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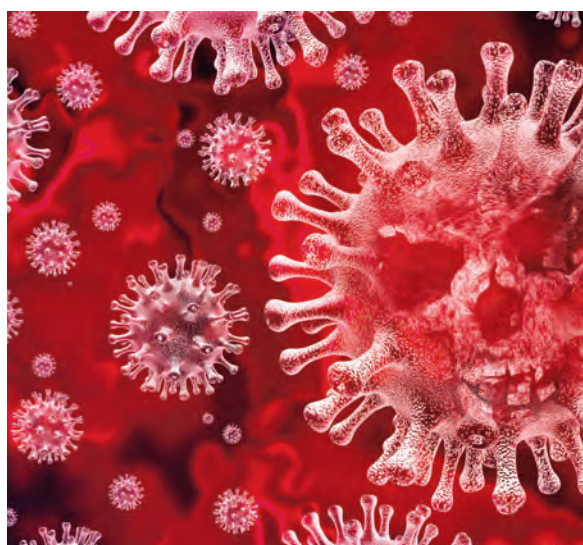
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What's happening in your county?

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CORONAVIRUS: Short and long-term commonsense must prevail



ON the 19th of March, as a result of the coronavirus threat, the FUW took the unprecedented decision to close County Offices during what has, for almost thirty years, been our busiest time of year - a move aimed at protecting the health of our members and staff, and their families.

FUW business as usual - 'virtually'!

However, careful planning in the weeks leading up to the 19th, including investments in computer hardware and discussions with the Welsh Government and others, has meant our staff can continue to provide the level of service expected by members using 'virtual' or 'remote' contact from their homes to avoid face-to-face contact - whether in terms of directly dealing with members' queries and problems, providing advice, lobbying or dealing with insurance matters - and members needing to contact FUW offices can do so using the usual telephone numbers or email addresses.

SAF assistance to continue remotely

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

To overcome this problem, we have held numerous emergency meetings with the Welsh Government aimed at securing concessions which recognise the current difficulties faced by our members.

Following welcome assurances and assistance by the Welsh Government, the many thousands of members

due to receive FUW assistance with the completions of SAF forms have now been offered 'virtual appointments', so information on forms can be cross-checked during a telephone call, and where members are unable to access online services forms can now be submitted on behalf of members by our staff.

However, such 'virtual' assistance increases the risk of errors occurring, and we have therefore emphasised the need to fully recognise the exceptional circumstances now facing the industry and provide every necessary concession to allow mistakes to be corrected - including in terms of extending all deadlines.

Moreover, following discussions with the Welsh Government (which is responsible for Basic Payments) and the European Commission (which until 2021 is still responsible for paying Glastir and other RDP payments) we hope that by the time you receive this edition of *Y Tir* the deadline for SAF submission will have been extended to June 15.

Essential role of food production must continue

As readers will know, within four days of the FUW closing its offices, the UK Government had announced a 'lockdown' for all non-essential workers, ordering families to stay in their homes for all but the most essential of tasks in a move unprecedented in living memory.

Quite rightly, farmers and other workers in the food supply chain have been recognised as 'key workers', meaning they can continue to go about the essential business of producing and supplying food for our nations.

The FUW has also highlighted to Government and others the various risks that may affect farmers and food production - whether in terms of an inability to TB test animals due to vet shortages, restrictions on feed availability in the event of harsh weather late in the season, fallen stock collection or a host of other problems that may occur at this busy time of year.

Maintaining long term business viability essential

While panic buying has served to temporarily boost some markets, the closure of cafes and bars quickly resulted in significant falls prices for many, and as the economic impacts of coronavirus hits home adverse impacts are likely to grow; at the date of publication a massive fall in lamb prices had already been seen, and with growing concerns about markets for exports, prime cuts, skins and the fifth-quarter, the market is under significant pressures.

The need to protect primary producers against such market volatility at a time when UK food security was therefore a major concern was a key message in letters from FUW President Glyn Roberts to UK Secretary of

State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs George Eustice and Welsh Government Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths. Mr Roberts told the Ministers that "With such impacts likely to continue for many months at a time when the importance of maintaining UK food security has rapidly been brought into sharp focus, we believe it is essential that those businesses producing what is, next to water, our most essential commodity should be supported."

Mr Roberts said a range of interventions should be considered, including forms of direct support for those suffering significant price drops, tax concessions and other possible measures that protect the viability of those businesses that feed our nation.

Continues on page 2

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Continued from page 1

The letter also highlights the need to ensure food supply chains can continue to provide food to the nation, stating "...to this end we would emphasise the importance of allowing milk collectors, livestock markets, slaughterhouses and others to continue to operate while observing appropriate biosecurity rules."

The FUW has also written to the supermarkets emphasising the importance of the long term financial sustainability of the family farms responsible for feeding our nations, and asking that they ensure the prices paid for produce reflects their, and the nations' long term interests.

Access to the countryside

While the Government's 'lockdown' has since tempered concerns over those visiting the countryside and using Rights of Way, Mr Roberts' letter emphasised the risk posed by the movement of people from urban areas where the virus may be prevalent, saying "It is understandable why visitor numbers to rural areas have increased significantly...but the risk that visitors from areas where coronavirus is more prevalent are introducing the virus to such areas is raising considerable concern..."

Mr Roberts also stressed that for farmers and their families who have no choice but use gates and styles on busy Rights of Way to go about their daily business, the risk of picking up the virus is a major concern - particularly where pathways lead through farmyards or close to farmhouses.

In light of the concern, Mr Roberts asked that policies in terms of access to the countryside and the advice given to those using rights of way be reviewed - an issue that should not be considered to have 'gone away', despite the current lockdown.

Farm security concerns

Given such uncertain times, the FUW is warning members to be extremely vigilant over the coming months in terms of possible thefts of livestock or other crimes.

Circumstances where harsh economic impacts and shortages of certain commodities occur invariably lead to increases in crime, and rural and farming communities which may normally feel less vulnerable to such risks should be vigilant - if a crime is suspected or witnessed, members should contact the police immediately and under no circumstances try and approach or apprehend perpetrators.

Virus puts focus on long term food security

While we must all remain calm and act responsibly to minimise transmission of the coronavirus in the coming months, the panic buying, empty shelves and supermarket rationing of certain foodstuffs sends out a clear message about the need to protect our food security in the long term.

It's ironic, therefore, that only a month ago leaked emails written by top UK Treasury adviser Dr Tim Leunig claimed that farmers were not needed in the UK, that the food sector is not 'critically important' to the UK's economy, and that agriculture and fishery production 'certainly isn't'.

According to news reports, Dr Leunig is a long-standing colleague of chief advisor to Number 10 Dominic Cummings, and his comments demonstrate the type of post-Brexit future being considered within Boris Johnson's inner circle.

In recent weeks, the FUW has laid out in no uncertain terms the dangers of such a disastrously short-sighted view, in written and oral evidence to committees in both the House of Commons and Welsh Assembly on the new UK Agriculture Bill - highlighting the dangers of trade deals which undermine UK standards and farmers while throwing caution to the wind when it comes to our food security.

And in response to a suggestion in the Bill that assessments of UK food security need only take place every five years, the FUW pointed out that the 2007-8 global food shortages developed extremely rapidly - just as the coronavirus has rapidly disrupted global supplies within just a few months.

On March 12, Westminster's Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee responded by tabling an amendment to the Agriculture Bill calling on the UK Government to enshrine commitments to upholding food standards in law - a move which would also protect UK food security.

Similarly, the FUW recently responded to a UK Government consultation on proposed reductions to import tariffs, highlighting the degree to which this would threaten UK producers and UK food security by opening the door to further imports, while also undermining the UK's negotiating position in forthcoming trade talks.

Whether the UK Government decides to change what currently appears to be an unsympathetic position on protecting UK producers and food security remains to be seen, but the current coronavirus crisis and empty shelves should come as a massive shot across the bow to those who want a future where much more of our food is imported from countries which may suddenly decide to 'turn-off-the-tap' at a time when we desperately need food.

For further information on the coronavirus and agriculture visit:

How TB regulations are being affected by Covid-19 (Coronavirus):

<https://tinyurl.com/soxexq2>

Red Tractor: <https://tinyurl.com/qvffnks>

Livestock Auctioneers Association LAA: <https://tinyurl.com/tc6cc6h>

Business Wales (including details of coronavirus support for businesses):

<https://tinyurl.com/rtxtduu>

(URLs have been shortened)

Cyfnod Alan Davies fel Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr wedi dirwyn i ben

gan Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC / by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

AR ôl pedair blynedd gyda ni fel Undeb, mae cyfnod Alan Davies fel Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr wedi dirwyn i ben.

Yn ystod ei gyfnod gyda ni, mae Alan wedi bod yn arweinydd cryf, mewn cyfnod o newidiadau i ni fel Undeb. Fel y bydd nifer ohonoch yn ymwybodol, bu newid mawr yn strwythur yr Undeb yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ac yn ystod y cyfnod yma rhoddodd Alan ymdrech ddiplino i hyrwyddo amcanion ein Hundeb.

Roedd bob amser ar gael ar ochr arall y ffôn, unrhyw adeg o'r dydd, a byddaf yn ddiolchgar iddo am fynd y tu hwnt i'r dyletswyddau arferol bob tro. Mae sgiliau Alan, a'r profiadau a ddaeth gydag ef i ni fel Undeb wedi bod yn amhrisiadwy. Mae gan Alan y gallu i feddwl 'tu allan i'r bocs' ac mae'n agored i ddatblygiadau newydd, megis pwysigrwydd y Cyfryngau Cymdeithasol.

Mae ymgyrch #FarmingMatters yn un sy'n sefyll allan, ac mae'n diolch ni yn fawr i Alan am ei waith gyda'r ymgyrch hon. Ymgyrch arall yw'r #FairFarmFunding fu'n hynod o lwyddiannus, yn wir, dim ond rai wythnosau nôl oeddwn mewn cyfarfod yng Nghaerdydd a chawsom ganmoliaeth gan un o wleidyddion amlwg Cymru am yr ymgyrch hon.

Ar ran aelodau a staff yr Undeb, hoffwn ddiolch i Alan am ei waith diflino, a dymuno'r gorau iddo ef a'i deulu yn y dyfodol.

It is the end of an era for us as an Union, as Alan Davies our Managing Director stepped down from his role at the end of March. During his tenure with us, Alan has been a strong leader, in a time of seismic change for our Union. As many of you will be aware, there were some fundamental changes to our Union a few years ago, and Alan's work has been instrumental to the success of these changes. He has worked tirelessly to promote the objectives of the FUW. Alan was always available on the other side of the telephone, night or day, and I will be eternally grateful to him for going above and beyond his duties on numerous occasions. When Alan joined us, he brought with him a valuable skill set of abilities and experiences. He has the ability to 'think outside of the box' and he was instrumental to the Union's development in areas such as our social media presence. The #FarmingMatters campaign stands out as one of his great achievements, and we are grateful to him for the positive attention he brought to our Union through this campaign. Another successful campaign has been the #FairFarmFunding, indeed, it was only a few weeks ago I was in a meeting in Cardiff where a prominent Welsh politician congratulated me on the Union's work on this campaign. On behalf of the Union's members and its staff, I wish to thank Alan for his tireless work, and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

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

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Anglesey farmers raise industry concerns with MP Virginia Crosbie



From left, FUW Anglesey County President Gerald Thomas, County Executive Members Emyr Hughes, Tegwyn Jones and Peter Williams, Virginia Crosbie MP, FUW Anglesey County Vice-Chairman William Spencer Hughes, FUW Insurance Services Ltd Board Chairman Tom Jones, FUW Anglesey County Chairman Richard Williams and FUW Agri-Environment Schemes Officer Euros Jones.

FARMERS from Anglesey have raised concerns about the future of farming with local MP Virginia Crosbie in light of the ongoing uncertainty on trade deals, food imports and the lack of frameworks in the UK.

In a meeting with the MP, who also sits on the Agriculture Bill Committee, FUW officials highlighted that the Agriculture Bill does nothing to ensure food imported to the UK meets UK standards - despite previous ministerial assurances that imported food would meet our standards.

FUW Anglesey County Chairman Richard Williams said: "We are very concerned about the direction of travel for agriculture. Hearing Farming Minister Victoria Prentis referring to the risk of 'creating considerable uncertainty' by legally protecting food production standards in trade deals, is a worry to say the least.

"In reality it is the UK Government which would be proactively creating such uncertainty by taking a position on trade which deliberately abandons our EU export markets and severs the established supply chains which extend across Europe. It's within their gift to avoid such uncertainty, and we urged Mrs Crosbie to do all she could to help protect our farmers and consumers from a flood of poor quality food products."

FUW Anglesey County Vice Chairman William Spencer Hughes added: "We work very hard and to very strict rules and regulations. As food producers, we are committed to keeping up standards. Our way of producing food in a safe and sustainable way must be protected."

Union officials further stressed that frameworks were needed urgently to keep the UK's 'home market' working properly and fairly.

"I hope that our MP can take up these concerns, which are absolutely essential in terms of protecting our industry," added Mr Hughes.

Support others in your communities

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

It is clear that the Coronavirus situation is causing concern in all aspects of daily life, and it looks like the situation will get worse before improving. The agricultural industry is no exception to this, and it is inevitable that our industry will be affected. Unfortunately it is not possible to know what the situation will be in a week, let alone months.

Firstly, I would like to remind our members of Government advice, in particular, the following:

- The most common symptom of Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a persistent cough or/and a high temperature. If you have any of these, stay at home and don't leave your home for 14 days. You do not have to phone the Health Service for self-isolation. If the symptoms worsen during the period of self-isolation, or if they are not better after 7 days, contact the Health Service 111. You should call 999 in a medical emergency.
- Wash your hands more regularly than usual, using soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds. Make sure you wash your hands after sneezing, coughing and blowing your nose, and after being in crowded areas. Use hand sanitiser if it's not possible to wash your hands.
- To reduce the spread of diseases, when coughing or sneezing cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, or use your arm sleeve if a tissue is not available. Do not use your hands. Always use a tissue when possible.
- If you live with anyone else, and any of you show symptoms, every person living in the home should stay at home, and should not leave the home for 14 days. The 14 day period starts from the day the first person shows symptoms.

At such a busy time for many of us, it is quite common for us as sheep farmers to undertake an element of annual self-isolation! The lambing period is happening as usual, and hopefully the impact of this crisis will be over as soon as possible.

Social contact must be reduced where possible, but as we all know, the work on the farm must continue. We all have an important role to play in sustaining our businesses and continuing to feed the nation. The impact of this crisis on the industry is unpredictable, but I have spoken to many who tell me that the small local shops are busy, with everyone still shopping for produce. It's nice to see the public appreciating and supporting local shopping, and we will do everything we can to ensure the supply chain continues so that we can continue to offer our produce to the public.

In the middle of this concern, we are encouraged as a Union that the agricultural community has come together to support the most vulnerable in society. I am aware that many members of the Young Farmers' Clubs have offered to organise volunteers to support the most vulnerable in our communities. This is a clear indication of the community spirit that exists in our rural communities. As a Union we will be discussing with the local representatives in each county and will offer any assistance we can during this time.

I'm asking Union members to support and keep an eye on others during the difficult times ahead, and I'm confident that you will, wherever possible, do your best to support others in your communities. This crisis will be challenging for us all, but as the industry has shown in the past, by supporting each other we will overcome this challenge like all past challenges.

I would like to reassure members that we are in regular contact with the Welsh Government, and that we will be advising County Officers on these matters as soon as possible. You can contact the local officers to discuss any issues.

The Union will continue to provide any assistance and advice during this national crisis, and will update its members with any information as soon as possible.






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Farming family stress importance of protecting home food market

A FARMING family from South Wales has shared concerns about the future of farming with local MP Alun Cairns in light of the ongoing uncertainty on trade deals, food imports and the lack of frameworks in the UK.

Gaynor and Rhodri Davies moved from West Wales in 1995 to Rosedew Farm, Llantwit Major, and have set up a number of businesses to diversify and compliment the farm. With their three children, they run a number of businesses on the farm.

There is a 295 strong herd consisting of many breeds including Aberdeen Angus, Hereford Cross, Saler and British Blues. The home bred beef is slaughtered at the local slaughterhouse Maddock and brought back to the farm to supply another business The Farmers Pantry Butchers with shops in Llantwit Major and Pugh's Garden Village in Radyr. Farmers Pantry also cater for another family run business - Rosedew Farm Wedding Venue.

With his son Dafi-Sion, Rhodri grows a variety of crops on the farm including sugar beet, wheat, barley, maize, potatoes as well as hay/silage. Rhodri and Gaynor also own and manage Acorn Campsite and hire many local people to work there.

Talking to the MP about the Agriculture Bill and food imports, Rhodri said: "We are very concerned that the Bill does nothing to ensure food imported to the UK meets UK standards - despite ministerial assurances that imported food would meet our standards.

"We work very hard and to very strict rules and regulations. Some of the food that could land on our supermarket shelves will have been produced to standards that are illegal here.

"It makes these food items far cheaper but it doesn't protect our consumers and it also doesn't protect us as food producers, who are committed to keeping up standards. Our way of producing food in a safe and sustainable way must be protected."

Adding to their concerns of cheap food imports, is the lack of frameworks which would ensure a level playing field across the UK.

Gaynor says: "We need frameworks to keep the UK's 'home market' working properly and fairly. We will already have to compete with farmers in Europe so it is essential that this Government prevents unfair competition between producers in different parts of the UK."

FUW Glamorgan County Chairman Richard Walker added: "The Direct Payments to Farmers (Legislative Continuity) Order illustrates our fears: It removes the EU Pillar 1 financial ceilings mainly to allow Scotland to pay more money to farmers following Lord Bew's review of payments.

"If an additional windfall promised by the UK Government in August 2019 is paid through the BPS in 2020, the difference between average Scottish and Welsh farm payments will be around £16,200. Paying such an additional sum was not possible under the EU framework as it would have exceeded the Pillar 1 financial ceiling," added Richard.

Since 2016, following an internal consultation, the FUW has argued for frameworks to be agreed between UK Governments in order to prevent inappropriate differences between policies and funding in different parts of the UK.

With beef production playing such an important role in the family business, the family are also concerned about the increase in bovine TB in Wales.

Speaking to Alun Cairns, FUW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright said: "We strongly urge the UK Government to work with the devolved administrations to develop an eradication programme that provides assurances to other countries that TB vectors in both cattle and wildlife are being tackled in such a way that the UK will be TB free within an acceptable time period."



From left, FUW members Rhodri and Gaynor Davies with Alun Cairns MP.

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Cefnogwch eraill yn eich cymunedau

gan Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC

MAE'N amlwg fod sefyllfa'r Coronafeirws yn achosi pryder ymhob rhan o fywyd bob dydd bellach, ac mae'n argoeli mai gwaethgu gwnaiff y sefyllfa cyn gwella. Nid yw'r diwydiant amaeth yn eithriad i hyn, ac mae'n anochel y bydd effaith ar ein diwydiant. Yn anffodus nid oes modd gwybod beth fydd y sefyllfa mewn wythnos, heb sôn am fisoedd.

I ddechrau hoffwn atgoffa ein haelodau o gyngor y Llywodraeth, yn benodol, y canlynol:

- Y symptom mwyaf cyffredin o'r Coronafeirws (COVID-19) yw peswch parhaus neu/a thymheredd uchel. Os oes gennych unrhyw un o'r rhain, arhoswch adref a pheidiwch â gadael y cartref am 14 diwrnod. Nid oes rhaid i chi ffonio'r Gwasanaeth Lechyd er mwyn hunan-ynysu. Os yw'r symptomau'n gwaethgu yn ystod y cyfnod o hunan-ynysu, neu os nad ydynt yn well ar ôl 7 diwrnod, cysylltwch â'r Gwasanaeth Lechyd 111. Dylid ffonio 999 mewn argyfwng meddygol.

- Golchwch eich dwylo yn fwy rheolaidd na'r arfer, gan ddefnyddio sebon a dŵr poeth am o leiaf 20 eiliad. Gwnewch yn siŵr eich bod yn golchi dwylo ar ôl tisian, tagu a chwythu trwyn, ac ar ôl bod mewn ardaloedd poblog. Defnyddiwch hylif diheintio dwylo os nad oes modd golchi dwylo.

- Er mwyn lleihau lledaeniad afiechydon wrth dagu neu disian, gorchuddiwch eich ceg a thrwyn gyda hances, neu ddefnyddio llawes y fraich os nad oes hances ar gael. Peidiwch â defnyddio eich dwylo. Defnyddiwch hances bapur bob tro os ydi hyn yn bosib.

- Os ydych yn byw gydag unrhyw un arall, a bod unrhyw un ohonoch yn dangos symptomau, dylai pob un person sy'n byw yn y cartref aros adref, a ni ddylid gadael y cartref am 14 diwrnod. Mae'r cyfnod o 14 diwrnod yn dechrau o'r diwrnod y bydd y person cyntaf yn dangos symptomau.

A hithau'n gyfnod mor brysur i nifer ohonom, mae elfen o hunan ynysu blynyddol i ni fel ffermwyr defaid yn beth digon cyffredin! Mae'r cyfnod wyna yn mynd yn ei flaen fel arfer, a does ond gobeithio y bydd effaith yr argyfwng hwn drosodd cyn gynted â phosib.

Rhaid lleihau cyswllt cymdeithasol lle mae modd, ond fel yr ydym i gyd yn gwybod, rhaid i waith y fferm barhau. Mae gennym i gyd ran bwysig i chwarae i gynnal ein busnesau ac i barhau i fwydo'r genedl. Ni ellir rhagweld beth fydd effaith yr argyfwng hwn ar y diwydiant eto, ond rwyf wedi siarad gyda nifer sydd yn dweud wrthyf fod y siopau bychain lleol yn brysur, a phawb yn dal i siopa am gynnyrch.

Mae'n braf gweld y cyhoedd yn gwerthfawrogi a

chefnogi siopa'n lleol, a byddwn yn gwneud bob dim o fewn ein gallu i sicrhau fod y gadwyn gyflenwi yn parhau er mwyn i ni barhau i allu cynnig ein cynnyrch i'r cyhoedd.

Ynghanol y pryder hwn, mae'n galonddid i ni fel Undeb fod y gymuned amaethyddol wedi dod at ei gilydd i gefnogi'r rhai mwyaf bregus mewn cymdeithas. Rwy'n ymwybodol fod nifer o aelodau clybiau ffermwyr ifanc yn cynnig trefnu gwirfoddolwyr i gefnogi'r rhai mwyaf bregus yn ein cymunedau.

Mae hyn yn arwydd clir o'r ysbryd cymunedol sy'n bodoli yn ein cymunedau gwledig.

Byddwn fel Undeb yn trafod gyda'r cynrychiolwyr lleol ymhob sir ac yn cynnig unrhyw gymorth y gallwn yn ystod y cyfnod hwn.

Rwy'n gofyn i aelodau'r Undeb i gefnogi a chadw golwg ar eraill yn ystod y cyfnod anodd o'n blaenau, ac rwy'n ffyddiog y byddwch oll, lle mae'n bosib, yn gwneud eich gorau i gefnogi eraill yn eich cymunedau. Bydd yr argyfwng hwn yn heriol i ni oll, ond fel mae'r diwydiant wedi ei ddangos yn y gorffennol, wrth gefnogi'n gilydd byddwn yn gorchfygu'r her yma fel holl heriau'r gorffennol.

Hoffwn sicrhau aelodau ein bod mewn cysylltiad cyson gyda Llywodraeth Cymru, ac y byddwn yn cynghori Swyddogion Sirol ynghylch y materion hyn cyn gynted a bo modd. Mae modd i chi gysylltu gyda'r swyddogion lleol er mwyn trafod unrhyw fater.

Bydd yr Undeb yn parhau i ddarparu unrhyw gymorth a chyngor yn ystod yr argyfwng cenedlaethol hwn, ac yn diweddarau'r aelodau gydag unrhyw wybodaeth cyn gynted ag y bo modd.

*This article is in English on page 3:
"Support others in your communities."*

Farmers once again appalled with BBC's Countryfile

FARMERS in Wales have voiced their anger and frustration following a BBC Countryfile programme broadcast on Sunday March 15 entitled 'Looe Harbour'.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "We have once again received many complaints from our members about the latest BBC Countryfile programme, which adopted an unbalanced approach in reporting on the current Red Tractor Assurance Scheme. This has led to both anger and disappointment amongst the farming community."

The criticism is just the latest in a long line of complaints about unbalanced BBC reporting, including the Countryfile programme, and many farmers have reported that they have long since stopped watching the programme due to its 'inherent bias against farming'.

"This most recent episode of Countryfile marks a continuation by the BBC to vilify and denigrate domestic food producers," said Mr Roberts.

"The BBC must recognise its duty to be balanced and fair, and I believe that in this case Countryfile has once again failed in this context.

"Programmes which undermine the majority by highlighting the very few in order to deliberately push an anti-farming agenda are simply not acceptable. It's hardly surprising that the overwhelming majority of farmers believe the BBC has an underlying anti-farming agenda."

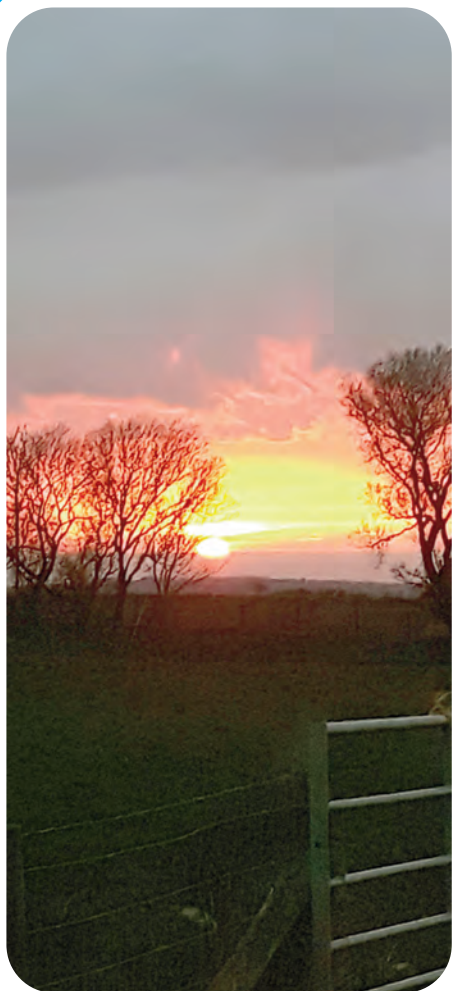
In light of the current imbalance displayed on Countryfile, the FUW has written to the BBC seeking an apology and an assurance that further programmes and online content will be more balanced in the future.

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YDW! Mi rydw i yma. Cornel Clecs ychydig yn wahanol y mis yma o dan yr amgylchiadau. Dechreuais ysgrifennu'r golofn ar ddydd Llun 16eg o Fawrth. Bryd hynny roedd pethau'n weddol 'normal' - beth bynnag yw hynny erbyn hyn! Roedd bywyd yn mynd yn ei flaen, roedd gan Ladi Fach Tŷ Ni apwyntiad yn yr ysbty, ac roedd hi'n 'busnes fel arfer' yna. Roedd yr ysgolion dal ar agor, ond mi roedd yr archfarchnadoedd a'r siopau mwy yn dangos arwyddion bod rhywbeth mawr ar droed.

Erbyn gorffen ysgrifennu'r pwt bach yma ar ddydd Gwener 20fed o Fawrth, roedd y sefyllfa wedi newid yn llwyr. Roedd yr ysgolion wedi cau am gyfnod amhenodol, a'r Llywodraeth wedi gorchymyn bod tafarndai, bwytai a llefydd cymdeithasu'n cau, a hynny'n syth. Do mi ddaeth Covid-19 neu Coronofirws i barlysu bywydau pawb. I ffermwyr, wrth gwrs mae'n rhaid parhau, gan fod y mwyafrif ohonom reit ynghanol y tymor wyna, a'r sied wyna yn ddihangfa o'r realiti hyll ar hyn o bryd.

Er ein bod ynghanol argyfwng cenedlaethol a'r cyfnod mwyaf ansicr erioed, mae'n rhaid cadw'n bositif. Wrth ysgrifennu, mae'r tywydd wedi setlo am gyfnod sy'n faich oddi ar ysgwyddau nifer o ffermwyr, cyfnod bach i ddechrau ar y gwaith paratoi ar gyfer y tymor nesaf o waith. Mae yna arwyddion clir o'n cwmpas ymhobman ar hyn o bryd bod y gwanwyn, o'r diwedd ar ei ffordd. Mae'r gymuned amaethyddol wedi goroesi sawl argyfwng, a bob amser wedi cyd-dynnu ac arwain y ffordd. Nid yw'r sefyllfa yma'n ddim gwahanol, ac mae'r siopau bach a'r cigyddion lleol yn barod i groesawu pawb ac yn annog pawb i siopa'n lleol ac i gefnogi'r economi leol.

Er mae dim ond tri mis o 2020 sydd wedi mynd, mae'n sicr yn haeddu lle yn ein llyfrau hanes. Mi adawyd yr Undeb Ewropeaidd ym mis Ionawr, mi ddaeth llifogydd dinistriol o ganlyniad i stormydd Ciara a Dennis ym mis Chwefror a'r firws yn cyrraedd ym mis Mawrth. Er bod yna ansicrwydd mawr o'n cwmpas ar hyn o bryd, mi ddaw eto haul ar fryn, ac mae'n bwysig cofio hyn. Mae'n bwysig cadw'n bositif, cadw mewn cysylltiad gyda'n gilydd, parhau i gefnogi'r economi leol, sydd ar hyn o bryd, yn profi'i gwerth yn fwy nag erioed wrth gynnig gwasanaethau hanfodol i bobl o bob oedran.

Rwyf am gloi drwy ddyfynnu geiriau Elin Angharad Davies o Ysbty Ifan, sydd wedi mynd ati i gyfansoddi penillion i ddisgrifio'r sefyllfa, sydd heb ei thebyg o'r blaen:

Mae'r byd di mynd yn wallgo.

Does dim newyddion da.
Dyfodol llawn ansicrwydd.
A'r aflwydd nawr yn bla.

Mewn byd sy'n llawn unigrwydd,

'Ynysu' yw y gri.
Rhaid gochel rhag cymysgu -
Ond codwch ffôn da chi!

Mewn byd llawn hunanoldeb
A silffoedd gweigion, glân.
Rhaid tynnu at ein gilydd
Wrth gadw ar wahân.

A rhaid yw dal i gredu -
Er gwaetha'r storom fawr.
Gofalwn am ein gilydd
Cyn hir fe ddaw y wawr.

*This article is in English on the
FUW website - News - Y Tir News:
"Things will get better."*

Electricity Network Connection Appointments

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Guto Bebb takes on role with FUW Insurance Services Ltd

FUW Insurance Services Ltd (FUWIS) has appointed Guto Bebb, *(pictured right)*, as its new Managing Director.

Mr Bebb, who hails from Caernarfon, Gwynedd, is the ex-MP for Aberconwy and was previously an Under Secretary of State for Wales and the Minister for Defence Procurement.

Before starting his political career Mr Bebb was a business consultant and company director. His commercial experience stood him in good stead as a member of the Public Accounts Committee at Westminster and in managing the multi-million procurement budget of the Ministry of Defence.

In welcoming his appointment, Tom Jones, Chair of FUWIS, said: "It's a great pleasure to have Guto on board. FUWIS is a growing company which provides key services to the agriculture sector in Wales.

"With Guto at its head, I'm confident that we will see that growth

continuing. We pride ourselves on providing a high-quality service that is also close to our customers in their varied communities across Wales. We have found a new head who understands this basic relationship and will know how to build on that existing firm foundation."

Glyn Roberts, President of the FUW added: "FUWIS's services are a key component of the services that we as a Union offer to not only our members but to the rural community in its entirety. I know that Guto understands the agriculture sector in Wales and will know how to shape future services to meet their needs. I look forward greatly to working with him."

Guto Bebb commented: "It's good to be back amidst the business hubbub of Wales. This is a new exciting challenge which I look forward to embracing enthusiastically."



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comprehensive policy that covers you, your business and your family. Have your renewal dates and current policy covers ready too as these are useful when speaking to your provider.

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References: 1. Philippe-Reversat *et al.* (2017) *Acta Vet.* BRNO 86: 325-332 2. Andrews AH (2000) *Calf Pneumonia Costs!* *Cattle Practice* 8(2)

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Welsh Livestock Vet School launch

THE FUW has welcomed the ambitions of the Veterinary School which was launched in Aberystwyth at the end of February.

The Aberystwyth School of Veterinary Science forms part of the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences and will offer a new Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc) degree offered jointly by Aberystwyth University and the Royal Veterinary College (RVC).

Students on the course will have use of a new Veterinary Education Centre on Penglais Campus which represents an investment of £1 million and partly funded by alumni donations. The school will welcome its first students in 2021.

Speaking after the launch, FUW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright said: "We welcome this significant step forward in protecting and improving animal health in Welsh livestock.

"The launch of this new vet school represents significant research and development into animal health issues of importance to the Welsh farming sector. It is hoped that the centre will provide an integrated approach to disease diagnosis and elimination.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the farming sector and we remain keen to work with members of the school to help safeguard livestock health, identify industry priorities, reduce losses and improve livestock performance through better health."

The FUW has repeatedly expressed concern about the shortage of large animal veterinary practitioners in Wales and the Union is therefore pleased to see the launch of this centre of veterinary expertise in mid-Wales.

"Alongside providing research into livestock health, we hope that the programme will increase the veterinary skills base available to our members and will ultimately raise the number of veterinary professionals in Wales," added Dr Wright.



From left, Professor Stuart Reid, Professor Christianne Glossop, Professor Elizabeth Treasure and Professor Tim Woods at the Vet School launch.

Welsh Conservative Party Conference



From left, David Davies MP, FUW President Glyn Roberts, Paul Davies AM and FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman at The Welsh Conservative Party Conference held at Llangollen Pavilion at the beginning of March, where there was an opportunity to meet and hear from top Party speakers. There was also an interesting programme of speakers including Cabinet Ministers, MPs and AMs.

Why succession planning is more than just making a will

IT can be so easy to get consumed by the day to day running of your business, that you put off thinking about the future. 'I'm too busy', 'I'm still young, I'll deal with it later', 'I don't want to talk about it, it's too depressing', 'It's too difficult, I wouldn't know where to start'. But not giving thought to what would happen if a family member becomes ill or dies can cause serious problems.

In most farming businesses you have the complication of running a business with your family members. You may have multiple generations living under the same roof and involved in the business. As land prices have increased there are more and more disputes regarding farming businesses and because of the added family connection those disputes can become particularly unpleasant.

It is important to look at the overall situation considering the different elements of the business such as:

- has there been any diversification?
- who owns what asset?
- how is the business run i.e. a partnership, sole trader, company?
- are there any third parties involved?

The tax implications of all of these issues need to be looked at and consideration given to maximising the available allowances Agricultural Property Relief and Business Property Relief.

Often there are no formal documents, but merely an informal agreement between parties, which could in itself be an issue. It is not only a Will that needs to be prepared but other documents are important such as partnership agreements, shareholder agreements, lasting powers of attorney, formal tenancy agreements or grazing licences.

We recommend you begin this process by introducing succession planning as part of your business plan, involving the whole family. Not only must death and illness be considered but also retirement and how the next generation will step up as leaders and move the business forward.

Discussing these elements lets all voices be heard and hopefully will lead to less disputes. Involving all your professional advisors in your succession planning discussions is also vital to ensure every aspect works together and the process is a smooth one.

For further advice on succession planning call the RDP Agriculture team on 01633 413500.

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European Innovation Partnership Wales projects exceed targets

MORE than 100 groups of farmers and foresters in Wales have expressed interest in investigating more efficient methods of working or introducing new technologies through a series of sector-specific projects funded by EIP (European Innovation Partnership) Wales.

Since the programme was launched in 2016, over 30 group applications for a diverse range of projects at locations throughout Wales have been approved and are now in progress. Lynfa Davies, Farming Connect's knowledge exchange manager, who heads the EIP Wales programme for Farming Connect, says the project currently involves more than 150 farmers, foresters and horticulturalists actively engaged on EIP funded projects.

"I have been delighted with the number and calibre of applications received to date, which reflects the determination of those working in the industry to identify and implement new opportunities to improve efficiency and increase profitability at this critical time, as the industry prepares for the challenges and opportunities widely expected when we leave the EU.

"Taking into account the breadth and quality of applications we are currently processing, we are on course to deliver our target of 45 projects and are therefore not accepting any additional applications.

"The Knowledge Exchange Hub has been an important part of the EIP process, contributing advice, information and help with project design to the groups as they have developed their projects. This support will continue to be available and if farmers and foresters would like to access information on the latest research findings they can contact the Knowledge Exchange Hub through Farming Connect," said Ms Davies.

One of the projects currently underway is investigating ways to add value to sheep, a main source of income for many businesses in Wales. In 2017, FUW member Alan Jones, a sheep farmer from Chwilog, near Pwllheli, who is now an approved Farming Connect mentor, joined a local Farming Connect Agrisgôp group led by Geraint



Will these ewes herald the sweet taste of business success for Pwllheli farmer and FUW member Alan Jones.

Hughes. Mr Hughes had invited a number of sheep farmers in his area to investigate ways of adding value to their sheep enterprises to help them prepare for the economically challenging and uncertain times they were all facing.

Alongside husbandry and nutritional issues, the group's key focus was on managing dairy ewes for cheese production, which a number of group members achieved so successfully, Mr Hughes encouraged them to take their investigations to the next level by seeking EIP Wales funding.

"From the promising start achieved by our Agrisgôp group, which led to a number of us starting to provide ewe's milk to

speciality cheese producers, we are now building on the knowledge gained, which we could never have tackled so successfully without the support of EIP Wales," said Mr Jones.

The group were awarded the maximum amount of £40,000 over a two year period, which funded advice from a number of the UK's top experts, enabling them to monitor the milk quality and improve the bacteriological profile of the sheep milk produced by each member.

"This means we have each been able to produce better quality ewes' milk and as our collective vision is to be at the forefront of this emerging sector, we now believe we have a strong foundation in place and a production system which will help us tap into this rapidly expanding market," said Mr Jones.

Lynfa Davies was keen to emphasise that the breadth of topics now being investigated will have huge potential for the industry in Wales.

For updates on EIP Wales projects completed or underway or for advice on all other support available through Farming Connect, visit www.gov.wales/farmingconnect

EIP Wales, which is delivered by Menter a Busnes, has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

Brian elected Life Member of the Union



FORMER FUW Deputy President, Brian Thomas, (pictured above), has been elected as a Life Member of the Union at a recent Grand Council meeting in Aberystwyth in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Union and Welsh agriculture over many years. A Pembrokeshire beef and sheep farmer, Brian Thomas has previously received the Union's annual internal award for his services to the agricultural industry. The recommendation that he be made a Life Member was accepted unanimously by the Union's Grand Council.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "Brian has been a rock solid friend and working partner for over 20 years. He is always willing to help, support and give advice. Over the years Brian has gone above and beyond in serving not just this Union but the industry as a whole. It is fair to say that the industry in Wales has benefited greatly from Brian's active lobbying and efforts to make our sector a better place for everyone involved."

Brian is a past County Chairman of the FUW in Pembrokeshire, and has previously sat on the FUW's central tenant's committee. He was elected South Wales member of the central finance and organisation committee in 2011, Vice President of the FUW in 2013 and Deputy President in 2015.

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Business 'hanging in the balance' follows

It was going to be a day like any other for Esther Howie, (pictured right), and her flock of sheep from Anglesey, until lunch time at least, when she went for her routine check-up on the family Jacob's flock. Something wasn't as it was supposed to be - the sheep had been badly injured.

The Howie family moved to a holding near Rhosmeirch seven years ago and have put a lot of time, effort and money into improving and maintaining the land. Both Esther and her husband Neil also work extra jobs to support their life-long dream of having a smallholding.

Esther already had a flock of pedigree Jacob sheep when they moved to the island and has since added a few Shetland sheep into the mix. Having been busy building up her Jacob flock for over 12 years now, she breeds primarily for wool to support her start-up business Tyddynys. As such, she only lambs a few selected ewes each year, carefully choosing which ewes to put to which ram for improving fleece for the craft industry.

So it came as a huge shock when she found out that her flock had been attacked by a dog, leaving her devastated and the business hanging in the balance.

Speaking from her holding, she says: "My main holding is on Anglesey, but a while back I was offered a piece of land to graze near Bangor - great piece for my hill sheep, who are really not that impressed with the terrain at home.

"It's a good sized piece of land with a nice big shelter. The landlady lives on one side and a friend on the other to keep an eye on the ewes for me when I can't be there. I moved my Jacob ewes up there for the winter and they were thriving.

"Until January this year. I went up for my usual visit during my lunch hour at work and noticed that a mule ewe - my landlady's adopted pet lamb that now lives with us - had fresh blood coming through her fleece."

Not sure what had happened but suspecting the sheep had been attacked Esther checked the field. She said: "It looked like one of the lambs had been attacked, but we've never had any experience of this to date.

"The gate into the field is locked and it is the only entrance. The field runs parallel to the A55 so there would be no reason for anyone to be in there. I thought maybe the ewe had been caught in the hedge or fence somewhere and injured herself. I walked the full perimeter of the field checking for fleece in the hedges - knowing that this was going to be unlikely as we had only recently had them cut."

About two thirds of her way around she found a large area of grass in the centre of the field that was strewn with clumps of fleece. There was really no mistaking what had happened.

"I contacted the police and was quite shaken that this could have happened in a seemingly safe and protected area. I had 11 ewes in that field - 4 of them had injuries - significant injuries that I couldn't treat with a bit of spray alone.

"I realised I was going to have to bring these ewes back to the holding to shear the fleece where they had been attacked and properly clean and treat the wounds. It took me a whole day to deal with these four ewes - my husband had to leave his work for the afternoon to come and help me move them," said Esther.

The decision was made to bring all of the ewes out of the field for the time being. It was not an easy decision for Esther to make as the fields at the main holding were waterlogged and not really able to sustain the additional livestock. By the time she arrived to pick up the ewes, they had been attacked again.

"We were absolutely horrified at what we found - the dog had obviously been back. One ewe



had been attacked and left stranded on her back, another was severely injured and was hiding in the back of the field shelter.

"Bambi' was our one and only pet lamb and the last of the offspring from the matriarch of my flock - Delores - who had passed away a few months earlier at the grand old age of 17. It was simply awful. There was nothing the vet could do for Bambi, her injuries were too severe and we had put her to sleep."

Instead of returning to her day job, Esther's time was now spent treating wounds, trying to contact the police and a visit to the knackers yard to have Bambi's body disposed of.

"I went to the FUW Llangefni office who helped me to get hold of the Rural Crime team. I was getting more and more upset about it. The staff there were amazing - listened to what had happened - contacted the police for me and I was soon back at the field, being interviewed by the very understanding and compassionate officer," she said.

There was little more that could be done at this stage. Mornings for Esther now had to start even earlier than normal to fit in cleaning wounds before work.

The sheep that had been left upside down also had significant injuries so there was a trip to the vet for her and daily antibiotic and pain killing injections to administer.

"Her injuries were severe but the vet and I decided we would try and give her a chance. She was still lively and eating which is always a good sign. Sadly though she didn't make it," said Esther.

The injuries had cut off the blood supply to the tissue in the ewes tail and backend and it started to turn necrotic. A week later it was agreed with the vet to have her put down as well.

"She wasn't in lamb this year but I had chosen her for lambing next year as my second generation shetland-Jacob crossbreeds. Losing her was a great blow!" added Esther.

A quick back of the envelope calculation highlighted that between time taken away from work, vets fees, additional feed cost and medication, the incident had already cost over £1,600 - and they weren't nearly through it.

"My landlady's pet lamb, Thelma, developed a nasty abscess from one of the puncture wounds she had sustained and needed a change of antibiotics, so another week of daily injections and wound treatments," recalls Esther.

The family still has to decide whether to take the sheep back over to the field in Bangor again. "Besides the obvious pain and distress caused to the ewes themselves, I really can't afford to treat anymore injuries or lose anymore of my stock. This has affected almost half my breeding stock and has knock-on consequences far beyond the loss of life itself.

"It takes years of careful breeding to develop pedigree flocks - and my business is very much dependent on my girls. Good quality land is in short supply here and at the moment I have lost the use of approximately half of mine - I shall have to make a decision soon on where to graze my flock.

"Do I put them back in a field where I know there have already been multiple dog attacks or do I downsize and bring them home with the consequence of not being able to fully develop my business plans?

"I shouldn't have to make this choice - but I do - because someone else chose not to act responsibly with their pet. I still get tearful about it and I am not a sentimental person normally.

"I have invested a huge amount into developing the smallholding and have finally been able to see a point where my dreams of developing the business here are becoming a reality - now this is all hanging in the balance."

"I went to the FUW Llangefni office who helped me to get hold of the Rural Crime team. The staff there were amazing - listened to what had happened - contacted the police for me and I was soon back at the field, being interviewed by the very understanding and compassionate officer."

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Warning attacks on pedigree Jacob sheep



“Do I put them back in a field where I know there have already been multiple dog attacks or do I downsize and bring them home with the consequence of not being able to fully develop my business plans?”



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We can provide a listening ear

by Emma Picton-Jones, Founder, The DPJ Foundation

It has been another busy few weeks here at The DPJ Foundation. We have taken on new volunteers across the North Wales region who are taking on the roles of regional champions. These champions will be working in the community to spread awareness of mental health, holding talks and fundraising in the community. Our champions come from all backgrounds from contractors to farmers to lawyers.

With the recent bad weather we have been aware of the ongoing impact on the farming community. Although the initial response may be the clear up it is important we are aware of the effects this will have going forward.

We work closely with RABI and FCN who are both available to offer financial and practical support should there be the need. But lets not forget the emotional and mental impact this may have. Be aware of your own mental health, if you start to feel low, unable to manage or cope then it is important to seek support. Talking to a family member or friend is a good start or call our 24 hour call line and make contact with one of our volunteers.

We are planning our Grand Summer Raffle. Last year we raffled a 1965 Massey which helped us raise £10,000. We are looking for sponsors to help us continue to raise money to provide our services, if this interests you - please get in touch!

With the current uncertainty around coronavirus we are aware of the impact that further isolation can have on our older community. We urge you to take time to check on elderly neighbours and relatives and where possible ensure that their needs are being met.

If you are struggling with the isolation please get in touch and we can provide a listening ear.



THE
DPJ FOUNDATION

Tel: 0800 587 4262 / Text: 07860 048799.

E-mail: contact@thedpjfoundation.com

Win a £50
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Children's photography competition

Are you a photographer in the making?

Then this is the competition for you!

Give us an idea of what farming is like during Spring through your camera lens!

Do you want to be in with a chance of winning a £50 Argos voucher and have your 'Farming in Spring' themed photograph printed in *Y Tir*?

To enter all you have to do is email your photograph to ytir@fuw.org.uk by May 20th

Age category - 8 - 14 years

Good luck!

The Rules

- 1 The photo must be taken by the person entering.
- 2 We can only accept digital images.
- 3 Make sure the file size of each is at least 1Mb and is JPEG format.
- 4 Include your name, address and date of birth with each entry.
- 5 The FUW reserves the right to use any entry for marketing material.



I'm an FUWnion man and proud of it!

by Philip Jones, FUW Carmarthen County Chairman

- I farm but I'm not a Farmer.
- I lecture but I'm not a Lecturer.
- I drive buses but I'm not a Bus driver.
- I milk cows but I'm not a Cowman.

WHAT am I? Confused; often! Quirky; most of the time! A misfit; alas, frequently but I also happen to be the outgoing Chair of Carmarthenshire FUW and have had a ball of a time for two years.

While being Chair, I've had an opportunity to represent the Union at various functions and dinners (I like dinners!) and YFC competitions. I write this piece just after having made the presentations at the Carmarthenshire YFC Drama Competition and I am 'totes amazeballs' with the talent, ability and creativity of all of the Clubs that staged a drama.

None of the young actors had been to drama school; as far as I know, and are probably more comfortable applying udder cream to sore teats than putting greasepaint on their faces but it didn't show; I experienced the whole range of emotions, from sorrow and joy through to anger as a variety of characters were portrayed before a spellbound audience. I probably wouldn't have been in the Gwendraeth Hall but for the FUW; see, it's not all bad being the temporary figurehead of a very seaworthy vessel with a proud stern!

Well, the opening list gives you some idea of what I do; I farm about 65 organic hectares in the sodden Gwili Valley and we are about 7 miles north of the town of Carmarthen. I cannot make ends meet shepherding some 350 sheep, so it has to be a part time job and that is why I keep the Easycare breed; they have to look after themselves and be resilient.

Unfortunately, they are also innovative and resourceful meaning that there are frequent phonecalls received, drawing my attention to sheep that are on the Village Playing Fields or browsing through daffodils on a neighbour's lawn.... When I sell ewes and am asked what kind of sheep they are, I reply by saying that 'they are excellent foragers!' It's not really a lie is it?

All of the other jobs listed on the drop down menu are additional ways of making a living and I lecture/teach at Gelli Aur College for 18 hours a week which is another great laff! I teach the

BTEC Agri syllabus to 14-16 year olds as I have gathered a bit of knowledge and experience during my 40 something years of farming. Most of the time, I know more about farming than my students but it's a close call sometimes!

I joined the Union because I believe that I can better prepare for the future if I have some idea of 'what's that coming over the hill; is it a monster?' The Union's Policy Team do an excellent job in my opinion and do their very best to keep us up to speed with what dark potions are being brewed up in Cardiff Bay and which we will soon be forced to drink.

The Senedd's problem 'fix' is usually an enormous hurdle for us farmers; the current NVZ Regs. are a classic example of this. Of course, the monster hurtling over hill and down dale can oftentimes be winded and although not stopped in his tracks perhaps, will recognise that what he thought was easy prey has teeth of its own and knows how to use them.

'Brexit and our Land' became Sustainable Farming and our Land because of the FUWs postcard campaign. I've never owned a reliable crystal ball and have lost Mystic Meg's contact details; I'm hopeless at reading tealeaves; drinking coffee probably has something to do with that, so if I want to know what the farming future holds, I go along to the monthly Exec Meetings and get to hear about a ton of Consultations.

They are the next monsters that might be coming my way and possibly, by commenting on them, they just might stop to catch their breath and allow me more time to make business adjustments. Yes I'm an FUWnion man and proud of what I am, I say that I think that the Consultation stinks; yes I'm an FUWnion man!



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01248 750250 anglesey@fuw.org.uk

ANGLESEY

Croesawu Elizabeth



Dyma wyneb cyfarwydd iawn i lawer iawn ohonoch ym myd amaeth Môn. Hoffwn estyn croeso cynnes iawn i Elizabeth Griffiths sydd wedi ymuno â ni fel Cynorthwydd Gweinyddol yn swyddfa Llangefní. Mi fydd Elizabeth hefyd yn treulio rhan o'i hamser yn cynorthwyo yn Sir Gaernarfon.

This is a very familiar face for many of you in Anglesey. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Elizabeth Griffiths who has joined us as an Administrative Assistant at the Llangefní office. Elizabeth will also spend part of her time assisting Caernarfonshire.

01982 554030

BRECON & RADNOR

breconandradnor@fuw.org.uk

SAF 2020

We are currently completing the SAF 2020. We will be in touch with everyone who made an appointment with us in 2019, but if you would like assistance and not previously had your form completed with us, please get in touch on 01982 554030.

County executive meeting

We wish to confirm that there will be NO County Executive meeting in April.

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CAERNARFON

A bit of a drama!

ERYRI YFC held their first Drama competition in seven years at Y Ganolfan in Llanrwst recently. Although only Llanrwst and Ysbyty Ifan competed, it was a great night of entertainment and the hall was nearly full although the weather outside was atrocious.

After a lot of laughter, Aled Jones, the judge, gave the first place to Llanrwst, with Osian Dosbon, Llanrwst receiving best Actor for his portrayal of Issac the farm skivvy. And Lois Anna Evans, Ysbyty Ifan, won best actress for acting Boris the president of Russia! Both receiving a trophy sponsored by the Caernarfonshire FUW to keep.



From left, judge Aled Jones; Llanrwst Best Actor Osian Dosbon; and FUW President Glyn Roberts.



From left, judge Aled Jones; Best Actress Lois Anna Evans; and Glyn Roberts.

Farmers get access to leading tanks and boilers thanks to competitive Oil 4 Wales finance offer


www.oil4wales.co.uk


Founder of Oil 4 Wales Colin Owens said he was delighted to be able to support Wales's dedicated farming and agricultural sector by offering this competitive finance package.

He said: "At Oil 4 Wales we pride ourselves on working with the people of Wales, and for the people of Wales, and farming and agriculture lies right at the heart of this nation's proud history.

"We recognise that maintaining a successful agricultural or farming business can see costs run into the hundreds of thousands, and as such purchasing essential boilers and tanks can seem impossible.

"Which is why we wanted to do our best to support these dedicated people and offer a finance package, which takes the stress and concern out of buying tanks and boilers.

"We believe that this offering will be crucial in supporting farmers and agricultural workers to buy the vital equipment they need. By removing the financial worry, they can carry on the fantastic work they do every day, and dedicate themselves to ensuring their businesses continue to thrive."

Oil 4 Wales is offering the finance package ahead of new environmental regulations, from Natural Resources Wales (NRW), which could see people fined £5,000 if they fail to comply.

As part of the new regulations, all commercial premises with above ground oil tanks holding in excess of 200 litres, must

have a secondary containment system or they could face a significant fine.

All oil tanks installed must adhere to these new regulations, with exceptions including domestic properties and farmhouses, unless they have a commercial use.



For more information on the package, and to check eligibility, please visit www.oil4wales.co.uk

Terms and conditions apply.

Farmers and those working across Wales's agricultural sectors can now get access to the latest oil and heating tanks on finance thanks to leading distributor Oil 4 Wales. The family-run business, which supplies over 160 million litres of fuel to commercial and residential customers annually, is offering competitive finance packages to domestic and agricultural customers for oil and heating tank installations.

As part of the service, the business's experts will advise customers on the best options to suit their needs and premises, and provide them with access to industry-leading finance to help them secure their new tank.

The oil distributor, which has over 90,000 customers across Wales, will offer a 36-month package with a competitive interest rate of 12.9% with a 10% deposit.

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CAERNARFON

Gwledd o Adloniant

Llongyfarchiadau i Mared Esyllt ar ennill Aelod Hŷn y flwyddyn yng Ngwledd o Adloniant CFFI Cymru yn Galeri, Caernarfon yn ddiweddar. Gweler Mared Esyllt gyda'r beirniaid, o'r chwith, Swyddog Sirol UAC Caernarfon Gwynedd Watkin, Falmai Roberts a Menna Jones.

Congratulations to Mared Esyllt for winning Senior Member of the Year at the Wales YFC Drama finals held at

Galeri, Caernarfon recently. Mared Esyllt is pictured with the judges, from left, FUW Caernarfon County Executive Officer Gwynedd Watkin, Falmai Roberts and Menna Jones.



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CARMARTHEN

Llongyfarchiadau Joyce

Llongyfarchiadau i'n Uwch Gynorthwydd Gweinyddol Joyce Owens ar ddod yn Gyfarwyddwr Anrhydeddus Cynorthwyol Adran Moch a Geifr ar gyfer Sioe Frenhinol Cymru.

Congratulations to Senior Administrative Assistant Joyce Owens on becoming the Assistant Honorary Director for the Pig and Goat Section for the Royal Welsh Show.



Thank you

We would like to say thank you to the guest speakers who attended the Area Sub branch meetings in January and February, the guest speakers were FUW Head of Policy Dr Nick Fenwick, FUW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright, FUW Policy Adviser Aled Jones and FUW Policy Communications Officer Gareth Parry, a very informative presentation was given.

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CEREDIGION

Double celebrations!



Last month two staff members from the Ceredigion office celebrated special birthdays, Claims Relationship Manager Sally Phillips, (right), and Account Handler Carys Davies, (left). Here they are celebrating!

01824 707198

dinbychflint@fuw.org.uk

DENBIGH & FLINT

Codi arian

Cawsom noson fendigedig yng ngholeg Llandrillo yn codi arian i Clwyd 2020 a'r Ambwlans Awyr. Diolch yn fawr i Gareth a Falmai Roberts, Llaeth y Llan am drefnu'r noson.

We had a wonderful evening at Coleg Llandrillo raising money for Clwyd 2020 and the Air Ambulance. Many thanks to Gareth and Falmai Roberts, Llaeth y Llan for organising the evening.



O'r chwith, Llywydd 2020 Mr Harry Fetherstonhaugh; Gareth Roberts, Llaeth y Llan, Dafydd Jones, FUW a Falmai Roberts.



Criw FUW yn mwynhau'r noson.

Hyfforddiant



Mae ein Swyddog Sirol Mari Jones a'n Gweithredwyr Yswiriant Lowri Davies ag Esther Richards wedi bod yn cael hyfforddiant gan Emma Picton-Jones o'r DPJ Foundation yn Neuadd y Sir, Rhuthun, gweler yn y llun gydag Emma.

Recently, our County Executive Officer Mari Jones and our Insurance Executives Lowri Davies and Esther Richards have been receiving training from Emma Picton-Jones of the DPJ Foundation at County Hall in Ruthin, all three are pictured with Emma.

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GLAMORGAN

Informative meeting

FUW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright, (pictured right), came to our County Executive Meeting on February 18 and gave a detailed presentation about sheep scab and Cattle EID for our executive members. All members commented that it was such an informative meeting and we are all grateful to Hazel for attending our meeting, we look forward to arranging another meeting in the future.



01873 853280

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GWENT

A welcome surprise

Gwent Administrative Assistant, Helen Thomas and family have recently attended a presentation evening of the Brecon and Borders Breeders Association of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. She was awarded Champion Section C yearling winner, Section C points Champion and overall points Champion with her colt Danollen Tango (pictured right). It



came as a welcome surprise as Tango, known as nervous Nelly at home, proved very challenging at the start of show season being frightened of everything around him, with a lot of hard work it eventually paid off. Well done Tango.

01341 422298

meirionnydd@fuw.org.uk

MEIRIONNYDD

Ffurflenni SAF

Dyma ni bellach yng nghanol y cyfnod prysur blynyddol o gynorthwyo ffermwyr gyda llenwi'r ffurflenni Taliad Sengl, sef y gwaith sydd yn mynd a rhan fwyaf o'n hamser yn y swyddfa sirol ers dechrau mis Mawrth. Ar y cyfan, mae'r gwaith yn mynd yn hwylus iawn, ond gan fod nifer o ffermydd Meirionnydd wedi cael archwiliad fferm yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, mae hyn yn achosi peth cymhlethdod a gwaith ychwanegol.

Hefyd gan fod rhan helaeth iawn o ffermydd Meirionnydd yn y cynllun Glastir, mae cael y codau cywir ar gyfer pob un cae yn allweddol bwysig, a lle mae angen gofal arbennig. Dyma'r gwaith bellach hyd at ganol Mehefin, ond wrth ysgrifennu'r geiriau yma, ni wyddom beth sydd o'n blaen gyda'r datblygiadau efo'r feirws, sydd yn bryder i bawb ohonom.

We are now in the midst of the busy annual period of assisting farmers with completing the Single Payment forms, the work that has taken up most of our time at the county office since the beginning of March. Overall, the work is going very smoothly, but since many Meirionnydd farms have undergone a farm inspection during the last year, this causes some complexity and additional work. Also as the vast majority of Meirionnydd farms are part of the Glastir scheme, having the right codes for each field is crucial, and where extra care is needed. This will be the extent of the workload until the middle of June, but at the time of writing, we do not know what lies ahead with the developments in relation to the virus, which causes concern for all of us.

Pwyllgor gwaith Sirol

Yn anffodus bu rhaid gohirio Pwyllgor mis Mawrth, ond byddwn mewn cysylltiad eto gyda'r aelodau mor fuan ag y bydd hyn yn bosib.

Unfortunately the March Committee had to be postponed, but we will be in touch with members as soon as possible.

01686 626889

montgomeryshire@fuw.org.uk

MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Montgomery YFC showcase array of talent

Congratulations to all members that competed in the Drama Festival at Theatre Hafren. It was great to have such a high volume of entries in the 2020 Drama competition.

There was a total of 5 Welsh and 16 English drama's as well as 13 one plus entries.

A huge thank you also goes to our sponsors, Montgomeryshire FUW and NFU Cymru (Montgomeryshire) for their support. Thank you to our stewards, producers and club leaders for supporting the members!



Welsh Drama winning club - Cffil Dyffryn Tanat YFC.

01437 762913

pembrokeshire@fuw.org.uk

PEMBROKESHIRE

200+ Club



Would you like to be in with a chance of winning £25 or £10 every month? If so why not sign up to our 200+ Club.

Draws are undertaken on a monthly basis with one prize of £25 and two prizes of £10, with the best part being that it only costs £5 per year to participate.

As well as funding the prizes, part of the money raised also goes towards local charitable causes, either directly or by supporting fundraising events.

So why not give it a go! To find out more contact us at pembrokeshire@fuw.org.uk or telephone 01437 762913.

Cross Compliance Reminders

No Cultivation Margins

If you are going to be undertaking cultivations in fields which have traditional boundaries such as hedgerows, earth banks or ditches, you need to remember that you must not cultivate within 1 metre of the boundary.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Consent

If you intend to carry out agricultural improvement work on uncultivated or semi natural land, you must submit an EIA screening application form to the Welsh Government. Please note that a decision must be received before you start any work.

Upcoming EOI Window Details

Scheme	Summary	Window closes
Farm Business Grant	The 7th expression of interest window is now open. In order to be eligible, scheme members will have had to attend a previous Farming Connect event - 'Farming for the Future'. To clarify, those who have received funding through the Sustainable Production Grant can also apply for funding through this EOI window of the Farm Business Grant.	10 April 2020
Glastir Woodland Restoration (GWR)	The 8th Expression of Interest window is now open for the Glastir Woodland Restoration scheme. GWR provides capital works for restocking, fencing and associated operations on sites containing larch and up to 50% non-larch species. Applicants will have to submit their supporting felling licence or felling licence application when expressing an interest. Welsh Government will not consider any documents that were submitted in a previous GWR window.	24 April 2020
BPS Transfer of Entitlements	You can now transfer BPS entitlements through sale, lease or inheritance. It must be accessed through the RPW online account. The recipient of entitlements transferred by sale or lease must meet the Active Farmer requirements.	30 April 2020
Glastir Small Grants: Landscape and Pollinators	Due to the recent flooding and wet weather, the deadline to claim for Glastir (Landscape and Pollinators) work has been extended until May 31 2020. Cross Compliance regulations do not permit hedgerow restoration works (coppicing, laying) to be completed after March 31 therefore must be completed beforehand however claims can be made up until May 31 via RPW Online. All work must include 'before' and 'after' geotagged photographs.	31 May 2020

Drones and agriculture: Future prospects for use with livestock

by David Cutress, Farming Connect Knowledge Exchange Hub, IBERS, Aberystwyth University

SMART technologies are under heavy discussion and development within the agricultural industry with the term precision agriculture appearing more and more often.

One technology which has received a great deal of development, with regards to crop and pasture-based management innovations, are drones. Drones were originally utilised purely in research and for military use, their availability, hardware and software improvements, however, have made them fairly common place within society.

Drones offer a cost-efficient solution to achieving long distance aerial analysis of farm lands both visually and using a variety of sensors such as near infra-red and light detection and ranging (LiDAR), a task previously which would require expensive manned aerial fly overs or satellite imagery.

Drones have increasingly been used for farm 3D mapping, analysis of vegetation, water management, soil moisture detection as well as mounted with spraying nozzles for application of fertilisers and pesticides (currently not permissible in all countries), but, there has been very little development with regards to farm management of livestock.

Currently, on-animal technologies are ubiquitous in the form of radio-frequency identity (RFID) ear tags though more technologies related to monitoring livestock remotely continue to be released, including devices such as MooCall and Silent herdsman to name just two.

While monitoring devices show promise, they rely on large batteries due to technology restraints or on passing directly within range of a receiver device in order to transfer information. Whilst this may work in many farming systems in others, such as upland systems where livestock are sparsely stocked, it is often not an option.

Drones offer an interesting solution due to their versatility in traversing distances unimpeded by geographical constraints whilst capturing and relaying visual imagery. Though this alone has minimal benefits, advances in this area are under development to identify and differentiate stock-animals based on imagery aspects, count animals relaying totals, detect illness based on behavioural factors and even utilise drones towards herding or possibly as a security tool to scare predators during lambing / calving.

Simultaneously with a big push in Wales towards the integration of LoRaWAN wireless networks to communicate with sensors at distances on farms, drones could be employed into farm strategies either to collect data from sensors outside of the optimal range of LoRaWAN hubs or to act upon data received from sensors (for example, if health monitors warn of issues on animals grazing uplands, drones could get visual analysis to compare saving time and labour).



Menter Moch Cymru helps pig enterprises thrive

PIG producers ready to take their enterprise to the next level have been taking advantage of a series of butchery courses organised by Menter Moch Cymru (MMC).

Tailored to the needs of pig producers in Wales - the practical courses have enabled attendees to add value to their produce and learn new skills to benefit their businesses.

From 'Practical Pig Butchery', 'Curing & Sausage Making' to 'Charcuterie for Beginners' the project has held a number of sessions throughout Wales as part of its commitment to providing pig producers with access to expert training.

One such example of a business that has been helped by the project is Forest Coalpit Farm. When Kyle Holford and Lauren Smith, (pictured right), moved from London to Forest Coalpit Farm near Abergavenny in 2015 they had a keen interest in food, but no agricultural experience.

Now, with training and advice from MMC, the couple has established a thriving enterprise with a rapidly growing customer base for their award-winning pork - and were awarded a Great Taste Award in 2018.

Keen to learn from others, Kyle has attended several study tours and courses organised by MMC, including:

- Practical Pig AI
- Pig Finishing
- Health Planning
- Pig Nutrition
- Improving Piglet Survival
- Certificate of Competency for the Welfare of Pigs in Transit



Following a MMC Butchery and Curing course at Food Centre Wales, Kyle and Lauren opened their on-farm processing unit. There they process the meat from their free-range herd of Large Black x Duroc 'Welsh Black' pigs, which roam the 20-acre holding's pasture and woodland.

Currently, nine pigs a week are sent to slaughter at a small local abattoir. Some are sold wholesale with an average of 4 pigs a week being processed by Lauren in the butchery and sold to restaurants or through internet sales.

Says Kyle, "Through Menter Moch Cymru I have been able to learn invaluable skills from some of the best pig vets and nutritionists in the country which has helped me run a productive pig farm despite keeping rare breed pigs outdoors."

As part of MMC's commitment to continued support, Kyle and Lauren have also received a visit from a food technologist to review their products and processes, provide new product development advice and help taste test some lines.

Following the recent visit, Lauren explains, "Nothing beats having a one-to-one with a food technologist who really knows their stuff - everything from labelling and pricing, butchery and curing and consumer trends - amazing."

In turn, the couple has kindly acted as hosts for MMC events, including a farm tour for a group of London chefs and helping Welsh vets gain hands-on experience as part of the MMC & Wales Veterinary Science Centre's CPD programme.

Kyle adds, "The MMC project offers a range of support programmes that we've found really valuable for our business. I'd definitely encourage pig keeps in Wales to take advantage of the support available - there's something for everyone!"

According to Melanie Cargill, Menter Moch Cymru Project Manager, "Kyle and Lauren demonstrate that with the right support, keeping pigs can be a viable option whether you are looking to diversify your farm business or are completely new entrants to the farming industry."

"The Menter Moch Cymru project offers a range of support programmes and training opportunities to suit any pig enterprise; whether a small herd or a large commercial scale unit."

The Menter Moch Cymru project is funded by the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014 -2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.

For more information about Menter Moch Cymru visit www.mentermochcymru.co.uk



Who's who at our Builth Wells office



Catrin Price County Executive Officer

How long with the Union? 7th January, this time round, previously worked with FUW from 2007 - 2015 in the Carmarthen office

Previous jobs/education? Worked with Wales YFC

Home life (married/single etc)? Married to Gareth

Hobbies/other activities outside work? Enjoy farming and assisting on the farm, and nothing better than lambing time!!! Showing sheep at shows over the summer period. Also, enjoy flower arranging in my spare time!

What does your job entail? The job is varied and you never know what members will ask you to do! This time of year is mainly completing SAF forms

What do you enjoy doing most? Having a laugh with members and able to assist with issues!

What's the most important part of your job? Helping the members with their queries

Typical day? Every day is varied, never know what's going to land on the table!

Kath Shaw Administrative Assistant

How long with the Union? About 7 years, but a member for 15!

Previous jobs/education? Lab assistant, cider farm worker, deer stockperson, barmaid, amongst others

Home life (married/single etc)? Partner, no children but 3 chickens, 2 cats, eleventy billion deer and a crazy dog

Hobbies/other activities outside work? Hill walking/wild camping, farming, motorcycling, cooking

What does your job entail? Tea/coffee making, biscuit purchasing, managing the Pavilion, first point of contact for members, admin things, anything else reasonable that people ask of me

Most unusual request? Can we cancel a pig entry for RWS (wrong number!) or can we have our lunch down here (contractors setting up for RWS)

What do you enjoy doing most? Dealing with member queries and making sure they get the best service possible

What's the most important part of your job? HO would say getting the Pavilion ready for the Show, but for me it's about making sure the members are happy

What would you change to make your job even better? Air-con

Typical day? 6am start to check stock at home, drop partner at office, make coffee for everyone in the building, deal with whatever happens, home at 6pm, cook dinner then either slump in front of the TV or go outside and do some farming.



Sian Powell Insurance Account Handler

How long with the Union? Nearly 3 years

Previous jobs/education? Worked 32 years in the Agricultural/Commercial Team of a high street bank

Home life (married/single etc)? Married, husband is a Painter & Decorator. 1 Daughter - Works as a Manager in PWC in Birmingham

Hobbies/other activities outside work? Travelling, gardening and badminton. Treasurer Radnor/South Powys Badminton Assoc 20 years. Qualified badminton coach

What does your job entail? Assisting Dave Powell and Meinir Davies with their Client Insurance Portfolios - from making coffee to calling on clients in the absence of an Insurance Executive

What do you enjoy doing most? Dealing with clients - getting to know them and their families and helping with all their insurance needs and any banking questions

Most unusual request? Receiving a telephone call re a claim - One of our cows has gone for a swim in a neighbours' swimming pool.



Dave Powell Senior Account Executive

How long with the Union? 10 years

Previous jobs/education? Senior Commercial Manager, HSBC Bank plc

Home life (married/single etc)? Married with 5 children

Hobbies/other activities outside work? Golf, Hon Treasurer, Royal Welsh Agricultural Society

What does your job entail? Providing insurance solutions

What do you enjoy doing most? Client contact

What's the most important part of your job? Making sure the right cover is in place

Typical day? Office or out with clients.

Gwen Evans Senior Account Executive

How long with the Union? 20 years

Previous jobs/education? Barclays Bank - 15 years

Home life (married/single etc)? Married, 1 daughter

Hobbies/other activities outside work? 4th generation on family farm - enjoy working on the farm. Breed Welsh Cobs & Charollais sheep, Run B&B business and glamping so little time for relaxation

What do you enjoy doing most? Meeting new clients who become friends

What's the most important part of your job? Customer satisfaction. I think it's very important to always get back to the client whether you have an answer or not

Typical day? No 2 days are the same - some days can be in the office all day catching up on paperwork, other days can be on farms visiting clients or attending livestock markets and sales

Anything else? I believe that working with good people matters because then the work environment is good. If there is a sense of respect and belief among the people you work with, that is when good work is done.



MEAT MATTERS

Grasscheck GB heads into Year 2

by John Richards, HCC Industry Development and Relations Manager

AFTER a successful first year, the industry-wide Grasscheck GB project is now entering its second year of grass coverage monitoring.

Wales' ability to grow grass underpins the whole Welsh agriculture sector and particularly our reputation of producing high quality, sustainable lamb and beef. Grasscheck GB aims to give farmers and the industry across Great Britain insight and data into pasture growth, quality and utilisation over a three-year research project.

Along with our counterparts in Scotland and England, HCC part funds this research with a range of other industry organisations and companies.

Understanding your pasture - how it grows and performs could be key in getting stocking levels right and making businesses more efficient, which ultimately makes farms more efficient in terms of greenhouse gases also.

There are nine beef and sheep farmers in Wales taking part in Grasscheck GB, including FUW Education and Training Committee Chair Anwen Hughes; in total there are 50 beef, sheep and dairy farmers across Great Britain taking part. Participants are required to submit grass measurements on a weekly basis throughout the grazing season as well as information on milk/meat production, stock numbers and details of silage fed. Weather stations are also set up on farms to monitor soil temperature, daylight hours and rainfall - all of which are crucial aspects of grass growing.

Results are fed back to the industry on a weekly basis through a segment in the Farmers Guardian and on the Grasscheck GB twitter feed (@GrasscheckGB). Individual farm participants also receive detailed individual results. There is also a dedicated website (grasscheckgb.co.uk) where a



first-year results report is available to download and read.

The report found that, overall, the 2019 grazing season was productive across the country. All of the current participants are employing rotational grazing techniques which is not only effective for grass growth, but also helpful towards the environment, ensuring good soil health and structure and encouraging biodiversity.

2020 has not got off to the best start with the excessive rainfall we had in February. Soil conditions are saturated and it is likely that stock will stay housed for longer this year and that opportunities for early grazing will be more limited than previous years. However,

on-off grazing can help to make the most of early grazing opportunities whilst maintaining a good average cover as well as minimising soil damage.

Hopefully the summer months will bring us some good grazing weather as well as some clarity and positive news on the Coronavirus situation. These are certainly challenging times for everyone and we hope everyone is able to keep themselves and livestock safe and well.

Ar ôl blwyddyn gyntaf lwyddiannus, mae'r prosiect Grasscheck GB ledled y diwydiant bellach yn dechrau ar ei ail flwyddyn o fonitro glaswellt. Nod Grasscheck GB yw rhoi mewnwelediad a data i ffermwyr a'r diwydiant ledled Prydain Fawr i dwf, ansawdd a defnydd porfa drws brosiect ymchwil tair blynedd. Ynghyd â'i cyfatebwyr yn yr Alban a Lloegr, mae HCC yn rhannol ariannu'r ymchwil hon gydag ystod o sefydliadau a chwmnïau diwydiant eraill. Mae naw ffermwr cig eidion a defaid yng Nghymru yn cymryd rhan yn Grasscheck GB, gan gynnwys Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Addysg a Hyfforddiant FUW, Anwen Hughes; mae 50 o ffermwyr cig eidion, defaid a llaeth ledled Prydain Fawr yn cymryd rhan.

PROPERTY MATTERS

Agriculture Bill brings tenancy reform

by Eifion Bibby of Davis Meade Property Consultants



SIGNIFICANT changes to agricultural tenancies are included in the government's 2020 Agriculture Bill which should help improve productivity and assist succession on farms in England and Wales.

Following the tenancy reform consultation last year Schedule 3 of the Agriculture Bill proposes several amendments to the Agricultural

Holdings Act 1986. An important improvement is a provision to vary or even override some restrictive clauses within agricultural

tenancies which are problematic, especially with the anticipated changes revolving around environmentally-based income.

Some restrictive clauses currently could prevent farmers making improvements to comply with water quality regulations or putting up new facilities for a diversification enterprise.

The new Bill proposes allowing tenants the right to apply through arbitration or third-party determination to resolve such a dispute.

Another change in the bill will see arbitrators in the future being appointed not just from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) as now but also from the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers (CAAV).

This gives CAAV (and also the Agricultural Law Association) statutory authority to act on a unilateral request arising from a rent review, end of tenancy issue or other matter at issue between the parties that are statutorily referable to arbitration.

With regard to succession, the new bill gives authority to develop an improved Suitability Test relating to the applicant's capacity to farm the holding commercially to a high production standard and care for the environment. Other criteria might be the applicant's experience, training or skills in agriculture and business management, health, financial standing and character, as well as criteria relating to the character and condition of the holding and the terms of the tenancy.

The Bill proposes amending the minimum age (currently 65) at which applications to the tribunal for succession on retirement can be made, so that such applications can be made at any age. The age which local authorities can issue tenants a retirement notice to quit (currently age 65) will be replaced with State Pension Age.

Rent reviews will see demands for arbitration in the rent review process replaced by a notice of determination, which may be followed by arbitration or third-party determination.

Also, with the aim of encouraging Landlord investment in Agricultural Holdings, if the tenant has agreed in writing to make payments for improvements that are whole or part financed by the landowner, such payments are to be disregarded from considerations of changes to the rent; and any benefit to the tenant from the improvement should also be disregarded whilst the tenant is still making payment.

Eifion Bibby can be contacted at the Colwyn Bay office of Davis Meade Property Consultants on 01492 510360, email eifionbibby@dmpcuk.com

Mae newidiadau sylweddol i denantiaethau amaethyddol wedi'u cynnwys ym Mil Amaethyddiaeth 2020 y llywodraeth a ddylai helpu i wella cynhyrchiad a chynorthwyo olyniaeth ar ffermydd yng Nghymru a Lloegr.

MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Diolch i bawb am fod yn rhan o gymuned mor arbennig

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

DIOLCH i bawb o fewn ein cymunedau sydd yn cynorthwyo eraill. Rhai yn wirfoddolwyr ac yn gwneud gwaith gwyb o fewn y gymuned. Eraill yn gweithio o fewn y byd iechyd, neu un o'r gwasanaethau argyfwng sydd o dan bwysau mawr.

Nid ydym fel cymunedau wedi wynebu heriau fel rhain o'r blaen. Mae pwysigrwydd ac amlygrwydd y byd amaeth fel cyflenwyr bwyd da a maethlon wedi dod i'r amlwg a diolch byth am hynny, gan obeithio bydd y gefnogaeth yn parhau i'r dyfodol gan y rhai a fu yn feirniadol yn y gorffennol.

Fel pob mudiad a sefydliad arall yr ydym wedi gohirio neu ganslo pob digwyddiad am rai misoedd, ond yr ydym yn annog pawb i "ffonio ffrind" gan fod nifer yn byw yn ynysig a heb fynediad at y byd technolegol.

Rydym hefyd yn rhoi llawer o eitemau ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol ac yn ddiolchgar i bawb sy'n ymuno i gyfathrebu.

Diolchwn i bawb am fod yn rhan o gymuned mor arbennig, ac y gallwn eto gydweithio yn y dyfodol a rhwydweithio yn ddiogel, gan fwynhau cwmni ein gilydd.

Merched y Wawr has postponed or cancelled all events during the coming months, but encourages everyone to 'phone a friend' as many already live isolated and not in touch with the digital world. Thank you for being part of a unique community, and we look forward to working together again in the future and enjoying each other's company.

Spotlight on cattle handling

THE last few weeks will have been a rollercoaster ride for most of us, with more questions than answers in light of the ongoing Coronavirus crisis, Brexit, the Agriculture Bill, trade negotiations and so much more. But whilst all of this is playing out, as farmers we still have a job to do. Life on-farm has to carry on.

That said, attention may not always be where it should. Whilst we're busy thinking about the ongoing conundrums, are we paying enough attention to the job we're currently doing? We have known our livestock for years, we know what we're doing. Right?

But none of us is getting any younger, and what we must bear in mind is that handling cattle always involves a risk of injury from crushing, kicking, butting or goring. The risk is increased if the work involves animals that have not been handled frequently, such as those from hills or moorland, sucklers or newly calved cattle. Certain jobs, such as veterinary work or TB testing, may increase the risk further.

Advice from the Health and Safety Executive stresses that "proper handling systems, trained and competent staff, and a rigorous culling policy can help make sure cattle handling can be carried out in relative safety", whereas attempting to carry out stock tasks on unrestrained cattle or with makeshift equipment is particularly hazardous. However, contrary to what has previously been claimed by officials who seem never to have been within 100 yards of a cow, it is never possible to fully eliminate the risk of handling cattle.

We must therefore never underestimate the risk, even with good precautions in place - especially given that we are now carrying out TB tests on 1.8 million more Welsh cattle each year than we were in 1996.

Familiarity with individual cattle can lead to complacency, especially when handling bulls, and a number of accidents, some fatal, happen every year because we fail to treat bulls with respect. Let's not forget that a playful bull can kill you just as easily as an angry one.

Sadly, deaths caused by animals ranked second in the list of reasons why people suffer fatal injuries on farms, with those killed often being experienced stockmen with decades of experience. Sadly, sometimes it appears the worst possible outcome might have been avoided by a farmer making sure they were accompanied by another when handling stock.

Whichever way you look at it, we have serious Health and Safety challenges on our farms: Over the last twenty years, other industries such as construction and quarrying have greatly improved their safety records, while farming has not, and it is frightening that you are now six times more likely to be killed on a farm than you would on a building site.

So whilst the rest of the world is in crisis for a myriad of reasons, please do your utmost to ensure that there isn't one on your farm. Especially if it can be avoided. For more information and advice on how to stay safe on farm, please visit the Health and Safety Executive website: www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/



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 13/63 LANDROVER FREELANDER 2 GS AUTOMATIC LEATHER ETC 190 BHP 2.2 TURBO/D ONLY 38000 MLS
 12/62 LANDROVER FREELANDER 2 GS AIR/CON ETC 6 SPEED 158 BHP 2.2 TURBO/D ONLY 36000 MLS
 12/62 MAZDA CX5 SPORT NAV (AUTOMATIC) LEATHER ETC 175 BHP 2.2 TURBO/D 42000 MLS
 12/12 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 4 XS 8 SPEED AUTO LEATHER CLIMATE 7 SEAT 255 BHP 3.0 LTR T/D 97000 MLS
 12/12 LANDROVER FREELANDER 2 GS AIR/CON ETC 6 SPEED 158 BHP 2.2 TURBO /D 63000 MLS
 11/61 HONDA CRV-ES 5 DOOR AIR/CON LEATHER ETC 6 SPEED 148 BHP 2.2 TURBO/D 48000 MLS
 10/60 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE S LIMITED (AUTOMATIC) LEATHER ETC 237 BHP 3.0 LTR TURBO/D 72000 MLS
 09/09 CITROEN C-CROSSER VTR HDI 7 SEAT LEATHER A/CON ETC 156 BHP 2.2 TURBO/D 56000 MLS
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 07/56 DAIHATSU TERIOS S 5 DOOR AIR/CON ETC 1.5 PETROL ONLY 47000 MLS
 06/55 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 3 S 7 SEAT AIR/CON 6 SPEED 188 BHP 2.7 TURBO/D 133000 MLS
 05/55 JEEP CHEROKEE CRD SPORT 5 DOOR AIR/CON ETC 6 SPEED 2.8 TURBO/D 88000 MLS
 05/55 LANDROVER FREELANDER 3 DOOR ADVENTURER 2.0 LTR TURBO/D 76000 MLS
 05/05 NISSAN X-TRAIL SPORT DCI 5 DOOR AIR/CON ETC 6 SPEED 2.2 TURBO/D 111000 MLS
 03/03 JEEP CHEROKEE CRD LIMITED 5 DOOR AIR/CON ETC 2.5 TURBO/D 123000 MLS
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 14/63 LANDROVER DEFENDER TRUCK/CAB ALLOYS ETC 122 BHP 2.2 TURBO/D 56000 MLS
 13/63 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN 4/WORK SG2 VAN 3 DOOR AIR/CON ETC 197 BHP 3.2 TURBO/D 68000 MLS
 11/11 LANDROVER DEFENDER 90 HARD TOP ALLOYS ETC 6 SPEED 122 BHP 2.4 TURBO/D ONLY 26000 MLS
 10/10 MITSUBISHI L200 BARBARIAN DOUBLE/CAB PICK/UP LEATHER CANOPY 176 BHP 2.5 T/D 66000 MLS
 09/59 FORD RANGER XLT THUNDER DOUBLE/CAB LEATHER A/CON ETC 2.5 TURBO/D ONLY 49000 MLS
 05/55 NISSAN NAVARA D22 DOUBLE/CAB PICK/UP AIR/CON CANOPY ETC 2.5 TURBO/D 75000 MLS
 05/05 JEEP CHEROKEE CRD PIONEER VAN AIR/CON ETC 163 BHP 6 SPEED 2.8 TURBO/D 63000 MLS

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 12/12 RENAULT KANGOO ML19 DCI 75 VAN SIDE DOOR 1.5 TURBO/D 55000 MLS
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Cattle - what are the risks?

Handling cattle always involves a risk of injury from crushing, kicking, butting or goring.

The risk is greater if the animals have not been handled frequently, such as those from hills or moorland, sucklers or newly calved cattle.

Certain jobs may increase the risk, eg veterinary work.

Attempting to carry out stock tasks on unrestrained cattle or with makeshift equipment is particularly hazardous.

Never underestimate the risk from cattle, even with good precautions in place.

Cattle - the race

- Animals should be able to readily enter the race, which should have a funnel end.
- Make sure there is enough room in the collecting pen for them to feed into the funnel easily.
- A circular collecting pen means workers can stand safely behind a forcing gate as they move animals into the race, and keep the animals moving.
- Animals need to see clearly to the crush and beyond, so that they will readily move along the race.
- The race may be curved, but should not include tight turns.
- Animals prefer to move towards a light area than into the dark.
- The sides of the race should be high enough to prevent animals from jumping over them; secure them properly secured to the ground and to each other for maximum strength.
- Sheet the sides of the race to help keep cattle moving by reducing visual disturbances such as shadows and other animals.
- Contain the lead animal in the race while it waits its turn to enter the crush.
- Hinged or sliding doors are suitable, make sure you operate them from the working side of the race.
- Never work on an animal in the crush with an unsecured animal waiting in the race behind.

Cattle - the crush

A crush should allow you to do most straightforward tasks in safety (including oral treatments, ear tagging and work from the rear end). It should:

- have a locking front gate and yoke (ideally self-locking) allowing you to hold the animal's head firmly. Additional head restraint will prevent the animal tossing its head up and injuring people;
- have a rump rail, chain or bar to minimise forward and backward movement of the animal. Always use this;
- be secured to the ground or, if mobile, to a vehicle;
- be positioned to allow you to work safely around it, without the risk of contact with other animals, and have good natural or artificial lighting;
- allow gates to open smoothly with the minimum of effort and noise. Regular maintenance will help;
- have a slip-resistant floor, made of sound hardwood bolted into place (nails are not suitable), metal chequer plate, or with a rubber mat over the base.

For specialised tasks, such as belly or foot trimming, you will need a purpose-designed crush with adequate restraint and enough room to work safely.

Great features for farmers with the new Kubota series tractors

KUBOTA has the great pleasure to announce its new M6002 series of tractors. The first unit has been presented at FIMA 2020, the International Fair of Agricultural Machinery that took place in Zaragoza, Spain, at the end of February. This new tractor has been developed entirely by Kubota and it provides a strong solution to the needs of dairy livestock and mixed farms. This revolutionary new M6002 series will offer three models: M6122, M6132 and M6142. The technology in the new M6002 series addresses both the increasing focus on sustainability and the needs of modern farmers.

The M6002 series is equipped with a 4 cylinder 6108 Stage V engine which features the latest stage V Kubota technology boosting both efficiency and reliability. It offers three horse power levels with 121HP, 131HP and 141HP with an additional 20 HP power boost for transport operations. This engine has an extended cleaning interval of the DPF from 3000 to 6000 hours to improve maintenance performance. Additionally, it comes with a big 230 litre fuel tank, useful for long working days.

The transmission is completely new. It features an 8 speed powershift transmission with shifting progressive adjustment designed for high speed and heavy towing capacity. These powershift models include the new Xpress restart function that controls the master clutch directly via brake pedal activation. The driver can stop the tractor without using the clutch pedal.

The new large cab of this tractor range stands out

for its striking new interior and exterior. It features a new multifunction lever arm rest with shuttle, engine memory, linkage control and auto shifting control. Its ergonomic side console for all main lever operation is located on the right side of the driver's seat and on the same radius point of the arm rest for maximum driver comfort.

The wide sunroof offers optimal visibility, especially useful for front loader applications. It features 10 standard full LED working lights and 6 optional LED additional working lights for a 360 degree angle coverage. Finally, the cab is equipped with a Premium Grammar seat and a mechanical cab suspension, for the highest levels of comfort.

The new heavy duty rear and front axle allows for high speed travel with increased payload capacity and heavy front loader application. The Kubota Bi-speed system included as standard provides an improved 4.5 meters turning radius, making the M6002 the best tractor in tight working applications.

Moreover the M6002 series offers additional performance, thanks to its hydraulic power steering system with CCLS pump of 115l/min which improves tractor reactivity.

The M6002 series has an impressive 7000 Kg lifting capacity and 115l/min flow rate to manage all implements with maximum productivity and efficiency.

Market availability will be during the second half of the year 2020.



New M6002 series of tractors.

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63 DEFENDER, 90 HARD TOP TD, LOCALLY OWNED MINT CONDITION, 34,000 MILES.

13 DEFENDER, 90 HARD TOP, SILVER, LOCAL.

11 DEFENDER 90 H-TOP X TECH LE TD, ONE OWNER.

LAND ROVER

63 RANGE ROVER, VOGUE, TDV6, AUTO, LOCAL.

09 RANGE ROVER SPORT, HSE TDV8 AUTO, LOCALLY OWNED, LOW MILES, SERVICE HISTORY, PRIVATE PLATE.

57 FREELANDER 2, GS TD4 BLUE, LOCALLY OWNED, SERVICE HISTORY, MINT CONDITION.

54 DISCOVERY, TD5 ES 7 SEATS, LEATHER, LOCALLY OWNED NEW MOT.



65 LAND ROVER DEFENDER

110 XS, ONE LOCAL OWNER FROM NEW, 7 SEATS, MINT CONDITION, ONLY 17,000 MILES.

4 DOOR PICK-UPS WITH VAT @ 20%

NISSAN NAVARA, NP300'S, AVAILABLE IN VISIA, ACENTA, ACENTA+ AND TEKNA MODELS, SELECTION OF COLOURS, 3.5 TONNE TOWING, 5 YEAR WARRANTY.

16 FORD RANGER, 3.2 MANUAL, LOW MILES.

65 FORD RANGER, LTD, 2.2 ONLY 12,600 MILES.

15 ISUZU DMAX, UTAH, ONE OWNER, BALANCE OF 5 YEAR WARRANTY, 28,000 MILES.

64 VOLKSWAGEN TRENDLINE TDI 4 MOTION DC, MANUAL, SERVICE HISTORY.

14 NISSAN NAVARA, TEKNA DCI, LOCALLY OWNED, BLACK.

14 VOLKSWAGEN AMAROK CANYON, A32 SPECIAL EDITION 28,000 MILES, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY.

62 SSANGYONG KORANDO, SPORT EX, ONE OWNER + DEMO, SERVICE HISTORY.

61 NISSAN NAVARA, D40, AUTO, LOCAL. NO VAT.

57 MITSUBISHI L200, AUTO, LOCAL IN SILVER.

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19 HILUX INVINCIBLE 2.4 3.5 TONNE, TOWING CAPACITY, BALANCE OF WARRANTY, OUR DEMO, 2,000 MILES, T-BAR, LINER.

68 HILUX INVINCIBLE X, T-BAR, LINER ETC, ONLY 9,000 MILES.

17 HILUX INVINCIBLE X, SH LOCAL.

62 HILUX INVINCIBLE, 3L, LOCALLY OWNED, ONLY 57,000 MILES.

62 HILUX INVINCIBLE, 3L, IN BLACK.

10 HILUX INVINCIBLE, 3L, IN BLACK, LOCALLY OWNED.

CARS & VANS

62 CITROEN DISPATCH, 1,000, ONE LOCAL OWNER, FSH, NO VAT.

62 FORD FOCUS, TITANIUM X TDCI, SILVER.

OTHER

13 SUZUKI GRAND VITARA, PETROL, LOCAL.

60 SUZUKI SX4, SZ4, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY.

59 TOYOTA RAV 4 LTD ED, PETROL, LOCALLY OWNED, 63,000 MILES

57 JEEP PATRIOT, LOCAL, LOW MILES, BLUE.

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SSANGYONG

17 REXTON, W 2.2 ELX AUTO, BALANCE OF 5 YEAR WARRANTY, HIGHEST SPEC, MINT CONDITION.

66 TIVOLI, ELX 1.6 ONLY 13,000 MILES, WITH SERVICE HISTORY, STILL UNDER MANUFACTURERS WARRANTY, £30 A YEAR TAX.

62 KORANDO, EX AUTOMATIC, LOCALLY OWNED, SH HISTORY, LOW MILES.

10 REXTON, II 270 SPR AUTO, LOW MILES, ONE LOCAL OWNER+DEMO.

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RAPPA Standard Yard

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- 20 x 7ft | 2.1m Aluminium Hurdles provide 140ft of penning. Can be increased by using a boundary fence.
- Yard base forms part of the sheep race when in use and connects with RaceWeigh and RaceGrip
- Suitable for road towing with the trailer gross weight under 750kg.



RAPPA RaceWeigh

- Three-way drafting for fast sorting.
- Flared drafting gates promote exit flow
- Anti-jump bar prevents sheep injury and trapped hands when grading.
- EID stick holder so you can work hands-free.
- Auto-lock drafting gate latches.



RAPPA RaceGrip

- Travels inside Rappa yard, solution for dagging, vaccinating, tagging and drenching sheep.
- Auto sizing - scissor-action grip-panels automatically adjust.
- Smooth and light grip mechanism, locked automatically restraining sheep without sudden movement or force.



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