y dydd, yn enwedig y rhai ohonom sy'n tynnu mlaen mewn oedran. Rydan ni'n brofiadol ac yn hyderus efallai, ond yn aml ddim yn hyfforddedig, ac mae pob peiriant ar y ffarm yn fwy, yn gryfach a chyflymach, ac fel ein gwartheg a defaid yn aml iawn, yn drymach. Ni'r to hyn yn ôl yr ystadegau sy'n dioddef y rhelyw o'r damweiniau, neu'n gorfod wynebu'r canlyniadau.

Ym Mart Dolgellau ddiwedd y flwyddyn, mi gwrddes i â dynes hynod o'r enw Jane Gurney, oedd yno ar wahoddiad y Bartneriaeth Diogelwch Ffarm yma yng Nghymru i godi ymwybyddiaeth ynglŷn â rheolau tynnu trelars ffarm. Hi sefydlodd y syniad o gynnal deunaw pwynt archwilio a chynnal a chadw ar gyfer trelars, a hynny gan beirianwyr proffesiynol, a elwir yn Tilly Pass.



Pam fod hi'n ymgyrchydd? Wel, nôl yn 2014, roedd ei mab 19 oed, Harry, yn gweithio ar ffarm yn ystod gwyliau'r haf ac yn gyrru tractor a threlar llawn grawn, ac fe'i lladdwyd mewn gwrthdrawiad â phont ger Alconbury yn Swydd Caergrawnt. Roedd brêcs y trelar yn ddiffygiol, a dim cofnod o gynnal a chadw ar gael. Bedair blynedd yn ddiweddarach, fe ddirwywyd ei gyflogwr o £400,000 a chostau am dorri rheolau iechyd a diogelwch 1974. Ergyd i gydwybod a phoced y ffarmwr, ond trasiedi erchyll, y gellid bod wedi'i osgoi, i'w rieni a ffrindiau. Ac felly, dyma Jane ei fam, yn creu'r Tilly Test.

Yn ystod y sgwrs ges i efo hi, mi gyfeiriodd at y trelars ffarm oedd yn cyrraedd gyda gwartheg ar gyfer yr arwerthiant, gan nodi fod 6 bustach yn cael ei gollwng o sawl un, olygai'n sicr fod y llwyth dros bwysau cyfreithiol, gan fynd ymlaen i sôn am y saeth fach gyda'r gair “wear” wrth ei ochr ar gymalydd trelar stoc, ble dylid mesur traul y metel yn erbyn bwlyn y tywysydd, gan nodi y gellid colli bron milimedr o fetel bob blwyddyn, gan beryglu'r cyplu gyda'r Picyp neu'r tractor. Coronodd y cwbl gan nodi, yn ôl yswirwyr, fod yna tua 350 o ddamweiniau tractorau ar ein ffyrdd bob mis ym Mhrydain, gyda'r niferoedd yn cynyddu yn ystod cyfnodau cynhaeaf.

Ychydig yn ddiweddarach, mi alwes gyda chymydog i nôl gwellt i'w roi fel gwndwn dan y gwartheg, ac roedd yntau â hanes am ddiffyg cynnal a chadw gan ffarmwr; hwnnw â lori oedd angen be elwir yn “six weeks”, archwiliadau safonol sydd angen eu cynnal a'u cofnodi ar gyfer defnyddio lori fawr. Ond, gyda gwaith arall yn galw, hepgorwyd y drefn, cafwyd damwain gyda'r lori ac fe wrthododd yr yswirwyr â thalu, a wynebwyd dirwy. Soniodd hefyd am bwysigrwydd strapio unrhyw lwyth yn effeithiol, gan f'atgoffa fod cario byrnau mawr ar spike y tractor ar y ffordd, yn “unsecured load”.

Felly, er bod y pen yn troi gyda'r holl reolau, pwyll pia hi wrth fynd ati i greu diwydiant diogel ar gyfer y dyfodol. Diolch fel arfer am eich sylw.

*This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: “Easy does it when setting out to create a safe industry for the future,” or from your local county office.*



**PARTNERIAETH  
DIOGELWCH  
FFERM CYMRU**  
WALES  
FARM SAFETY  
PARTNERSHIP

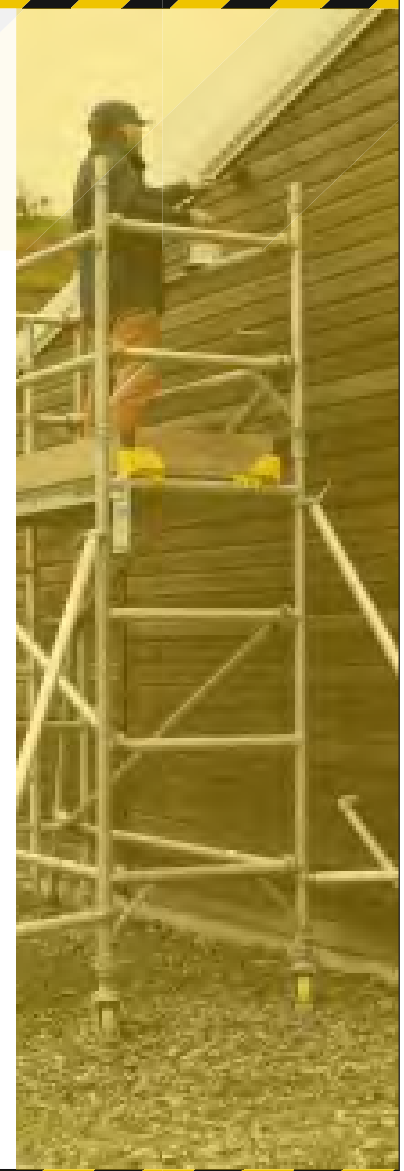
## PRIF NEGESEUON KEY MESSAGES

### GWEITHIO O UCHDER

- Rhaid i bawb sy'n gweithio ar uchder gael eu hyfforddi a bod yn gymwys
- Os nad ydych wedi'ch hyfforddi neu nad ydych chi'n gwybod pa gyfarpar i'w ddefnyddio yna dylech gysylltu â chontractwr arbenigol
- Ceisiwch osgoi neu leihau'r amser a dreulir yn gweithio ar uchder pan fo hynny'n bosibl - mae angen cynllunio a defnyddio'r cyfleusterau cywir megis sgaffaldiau a dyfeisiau atal cwmpo ar gyfer gwaith dros dro
- Lleihau'r risg o gwmpo o beiriannau mawr fel combein trwy ddefnyddio'r ystolion mynediad neu'r manau sefyll a ddarperir gan y gwneuthurwr

### WORKING FROM HEIGHTS

- All those working at heights must be trained and competent
- If you are not trained or don't know what equipment to use then you should engage a specialist roofing contractor
- Try to avoid or minimise the time spent working at heights whenever possible – even short duration work needs the right planning and access equipment such as mobile elevating work platforms, scaffolds and fall prevention devices
- Reduce the risk of falls from large machinery such as combines by always using the access ladders, steps and/or standing platforms provided by the manufacturer







# Shared budget concerns expressed to First Minister

A GROUP of Welsh farming and environmental organisations have jointly written to the First Minister of Wales to impress the importance of maintaining the Rural Affairs budget for 2024/25.

The letter to the Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS has been co-signed by CLA Cymru, Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW), NFU Cymru, National Trust Cymru, RSPB Cymru, Wales YFC, Tenant Farmers' Association and Welsh Organic Forum.

The group are calling for budgetary certainty for the Rural Affairs portfolio ahead of Welsh Government publishing its draft budget later this month.

Welsh Government has already warned that it faces its 'toughest financial position since devolution'. Earlier this year, Welsh Government made a number of in-year budget cuts - which included a £37.5m cut to the Rural Affairs pot - as part of a 'reprioritisation' of its budget to address a significant funding shortfall.

The collaborative letter reads: "Whilst we recognise the challenges that Welsh Government must contend with, we highlight that the entire Departmental Rural Affairs Budget of £482 million represents just 2% of the Welsh Government Budget. It is vitally important that as a minimum, this budget is maintained to ensure that our



obligations and ambitions in relation to food, nature and climate are achieved.

"During a period of unprecedented change, we are grateful to Welsh Government for the commitment it has shown to farming and our environment through maintaining levels of funding for the Basic Payment Scheme and the Glastir Scheme in recent years.

"We are deeply concerned, however, that rural Wales now faces a loss of £37.5m resulting from the in-year review of budgets confirmed in October 2023, a cut of 7.9% to a budget that has not seen an increase for a decade or more. This at a time when farmers and land managers are being asked to deliver far more for society than at any time previously in an extremely challenging economic landscape.

"As farming and environmental organisations, we are clear that any further cuts to the Departmental Rural Affairs Budget, and within that the funding allocated for the delivery of support that provides stability to rural businesses, alongside measures that underpin environmental delivery, will seriously threaten and undermine our rural communities and our ability to meet our shared aspiration to be global leaders in the production of climate and nature friendly food."

## FUW Academi event

The FUW Academi would like to invite you to join us for our upcoming training simulator session and farm walk:

### Measure to Manage:

Making Data Drive Profitable and Sustainable Farming in the Real World

Friday January 26 2024

Hartpury Agri-Tech Centre,  
Hartpury University, GL19 3BE

Buffet and drinks will be provided

Please RSVP the FUW Gwent office by Monday January 22 2024 - 01873 853280 / gwent@fuw.org.uk



## Please fill in our survey

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

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

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

The survey can be found via the following links:

Welsh survey - <https://forms.gle/4WDZvGxKv6WG6pR8A>

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



## WALES LONGEST AND LARGEST SUPPLIER OF 4 DOOR PICK-UPS



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- 21 NISSAN NAVARA, AUTO, LOCALLY OWNED
- 21 MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR BLUE.
- 70 FORD RANGER LTD 2L, 10 SPEED AUTO, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY, 9,500 MILES.
- 20 SSANGYONG MUSSO RHINO, AUTO, WARRANTY TIL 2027 FULLY LOADED WITH EXTRAS
- 20 FORD RANGER LIMITED, 27,000 MILES, MANUAL
- 69 NISSAN NAVARA, N-GUARD, AUTO, 35,000 MILES GREY.
- 19 FORD RANGER, LTD 3.2 AUTO, 26,000 MILES IN BLACK.
- 19 NISSAN NAVARA, TEKNA, LOCALLY OWNED, IN RED, SERVICE HISTORY, WARRANTY UNTIL 2024.
- 17 NISSAN NAVARA, TEKNA, AUTO, ONE LOCAL OWNER.

### TOYOTA PICKUPS - SUPPLIED BY US

- 68 HILUX INVINCIBLE 2.4, ONE LOCAL OWNER, FSH.
- 17 HILUX INVINCIBLE ONE OWNER FROM NEW, BLACK
- 65 HILUX INVINCIBLE, ONLY 54,000 MILES, ONE LOCAL OWNER.
- 14 HILUX ACTIVE, ONLY 55,000 MILES.

### OTHER

- 16 SSANGYONG TIVOLI 1.6 LOCALLY OWNED FSH
- 61 LANDROVER 110 XS, 7 SEATER, ONLY 27,000 MILES.
- 1982 LANDROVER 88 4 CYLINDER PETROL, ONLY 47,000 MILES.
- 1966 LANDROVER 88 SERIES 2A, ONLY 76,000 MILES.





# Calls for a bold new strategy for mental health services in Wales

by Simon Jones, Head of Policy and Campaigns, Mind Cymru

THE Welsh Government is set to launch a new draft mental health strategy for people to feed into in Wales. Rarely have mental health services been more overstretched at a time when they are so needed. We welcome that mental health is a clear area of focus and priority in the Welsh Government's Programme for Government.

But while increased momentum and education are a good thing, and the former strategy had many successes, we cannot shy away from the scale of the problem.

Currently in Wales, it is estimated that mental health problems affect around one in four people in any given



year. Many people have developed poor mental health, or found their problems exacerbated, because of the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, economic unrest, domestic and world affairs, as well as wider inequalities such as poverty and discrimination.

We know there are major changes needed in the NHS to reduce lengthy wait times, the availability of expertise for complex diagnoses, access to appropriate therapies, the quality of crisis care, and the need for more effective training for healthcare staff.

There is also a clear need for people to be able to easily access support that not only meets their needs but understands the pressures and experiences of rural communities. Sustaining these services, usually delivered locally by the voluntary and third sector, must be prioritised.

We hear the voices of our rural communities every day, listening to their needs and providing tailored support. There are 16 local Minds across Wales, collectively supporting almost 38,000 people annually. Of this number, nine local Minds provide an offer of services to Wales' rural local authorities - supporting 11,500 people in the past year alone.

An example of this is Mind Monmouthshire, which forms part of Mind in Gwent. One of their projects (supported by the National Lottery Fund) provides support to those in the farming community and allied industries for a range of issues including workload, isolation, paperwork or anxiety - with referrals made directly to the project. Yet many community services like this one face chronic underfunding - despite proving a lifeline for people who might otherwise reach crisis point.

## Towards a brighter future

It is of course impossible to set out a realistic vision for the future of mental health in Wales without recognising

that the new strategy is being developed in the context of serious public purse constraints. Investment must therefore be strategic

and data-led and respond to the needs of people, so that investment can be targeted to those areas known to have the biggest impact.

Now is the time for renewed momentum on mental health in Wales. The green shoots of progression in the old strategy must be nurtured to create a happier, healthier Wales for the future.

Interested in finding out more about the type of support on offer for yourself or a person you know? You can find your nearest local Mind on our website: [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

"The fact it encompassed the whole person and their situation was really helpful. I have seen doctors for medication, counsellors for mental health but only the rural support came to my home and helped me actually work on the issues causing the problems. I do not know where I would be without it."



# Mobile wellbeing hub - on the road to better health

by Kate Miles, Charity Manager, The DPJ Foundation

YOU may remember that I wrote a while ago that we were on the lookout for a cattle lorry. I am really pleased that we not just have our lorry, but we now have a mobile wellbeing hub: the Hywel Davies Lorry, (pictured right). From the outside, the Hywel Davies Lorry looks like any other livestock lorry that you will see at market, but once you step inside, there is a cosy interior with the lorry kitted out like a farmhouse kitchen, albeit one complete with a separate sound-proofed room where wellbeing conversations and health MOTs are carried out by Emma Morgans our onboard Registered Nurse.

The idea for the lorry and its design came to our Founder, Emma O'Sullivan over 5 years ago. Emma, who is a farmer's daughter, knew that getting to the doctors is never easy with time as precious as it is in farming. She also recognised that we are more comfortable talking about our physical health (even though we may often neglect it) than our mental health. So having a space where blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes checks can be carried out whilst providing a chance for someone to offload in a confidential, comfortable environment was one way to reach people who may never pick up the phone to us for support.

Emma Morgans, who will be carrying out the health checks, has been a volunteer with the DPJ Foundation since the start back in 2016. As a nurse she has been keen to help support the physical health of the farming community alongside the mental wellbeing (as both go hand in hand) and has visited other projects in England where health checks are carried out in livestock markets. Emma didn't expect that she would also be driving the lorry, but she can now add a new skill of driving an HGV to her CV!

The project has been made possible thanks to funding received from the Estate of the late Hywel Davies, which supports people in Pembrokeshire. As such, the lorry's initial

outings are all focused on markets in South West Wales to reach this audience. We are also extremely grateful to the team at Olive & Oz who undertook the interior transformation. Their attention to detail even extended to including Welsh Wool insulation, reclaimed milking clusters which have become light fittings and a water drinker that is now a handwash sink.

The lorry's decks have even been retained to become the doors and seating. We have recruited a couple of new volunteers whose main focus will be welcoming people to the lorry and promoting the service: Dee Duncan and Olwen Thomas. In the Hywel Davies Lorry's first outing at Carmarthen Market, 26 people had their health checked.

If you are visiting Whitland or Carmarthen markets in the next few months please look out for Emma, Dee and Olwen and pop in to have a look. Taking 5 minutes to get your basic health checks may save you time and worry in the long run.



<p><b>Samaritans:</b> 116 123 or Welsh Language Line (Llinell Gymraeg): 0808 164 0123</p> 	<p><b>DPJ Foundation:</b> Call 0800 587 4262 / Text 07860 048799</p> 	<p><b>Mind Cymru:</b> 0300 123 3393 / info@mind.org.uk / Text 86463</p> 	<p><b>FCN:</b> 03000 111 999</p> 	<p><b>RABI:</b> 0808 281 9490</p> 	<p><b>Tir Dewi:</b> 0800 121 4722</p> 
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# First in the field for Solar power

CELTIC Green Energy are one of Wales' leading renewable energy specialists specialising in supplying the domestic, commercial and agricultural markets for the last decade.

States Managing Director Julian Jenkins said: "Based in the heart of the Carmarthenshire agricultural belt, we are a family owned business situated in Gorslas near Cross Hands and are proud to have a close working relationship with our local farming community."

With increasing concerns for spiralling energy prices, demands on lowering carbon and a need for fuel security, Celtic Green Energy specialises in advising and supplying affordable energy solutions to high energy consumers such as dairy farmers, poultry units, butcheries and processing plants. The company covers the whole of Mid to South Wales region with a team of specialist installers and contractors who proudly comply to strict industry regulations such as MCS Certification and NAPIT ensuring the highest standards and customer satisfaction are always met.

Celtic Green Energy only uses the best quality products to assure continued high performance, durability and reliability, essential for the rigours of the local rural environment. They offer a broad range of renewable energy solutions including roof and ground mount solar power, solar batteries, electric vehicle charging, ground and air source heat pumps for economical heating solutions.

Every customer will have their own individual energy concerns and requirements, so Celtic Green Energy have a dedicated Energy Adviser who provides the best advice to suit a customer's personal

circumstances, needs and budget. This will include a free no-obligation site survey to identify and address the project scope and offer the customer the best solution tailored to their requirements.

Once agreed and accepted, the Celtic Green Energy team will commence work to offer a

quick and seamless installation to provide the customer with an effective renewable energy solution providing years of maintenance free low cost energy.

You can learn more about Celtic green energy here: [www.celticgreenenergy.co.uk](http://www.celticgreenenergy.co.uk) or call our Energy helpline on 01269 500388.

FUW members take advantage of a special offer of 10% off solar batteries as part of an installation

**Time to harvest the sun...**

**ENERGY HELPLINE 01269 500388**

**Learn from nature and thrive with the power of sunshine!**

You can now lower your energy costs, reduce your carbon and earn an income ...with the installation of a solar power system from Wales leading renewable energy specialist, Celtic Green Energy.

Special offer for FUW members - claim 10% discount off batteries quoting **SOLAR24** to our energy advisor\*  
(\*Offer is subject to T&C, expires 1 June 2024).

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## NEWYDDION O'R SIR / FUW COUNTY NEWS

### CEREDIGION

[ceredigion@fuw.org.uk](mailto:ceredigion@fuw.org.uk)

01570 424515

### Ffair Aeaf Llanellwedd

Mi fuodd rhai o aelodau cangen Ceredigion yn llwyddiannus iawn yn y Ffair Aeaf yn Llanellwedd. Llongyfarchiadau i'r canlynol -

Berwyn ac Elin Hughes a'r teulu, Cwmhenrhyd - Prif Bencampwr Biff Ifanc gyda llo o'r enw 'One Off'.

Davies, Pantyrofyn - 2ail a 6ed gyda'r wŷn Speckles.

Davies, Penlan Talsarn - 1af, 2ail, 4ydd, 5ed a 6ed gyda'r moch.

Gwion Hughes, Bryngido, Llanarth - 1af yng Nghystadleuaeth Magu Llo CFFI.

Mari a Ceredig, Dolcoion - 4ydd a 6ed gyda'r wŷn Cymreig a 3ydd gyda'r wŷn Speckles.

Wil, Meinir ac Angharad Davies, Brynglas, Ponterwyd - 1af Dosbarth Eidion Biff Byrgorn

**A number of Ceredigion branch members were very successful at the Winter Fair in Llanellwedd. Congratulations to the following -**

**Berwyn and Elin Hughes and family, Cwmhenrhyd - Overall Baby Beef Champion with a calf named 'One Off'.**

**Davies, Pantyrofyn - 2nd and 6th with the Speckles lambs.**

**Davies, Penlan Talsarn - 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th with the pigs.**

**Gwion Hughes, Bryngido, Llanarth - 1st YFC calf rearing competition.**

**Mari and Ceredig, Dolcoion - 4th and 6th with Welsh lambs and 3rd with Speckles lambs.**

**Wil, Meinir and Angharad Davies, Brynglas, Ponterwyd - 1st Beef Shorthorn Steer Class.**



Berwyn Hughes, Cwmhenrhyd.



Mari a Ceredig, Dolcoion.



Gwion Hughes, Bryngido, Llanarth.

### Clwb 200 Club

1 - Mr G E Jones, Cefnruddlan Uchaf, Llanybydder

2 - Brynmor Morgan, Ty Newydd, Cwmystwyth

3 - M Hopkins, Tafarn Crug, Capel Seion





## CARMARTHEN

carmarthen@fuw.org.uk

01267 237974

## Heledd shortlisted for Coveted Apprenticeship Awards Cymru

Finalists for the prestigious Apprenticeship Awards Cymru 2024 have been announced. The awards are organised by the Welsh Government and supported by the National Training Federation for Wales (NTFW).

The judging panel had the difficult task of whittling the large number of applications down to 27 finalists in nine award categories. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony to be held at ICC Wales, Newport on March 22, 2024.

FUW Insurance Services Ltd Carmarthen Account Executive Heledd Roberts,



(pictured), is one of the finalists shortlisted in the Tomorrow's Talent category, congratulations and good luck Heledd!

Economy Minister Vaughan Gething congratulated the shortlisted finalists and thanked all the employers, apprentices and work-based learning practitioners who had submitted applications.

"Apprenticeships motivate and diversify a workforce, offering people the chance to gain high-quality vocational skills and earn while they learn," he said.

## DENBIGH &amp; FLINT

dinbychflint@fuw.org.uk

01824 707198

## Sêl Nadolig Marchnad Llanrwst



Glyn Williams, Tyddyn Deicws (dde) hefo'i fustach Du Cymreig gyda'r cigydd Arwel Jones.



Gethin Ilan Jones, Garth y Pigau gyda phencampwyr yr ŵyn tew.

Llongyfarchiadau mawr i un o aelodau Sir Ddinbych, G C & E Williams Tyddyn Deicws, Gwytherin ar ennill Pencampwr y Bustych a hefyd y Brif Bencampwriaeth gyda bustach Du Cymreig 19 mis oed yn pwyso 540kg ac yn cael ei werthu am 400ppk i'r cigydd lleol Arwel Jones, Jones A'i Fab, Llanrwst. Llongyfarchiadau hefyd i aelod arall sef P. P Jones, Rhyd y Creua, Betws y Coed ar ennill Pencampwriaeth yr heffrod a'r Is Brif Bencampwriaeth gyda heffer Aberdeen Angus 16 mis oed.

Cipiodd G & E Jones, Garth Y Pigau, Nant Y Rhiw bencampwriaeth yr ŵyn tew, a noddwyd gan UAC Sir Ddinbych a Sir Gaernarfon, gyda chorlan o 6 neu fwy o ŵyn Texel a oedd yn pwyso 43kg, hefyd yn cael eu prynu gan y cigydd lleol Arwel Jones am £139 y pen.

**Congratulations to Denbighshire members, G C & E Williams Tyddyn Deicws, Gwytherin on winning the Steer Championship and also the Supreme Championship with a 19 month old Welsh Black steer weighing 540kg which was sold for 400ppk to local butcher Arwel Jones, Jones A'i Fab, Llanrwst. Congratulations also to another member, P. P Jones, Rhyd y Creua, Betws y Coed on winning the Heifer Championship and Reserve Supreme Championship with a 16 month old Aberdeen Angus heifer. G & E Jones, Garth Y Pigau, Nant Y Rhiw won the store lambs Championship, sponsored by Denbighshire and Caernarfonshire FUW with a pen of 6 or more Texel lambs weighing 43kg, also bought by local butcher Arwel Jones for £139 per head.**



Staff swyddfa Yswiriant Llanrwst yn eu siwperi Nadolig

## GLAMORGAN

glamorgan@fuw.org.uk

01446 774838

## WALTER ROWLANDS MEMORIAL AWARD



## WHAT IS IT?

A £200 educational grant for agricultural students in the Glamorgan area studying an agricultural based course in college or university.

The grant has re-opened for applications - closing date 31st March 2024

## HOW TO ENTER?

Please send an e-mail to [glamorgan@fuw.org.uk](mailto:glamorgan@fuw.org.uk) - setting out your details and interests, details of your course and future ambitions



## Glamorgan Social evening

We've arranged a Glamorgan Social evening on Friday January 12 at 7pm to be held at Mason Arms, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9YR.

Please contact the office to book your ticket!

## Big Farmland Bird count



We're hosting a Big Farmland Bird count at Cefn Colstyn Farm, Pentyrch, Cardiff, CF15 9QN on Saturday February 3 at 11am - thank you to our County Chair, Charlotte Llewellyn for hosting.

Contact the county office for further details.

## Reintroduction of Eagles

by Charlotte Llewellyn, FUW Glamorgan County Chair

The FUW Glamorgan County Branch had an interesting meeting with Dr Sophie-Lee Williams who is the founder of Eagle Reintroduction Wales. This is a programme to reintroduce White Tailed Sea Eagles to Wales, more specifically the wetland areas of Gwent, with initial territories spreading up into Brecon and across Glamorgan.

FUW Glamorgan County Chair Charlotte Llewellyn, ably supported by county staff Sharon Pritchard and Gemma Haines, listened to details of the proposal and questioned the impacts that another top predator, with an 8ft wingspan, could have on the sheep flocks of South Wales, given the experiences of farmers in Scotland and the Isle of Wight.

Many flocks lamb outside and the newborn lambs of hill breeds can weigh less than a kilo. Dr Williams explained that they scavenge much of their food - three issues were raised in response. Would this lead to an increased spread of disease by the eagles? Were the eagles themselves susceptible to avian influenza? Would this encourage other predators who are also scavengers - foxes, corvids etc. - to hunt live prey and increase the risk for lambs? Other queries included how would rogue eagles, such as those found in Scotland, be dealt with? How would farmers be compensated if they suffered increased lamb losses as a result (direct or indirect) of the introduction of Eagles?

Concerns were also raised about the effect on vulnerable fish species, vulnerable bird species found on the Gwent Wetlands, and on other raptors whose prey overlaps with that of the Eagle. Dr Williams appreciated the discussion and is keen to visit farms and learn more about our sustainable farming practices.



White-tailed eagle programme  
Rhaglen eryr y môr



Follow us *Dilyn wch ni*  
[www.eaglereintroductionwales.com](http://www.eaglereintroductionwales.com)  
@ERWproject



## GWENT

gwent@fuw.org.uk

01873 853280

## Member success

Our young Gwent member, and FUW Younger Voice Vice Chair Caleb Vater of Mill Farm, Abergavenny, (pictured right), successfully took his homebred Hereford Sired Steer, Ginger, to the RWAS Winter Fair and was placed 2nd in the YFC Baby Beef class.

As a county we are very proud of his success, huge congratulations Caleb.



## 'What to Spot' - Big Farmland Bird Count

Join us for a 'What to Spot' Zoom meeting on Monday January 22 at 7pm with Rhian Pierce from RSPB.

This is a pre-event ahead of the Big Farmland Bird Count which takes place between February 2 - 18 2024.

Please contact the office to register.

'What to spot' -  
Monday  
January 22, 7pm

## MONTGOMERYSHIRE

montgomeryshire@fuw.org.uk

01686 626889

## Montgomeryshire Day

The Montgomeryshire team took the farming story to Westminster in a bid to showcase the importance of agriculture and food production, as well as providing an opportunity to showcase Montgomeryshire demonstrating the sheer quality and diversity of its produce, producers and organisations. Full story and picture special on pages 12 and 13.



FUW Montgomeryshire Assistant Administrator Lynne Baker, FUW Montgomeryshire County Executive Officer Emyr Wyn Davies, FUW Montgomeryshire County Vice Chair Wyn Williams and FUW Montgomeryshire County Chair Iwan Pugh Jones.

## MEIRIONNYDD

meirionnydd@fuw.org.uk

01341 422298

## Dyddiad i'r Dyddiadur

Mae Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru cangen Meirionnydd yn eich gwahodd chi i Bwyllgor Blynnyddol / Cynhadledd Ffermio yn Sylfaen, Bermo ar Ddydd Iau 1af o Chwefror. Bydd yna drafodaeth bwysig ar y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy newydd. Am fwy o wybodaeth neu i archebu lle cysylltwch â ni ar 01341 422298.

**FUW Meirionnydd invites you to the Annual Committee / Farming Conference to be held at Sylfaen, Barmouth on Thursday 1st February. There will be an important discussion on the new Sustainable Farming Scheme. For more information or to book a place contact us on 01341 422298.**

Pwyllgor  
Blynnyddol /  
Cynhadledd  
Ffermio -  
Iau  
Chwefror 1

## Cystadleuaeth addurno ffenest

Buom yn lwcus eleni o ennill y gystadleuaeth addurno ffenest Nadolig yn Nolgellau. Y themâu eleni oedd carol neu gân Gymraeg, a dewiswyd i fynd gyda'r garol enwog 'I orwedd mewn preseb'.

**The FUW Meirionnydd office recently won the Christmas decorated window competition in Dolgellau. The themes this year were carols or Welsh songs, and we chose to go with the famous carol 'Away in a Manger'.**



Llun o'r staff yn swyddfa Dolgellau gyda'r tlws.

## Enillwyr Clwb 100

## Hydref/October

£25 - Dilys Hughes, Mallwyd  
£15 - O G Thomas, Dyffryn Ardudwy  
£10 - B I Pugh, Trawsfynydd  
£25 - Dylan Davies, Parc  
£15 - Geraint Jones, Arenig  
£10 - G & O Davies, Bala

## Tachwedd/November

£25 - Gareth Jones, Blaenau Ffestiniog  
£15 - Alan Jones, Cwmtirmynach

£10 - Mererid Jones, Mallwyd  
£25 - O G Evans, Llanbedr  
£15 - I & C Davies, Tŷ Du Parc  
£10 - Rhian Roberts, Llanegryn

## Rhagfyr/December

£75 - Mair Edwards, Llanycil  
£50 - Dylan Davies, Parc  
£25 - G & J Pugh, Llanegryn  
£15 - Eirian Jones, Mallwyd  
£10 - Glyn Griffiths, Llanfrothen

## PEMBROKESHIRE

pembrokeshire@fuw.org.uk

01437 762913

## Charity breakfasts

As you will have seen on page 4, we are once again holding our charity breakfasts in aid of Wales Air Ambulance, if you would be interested in providing sponsorship, helping at the events or joining us for breakfast please contact the county office on 01437 762913.



## Date for your diary

We will be holding a meeting for members on Thursday January 25 2024, at 12 noon, in Clarbeston Road Memorial Hall, SA63 4UJ, for you to find out more about the Welsh Government's proposals for the Sustainable Farming Scheme.

To book your place please contact us on 01437 762913 or via email pembrokeshire@fuw.org.uk

SFS  
Consultation  
meeting -  
Thursday  
January 25,  
12noon

## 200+ Club winners

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

£60 - Phillips, Caer Onnen  
£30 - Killa, Caters Hill  
£20 - Down, Mockwell

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

## Office telephone numbers

Aberystwyth - Head Office	01970 820820
Anglesey	01248 750250
Brecon and Radnorshire	01982 554030
Caernarfon	01286 672541
Carmarthenshire	01267 237974
Ceredigion *	01570 424515
Denbigh and Flint	01824 707198
Glamorgan	01446 774838
Gwent	01873 853280
Meirionnydd	01341 422298
Montgomeryshire	01686 626889
Pembrokeshire	01437 762913





# GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS

*You do not need to be in receipt of any benefits to qualify for grant funding.*

Do not miss out... Grant Funding of up to **100%** is available for:



**Solar Panels for Free electricity**



**Air Source Heat Pumps / Electric Storage Heaters**



**Internal Wall Insulation and External Wall Insulation**

## How to qualify:

Somebody living in the property only needs to meet one out of the following three criteria:

1. Anyone living in the property that takes medication for a long term health condition (eg asthma, arthritis, diabetes, depression etc)
2. If the total income of the property is < £31,000 per year (for people who are self employed this is your profit, not your turnover)
3. If anyone in the property receives Working tax credit, Child tax credit, Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or certain other benefits

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



Call today for more information

**0330 223 0333**



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

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

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

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

Further information can be found at [www.energysavinggrants.org](http://www.energysavinggrants.org)



## MEAT MATTERS

# Welsh farmer survey offers optimism for 2024

by Glesni Phillips, Intelligence, Analysis and Business Insight Executive, Hybu Cig Cymru/Meat Promotion Wales

TOWARDS the end of last year, an analysis of HCC survey results suggested that pressures on Welsh flock numbers had lifted slightly as farmer fears over input costs were beginning to ease.

Analysis of Phase 2 of our Farmer Intentions Survey - a survey conducted by HCC and completed by sheep and beef producers across Wales - showed a considerable improvement in producer intentions. It said that some 75% of Welsh farms were expected to maintain or increase stock numbers in the short term, and therefore lamb numbers are estimated to stabilize somewhat from the low recorded in June 2023.

We would therefore hope that this reflects a positive shift in confidence, compared with the same time last year, when uncertainty over high input costs influenced 43% of Welsh livestock farmers to consider reducing stocking levels during Phase 1 of HCC's survey conducted in September 2022.

At that time, worries around high farm input costs were prominent. It was anticipated that there would be higher culling rates and therefore fewer ewes for breeding during the time that followed. Scanning rates were also reportedly low at the start of 2023.

Those worries were reflected in the results of the latest June survey - the Welsh Government's Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture - which revealed a total of 8.7 million sheep and lambs - the lowest number recorded since 2009 when numbers reached 8.2 million head.



Looking at the beef sector, farmer intentions in Phase 2 of the survey were more positive than Phase 1, where 65% said they would maintain or improve stocking levels compared to 47% considering reducing stock in 2022.

The June survey data revealed a small 1% fall in the Welsh herd size, with total cattle and calves falling from 1.13million to 1.12million head. The beef breeding herd was down 4.7% on the year to 149,290 head, and the dairy breeding herd was down 0.5% to 254,700 head.

The dairy breeding herd had recorded three consecutive years of increased numbers before recording this small fall in 2023, with beef producers stating that farm input costs continue to put pressure on their business intentions.

A new year brings new challenges and concerns over changes to direct payments, agricultural policy and government support schemes. However, with positive intentions and confidence in the sector, we hope to see a more stable stocking picture for the industry - and the sheep sector in particular - in 2024.

**Mae blwyddyn newydd yn dod â heriau a phryderon newydd ynghylch newidiadau i daliadau uniongyrchol, polisi amaethyddol a chynlluniau cymorth y llywodraeth. Fodd bynnag, gyda bwriadau cadarnhaol a hyder yn y sector, mae HCC yn gobeithio gweld darlun stocio mwy sefydlog ar gyfer y diwydiant - a'r sector defaid yn arbennig - yn 2024.**

## PROPERTY MATTERS

# Succession planning is vital for farm tenants

by Eifion Bibby, Chartered Surveyor, Davis Meade Property Consultants

IF one considers the investment required to acquire a Farm an Agricultural Sitting Tenancy with succession rights provides very significant opportunities for the younger generation to continue in the sector, for at least their lifetime, without the need to find the finance to buy.



While Agricultural Holdings Act 1986 tenancies granted before 12th July 1984 provide succession opportunities on the death or retirement of an existing tenant, unless a close family member can satisfy the succession provisions, they will likely lose the farm.

It is never too soon to consider succession planning and accordingly it is important to be aware of what criteria needs to be met. There is always the risk that preparations are delayed until it is too late whereby an actual succession application to the Agricultural Land Tribunal Wales must be made to try and secure the right to occupy the agricultural property for the next generation.

On the death or retirement of the existing tenant, any potential successor must satisfy 2 criteria being whether the applicant is eligible and suitable to succeed.

Suitability will depend upon matters such as training, experience, age, health, financial standing, the landlord's view of matters and the tribunal's view on the facts. The onus is on the applicant to prove suitability.

**It is essential that a succession application is made within three months of the death of the previous tenant.**

Whilst an application on retirement can be withdrawn prior to a hearing should flaws be exposed (with potential thereafter to re-apply at a later date), there is however only one opportunity to apply on death.

Farm Business Tenancies normally result in substantially higher (market) rents being charged and do not always provide the same protection to Tenants as that afforded by the 1986 legislation. Therefore, one cannot over emphasise the significant need to prepare in good time to try and secure the right for the future generation to farm the tenanted holding, otherwise a very valuable opportunity may well be lost forever.

For more information Eifion Bibby can be contacted on 01492 510360 or by e-mail: [eifionbibby@dmpcuk.com](mailto:eifionbibby@dmpcuk.com)

**Nid yw byth yn rhy fuan i ystyried cynllunio olyniaeth, felly mae'n bwysig bod yn ymwybodol o ba feini prawf sydd angen eu bodloni. Mae yna risg y bydd y paratodau'n cael eu gohirio nes ei bod yn rhy hwyr pan fydd yn rhaid gwneud cais olyniaeth i Dribiwnlys Tir Amaethyddol Cymru er mwyn ceisio sicrhau'r hawl i feddiannu'r eiddo amaethyddol ar gyfer y genhedlaeth nesaf.**

**Am ragor o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â Eifion Bibby ar 01492 510360 neu drwy e-bostio: [eifionbibby@dmpcuk.com](mailto:eifionbibby@dmpcuk.com)**

## MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

# Gwnewch 2024 yn flwyddyn i'w chofio

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

BLWYDDYN Newydd Dda, a gobeithio yn wir y bydd hi yn flwyddyn o lewyrch a llwyddiant. Cafwyd Ffair Aeaf cofiadwy yn Llanelwedd ddiwedd Tachwedd gyda chriw Rhanbarth Penfro yn dod i'r brig am wneud Jam a Jeli a Bethan Picton Davies yn bencampwr. Yn y gystadleuaeth Doli Glwt Iona Ellis o Lanrwst ddaeth i'r brig a Margaret Williams Abernant gipiodd y wobwr gyntaf gyda'r dorch wedi uwchgyrchu neu ailgyrchu. Cafodd y gystadleuaeth Dafad unrhyw gyfrwng tipyn o sylw a sawl ffarmwr wedi galw draw i fod yn feirniaid answyddogol, llongyfarchiadau i Beti Wyn Davies o Aberystwyth ar ddoed i'r brig.

Codwyd £274 tuag at Ambiwllans Awyr Cymru, trwy werthu sgarffiau a mwclis a roddwyd i ni gan ein haelodau caredig. Cynhaliwyd hefyd "Cracyr Nadolig" ar Zoom gyda phob rhanbarth yng Nghymru yn cynnig eitem a mawr ydyw ein diolch i bawb a wnaeth hyn yn bosibl. Bydd pob blwyddyn newydd yn gyfle i ddacluso ychydig wrth roi'r addurniadau Nadolig i gadw ac efallai yn gyfle i ddechrau ar y "Spring Clean" - beth am wneud gwahaniaeth i rywun trwy roi dilledyn sy'n rhy fach neu'n rhy fawr, llyfr nad ydych eisiau cadw neu yn wir unrhyw beth i elusen leol.

Mae Blwyddyn newydd hefyd yn gyfle i wneud adduned - mi geisiais gadw dyddiadur am flwyddyn gyfan yn 2023 a sylwi pa mor flêr mae fy ysgrifen wrth fynd am y gwely! Mi geisiais hefyd gerdded 10,000 o gamau yn ddyddiol - ond ofer fu'r ymgais honno, ond mi wnes fwynhau pob taith a gweld llawer iawn o gefn gwlad a chael cyfle i werthfawrogi pa mor brydferth ydyw Cymru.

Yn ddefnyddol dewiswch adduned sy'n rhwydd i'w gyflawni, falle rhywbeth mor syml a dechrau pob sgwrs yn Gymraeg neu hyd yn oed chwilio am fwydydd o Gymru wrth siopa, a chwestiynu os nad ydynt yn dod o'r wlad yma!

Rydym ni yn mynd i gynnis cyfleoedd i aelodau ddsygu sgiliau newydd trwy gyrsiau crefft yn Aberaeron a Llaneltyd a braf fydd cael cymdeithasu gyda'n gilydd. Y peth pwysicaf oll ydyw eich bod yn gwneud y gorau o bob cyfle a mwynhau cymaint ag y medrwrch. Gwnewch 2024 yn flwyddyn gofiadwy i chi.

**Happy New Year! It's a perfect time to make some resolutions and Merched y Wawr suggests making some that are easy to keep, such as starting every conversation in Welsh, or buying Welsh produce.**



# MEGASTART EWE & LAMB

**Unique** Nutrition for Pre-Lambing Success

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- ✓ A free access feed tub used in the 4–6 weeks prior to lambing
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# Farmers helping to steer future direction of Farming Connect



A TARGETED approach is the way forward according to Farming Connects newly appointed steering group, (pictured above).

The group, established to give farmers the chance to provide input on services ranging from the type of projects run by Farming Connect to how best to communicate with farmers, met for the first time in October.

FUW member Elain Gwilym, who farms beef with her partner, Guto, at Cefn Lleuar, Llanllyfni, is one of the group members.

She wanted to get involved for multiple reasons. "I think it is a great opportunity for us farmers to be able to work together with Farming Connect to tailor a service that, as agricultural businesses, we need to evolve and develop sustainably while also ensuring it gives value for public money."

Elain has a good understanding of Farming Connect because she has used many of its services, including the Advisory Service, trailer towing training and, more recently, soil sampling.

The first meeting, chaired by Farming Connect's Programme Board chair, Euryr Jones, was very productive and generated much group discussion, giving members an opportunity to share ideas.

The group felt there was great benefit to be gained from farmers sharing information and furthering their knowledge, together with peer-to-peer learning - an excellent means of knowledge transfer - and mentoring through the Farming Connect Mentoring Service.

"The steering group is a great opportunity for farmers to share their wealth of knowledge and experience, to challenge thinking, encourage new ideas and ultimately further improve the way Farming Connect operates to support Wales's farming families," said Euryr.

# Young Farmers at the Winter Fair

WALES YFC members from all over Wales and Herefordshire travelled to the Royal Welsh Agricultural Winter Fair to compete in a variety of competitions, held over the two days.

During the Winter Fair, all 12 counties of the Welsh Federation competed against each other to take the honours in the Wales YFC Stock Judging, Prime Pork, Prime Lamb Producer, Baby Beef, Lamb Trimming, Poultry Jointing, decorating a Christmas Tree and Making a Christmas Card Competition to name just a few.

After two days of competing Brecknock YFC became the overall YFC winners of the Fair, with Ceredigion coming in second position and Radnor coming in the third position. Radnor were hailed winners of the Stock Judging classes, Montgomery was second and Carmarthenshire received the third position.

On the Monday afternoon, the Wales YFC annual Prime Lamb Producer competition was held. There were three initial classes;



Members competing in the lamb trimming competition.

continental, lowland and hill breeds. Sioned Thomas from Pembrokeshire won the continental class. Emily Pritchard, Herefordshire, received a red rosette in the Lowland class and Iestyn Thomas, Carmarthenshire gained a first place in the Hill breed class.

All champions and reserves then re-entered the ring to compete against each other for the title of the Wales YFC Prime Lamb Producer Supreme Champion, which was awarded to Iestyn Thomas. Rhodri Sion Griffiths from Ceredigion was successful in earning the Reserve Supreme Champion. Sioned Thomas received the Best Stockman award. And finally, the highest placed new competitor was Meia Evans, Ceredigion. Wales YFC would like to thank Dunbia for sponsoring the stock judging competition.

On Tuesday morning in the cattle ring Ryan Jones, Brecknock YFC, was awarded the title of Wales YFC Baby Beef Supreme Champion and Highest Placed New Competitor. Joe Wilson, Radnor YFC, was awarded Reserve Supreme Champion and Best Stockman. It is also worth noting that Gwion Hughes, Ceredigion YFC, received the title of Best Steer and Ryan Jones took home the red rosette for Best Heifer.



Ryan Jones, Brecknock YFC, was awarded the title of Wales YFC Baby Beef Supreme Champion and Highest Placed New Competitor.

## Upcoming Schemes

Scheme	Summary	Window
<b>Woodland Creation Planning Scheme</b>	The Woodland Creation Planning Scheme offers grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to develop plans for new woodland creation. After a plan is successfully verified by NRW, it will be eligible for Welsh Government funding for tree planting and fencing (Woodland Creation Grant). If your farm or desired tree planting area is not eligible for the Small Woodland Grant, or is larger than 2ha, applications can be made via this Scheme. More information: <a href="https://www.gov.wales/woodland-creation-plan-scheme">https://www.gov.wales/woodland-creation-plan-scheme</a>	<b>Open throughout the year (subject to budget)</b>
<b>Peatland Development Grant</b>	To reverse habitat loss and improve the condition of Welsh peatlands there is capital development grants of between £10,000 - £30,000 available. The peatland must be in Wales - for any cross-border proposals, only the Welsh element will be considered. More Information: <a href="https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/grants-and-funding/peatland-development-grant">https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/grants-and-funding/peatland-development-grant</a>	<b>October 13 2023 - January 15 2024</b>
<b>Horticulture Development Scheme</b>	The Horticulture Development Scheme is a Capital grant scheme available to existing commercial horticultural producers across Wales. The amount of grant offered would relate to individual circumstances and would always be the minimum amount necessary to allow the investments to go ahead. More information: <a href="https://www.gov.wales/horticulture-development-scheme">https://www.gov.wales/horticulture-development-scheme</a>	<b>November 6 2023 - January 12 2024</b>
<b>Agricultural Diversification Scheme</b>	The Agricultural Diversification Scheme is a capital grant scheme available to farmers in Wales. The maximum grant award is £100,000 and the minimum is £3,000. The grant provides a maximum 40% contribution towards capital investments (excluding VAT), which can be demonstrated as offering clear and quantifiable benefits to farm businesses. More information: <a href="https://www.gov.wales/agriculture-diversification-scheme">https://www.gov.wales/agriculture-diversification-scheme</a>	<b>November 6 2023 - January 12 2024</b>
<b>Small Grants - Environment</b>	A programme of capital works available to farming businesses across Wales to carry out small environmental projects. The Small Grants - Environment is a standalone scheme providing a maximum of £7,500 funding per window for Capital Works Projects. Please read the Small Grants - Environment rules and guidance document before submitting an Expression of Interest. More information: <a href="https://gov.wales/small-grants-environment">https://gov.wales/small-grants-environment</a>	<b>January 8 2024 - February 16 2024</b>



# Dopey lambs? Large lambs? Multiple lambs? No Prob-lambs!



## Lamb Colostrum

Provita Lamb Colostrum substitutes or supplements maternal colostrum providing high levels of natural colostrum, energy, egg powder and beneficial bacteria.

*"The best I have ever used.  
It mixes perfectly even when cold!"*  
*"Better thrive on our lambs in first  
6 weeks"*

## Lamb Colostrum FREE Lamb Feeds...



**2.5kg = 20%/20 lambs extra FREE!**  
**1.25kg = 20%/10 lambs extra FREE!**  
**500g = 20%/4 lambs extra FREE!**  
**12x50g = 9%/2 lambs extra FREE!**

## Lamb Jump Start

Jump Start has very high levels of energy, egg powder, minerals and vitamins. Use for weak and multiple lambs and to counteract common newborn deficiencies.

*"Boosts lambs to get up on their feet  
and sucking quickly"*  
*"Massively helps bring the lambs  
round after a hard lambing"*



## Lamb Response

Lamb Response provides beneficial bacteria, egg powder and vitamins. Use on all lambs to help prevent upsets, and to improve gut condition and digestion.

*"Since using it, we haven't lost a  
lamb to watery mouth!"*  
*"A literal life saver and is an absolute  
must in the lambing shed!"*



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