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Welsh agri-budget cut 'brexit betrayal'

THE FUW has branded the UK Government's decision to slash Wales' agricultural budget as a 'Brexit betrayal', after chancellor Rishi Sunak revealed in November 25 spending review that the budget would be cut by at least £95 million for the coming financial year.

Following a 2019 Conservative Manifesto promise, the Wales' agricultural and rural development budget was expected to have been £337 million, but the 2021-2022 budget will now be £242 million - a cut of around 28% - while the full loss when projected RDP spend and the 15% pillar transfer is taken into account is £137m.

The announcement came two days after the three devolved governments (Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) wrote jointly to Defra Secretary George Eustice urging him to provide assurances that the budget for agriculture would be maintained, and almost a fortnight after FUW President Glyn Roberts wrote to Secretary of State for Wales Simon Hart asking the same.

"The 2019 Conservative Manifesto stated '...we will

- Welsh agri budget slashed
- Still no 'oven-ready' trade deal
- Major non-tariff barriers expected

guarantee the current annual budget to farmers in every year of the next Parliament, thereby securing the votes of many farmers in Welsh constituencies," said Mr Roberts.

The manifesto promise repeated those made by leaders of the Brexit campaign, many of whom now occupy the highest offices of government.

"The decision to slash

the budget is therefore a complete betrayal of the farmers who have kept producing food and feeding the nation throughout the coronavirus pandemic, and adds to the extreme anger already felt following the UK government's decision to oppose a legislative 'red line' in the Agriculture Bill that would have prevented the importation of low quality food in future trade deals."

Direct Payments make up around 80% of average Welsh farm incomes.

"The significant impacts such a cut in funding will have on Welsh farms, agricultural businesses and rural communities are clear, and these will come at a time when the industry is already anticipating major

problems due to non-tariff barriers, unfair competition from sub-standard imports and the possibility of massive EU tariff barriers in the event of a 'no-deal Brexit'," he added.

The need to ensure a UK-EU trade deal is in place at the end of the EU withdrawal period and urgently address major non-tariff barriers and other issues was highlighted in a joint Welsh food industry letter to prime minister Boris Johnson just days before the spending review (see page 2).

"Farmers, businesses and rural constituents were promised an 'oven-ready deal', minimum trade friction and that the agricultural budget would be maintained.

While the FUW was sceptical about such promises, many accepted them in good faith. What has transpired can only be described as a Brexit betrayal that will have far-reaching consequences for family farms, rural businesses and communities," he added.

FUW Ltd Annual General Meeting

December 10th 2020, 6.00pm

To be held via Zoom. Please contact your local office for details of how you may join this meeting

For all members to receive, consider and adopt the audited financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2020, together with the Reports of the Directors and auditors thereon, and to appoint/reappoint auditors for the financial year ended March 31st 2021.

To introduce new Article of Association to authorise the AGM and future AGMs and EGM, if required, to be held via Zoom.

To amend Article of Association 10.2, to reduce the quorate figure from 40 "B" members to 25 "B" members.

(Full details of both of these are available on the FUW website, or from your local Office)

Any other business of which 21 clear days' notice shall have been given to the directors by any member entitled to vote at such meetings.

Any member of the Union may attend the FUW Ltd AGM, but only members of Grand Council may vote.



Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynnyddol FUW Ltd

Rhagfyr 10fed 2020, 6.00yh

I'w gynnal drwy gyfrwng Zoom. Cysylltwch â'ch swyddfa leol i gael manylion sut y gallwch ymuno â'r cyfarfod hwn

I bob aelod dderbyn, ystyried a mabwysiadu'r cyfriflenni ariannol archwiliedig ar gyfer y cyfnod at ddiwedd 31ain o Fawrth 2020 ynghyd ag adroddiadau'r Cyfarwyddwyr a'r Archwilwyr, ac i benodi/ail benodi archwilwyr ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol at ddiwedd Mawrth 31ain 2021.

I gyflwyno Erthyglau Cwmni newydd er mwyn awdurdodi cynnal CCB a CCB yn y dyfodol a CCE, os oes angen, trwy gyfrwng Zoom.

I ddiwygio Erthygl Cwmni 10.2, er mwyn lleihau ffigur y cworwm o 40 aelod "B" i 25 aelod "B". (Mae manylion llawn y ddau yma ar gael ar wefan FUW, neu gan eich swyddfa leol)

Bydd unrhyw fushes arall y bydd 21 diwrnod clir o rybudd ohono wedi'i roi i'r cyfarwyddwyr gan unrhyw aelod sydd â hawl i bleidleisio mewn cyfarfodydd o'r fath.

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Food industry writes to PM urging essential action



THE FUW and other key organisations representing Welsh food and drink producers and manufacturers have written an open letter to the Prime Minister highlighting key issues that must be addressed immediately to avoid detrimental impacts to the industry following the end of the EU Withdrawal period.

"The European Union is the largest market for Welsh food and drink businesses to export their goods to, and includes exports of red meat and dairy products worth an estimated £320 million to Wales," said FUW President Glyn Roberts.

"What happens in the run up to January 1 2021 is critical to the economic viability of many food, drink and farming businesses and the supply chains and jobs they support."

The nine organisations which signed the letter comprised the British Meat Processors Association, CLA Cymru, Farmers' Union of Wales, Food and Drink Federation Cymru, Livestock Auctioneers Association, National Beef Association, NFU Cymru, National Sheep Association Cymru and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society.

The letter highlights six actions the organisations believe are essential in the coming weeks, namely:

- A trade deal allowing tariff free access to the EU market must be reached if acute and longlasting damage to our industries is to be avoided
- A six-month grace period should be negotiated and agreed with the EU to allow businesses to adjust to the impacts of the new rules which will be in place for exports
- Efforts to reduce the impacts of non-tariff barriers must be stepped up, both in terms of the actions that can be taken unilaterally by the UK and what is negotiated with the EU
- The food and drink sector must be added to the Shortage Occupation List while taking meaningful steps to improve access to seasonal workers
- Appropriate physical infrastructure and staffing at UK ports must be in place at the end of any transition or grace period to ensure the smooth flow of products
- Financial assistance packages for food and drink producers and manufacturers must be put in place ahead of any changes to trading arrangements.

The full text of the letter is available on the FUW website - www.fuw.org.uk

2020 - the year the world won't forget

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

2020 WILL, I have no doubt, go down as a history lesson for future generations and possibly carry the title 'The year the world won't forget'.

No-one could have predicted at the start of the year what we were going to face and the untold chaos that was going to unfold politically and economically. As the year comes to an end, I've reflected on some of the issues that we have dealt with over the past 12 months.

A big concern for us and the industry was and remains getting the right kind of Brexit. We knew right from the start of the year that following the Conservatives having gained a majority in Parliament on a 'get Brexit done' commitment, 2020 would be a very different year to what it might otherwise have been.

Whilst many speculated that an extension of the Withdrawal Period to beyond December 2020 was likely, given the complexity of what needed to be negotiated and the infrastructure, such as new border controls, that should be put in place before the end of the period - such an extension has not materialised and the negotiations are, as I write, on-going. We have, throughout all of this, maintained our long-held view that we must get Brexit done safely, over a realistic timescale that ensures a UK-EU trade deal which delivers full access to EU markets with minimum non-tariff barriers for our Welsh produce.

Our staff and officials have been relentless in lobbying politicians to ensure that our industry isn't any worse off as a result of new policies and trade deals, making it very clear that the new Agriculture Bill had to at the very minimum ensure food imported to the UK meets UK standards. When the FUW's warnings were ignored and the newly passed Agriculture Act received Royal Assent, we were clear that this could open the door to devastating impacts on farming and rural communities if the UK Government does not place food security and the wellbeing of farming families and rural communities at the centre of policy development.

Yes, we welcomed the inclusion in the Act of a requirement for a report to be presented to parliament focusing on the impacts future trade deals could have on agriculture. However, this is certainly not the red line preventing substandard food imports that farmers, environmentalists, animal rights campaigners and millions of members of the general public lobbied for.

By the time this paper goes to print there will be less than 5 weeks until the end of the EU withdrawal period and claims by Prime Minister Boris Johnson that the UK 'will prosper' without an EU trade deal are a real concern. You cannot cut yourself off from the worlds biggest economy and trading block at the height of a global pandemic, the worst recession for a century and having borrowed a quarter of a trillion to cope and think it's going to go well - so I really hope that by the time Y Tir hits your doorsteps that an acceptable UK-EU trade deal has been reached or is on the horizon. Even if a deal is reached, we are facing significant additional costs and disruption as a result of non-tariff barriers due

"No-one could have predicted at the start of the year what we were going to face and the untold chaos that was going to unfold politically and economically."



to the UK's decision to leave the Single Market and customs union. A no-deal will severely escalate these and must be avoided at all costs.

Of course, when we said that 2020 will be a year like no other, **Covid-19** was not what we had imagined. During this crisis our staff and officials have been instrumental in speaking up for the industry, feeding into discussions at Wales and UK levels and highlighting the devastating consequences for some within our sector. At every step of the way we were clear that the rapid impact of the coronavirus pandemic on global supply chains, which saw food shortages in many countries, highlighted the degree to which food security must be considered a priority.

Aside from the physical, psychological and social impacts which are affecting the farming community, just as they are most sections of society, the agricultural industry continues to face a number of specific non-market related challenges as a result of the current Covid-19 pandemic.

These include specific challenges relating to accessing veterinary services, including in relation to meeting statutory obligations such as bovine TB testing while observing social distancing etc.; meeting statutory requirements for example, accommodating farm and livestock inspections; providing information and documents to Welsh Government and responding to Welsh Government queries and marketing Produce.

In order to help mitigate such challenges, FUW staff continue to follow a number of protocols to ensure members are assisted whilst ensuring their health and welfare is protected and human contact avoided, whilst veterinary practices, livestock markets and the Welsh Government continue to implement a number of welcome protocols and changes to ensure businesses can continue to operate while risks are minimised.

Examples include changes to TB testing rules, the strict implementation of rules in livestock markets preventing vendors from attending ringside sales, the extension of the submission deadlines for a range of documents and the acceptance of electronic copies of documents by Rural Payments Wales which would normally have to be provided as hard copies.

Notwithstanding this, as we have told a number of Government inquiries, the restrictions placed on civil servants and resultant reduced capacity continues to cause a number of problems for farm businesses for which receiving responses to urgent queries, licences that have been applied for or site visits are time critical.

Continues on page 3

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 Gogerddan, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3BT and once verified we will correct it here as soon as possible.

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www.fuw.org.uk





The FUW has arranged frequent online meetings for members in order to ensure such concerns can be raised and followed up on, and to keep the industry abreast of important developments with regards to the pandemic and other issues.

However, a major obstacle for many farmers wishing to take advantage of concessions, keep up to date with developments and information of direct relevance to their businesses and communicate with others under the

circumstances has been the poor provision of broadband in large areas of Wales. Indeed, the last months have served as a stark example of how vital connectivity is. Our own Union staff, many of whom live in rural areas, have been working from home and we have continued to assist members with digital paperwork for their farm businesses. Without an internet connection this would not have been possible. On that note, I would like to assure members that we will continue to lobby for progress on better connectivity to ensure that going forward no farm business is left behind in the race for better and faster connectivity.

The debate around **climate change** and the role farming can play to reduce global warming has also kept our team busy over the past year. A point we raised with the UK's High-Level Climate Action Champion, Nigel Topping, was that as farmers, everything we do revolves around the weather, the seasons and the climate. We cannot afford to gamble on the scientists being wrong and risk seeing impacts of Biblical proportions: Crop failures, famines, the loss of vast areas of farmland and communities to rising seas, mass migrations and war to name just a few.

Like every other industry, we must work hard to mitigate climate change, and we are committed to doing that, but we must do so through innovation and removing obstacles in ways which preserve and enhance the family farm businesses which are the backbone of our rural communities.

Addressing the key findings in the latest 'Land use: Policies for a Net Zero UK' report by the Committee on Climate change at the start of the year we warned of the dangers of focusing disproportionately on livestock production or inappropriate tree planting.

The report highlighted some critical issues, including the need for a strong UK food production sector and the dangers of delivering UK emissions reductions at the expense of increasing our reliance on food imported from countries with far greater carbon footprints. Agriculture is currently responsible for around 10 per cent of UK emissions, with methane from livestock production making up just over half of this figure. By comparison, transport and energy make up around a half of all UK emissions.

In other words, if we could stop producing food in the UK, and there was no agriculture, 90 per cent of the problem would still be there. Indeed, the Committee recognised that switching away from Welsh and UK produced red meat would increase the nation's carbon footprint because we have some of the lowest greenhouse gas emissions of meat reared anywhere in the world. The FUW therefore welcomed the fact that the Committee had backed its calls for a robust post-Brexit trade policy which reflects the lower carbon footprint of UK produce.

The FUW also responded to the call to increase UK forestry cover from 13 per cent to at least 17 per cent by 2050 pointing out that while FUW members are supportive of appropriate tree planting, it must not undermine farm productivity and the environment, and that members regularly highlight the obstacles they come across when they try to plant trees. Sadly, the latest Glastir Woodland Creation Window rules have brought yet more obstacles into the mix.

It is also important to remember that, within the past century, the area of woodland in Wales increased threefold; from 5 per cent in 1919 to around 15 per cent in 2016, with mainly deciduous farm woodlands making up 30 per cent of the current area.

We continue to highlight the experience over the past century which shows the damage that well-intentioned policies aimed at increasing woodland areas can have. The replacement of land grazed by sheep and cattle with forests has been directly associated by scientists with habitat and species loss in hundreds of examples from around the world, including the UK, so panic-planting must be avoided at all costs.

Moreover, we will continue to stress that using land that currently produces food to merely off-set growths in greenhouse gas emissions in other industries is foolhardy.

And whilst all of those issues are on-going and the team has been relentless in working to ensure that farmers in Wales have a prosperous future to look forward to, the issue of poor **mental health** in our rural communities has been starkly highlighted. As members know, we made a commitment at the Royal Welsh Show in 2017 to do everything we can to help break the stigma that still prevents farmers from speaking about their mental health and seeking the help they often desperately need and deserve. The figures sadly speak for themselves, with 1 farmer a week in the UK dying by suicide and many more suffering in silence.

As part of our efforts we have run various awareness raising campaigns during the year, our staff have had Mental Health First Aid training through the DPJ Foundation and we held our first ever All Wales Mental Health conference, which explored the wider context of poor

"Our members - your support for this Union means that we can continue the fight to ensure there are sustainable, thriving, family farms here in Wales."

mental health in rural communities and what steps need to be taken by Government, decision makers and policy shapers to address the situation, especially as Covid-19 has put further pressure not just on people's mental health but also their finances.

Following the event we wrote to Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language, Eluned Morgan, to highlight the key findings. We also held a virtual follow-on meeting where we discussed how the combination of Brexit uncertainty, Covid-19 and proposed new farming policies are putting immense pressure on farmers and their mental health - which if left unaddressed could be the perfect storm for our mental health.

As we all know, the problems on farms are plentiful and some can be addressed by talking about them, others however require the Welsh Government to re-evaluate their current and future agricultural policies - future financial farm support, bovine Tb and water quality regulations are just a drop in the ocean. We will therefore continue to work with the Welsh Government to ensure that everything possible is done, so that new and existing agricultural policies do not continue to negatively impact on mental health.

It has not been easy this year but we must count our blessings nonetheless. We are fortunate in so many ways and it's worth remembering that it's always the darkest hour before dawn. I hope this upcoming Christmas break gives you time to enjoy a quiet moment to reflect and enjoy some time with the family - even if it looks a bit different this year.

On a final note, I would like to thank all of our staff and officials for their hard work this year and of course our members. Your support for this Union means that we can continue the fight to ensure there are sustainable, thriving, family farms here in Wales.

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all!

Mae'r erthygl yma yn Gymraeg ar dudalennau 12 a 13: "2020 - y flwyddyn na fydd y byd yn ei hanghofio."

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Policy Department Update

by Gareth Parry, FUW Policy Communications Officer

DESPITE feeling like a broken record this year, we have witnessed some progress in previous weeks in regard to some of the major issues that our industry is facing and will face in the near future. Some good and some not so good, but it is positive to see some form of clarity poking through the clouds, even if there remain another 101 questions that still need to be addressed before the end of the year.

The infamous UK Agriculture Bill finally received Royal Assent on November 11 and became The Agriculture Act 2020 following months of debates, discussions and 'ping pong' between the House of Commons and House of Lords.

The new Act outlines how future support for English farmers will be delivered as we leave the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, while also setting out legislation relating to a broad range of agricultural and rural issues of relevance to Wales and the UK.

Despite having had the most attention in relation to safeguarding Britain's standards on food safety and animal welfare, the amendment put forward to require agricultural and food imports after Brexit to meet equivalent domestic standards was defeated.

While it may seem that the battle is lost, the war may still be won as the legal safeguards could still be incorporated into the new Trade Bill, which is still making its way through the House of Lords.

Instead, in response to the level of interest in 'saving our standards', the newly formed Trade and Agriculture Commission (TAC), which FUW

President Glyn Roberts sits on, has been put on a statutory footing for the next three years, providing an extra level of security to negotiating trade deals. The TAC will be required to report to Parliament on how a new free trade agreement could impact the UK's standards. However, this is not the red line preventing substandard food imports that farmers, environmentalists, animal right campaigners and millions of members of the general public lobbied for.

Furthermore, the Act allows the Secretary of State to provide support in England for ten areas relating primarily to the environment, and while agricultural productivity and regard for food production do appear in the legislation, there is a significant shift away from the principles that underpin the CAP when it comes to protecting incomes and rural communities.

Alongside environmental policies, the FUW Policy Department continues to urge the UK and Welsh Governments to place issues such as rural employment and the economic wellbeing of farming families and rural communities at the centre of future policy development - something it appears Scotland has done, given that Scottish farming minister Fergus Ewing recently told the virtual audience at the AgriScot event that BPS support could be extended beyond 2024, and that he is personally committed to maintaining direct payments and believes it would be 'unsustainable' to cut all direct support because two-thirds of farmers would make a loss without it.

On a positive note

Now that the Agriculture Bill has received Royal Assent, it includes a Clause which will allow for red meat levy payments to become more transparent in order to take the slaughter of Welsh livestock in England into account.

It's now 15 years since the FUW told the Radcliffe Review of the levy boards that levy money paid by Welsh farmers for livestock slaughtered in England should be available to HCC, not what is now AHDB. Since then the annual losses to England of 'Welsh' levy money have increased by hundreds of thousands - most notably as a result of the closure of Welsh Country Foods in Geirwen and the resulting diversion of stock to English abattoirs. It is estimated that this move will return more than one million pounds from English abattoirs back to Wales and Scotland.

Until now, the three boards have worked together on a collaborative programme to support the British meat industry which more recently included the "Make It" campaign to encourage consumers to purchase red meat in an attempt to offset the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic - which was a resounding success.

Once approved by the devolved Ministers, the new scheme will enable the red meat levy to be paid based on the location where the animal was reared rather than the country of slaughter, an approach which is welcomed by the FUW and the three levy boards - AHDB, HCC and QMS.

It is believed that the new scheme will be in place by April 2021 to replace the current collaborative fund, however, the three boards plan to maintain a proportion of collaborative work going forward.

A step in the right direction

Many of you will be familiar with and will have discussed the recent Sustainable Farming and our Land: Simplifying Agricultural Support consultation in your FUW County Executive meetings, which proposed eleven changes to the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and a number of major changes to the principles underpinning the Rural Development Programme (RDP).

It is welcome to note that a statement made by Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths revealed Welsh Government's acceptance of many of the concerns that were raised in the FUW's response, including in terms of impacts for cross border and young farmers, thanks to the hard work of our County Staff and invaluable input from members.

Instead of only taking Welsh land into account for BPS and potentially disabling cross border farmers with less than 5 eligible hectares in Wales from being able to claim entitlements, Welsh Government has agreed to provide a derogation for cross border farmers so that they can rely on land they had available in other administrations in 2020.

The Young Farmer Scheme, which was originally proposed to be disabled from 2021, will also remain open for new applicants.

When it comes to the RDP proposals, the structure provided by retained EU Law will now be expanded to incorporate the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Environment (Wales) Act 2016, rather than replaced, as had originally been proposed in the consultation.

FUW members had opposed the plans to completely overhaul Rural Development principles, stating that the proposed objectives were focussed on environmental outcomes to such an extent that they failed to address the economic needs of farming and rural communities.

While there remain questions to be answered and a great number of concerns regarding the development of future schemes, the announcement made by the Minister should be considered as a step in the right direction towards a framework that takes economic, social and environmental priorities into account.

Concerns from New Zealand

The Meat Industry Association (MIA) of New Zealand has once again expressed concerns over decisions to split its sheep and beef meat quotas between the UK and EU after the end of the Brexit transition period - an issue they have been expressing concerns over since the UK and EU came to an agreement on the issue in 2017.

New Zealand instead wants the flexibility to switch what goes to the EU or UK within a single EU-UK quota, depending on what best suits their sales. Despite higher exports of sheep meat into the UK in recent months due to the Covid-19 pandemic, New Zealand has rarely filled their 228,000 tonne quota and therefore trade for them should not be significantly affected.

However, as part of the agreement, the UK share of New Zealand beef quota will total around 450 tonnes, a 'commercially unviable' and therefore useless allocation according to the MIA, given that any exports over the quota will face a 12% tariff.

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade say that it is seeking a continuation of current access to both markets from the beginning of next year as the current plans remove the flexibility for exporters to adapt to demand, despite plans already being put in place to prepare for trade disruptions as a result of Brexit.

On a similar vein, second round of negotiations for a UK - New Zealand trade agreement have been completed and the third round is planned for late January, notably after the end of the Brexit transition period.

If you have an email address but are not currently receiving the FUW's member ebulletins and would like to, please contact gareth.parry@fuw.org.uk / 01970 629461

A familiar face joins the FUW Policy team

TELERI Fielden has recently re-joined the FUW as a member of the Policy team in Head Office. She was initially with the FUW as a maternity cover Marketing and Membership Manager during 2017.

Teleri is a new-entrant beef and sheep tenant farmer in Snowdonia, having just taken on a 100-acre ten-year FBT in Nantmor, near Beddgelert. Previous to that she has been farming Llyndy Isaf, a National Trust hill farm for the past three years as part of a scholarship scheme, and also farmed in France prior to this.

Teleri will be focusing on EU Exit, Future Agricultural Policy, Red Meat, Glastir and Parliamentary Liaison among other topics.

Teleri commented: "I'm honoured to be joining FUW as a Policy Officer, and am glad to be back with such a hard-working dedicated team. I feel it is vitally important that Wales' farmers

have a voice, particularly during this time of immense change post Brexit and with the new Agriculture Bill in place.

"Important decisions are being made about the direction of our countryside which will affect our industry and communities for years to come, and we as farmers need to be able to shape that discussion."

Teleri also sits on the executive committee in FUW Caernarfon, is a steering group member of NFFN Wales (Nature Friendly Farming Network), and sits on the Welsh Governments Young People in Agriculture Forum.

She grew up in Wrexham, and then moved to Meifod in Montgomeryshire (where her Taid Glyn Davies farmed The Gaer in Trefnanney) before studying in Aberystwyth University. Teleri lives in Hafod y Llyn Isaf with her fiancé Ned Feesey from Maentwrog, and their two sheepdogs Roy and Ralff, (pictured right).



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Diogleu'r wal a'i neges

gan Angharad Evans, Golygydd y Gymraeg

CWM bach tawel, yn llawn bwrllwm amaethyddol oedd pentref Capel Celyn yng Nghwm Tryweryn ger y Bala. Ychydig a wyddai'r trigolion y byddai'r enw Treweryn yn dod yn symbol pwerus yn hanes Cymru.

Ar ôl deng mlynedd o brotestio ffyrnig, gwagwyd y cwm ac adeiladwyd argae, er mwyn cyflenwi dŵr i Lerpwl ar gais Cyngor Dinas Lerpwl. Wedi darllen cryn dipyn o'r hanes, y darn bach mwyaf ysgwytol a torcalonnus yw darllen brawddeg fach gan Mrs Martha Roberts, prifathrawes Ysgol Capel Celyn yn dweud "Yndi blant, mae o'n wir, maen nhw'n mynd i chwalu'r ysgol a chario'r cerrig i wneud yr argae".

Daeth wal, rhan o hen fwthyn ar gyrrion pentref Llanrhystud yng Ngheredigion yn rhan bwysig iawn o hanes Cwm Tryweryn. Er bod dros trigain milltir rhwng y ddau leoliad, yr awyddair "Cofiwch Dryweryn" sydd bellach yn clymu'r ddau leoliad. Saif Wal Cofiwch Dryweryn ar yr A487, a'r graffiti o waith gwreiddiol Meic Stephens, y cyntaf i baentio'r wal yn yr 1960au er mwyn cofio dinistriad o gymuned Gymraeg ac i ddiogelu'r iaith ar ôl boddi Capel Celyn ym 1965.

Mae gan yr Undeb ychydig o gysylltiad gyda'r wal, gan mae aelodau cangen Ceredigion, Elwyn a Hilary Jones oedd perchnogion gwreiddiol y wal. Roedd y wal yn rhan o adfail hen fwthyn Troed-y-rhiw, ac wedi blynddoedd o edrych ar ôl y wal a'u bod nhw'n meddwl bod hi'n bwysig iawn i warchod safleoedd hanesyddol Cymru megis Wal Cofiwch Dryweryn, yn 2019 penderfynodd Elwyn a Hilary werthu'r safle hanesyddol i Dilys Davies, a'r ymddiriedolaeth fydd yn gwarchoed y wal yn y dyfodol. Erbyn heddiw, mae'r wal i'w gweld ar ei newydd wedd, ac wedi derbyn cot ffres o baent diolch i'r arlunydd lleol Ruth Jên, a aeth ati i baentio'r slogan yng ngoleuni car, i adlewyrchu'r weithred gwreiddiol.



Ruth Jên ar ôl cwblhau'r paentio yng ngoleuni car.

Llun gan Catrin M S Davies



Elwyn a Hilary Jones gyda'r perchennog newydd Dilys Davies (canol) ar ddydd y gwerthiant.

Llun gan Elin Jones AS

Un fu'n allweddol i ddiogelu'r wal yw Elin Jones AS, a dywedodd: "Mae neges Wal Tryweryn yn eiddo i Gymru gyfan, ond mae'r diolch am gadw'r neges ar y talcen tŷ ar hyd yr holl flynyddoedd yn mynd i Elwyn a Hilary a'u teulu a nawr mae'r berchnogaeth yn trosglwyddo i Dilys Davies a'r ymddiriedolaeth.

"Mae'r neges yn ein ysbrydoli ni gyd ac mi oedd yr FUW yna yn y dyddiau cynnar - gyda J B Evans, Ysgrifennydd yr Undeb yn rhoi tystiolaeth danbaid i'r Ymchwiliad ar Tryweryn ar ran ffermwyr lleol nôl yn y 60au."

Mae wal Cofiwch Dryweryn yn rhan bwysig o'n hanes ni, a fydd, ynghyd a'i neges yn parhau'n ddiogel i'r cenedlaethau sydd i ddod.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "Protecting the wall and its message."

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Croesawu datganiad ar Symleiddio Cymorth Amaethyddol yn ofalus

MAE'R FUW wedi croesawu cyhoeddiad Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig ar ganlyniad ymgynghoriad ar symleiddio cefnogaeth amaethyddol yng Nghymru yn ofalus.

Cynigiodd yr ymgynghoriad Ffermio Cynaliadwy a'n Tir: Symleiddio Cymorth Amaethyddol, a ddaeth i ben ar 23 Hydref 2020, un ar ddeg newid i'r Cynllun Taliadau Sylfaenol a nifer o newidiadau mawr i'r egwyddorion sy'n sail i'r Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig.

Wrth ymateb i'r cyhoeddiad, dywedodd Dirprwy Lywydd FUW Ian Rickman: "Rydym yn croesawu'r ffaith bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi derbyn llawer o'r pryderon a godwyd gennym, gan gynnwys yr effeithiau ar ffermwyr trawsffiniol a ffermwyr ifanc."

Yn unol â barn FUW, mae Llywodraeth Cymru bellach wedi cytuno i ddarparu rhanddirymiad i ffermwyr trawsffiniol sydd â llai na 5 hectar o dir Cymreig fel y

gallant ddibynnu ar y tir a oedd ar gael ganddynt mewn gwneiddiaeth arall yn 2020.

"Mae'r Gweinidog hefyd wedi cytuno i barhau â'r Cynllun Ffermwyr Ifanc o 2021, yn unol â barn FUW ac yn groes i'r cynnig gwreiddiol i atal ymgeiswyr newydd i'r Cynllun Ffermwyr Ifanc o 2021," meddai Mr Rickman.

Croesawodd Mr Rickman yn ofalus gadarnhad y gweinidog y bydd y strwythur a ddarperir gan Gyfraith wrth gefn yr UE yn cael ei ehangu i ymgorffori Deddf Lles Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 a Deddf yr Amgylchedd (Cymru) 2016, yn hytrach na'u disodli, fel y cynigiwyd yn wreiddiol.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News: "FUW gives cautious welcome to Welsh Government statement on Simplifying Agricultural Support."

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Insuring your Christmas

by Jackie Burrows, Business Development Manager, FUW Insurance Services Ltd



LEAVING empty boxes of expensive presents out in the street and having fairy lights on all hours are two risks which you're unlikely to come across any other time of the year.

So before you set about splashing the cash and raising a glass to good health, check to see whether your insurance is enough to cover your financial wellbeing this Christmas.

House fires

House fires are a big risk in December, so make sure that your sums insured is up-to-date. Buildings insurance should cover the cost of rebuilding your home entirely, including planning and architecture costs.

Double check that this figure is current and not based on your home's market value. If it's not enough, you might get far less in the event of a claim, even if just one room is affected by fire damage, as your property will be underinsured as a whole.

Expensive contents

Some home insurance policies offer automatic content increases around Christmas to account for shopping hauls and gifts following the day itself. If you don't have this on your insurance, and you're expecting a lavish gift exchange or have a big family, it could be worth looking in to having this added on to cover your presents and newly acquired possessions.

When you have a spare minute after the festivities have subsided, do a recalculation to see how much it would cost to replace all your possessions to see if you're still in the comfortable limits of your insurance policy.

Break-ins

If a thief has been given easy access to goods, for instance, a new toolset in an unlocked shed, or a door left open to receive guests, you're unlikely to be covered for something that's stolen. Take extra care to secure your possessions, as December, in particular, can represent rich pickings for criminals taking advantage of longer evenings and expensive gifts.

If you're not clear about anything on your insurance policy, talk to your Insurance Account Executive at your local FUW Insurance office to give you some clarity. Contact details on the right.



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FUW Insurance Services wishes customers and members a very Merry Christmas
Dymuna Gwasanaethau Yswiriant FUW Nadolig Llawn i'w cwsmeriaid ac aelodau

Merry Christmas Nadolig Llawn

Colleagues from FUW Insurance Services will continue to serve customers over the Christmas period as follows:

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- Mon/Llun 28th/ain December/Rhagfyr - Closed/Ar gau
- Tues/Mawrth 29th/ain December/Rhagfyr - Open/Ar agor
- Wed /Mercher 30th/ain December/Rhagfyr - Open/Ar agor
- Thurs/lau 31st/ain December/Rhagfyr - Closed/Ar gau
- Fri/Gwener 1st/af January/Ionawr - Closed/Ar gau



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Supporting local businesses now more important than ever



THE FUW is urging shoppers to keep their Christmas shopping local to show support for rural and local businesses, especially as the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted how vital local shops are. FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman said: "As we speed towards Christmas, I would urge you to think about your rural businesses and see if you can buy local, either for the upcoming Christmas dinner or even gifts for family and friends."

"This year we have seen how important the local shops and businesses are. Many of us relied on them to help out with delivering food and other essentials during the lockdowns and now is the time to repay that favour by supporting them."

Mr Rickman further encourages people to speak to their local butcher about meat for the Christmas period and to see what the local farm shop has to offer.

"I promise you will find many of the ingredients you need for your Christmas dinner right on your doorstep. There are also plenty of small shops around that offer Welsh craft and locally designed gifts and of course the choice for local food gifts is aplenty. It really is worth having a look. These are small decisions we can make that will have a big impact on our rural economy, and we need to support our rural businesses who have suffered this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic," he added.

Agricultural Minimum Wage Legislation - we want to hear your views

WE would like to hear your views and experiences of the agricultural minimum wage in Wales. The independent Agricultural Advisory Panel advises Welsh Ministers on the agricultural minimum wage and terms and conditions of employment for workers in agriculture, horticulture and forestry sectors.

The Agricultural Minimum Wage is in its fifth year and it is important to ensure it continues to meet the needs of an ever changing industry. To this end ADAS has been commissioned by the Welsh Government to carry out a survey on agricultural employment in Wales. Your views and experiences are important both as an employer and employee, in order to inform the work of the Agricultural Advisory Panel and development of Welsh Government policies.

You can either complete the online survey at: <https://adas-survey.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/agricultural-minimum-wage-legislation-in-wales>

Or follow the link to arrange an appointment to undertake a telephone interview with ADAS. The survey will be open from November 30 to December 21 2020.

All information you provide will be treated as confidential. No personal information will be shared with Welsh Government or any other party. Aggregated data will be provided to Welsh Government and the Agricultural Advisory Panel to help inform their work.

Hoffem glywed eich barn a'ch profiadau ynglŷn â'r isafswm cyflog amaethyddol yng Nghymru. Mae'r Panel Cyngori ar Amaethyddiaeth annibynnol yn cynghori Gweinidogion Cymru ar yr isafswm cyflog amaethyddol a thelerau ac amodau cyflogaeth gweithwyr yn y sectorau amaeth, garddwriaeth a choedwigaeth. Mae'r Isafswm Cyflog Amaethyddol yn ei bumed flwyddyn ac mae'n bwysig sicrhau ei fod yn parhau i gwrdd ag anghenion diwydiant sy'n esblygu. Felly, comisiynodd Llywodraeth Cymru ADAS i gynnal arolwg ar gyflogaeth amaethyddol yng Nghymru.

Mae eich barn a'ch profiadau fel cyflogwr a gweithiwr yn bwysig i ddylanwadu ar waith y Panel Cyngori ar Amaethyddiaeth ac ar ddatblygiad polisïau Llywodraeth Cymru. Gallwch gwblhau'r arolwg ar-lein: <https://adas-survey.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/agricultural-minimum-wage-legislation-in-wales>

Neu dilynwch y linc i drefnu apwyntiad a chwblhau cyfweiliad dros y ffôn gydag ADAS. Fe fydd yr arolwg yn agored o'r 30ain o Dachwedd tan y 21ain o Ragfyr 2020. Bydd y wybodaeth a roddwch yn cael ei drin yn gyfrinachol. Ni fydd unrhyw wybodaeth bersonol yn cael ei rhannu efo Llywodraeth Cymru nac unrhyw barti arall. Caiff data cyfanredol ei rhoi i Lywodraeth Cymru a'r Panel Cyngori ar Amaethyddiaeth er mwyn cynorthwyo gyda'u gwaith.

2021 FUW Farmhouse Breakfast Week returns with a difference



WE are once again preparing for one of the FUW's key events - the annual Farmhouse Breakfast week, which will run from Monday 18 - Sunday 24 January 2021.

Under normal circumstances we would be looking forward to sitting around kitchen tables with friends, family and neighbours up and down the country - sharing our thoughts, worries, concerns and anything else on our mind. Of course, given the on-going Covid-19 restrictions, our usual way of running this campaign is sadly not an option.

However, the ethos of sitting around the kitchen table to enjoy the wonderful produce our farmers produce from eggs, cheese, bacon, sausages to butters and yoghurts etc, is still very much do-able at home with our closest family.

We are therefore joining forces with butchers, farm shops, cafes and other Welsh Food retailers across Wales to help spread the word about the fantastic produce that is available right on our doorstep.

We're encouraging the public to get involved with breakfast week by purchasing locally sourced breakfast ingredients, and sharing photos and videos of themselves with their breakfast through social media, using the hashtag #breakfastweek2021

The campaign will be supported by the DPJ Foundation, for whom we are also raising funds for during the week. In the meantime, if you know a butcher, farm shop or anyone else, who you think would be interested in taking part in our campaign, please let them know about this exciting campaign.



Gofynnwch i ffrind, aelod o'ch teulu neu gymydog i ymuno a'r Undeb a byddwn yn anfon £40 i chi fel diolch!

Yn ein harolwg aelodaeth yn 2019 dywedodd 85% o aelodau eu bod nhw'n fodlon iawn â gwasanaethau'r Undeb, felly beth am awgrymu eraill i ymuno?

Po fwyaf o aelodau sydd gennym, y cryfaf yw ein llais.

Ask your friend, family or neighbour to join the Union and we'll send you £40 as a thank you!

In our 2019 membership survey 85% of members said they were very satisfied with the services of the Union so why not suggest others to join?

The more members we have, the stronger our voice is.

#AmaethAmByth

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Butchers and farm shops - community champions during the pandemic

by Anne Dunn, FUW Press Officer

HIGH streets closed down and the shop front shutters came down across the country. Lockdown forced those who could to work from home, children couldn't go to school, hotels, restaurants and pubs had empty tables, the lights were off. An air of quiet drifted across towns and villages. But if you looked closely, there was a group of people for whom life was about to get busy.

Dotted around the Welsh countryside, farmers carried on with their day-to-day jobs of looking after the environment, rearing livestock and producing food, small local farm shops and butchers were called upon to provide the essentials. And they answered that call with resolve, determination and grit. Their communities were not going to go hungry.

One of those countryside champions is Dafydd Wyn Jones, of Gerlan farm, who farms in partnerships with his wife Morfudd, daughter Anna and her husband Gerallt. The farm, which has been run by the family for over 40 years, is situated outside of the village of Rhos Isaf in the foothills of Y Fron. Here they raise their animals in an organic environment in and around the farm and grazing land of Uwchgwyfrai common. Dafydd also runs SiopFfermGerlan and café near Groeslon, which includes a butcher shop where you can buy the local produce including poultry, Game and seasonal Vegetables.

When the first big lockdown struck, the family had to close the café and then again in November, but the farm shop and butcher continued to serve the community supplying pork, beef and lamb from Gerlan farm, which is taken for slaughter at Conwy Valley.

Speaking about his lockdown experience, Dafydd said: "When the actual Covid started our business went up massively, people felt safe buying from us. We're outside, we have a covered yard and they felt safer than going to the supermarket especially with social distancing."

As well as keeping the shop and butcher open, he also delivered to customers homes in a 10 mile radius. He recalls: "Customers phoned up with their order for sausages, beef, lamb and then we'd call back when we had done the order, tell them how much it was and ask them to leave a box and the money outside. We'd drop it off and call them from the van to let them know the order has been delivered. So we didn't have any actual contact with the customer."

"I feel the community is getting closer together because of this and you find out who the true people are. Whatever happens we stick together. Everybody helps each other. If a customer called and said I don't have bread or milk and butter - we'd get that for them as well."

The importance of local food supply chains could not have been clearer during the year, and Dafydd recalls a time when local food was higher on the agenda. He says: "25 years ago there were 6 or 7 butchers in Caernarfon, now there is only 1. When the supermarkets came the small butchers died off. The butchers that have survived have done well. But we might be



turning a corner. People are definitely more concerned about where their meat comes from now.

"We've looked after our customers over this pandemic now, I'm just worried that when things go back to normal that people will forget it. People say they will continue to shop locally but if they actually do in the future remains to be seen."

With Christmas knocking on the door, he is now preparing for the next busy season and the orders are coming but is concerned that a lockdown over Christmas could be bad news for the business.

"We have started preparing for Christmas now and it is looking good. The orders are coming in. My only concern is, as I have to put the order in now for the turkeys - what will I do if there is another lockdown? Will people be able to get their turkeys? Let's hope so!"

"Hopefully we never have to go through anything like this again, it has been a real learning curve. But I've seen people come together which I never thought would happen before. The community is still there. People are going to have to change their ways and they have done it to a degree. Because this is not going to go away quickly," he added.

Travel south and another group has risen to the challenge of keeping their local community supplied with fresh, local produce. The partnership at Cae Iago Ffestiniog - Cig Eryri, run by Dewi Williams and his wife Megan, and Tesni Davies and her husband Dafydd, process beef, lamb and goat meat direct to farmers, so that they, in turn, are able to develop selling their own produce. The partnership has also started selling some meat through the local garage at Trawsfynydd.

Cwmni Cig Eryri started as a new venture in April 2019 to develop a small abattoir at Cae Iago, Llan Ffestiniog (near Blaenau Ffestiniog) and thanks to the support the group have had from farmers in Meirionnydd and beyond, were able to expand the business.

Tesni Davies and Dewi Williams of Cig Eryri, (pictured above and below), said that they have seen a tremendous increase in throughput in the abattoir this year, especially the 'home kills' which enables livestock producers locally to sell their own meat, which filled a gap in the market.

Tesni said: "We very much hope that, with Covid 19, more local produce will be chosen. Of course, we hoped for an increase in business anyway, because of so much support locally. The crux of the issue here is whether customers will continue their habit of buying locally after Covid - and only time will tell. The truth is that, with pressure on household incomes, no doubt some will be tempted to go to the discount retailers."

For now the partners in the business remain positive, embracing their role in serving the local community. Dewi added: "We wish to thank everyone for the fantastic support we have had over the last year and a half. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from us all at Cwmni Cig Eryri!"



"We might be turning a corner. People are definitely more concerned about where their meat comes from now."

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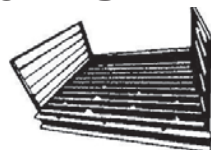
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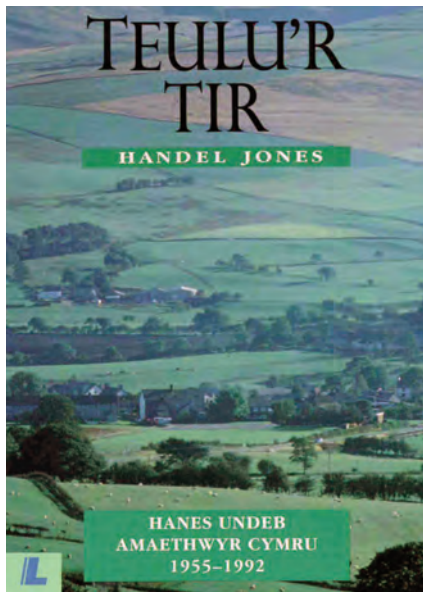
Rydym ynghanol cyfnod dathlu pen-blwydd yr Undeb yn 65 mlynedd oed, ond a wyddoch chi mae sgwrs mewn Riley 3.5 litr ar hyd yr A40 o Lundain nôl am Sir Gaerfyrddin yw dechrau'r hanes?

Roedd teithwyr y Riley, Ivor T Davies (Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Gwaith Sirol yr NFU Sir Gaerfyrddin) a JB Evans (Ysgrifennydd Sirol yr NFU Sir Gaerfyrddin) yn teimlo bod nhw wedi gwastraffu diwrnod, a hwnnw'n un hir gan fod neb yng nghyfarfod Cyngor yr NFU yn y pencadlys yn Sgwâr Bedford yn gwrando ar lais ffermwyr Cymru. Yn ystod y daith honno, penderfynodd y ddau wneud safiad a fyddai'n newid dyfodol ffermwyr yng Nghymru am byth.

Er mwyn dysgu mwy am hanes yr Undeb, rwyf wedi treulio peth amser yn pori trwy lyfr *Teulu'r Tir* gan Handel Jones sy'n olrhain yr hanes o 1955 hyd at 1992. Cawn fewnwelediad manwl i'r dyddiau cynnar hynny, a'r cymeriadau fu'n gyfrifol am ffurfio undeb newydd i Gymru. Dyma i chi flas o'r hyn ddigwyddodd ar brynawn dydd Sadwrn Rhagfyr 3 1955:

“Pan gyfarfu Pwyllgor Gwaith Sirol Caerfyrddin yn Nhŷ'r Eglwys San Pedr ar Sgwâr Nott, Caerfyrddin ar brynawn Sadwrn Rhagfyr 3, 1955, roedd yr awyrgylch yn anesmwyth a drwgdybus. Cofiodd Dewi I Thomas mai dyna'r cyfarfod mwyaf di-ffrwt iddo ei fynychu erioed.

“Mae'n rhaid bod yr aelodau wedi synhwyro bod rhywbeth yn y gwynt,” dywedodd. Ar ôl cwblhau'r materion arferol, dywedodd y Cadeirydd, Ivor T Davies, na allai gynrychioli ffermwyr Sir Gaerfyrddin ar Gyngor yr NFU oherwydd teimlai fod polisiau arweinwyr yr Undeb yn mynd yn groes i fuddiannau ffermwyr Cymru. O ganlyniad roedd wedi penderfynu ymddiswyddo fel Cadeirydd cangen y sir. Yn ystod y drafodaeth lawn a



ddilynodd, siaradodd llawer aelod o blaid ffurfio undeb annibynnol i ffermwyr Cymru.”

Arhosodd deuddeg aelod y noson honno, ar ôl i'r gweddill gerdded allan. Mae ein dyled yn fawr i Aneurin Davies, Cil-y-cwm; Ivor T Davies, Llanfihangel-ar-Arth; J H Davies, Llanybri; J W O Davies, Llanymddyfri; Aelwyn Hughes, Llanymddyfri; D J Jones, Cil-y-cwm; Llewellyn Jones, Rhandirmwyn; D T Lewis, Myddfai; D H Owen, Llan-non; D C Phillips Llanelli; Tom Price, Cil-y-cwm a Dewi I Thomas, Caerfyrddin am eu gwledigaeth, dewrder, angerdd a ffydd.

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod cyntaf Pwyllgor Dros Dro UAC yng ngwesty'r Castell, Llandeilo ar ddydd Iau, Rhagfyr 8, 1955, ac yn 2005, dadorchuddiwyd plac dwyieithog ar wal y gwesty i gofnodi 50 mlynedd ers i'r Undeb gyfarfod yno am y tro cyntaf.

O hynny ymlaen, aeth yr Undeb o nerth i nerth, ac yn profi bod undeb mewn nerth. Carreg filltir bwysig arall yn hanes sefydlu'r undeb oedd derbyn cydnabyddiaeth swyddogol ym 1978, a byth ers hynny, mae'r Undeb wedi chwarae rhan ddylanwadol yn amaethyddiaeth Cymru, ac wedi profi bod ei hangen yn fwy nag erioed, er mwyn brwydro, nid yn unig am orosiad y fferm deuluol, ond am ddyfodol ffyniannus i'n haelodau a phawb sy'n cynnal bywoliaeth o amaethyddiaeth.

Mae *Teulu'r Tir* yn llyfr hanesyddol bwysig, yn llawn straeon, ac yn cofnodi'r frwydr gynnar Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru i gael ei derbyn, nid yn unig yn Llundain a'r byd, ond gan ffermwyr Cymru. Os hoffech ddarllen mwy o'r hanes, cysylltwch â ni ac mi sicrhawn fod yna gopi i chi.

Gan mai hwn yw Cornel Clecs diwethaf 2020, dymunaf Nadolig Llawn iawn i chi gyd a chadwch yn ddiogel dros yr Wyl.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "They never listen to us".





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2020 - y flwyddyn na fydd y byd yn ei hanghofio

gan Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC



Mi fydd 2020, yn ddiamau, yn cael eu chofio fel gwers hanes ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol, ac o bosib yn cael ei hadnabod fel 'Y flwyddyn na fydd y byd yn ei hanghofio'. Ni allai unrhyw un fod wedi rhagweld ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn beth fyddem yn ei wynebu, a'r anhrefn llwyr a fyddai'n datblygu, yn wleidyddol ac yn economaidd. Wrth i'r flwyddyn dynnu i'w therfyn, rwyf wedi myfyrio ar rai o'r materion rydym wedi delio â nhw dros y 12 mis diwethaf.

Un pryder mawr i ni a'r diwydiant oedd, ac yw, cael y math iawn o Brexit. Roeddem yn gwybod ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn, yn sgil llwyddiant y Ceidwadwyr i gael mwyafrif yn y Senedd ar ôl yr Etholiad Cyffredinol, y byddai 2020 yn flwyddyn wahanol iawn i'r hyn y gallai fod wedi bod fel arall.

Er i nifer ohonom ddyfalu y byddai'r Cyfnod Gadael yn cael ei ymestyn tu hwnt i Ragfyr 2020, o ystyried cymhlethdod yr hyn oedd angen ei negodi, a'r seilwaith, megis manau rheoli ffiniau newydd, y dylid eu sefydlu cyn diwedd y cyfnod - ni chafwyd estyniad o'r fath ac mae'r trafodaethau, wrth imi ysgrifennu hwn, yn parhau. Rydym ni, trwy gydol hyn oll, wedi glynu at ein barn hirsefydlog bod yn rhaid inni gael Brexit diogel, dros raddfa amser realistig, gyda chytundeb

masnachu rhwng y DU a'r UE sy'n sicrhau bod cynnyrch o Gymru'n cael mynediad llawn i farchnadoedd yr UE, gyda'r lleiaf posib o rwystrau nad ydynt yn dariffau.

Bu ein staff a'n swyddogion wrthi'n ddiffino'n lobio gwleidyddion i sicrhau nad yw ein diwydiant yn dioddef o ganlyniad i bolisiau a chytundebau masnachu newydd, gan wneud hi'n glir iawn bod yn rhaid i'r Bil Amaeth newydd sicrhau bod bwyd sy'n cael ei fewnforio i'r DU yn cwrdd â safonau'r DU man lleiaf. Pan gafodd rhybuddion UAC eu hanwybyddu, ac wrth i'r Bil Amaeth newydd gael Cydsyniad Brenhinol, roeddem yn glir am y ffaith y gallai hyn agor y drws i effeithiau hynod o ddiinstriol ar ffermio a chymunedau gwledig, os na fydd Llywodraeth y DU yn rhoi lle canolog i ddiogelwch bwyd a lles teuluoedd ffermio a chymunedau gwledig wrth ddatblygu polisiau.

Do, mi wnaethon ni groesawu'r ffaith bod y Ddeddf yn cynnwys y gofyniad i gyflwyno adroddiad i senedd San Steffan yn canolbwyntio ar effeithiau posib cytundebau masnachu yn y dyfodol ar amaethyddiaeth. Yn bendant, fodd bynnag, nid dyma'r llinell goch yn atal mewnfurion bwyd is-safonol y bu ffermwyr, amgylcheddwyr, ymgyrchwyr dros hawliau anifeiliaid, a miliynau o aelodau'r cyhoedd yn lobio amdani.

Erbyn i'r papur hwn fynd i'w argraffu, mi fydd yna lai na 5 wythnos tan diwedd cyfnod gadael yr UE, ac mae honiadau'r Prif Weinidog Boris Johnson y bydd y DU 'yn ffynnu' heb gytundeb masnachu gyda'r UE yn bryder gwirioneddol. Allwch chi ddim torri'ch cysylltiad ag economi a bloc masnachu mwyaf y byd ynghanol pandemig byd-eang, y dirwasgiad gwaethaf ers canrif, ac ar ôl benthg chwarter triliwn i ymdopi, a meddwl y bydd popeth yn iawn - felly dwi wir yn gobioethio, erbyn i Y Tir gyrraedd eich stepen drws, y bydd cytundeb masnachu derbynol rhwng y DU a'r UE wedi'i sicrhau, neu ar y gorwel.

Hyd yn oed os ceir cytundeb, rydym yn wynebu costau ychwanegol sylweddol ac anhrefn o ganlyniad i rwystrau nad ydynt yn dariffau, yn sgil penderfyniad y DU i adael y Farchnad Sengl a'r undeb dollau. Bydd gadael heb gytundeb yn gwneud y pethau hyn yn waeth o lawer a rhaid osgoi hynny ar bob cyfrif.

Wrth gwrs, pan ddywedon ni y byddai 2020 yn flwyddyn nas gwelwyd mo'i thebyg, nid oeddem wedi dychmygu unrhyw beth tebyg i Covid-19. Yn ystod yr argyfwng, mae ein staff a'n swyddogion wedi bod wrthi'n ddiwyd yn lleisio barn ar ran y diwydiant, yn cymryd rhan mewn trafodaethau ar lefel Cymru a'r DU, ac yn tynnu sylw at y canlyniadau trychinebus i rai o fewn y sector.

Bob cam o'r ffordd, roeddem yn glir bod effaith gyflym pandemig y coronafeirws ar gadwyni bwyd byd-eang, a'r prinder bwyd a welwyd mewn rhai gwledydd, yn tynnu sylw at bwysigrwydd rhoi blaenoriaeth i sicrwydd bwyd.

Ar wahân i'r effeithiau corfforol, seicolegol a chymdeithasol sydd wedi bwrw'r gymuned ffermio, fel bron holl rannau eraill y gymdeithas, mae'r diwydiant amaeth yn dal i wynebu nifer o heriau penodol nad ydynt yn gysylltiedig â'r farchnad o ganlyniad i'r pandemig Covid-19 presennol.

Parhau ar dudalen 13

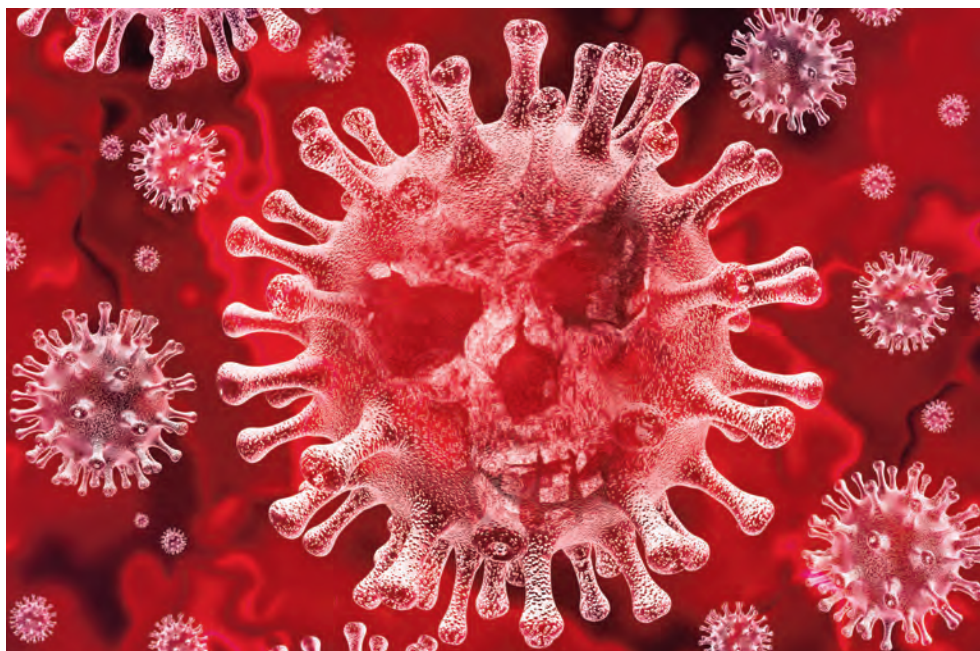


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Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys heriau penodol megis derbyn gwasanaethau milfeddygol, gan gynnwys er mwyn bodloni ymrwymiadau statudol megis profion TB gwartheg gan gadw at y rheoliadau pellter cymdeithasol ac ati; cwrdd â gofynion statudol, er enghraifft, caniatáu archwiliadau o'r fferm a'r stoc; darparu gwybodaeth a dogfennau i Lywodraeth Cymru, ymateb i ymholiadau Llywodraeth Cymru a marchnata cynnyrch.

Er mwyn helpu i liniaru heriau o'r fath mae staff UAC yn dal i ddilyn nifer o brotocolau i sicrhau bod yr aelodau'n cael cymorth, tra'n sicrhau eu bod yn gwarchod eu hiechyd a'u diogelwch ac yn osgoi unrhyw gysyllt dynol. Ar yr un pryd mae milfeddygon, marchnadoedd da byw a Llywodraeth Cymru'n parhau i weithredu nifer o brotocolau a newidiadau sydd i'w croesawu, i sicrhau bod busnesau'n gallu dal ati i weithredu gyda'r lleiaf posibl o risg.

Mae enghreifftiau'n cynnwys newidiadau i reolau profi TB, y rheolau llym mewn marchnadoedd da byw sy'n atal gwerthwyr rhag mynychu sesiynau gwerthu yn y cylch, ymestyn y dyddiadau cau ar gyfer cyflwyno amryw o ddogfennau gwahanol, a Taliadau Gwledig Cymru'n derbyn copïau electronig o ddogfennau a fyddai fel arfer yn gorfod cael eu darparu ar ffurf copi caled.

Ar ben hyn, fel rydym wedi dweud wrth nifer o ymchwiliadau'r Llywodraeth, mae'r cyfyngiadau a osodwyd ar weision sifil a'r cwtogi ar wasanaethau yn sgil hynny, yn dal i achosi nifer o broblemau i fusnesau fferm sydd angen atebion i ymholiadau brys, trwyddedau y gwnaed cais amdanynt, neu ymweliadau safle, o fewn cyfnod amser penodol. Mae UAC wedi trefnu cyfarfodydd ar-lein mynych ar gyfer aelodau er mwyn caniatáu iddyn nhw godi pryderon o'r fath a chael ymateb, ac i sicrhau bod y diwydiant yn gwybod am unrhyw ddatblygiadau pwysig mewn perthynas â'r pandemig a materion eraill.

Fodd bynnag, un rhwystr mawr i nifer o ffermwyr sydd am fanteisio ar brisiau gostyngol, cael yr wybodaeth a'r datblygiadau diweddaraf sy'n uniongyrchol berthnasol i'w busnesau, a chyfathrebu ag eraill dan yr amgylchiadau presennol, yw'r ddarpariaeth band eang wael mewn rhannau helaeth o Gymru. Yn wir, mae'r misoedd diwethaf wedi bod yn enghraifft drawiadol o bwysigrwydd hanfodol cysylltedd.

Mae staff yr Undeb, nifer ohonynt yn byw mewn ardaloedd gwledig, wedi bod yn gweithio gartref ac rydym wedi parhau i gynorthwyo aelodau gyda gwaith papur digidol ar gyfer busnesau fferm. Heb gysylltiad rhyngryd ni fyddai hyn wedi bod yn bosibl. Ar y nodyn hwnnw, hoffwn sicrhau aelodau y byddwn yn parhau i llobio i gael gwllt cysylltedd, er mwyn sicrhau na fydd unrhyw fusnes fferm yn y dyfodol yn cael ei adael ar ôl yn y ras am gysylltedd gwella a chyflymach.

Mae'r ddadl ynghylch y **newid yn yr hinsawdd** a'r rôl y gall ffermio ei chwarae i leihau cynhesu byd-eang hefyd wedi cadw'n tîm yn brys dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Un pwynt wnaethon ni godi gyda Hyrwyddwr Gweithredu ar y Newid yn yr Hinsawdd Lefel Uchel y DU, Nigel Topping, oedd bod popeth a wnawn ni, fel ffermwyr, yn troi o amgylch y tywydd, y tymhorau a'r hinsawdd. Allwn ni ddim fforddio gamblo ar y ffaith bod y gwyddonwyr yn anghywir, gan wynebu'r risg o weld effeithiau ar raddfa Feiblaidd: cnydau'n methu, newyn, colli ardaloedd eang o dir ffermio a chymunedau wrth i lefelau'r môr godi, ymfudo torfol a rhyfel, i enwi ond ychydig.

Fel pob diwydiant arall, rhaid inni weithio'n galed i liniaru'r newid yn yr hinsawdd, ac rydym wedi ymrwymo i wneud hynny, ond rhaid inni fynd ati drwy arloesi a chwalu'r rhwystrau mewn ffyrdd sy'n gwarchod ac yn gwella busnesau ffermio teuluol, sef asgwrn cefn ein cymunedau gwledig.

Wrth roi sylw i ganfyddiadau allweddol adroddiad 'Land Use: Policies for a Net Zero UK' diweddaraf Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd ar ddechrau'r flwyddyn, mi wnaethon ni rybuddio ynghylch peryglon canolbwyntio'n anghymesur ar gynhyrchu da byw neu blannu coed mewn modd amhriodol.

Mae'r adroddiad yn tynnu sylw at rai materion hanfodol, gan

gynnwys yr angen am sector cynhyrchu bwyd cryf yn y DU, a pheryglon lleihau allyriadau'r DU ar draul cynyddu'n dibyniaeth ar fwyd sydd wedi'i fewnforio o wledydd gydag ôl troed carbon llawer uwch. Ar hyn o bryd mae amaethyddiaeth yn gyfrifol am tua 10 y cant o allyriadau'r DU, gyda methan yn sgil cynhyrchu da byw yn cyfrif am ychydig dros hanner y ffigur hwnnw. Mewn cymhariaeth, mae trafndiaeth ac ynni'n cyfrif am oddeutu hanner holl allyriadau'r DU.

Mewn geiriau eraill, petaem yn gallu rhoi'r gorau i gynhyrchu bwyd yn y DU, a chael gwared ag amaethyddiaeth, byddai 90 y cant o'r broblem yn dal i fod yno. Yn wir, roedd y Pwyllgor yn cydnabod y byddai symud i ffwrdd o gig coch a gynhyrchir yng Nghymru a'r DU yn cynyddu ôl troed carbon y genedl, am fod gennym gig sydd wedi'i fagu gan greu rhai o'r allyriadau tŷ gwydr isaf yn unrhyw le yn y byd. Roedd UAC felly'n croesawu'r ffaith bod y Pwyllgor wedi cefnogi ei alwadau am bolisi masnachu cadarn ar ôl Brexit, sy'n adlewyrchu ôl troed carbon is cynnyrch y DU.

Ymatebodd UAC hefyd i'r alwad i gynyddu ardaloedd coedwigaeth y DU, o 13 y cant i o leiaf 17 y cant erbyn 2050, gan bwysleisio, serch bod aelodau UAC yn cefnogi plannu coed mewn modd priodol, na ddylai hynny danseilio cynhyrchedd ffermydd a'r amgylchedd, a bod aelodau'n tynnu sylw'n gyson at y rhwystrau a wynebiant wrth geisio plannu coed. Yn anffodus, mae rheolau Ffenestr ddiweddaraf Cynllun Creu Coetir Glastir wedi creu mwy fyth o rwystrau.

Mae hefyd yn bwysig cofio bod ardaloedd coetir yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu deirgwaith drosodd yn ystod y ganrif ddiwethaf; o 5 y cant yn 1919 i tua 15 y cant yn 2016, gyda 30 y cant o'r ardaloedd presennol yn goetiroedd fferm collddail.

Rydym yn parhau i dynnu sylw at brofiadau'r ganrif ddiwethaf, sy'n dangos y niwed y gall polisïau da eu bwriad sy'n anelu at gynyddu ardaloedd coetir ei achosi. Mae gwyddonwyr wedi nodi cysylltiad uniongyrchol rhwng cyfnewid tir pori defaid a gwartheg am goedwigoedd â cholli cynefinoedd a rhywogaethau, mewn cannoedd o enghreifftiau ar draws y byd, gan gynnwys y DU, felly rhaid osgoi plannu mewn panig ar bob cyfrif.

Yn ogystal, byddwn yn parhau i bwysleisio bod defnyddio tir sy'n cynhyrchu bwyd ar hyn o bryd i liniaru twf allyriadau tŷ gwydr o fewn diwydiannau eraill, yn annoeth.



A thra bod yr holl faterion hyn yn parhau, a'r tîm wrthi'n gweithio'n ddiflino i sicrhau bod ffermwyr yng Nghymru â dyfodol llewyrchus i edrych ymlaen ato, mae **iechyd meddwl** gwael yn ein cymunedau gwledig yn fater sydd wedi dod yn amlwg iawn. Fel mae'r aelodau'n gwybod, gwnaethom ymrwymiad yn Sioe Frenhinol Cymru yn 2017 i wneud popeth

“Nid yw pethau wedi bod yn hawdd eleni ond rhaid inni gyfrif ein bendithion serch hynny. Rydym yn ffodus mewn gymaint o ffyrdd ac mae'n werth cofio mai'r awr dywyllaf yw'r un cyn y wawr.”

o fewn ein gallu i helpu i chwalu'r stigma sy'n dal i atal ffermwyr rhag siarad am eu hiechyd meddwl, a gofyn am yr help maent yn ei haeddu ac sydd ei wir angen arnynt yn aml. Mae'r ffigurau yn dweud y cyfan yn anffodus, gydag un ffermwr yr wythnos yn y DU yn marw drwy hunanladdiad, a sawl un arall yn dioddef yn dawl.

Fel rhan o'n hymdrechion rydym wedi cynnal amryw o ymgyrchoedd codi ymwybyddiaeth yn ystod y flwyddyn, mae ein staff wedi cael hyfforddiant Cymorth Cyntaf Iechyd Meddwl drwy Sefydliad DPJ, ac rydym wedi cynnal ein cynhadledd Iechyd Meddwl Cymru Gyfan gyntaf erioed. Roedd y gynhadledd yn archwilio cyd-destun ehangach iechyd meddwl gwael o fewn cymunedau gwledig, a pha gamau sydd angen eu cymryd gan y Llywodraeth, a'r rhai sy'n gwneud penderfyniadau ac yn llunio polisïau i fynd i'r afael â'r sefyllfa, yn enwedig am fod Covid-19 wedi rhoi mwy o bwysau, nid yn unig ar iechyd meddwl pobl, ond ar eu sefyllfa ariannol hefyd.

Yn dilyn y digwyddiad, anfonwyd llythyr at y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl, Llesiant a'r Gymraeg, Eluned Morgan, yn tynnu sylw at y canfyddiadau allweddol. Hefyd, cynhaliwyd cyfarfod rhithwir dilynol i drafod sut mae'r cyfuniad o ansicrwydd ynghylch Brexit, Covid-19, a'r polisïau ffermio newydd arfaethedig yn rhoi pwysau enfawr ar ffermwyr a'u hiechyd meddwl - a all, o beidio a chael sylw, fod yn 'storm berffaith' i'n iechyd meddwl.

Fel y gwyddom, mae'r problemau ar ffermydd yn niferus, a gellir mynd i'r afael â rhai ohonynt drwy siarad amdanynt nhw, ond gydag eraill fodd bynnag, mae angen i Lywodraeth Cymru ail-werthuso ei pholisïau amaethyddol, nawr ac yn y dyfodol - diferyn yn y môr yn unig yw materion megis cymorth ariannol i ffermydd yn y dyfodol, TB gwartheg a rheoliadau ansawdd dŵr. Byddwn felly'n parhau i weithio gyda Llywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau bod popeth posib yn cael ei wneud, fel nad yw polisïau amaethyddol presennol a newydd yn parhau i gael effaith negyddol ar iechyd meddwl.

Nid yw pethau wedi bod yn hawdd eleni ond rhaid inni gyfrif ein bendithion serch hynny. Rydym yn ffodus mewn gymaint o ffyrdd ac mae'n werth cofio mai'r awr dywyllaf yw'r un cyn y wawr. Rwy'n gobethio y bydd gwyliau'r Nadolig yn rhoi amser ichi gael ennyd fach dawl i fyfyrto a mwynhau treulio amser gyda'ch teulu - hyd yn oed os bydd pethau ychydig yn wahanol eleni.

I gloi, hoffwn ddiolch i'r holl staff a swyddogion am eu gwaith caled eleni, ac wrth gwrs i'n haelodau. Mae eich cefnogaeth i'r Undeb hon yn golygu y gallwn ddal ati i frwydro i sicrhau bod gennym ffermydd teuluol cynaliadwy a ffyniannus yma yng Nghymru.

Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda ichi gyd!

This article is in English on pages 2 & 3: "2020 - the year the world won't forget."

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Mae'r allwedd am ddyfodol ffyniannus a chynaliadwy yn nwylo Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru

Rydym ynghanol dathliadau pen-blwydd Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru yn 65 mlwydd oed, carreg filltir bwysig yn ein hanes. Pwy well i nodi'r achlysur hyn na'n Llywydd Mr Glyn Roberts

WEL.... lle mae'r pum mlynedd diwethaf ma wedi mynd?? Dwi'n cofio fel ddoe fy araith ddatliad trigain mlynedd yr Undeb yng Nghaerfyrddin. Yn fy araith y noson honno mi ddefnyddiais long fel cymhariaeth o bwysigrwydd strwythur i'r Undeb er mwyn gwasanaethu'r aelodau. Pum mlynedd yn ddiweddarach ac mae fy ngwallt wedi gwynnu'n arw! Ni feddyliais ar y pryd beth oedd ar y gorwel i'r diwydiant.

Doedd dim sôn y noson honno am..

- Brexit,
- Covid-19,
- newid strwythur ariannu'r diwydiant,
- mesur y farchnad fewnol,
- yr anghydfod sy'n deillio o'r mesur amaeth, a'r posibiladau na fydd safon bwyd sy'n cael ei fewnforio o'r un safon a beth sy'n cael ei gynhyrchu yn y wlad yma.

I ni fel pobl mae cyrraedd 65 mlynedd yn arwydd o arafu lawr.....ond ga i ddweud wrthoch chi...does fiw i Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru arafu i lawr o gwbl.

Mi ydw i'n grediniol fod angen Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru yn awr - yn fwy nag erioed - os ydym am ddiwallu anghenion amaethwyr Cymru. Cofiwch mai lles amaethwyr Cymru yw ein hunig nod ni.

Peidiwch byth a gadael i ni anghofio'r ymdrech, dyfalbarhad a dewder yr arloeswyr cynnar. Rhaid peidio gwro oddi wrth eu dymuniadau, eu dyheadau ac wrth gwrs - yr egwyddor o Undeb annibynnol i Gymru.

Un o'r adnoddau pwysicaf sydd gennym yw staff ymroddedig a galluog.

Arf gwerthfawr sydd gennym yw'r croesdoriad o staff profiadol ac ifanc sydd yn cael eu meithrin gan y to hŷn - a'r ifanc yn eu tro yn addysgu'r to hwn - yn enwedig eleni gyda'r galw am sgiliau technegol. - Diolch i bob aelod am sicrhau fod y felin yn parhau i droi.

Mae'n rhaid i mi nodi yn fan hyn nad oeddwn byth yn meddwl y buaswn yn dweud wrth Eleri ffasiwn beth a .."rhaid fi fynd, mae gen i gyfarfod Zoom!!"

Mae'r cyfarfodydd wedi bod yn llwyddiant yn gyffredinol, a rhaid dweud bod Zoom wedi arbed sawl ffræe gan Eifion wrth iddo aros ar fuarth Dylasau yn disgwyl amdanaf i gychwyn am Aber..!

Rwyf hefyd yn falch iawn o'r ail strwythuro sydd wedi ei wneud yn dilyn y gwaith caled gafodd ei wneud gan y grŵp "gorchwyl a gorffen" dan gadeiryddiaeth y cawr o Faldwyn: Rees Roberts. Dilynwyd y drefn ddemocrataidd o gael sêl bendith y Cyngor i'r newid.

Mae'r tîm polisi llywyddol gyda chadeiryddion y pwyllgorau canolig wedi cyfarfod yn rhithwir bob mis. Mi ydw'n falch iawn ohonynt.

Dyma i chi bobl alluog a blaengar, yn rhoi eu hamser i hel gwybodaeth a thrafod.

Darn arall o'r adroddiad o'r grŵp gorchwyl a gorffen oedd creu bwrdd UAC (mae gan FUWIS fwrdd eisoes) unwaith eto rwyf yn falch iawn o aelodau'r bwrdd yma, mae'n fwrdd eithaf ifanc ar wahân i mi, gyda dwy gyfarwyddes anweithredol allanol dawnus iawn. Gan fod y bwrdd yn cynnwys aelodau galluog a chryf mae hyn yn heriol iawn i'r cadeirydd ambell i waith! O ddifrif rŵan... cymeraf hi yn fraint i gadeirio criw mor dalentog. Hoffwn hefyd ddiolch o waelod calon i'r cyn dirprwy lywydd - Brian



Cartŵn gan J C Walker, a ymddangosodd yn y Western Mail ar 13 Rhagfyr 1955, pan oedd amryw'n proffwydo na fyddai Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru'n para'n hir. Ond, i'r Undeb ifanc, roedd y cartŵn yn her, a gwnaeth y sylfaenwyr yn fwy penderfynol nag erioed i lwyddo.

Thomas - am fod yn gymaint o gefn i mi (wrth fy nghefn ym mhob annibyniaeth barn WW) hefyd am y feithrifa gan Gareth Vaughan ac Emyr Jones, y ddau gyn Llywydd.

O bosib y ddau gyflawniad a roddodd y mwyaf o wefr i mi hyd yma oedd ein bod wedi darbywlllo Llywodraeth Cymru o'r pwysigrwydd bod ffermwyr sy'n amaethu i fyny at 54 hectar yn cael blaenoriaeth ariannol. Ac yn ychwanegol, ein bod wedi cael dylanwad ar Lywodraeth Cymru i newid eu barn er mwyn cynnal asesiad economaidd ar effeithiau newid y system daliadau. Rhaid cofio bod yr elfen economaidd yn bwysig er mwyn cynnal pobl, diwylliant ac iaith cefn gwlad Cymru.

Hoffwn gloi wrth ddweud diolch o galon i bob un - boed yn aelod neu yn staff o deulu'r Undeb - rydw i wir yn gwerthfawrogi eich ymroddiad i'n Hundeb ..ble mae ein nerth..!?

Mae llawer her o'n blaen ond dwi yn ffyddiog bod yr allwedd am ddyfodol ffyniannus a chynaliadwy yn nwylo Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru.

*Ni wn am hynt yfory
Na beth fydd tynged Cymru
Ond gwn bydd og yn dilyn â'r
Ac adar yma'n canu. (WJ)*

*This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News:
"The key to a prosperous and sustainable future lies with the Farmers' Union of Wales."*



Rhai o sylfaenwyr UAC. Rhes gefn, o'r chwith, J W O Davies; Dewi I Thomas, J H Davies, Llewelyn Bebb, Aelwyn Hughes, Tom Price. Rhes flaen, J B Evans, Ivor T Davies, D T Lewis.

'Your membership can take pride in its 65 years' service to Welsh agriculture'

by The Rt Hon Lord Morris of Aberavon, KG, QC

It is a privilege to congratulate the FUW to celebrate its 65th anniversary. There can't be many of us around who were present almost at its creation.

I am not going to fall into the temptation of old men to dwell on the past. The incredible difficulties of setting up the FUW were set out in my book, "Fifty years in Politics and the Law."

I have added a little to them in my recent book in Welsh, "Cardi yn y Cabinet". (Y Lolfa, Talybont) in which there is an excellent photograph taken during the visit of my wife and I to the FUW office in Dolgellau a few years ago. It was a poignant visit to the town where the Union's hopes of making headway in North Wales were nearly crushed. However, my instructions were to pick myself up and go further north. Fortunately, having just left the Army and taking part in military manoeuvres on the plains of Germany, I had been taught if you face an insurmountable obstacle, you find a way round it.

I try to visit each year your pavilion at the Royal Welsh Show, which I had the privilege of opening. I am fortunate in a well-informed House of Lords so far as agriculture is concerned, to do what I can to speak up for Welsh agriculture and to fight for the repatriation of powers from Brussels to Cardiff rather than Westminster.

On the second reading of the Agriculture Bill I welcomed the Trade & Agricultural Commission and commended the appointment of your President to it.



FUW Deputy General Secretary and Legal Adviser Lord Morris meeting farmers in 1955.

It is many years ago that the Minister of Agriculture and myself, as the Secretary of State for Wales, gave me long fought-for recognition for the FUW. I took care that the decision was taken by the Westminster Agriculture Minister and myself jointly just a few weeks before I took over governmental responsibility for Welsh agriculture. I emphasised it was the decision of a labour government and not a personal whim by myself.

I will never forget that particular St. David's day, I believe in 1977, when I assumed responsibility for Welsh agriculture. It was celebrated at the N.A.A.S. Welsh Centre at Trawscoed. In actual fact, it had to be put back a few hours so that I could attend the funeral of the doyen of Welsh stock producers, my great-uncle, J. M. Jenkins of Carreg Caranau, Talybont.

I keep in touch with the developments of Welsh agriculture through my brother, Dr. Dai Morris, the first principal of the Welsh Agricultural College and a breeder of Welsh sheep. I am also able to cross-examine one of my sons-in-law, who supervises the family farm in Suffolk with my daughter, Non, and he tells me of the problems of arable farming; rather different to the dairy farm that I was brought up on. Sadly, like many Welsh farmers he has gone out of dairy.

The problems that actively concern me at present are the future trade deals with other countries and ensuring that the high standards of British food production are not sacrificed. This is a constant battle.

As I am writing I am fortunate to sit on a House of Lords Committee whose task is to examine a whole series of international treaties the UK Government is negotiating. It is a good vantage point to try to safeguard British agriculture.

For a body that was envisaged to last three months, your membership can take pride in its 65 years' service to Welsh agriculture. I promised to serve as your Deputy General Secretary and Legal Adviser for the first three months, which became two years, until I returned to my profession and my hopes of entering the House of Commons.

With these few words - again, my congratulations!



From left, Lord Morris, main building contractor Guy Walker, architect Gareth Thomas, past FUW President Emyr Jones and architect Gareth Lewis when he formally opened the revamped FUW pavilion during the 2013 Royal Welsh Show.

Mae gweledigaeth y sylfaenwyr dal yn fyw - i roi llais cryf ac annibynnol i ffermwyr Cymru

gan Elin Jones AS



MAE'N siŵr nad oes llawer o wleidyddion yn medru dweud fod eu magwraeth wleidyddol wedi ei wreiddio ar hanesion sefydlu a blynyddoedd cynnar Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru. Ond mae hynny'n wir yn fy achos i. Bydd rhai o ddarllenwyr Y Tir yn gwybod i mi ysgrifennu yn y gorffennol am fy Wncwl Jac, J.B. Evans Llanybydder. Wncwl Jac oedd Ysgrifennydd Cyffredinol cyntaf yr Undeb ac yn un o'r ffigurau allweddol adawodd yr NFU 65 mlynedd yn ôl a chreu Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru.

Roedd ef yn swyddog cyflogedig gyda'r NFU ac yn gweithio yn Shir Gâr gyda'r ffermwyr tenant yn nyffryn Tywi uchaf oedd yn wynebu colli eu ffermydd i bryniant gorfodol gan y Comisiwn Coedwigaeth ar ddechrau 50au y ganrif ddiwethaf. Yng ngeiriau Gwenallt yn ei gerdd enwog Rhydcymerau, brwydr Wncwl Jac a'r Undeb bryd hynny oedd i wrthwynebu:

"Coed lle bu cymdogaeth/Fforest lle bu ffermydd"

Wrth i mi dyfu lan yn y 70au felly mi ges hanesion lu gan fy Wncwl Jac am y dyddiau cynnar a hefyd am y cyfnod cythryblus o ymuno gyda'r Farchnad Gyffredin. A nawr fe rydyn ar fin gadael y Farchnad honno, yr undeb honno, a dwi'n gwybod pa mor drist y byddai Wncwl Jac o weld colli'r berthynas honno - mi oedd e o'r genhedlaeth a welodd ymladd rhwng gwledydd Ewrop gan wario cyfnod hir fel carcharor rhyfel yn yr Eidal.

Mae Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru yn dal lle arbennig yn fy nghalon felly, ond ers 1999 mae'r Undeb wedi bod hefyd yn rhan annatod o fy mywyd gwaith yn cynrychioli Ceredigion yn Senedd Cymru. Ac mae'n rhaid dweud fod yr Undeb wedi gwneud gwaith arbennig yn cynrychioli eu haelodau dros gyfnodau digon heriol yn yr ugain mlynedd diwethaf - dau gyfnod o glwy' traed a genau, a nawr her fawr Brexit.

Pan o'n i yn Weindog Amaeth rhwng 2007-2011 mi roedd yr Undeb yn gefnogol iawn i fy mholisi o waredu TB mewn bywyd gwyllt yn ogystal â gwartheg ffarm. Yn wir un o

awdurdodau'r pwnc, y diweddar Evan R Thomas, eisteddodd fi lawr yn swyddfa'r Undeb yng Nghaerfyrddin tua 2006 a rhoi seminar i fi am hanes a dwyster problem TB yn y gorllewin. Mi oedd y cyfarfod yna yn ddylanwadol iawn arna' i ac mae'n aros yn y cof hyd heddi'.

Mae Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru yn 65 mlwydd oed eleni. Mae gweledigaeth y sylfaenwyr dal yn fyw - i roi llais cryf ac annibynnol i ffermwyr Cymru. Hir bydded i hynny barhau.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "The vision of the founders is still alive - to give Welsh farmers a strong and independent voice."



Ymweliad swyddogol cyntaf UAC â'r Swyddfa yn Llundain ar 31 Mawrth 1965. O'r chwith, A I McGregor (Is Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Polisi a Seneddol), T Myrddin Evans (Dirprwy Lywydd), Emrys Bennett Owen (Ysgrifennydd Cyffredinol), Glyngwyn Roberts (Llywydd).



Knowledge grows

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



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



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Extension gets cautious welcome

THE FUW has given a cautious welcome to the decision to extend the role of the Trade and Agriculture Commission and place it on a statutory footing, describing it as a welcome step towards addressing concerns over substandard food imports.

The UK government announced on November 1 that it had decided to extend the commission past its previous fixed term and give it a more active role through a new legislative underpinning, to be reviewed every three years.

Under the new plans, the commission will produce a report on the impact on animal welfare and agriculture of any free trade deal negotiated by the UK government after the end of the EU transition period, which will be laid in Parliament before the start of the 21-day scrutiny period under the terms of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act.

The commission was originally set up in July 2020 to provide advice on trade policies the UK Government should adopt to secure opportunities for UK farmers, while ensuring the sector remains competitive and that animal welfare and environmental standards in food production are not undermined, but was due to be disbanded at the end of the year.

FUW deputy President Ian Rickman, (*pictured right*), said: "This change is certainly not the red line that farmers, environmentalists, animal rights campaigners and millions of members of the general public have lobbied to be introduced into the Agriculture Bill.

"However, it is a welcome step towards allowing better scrutiny of trade deals negotiated by the government in terms of their impact on animal welfare and agriculture."

However, Mr Rickman said that the full wording of the Commission's new terms of reference and its legislative role would need to be seen before the Union could fully assess the degree to which the decision addresses major concerns.

"We are faced with the possibility that trade deals negotiated by the UK Government with other countries and trading blocs will allow food to be sold to UK consumers which is currently illegal. A number of those negotiations are well underway, for example with the USA, New Zealand and Australia.

"That food could be produced to environmental, animal health and social standards that are illegal in the UK. It remains to be seen whether the scope of the commission's new role will extend to fully addressing these major concerns in terms of protecting our consumers and farmers from exposure to such produce."

Mr Rickman said that concerns also exist in terms of the degree of scrutiny afforded by the Constitutional Reform and Governance (CRAG) Act.

"The decision to extend the role of the commission in such a way that complements the role of parliament in scrutinising trade deals under the terms of the CRAG Act is welcome, but concern remains in terms of the degree to which that Act genuinely allows Parliament to block a deal it believes goes against the nation's interests.

"We will therefore continue to lobby for what is in the interests of UK farmers and consumers, and habitats and animal welfare around the globe."



EU and UK must pull out all the stops

WITH less than a month to go before the end of the EU withdrawal period and many areas of agreement reached between the EU and UK in trade negotiations - but the subjects of fisheries and state aid rules still major obstacles to progress as the negotiations reach their final stages - the FUW has urged both the UK and EU to avoid the catastrophe of a no-deal Brexit at all costs.

The call comes a day after Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs George Eustice acknowledged on the BBC's Andrew Marr show that the sheep sector would face particular challenges in no-deal scenarios due to tariffs on lamb exports to the EU of around 40%, but tried to play the impact down for agricultural sectors.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said "The reality is that failure to reach a trade deal would have a catastrophic impact for our key agricultural sectors that would hit home very quickly, with the sheep industry likely to feel the impact most acutely.

"It would also cause untold disruption to food and other supply chains and complete anarchy at our ports." Mr Roberts said that such a failure would also have devastating impacts for EU businesses, and that it was therefore in both the EU and UK's interest to 'pull out all the stops' to reach a deal.

'It could open the door to devastating impacts'

THE FUW says the newly passed Agriculture Act could open the door to devastating impacts on farming and rural communities if the UK Government does not place food security and the wellbeing of farming families and rural communities at the centre of policy development.

The Act, which received Royal Assent on November 11, outlines how future support for English farmers will be delivered as the UK leaves the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, while also setting out legislation relating to a broad range of agricultural and rural issues of relevance to Wales and the UK - including granting temporary powers to Welsh Ministers until a Welsh Agriculture Bill is brought forward.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "We have welcomed the inclusion in the Act of a requirement for a report to be presented to parliament focusing on the impacts future trade deals could have on agriculture. However, this is certainly not the red line preventing substandard food imports that farmers, environmentalists, animal rights campaigners and millions of members of the general public lobbied for."

Mr Roberts said that the focus of the Act on 'public payments for public goods' was a major concern for FUW cross-border members with land in England.

Mr Roberts said that while similar concerns existed in Wales, he hoped there was growing recognition within the Welsh Government of the need to place issues such as rural employment and the economic wellbeing of farming families and rural communities at the heart of policy development - alongside environmental priorities.

The UK Government plans to phase out direct support for English farmers from 2021 to 2027, while from late 2024 they will have the opportunity to take part in a new Environmental Land Management scheme aimed at enhancing the environment and delivering 'public goods', such as clean air and conservation objectives.

"We naturally hope that no part of the UK abandons decades old principles aimed at supporting farming families and rural communities, but it must be recognised as a risk, and we continue to urge the UK and Welsh Governments to place these at the centre of policy development."

FUW dismayed by decision to axe hydropower support



THE FUW has reacted with dismay that support for Welsh Hydropower has been axed and is urging the Welsh Government to look for a long term solution to keep the production of hydropower on farms a viable option.

The FUW has consistently recognised the threat represented by climate change and the need to take action and farmers in Wales have been instrumental in helping achieve a more than five-fold increase in renewable energy production in the past 15 years.

FUW Policy Officer Charlotte Priddy, (pictured above), said: "We are dismayed to hear that the Welsh Government has changed their grant scheme to only supporting community owned hydropower projects with their rates bills, a scheme that has previously provided £1m of support to the sector over the last four years.

"Farmers who can't afford to pay the rates might be forced to abandon these schemes and that's the last thing we want. Furthermore, it will deter future take up of opportunities with hydro power, which is also a valuable source of extra income for farmers."

Hydro schemes, Mrs Priddy outlined, were hit particularly hard when business rates were recalculated across England, Scotland and Wales in 2017 by the Valuation Office Agency.

"In some cases their business rate bill rose by as much as 1,000%, offsetting much - if not all - of the money they made generating electricity. It led to the introduction of a rates relief scheme by the Welsh Government, offering grants to cover some of the costs.

"We appreciate that Covid-19 has put additional pressure on budgets and that difficult decisions are being made but we can not lose sight of the importance of Climate Change. It is unfathomable why support for a scheme that supports the generation of Hydropower would be stopped, especially when the Welsh Government has a target for 1GW of locally-owned renewable energy generation by 2030, and wants 70% of Wales' electricity needs to come from green sources by the same year," added Mrs Priddy.

Free sheep scab testing

NEWS that examination of skin scrape samples from sheep showing suspect clinical signs of sheep scab is being offered free of charge in Wales, by the APHA and funded by the Welsh Government, between November 2 2020 and March 31 2021, has been cautiously welcomed by the FUW.

The scheme will aid accurate diagnosis, which is a prerequisite for appropriate treatment and successful control of sheep scab, which is a priority of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework.

Furthermore, the scheme will also encourage sheep farmers to work with their veterinary surgeon to protect their flocks from sheep scab. As well as accurate diagnosis for controlling the disease if it occurs, good flock biosecurity is essential to keep it out.

Testing will be undertaken at APHA Carmarthen VIC, which is also the centre of expertise for disease surveillance of extensively managed livestock. Samples will be received in the usual way, via the farmer's veterinary surgeon and should be posted direct to Carmarthen VIC. They must be accompanied by full clinical history to qualify for free testing.

Samples can be submitted on a general submission form found on the Vet Gateway: <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/forms.htm> or through ADTS: <https://www.gov.uk/animal-disease-testing>

If you have any queries, please contact the APHA Carmarthen VIC Tel 0300 060 0016.

Ash Dieback - important information

ASH dieback is expected to affect/kill over 90% of the Ash trees in the UK. For context, the Dutch Elm Disease during the 90's killed around 80 billion Elm trees, whereas Ash dieback has the potential to infect two billion Ash trees. It is an airborne fungus.

It is the landowners responsibility to cut down dying/dangerous trees which are on a public highway, and therefore pose a risk to the public. This also includes public footpaths.

The council, under the 1980's Highway Act, can serve a 154 notice which gives the landowner 1 month to do the work. If they have not heard anything back, they have the right to get the work done and send the invoice after. If this occurs, it is advised to respond immediately, even if it is not possible to get the work done within the month. Contractors are expected to be very busy with ash dieback work, and have limited availability.

They are considered dangerous to climb if above a class three (>50% leaf loss). In this situation a MEWP (mobile elevating work platform) is recommended. Ash dieback can be very dangerous work. It is preferable to cut/trim the tree before it gets to a Class 3 danger level.

However, unless a tree is considered dangerous (Class 3 and above), tree work cannot be done during March to August. Winter work is recommended.

In addition, a felling license is needed for any more than five cubic metres every three months.

Remember also to check if you are in a conservation area (National Park, SSI's etc) which may further effect permission. The councils have planning maps to help you check this.

There is the potential for this to become an expensive problem due to the cost of licensed contractors and road closures if required. However, it's important you choose insured, licensed contractors if using them.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Many farmers are conservative voters or conservative with a small "C" but anyone with a head on their shoulders can see what their agenda is, to destroy the farmers who voted for them and many more.

They have tried to pull the wool over everyone's eyes on the agriculture bill by increasing the agriculture commission role which was only created to pull more wool over peoples eyes about their need to see more cheap food imports from abroad.

They're negotiating this in front of our eyes and have nearly finished reaching agreement with NZ and Australia to sell us down the river for countries which have standards which disgust shoppers here - but they will still buy cheap food from anywhere. Why are all their advisors from New Zealand or USA? It says it all and they are working hard to pull out of a deal with the EU where we sell 40% of Welsh lamb.

A deal might be harder to reach with the USA but Biden in power will probably mean Government giving away even more because they are desperate to be a free trade country. This means a fall in prices for stock of 20, 30, 40%? While at home we face more and more rules with red tractor telling us what to do with no control over NZ or USA because that's what the Government wants - cheap food but no food security.

The real agenda is to cut farm payments to nothing which is going on under our eyes (15% taken off our payments already - how much more!) but payments are keeping the communities going because it goes to other businesses but against their free market target, with farms getting bigger and bigger or being rewinded to collect carbon credits. Just what the Government wants and they will do this using coronavirus as an excuse.

Where are the farming Unions when we need them?

Yours sincerely

Name and address withheld

Response from FUW President Glyn Roberts

The FUW shares many of the writer's concerns but rejects any accusation that the FUW is not working hard to fight against substandard imports and changes to support which would have a negative impact on farming communities.

Readers of *Y Tir* will know that the FUW has warned that these are the main risks of Brexit since at least 2014, long before other organisations came out to express concerns. In fact, to my knowledge, the FUW was years ahead of others in warning of the likely impacts of Brexit while others were too frightened to 'rock the boat'.

We continue to work as hard as ever, day in day out, to stop what the writer fears. I think it is also only fair to say that there are a diverse range of views within the Conservative Party, as there are in other political parties - although there are certainly concerns about the views at the top of Government.

Dear Editor

As you may have heard, Officers of Carmarthenshire County Council have been visiting local livestock markets and are asking for your help to enable the markets to operate a safe environment during these difficult times.

The markets have a duty to ensure that the COVID legislation is adhered to but Officers have witnessed that although the markets are trying to get things right, farmers are not adhering to social distancing and the wearing of face masks at all times whilst indoors.

It is also important that everyone who is entering the market premises makes sure that they register on the Track and Trace attendance sheet to say that they have been on the market premises.

If these requirements are not met then the markets could face an improvement notice or a closure notice being served on them if the requirements are still not being met. We do not want this to happen, but the safety of everyone attending is paramount.

Cllr Philip Hughes, Executive Board Member for Public Protection

Annwyl Olygydd

Fel y clywsoc efallai, mae Swyddogion Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin wedi bod yn ymweld â marchnadoedd da byw lleol ac yn gofyn am eich cymorth i alluogi'r marchnadoedd i fod yn amgylchedd diogel yn ystod y cyfnod anodd hwn.

Mae dyletswydd ar y marchnadoedd i sicrhau y cedwir at ddeddfwriaeth COVID, ond er bod y marchnadoedd yn ceisio cael pethau'n iawn, mae Swyddogion wedi gweld nad yw ffermwyr yn cadw pellter cymdeithasol ac nad ydynt yn gwisgo gorchuddion wyneb bob amser pan maent dan do.

Hefyd mae'n bwysig bod pawb sy'n mynd i mewn i safle'r farchnad yn sicrhau eu bod yn cofrestru ar daflen bresenoldeb Monitro ac Orlhain, i ddweud eu bod wedi bod ar safle'r farchnad.

Os na fonlonir y gofynion hyn, gallai'r marchnadoedd gael hysbysiad gwella neu hysbysiad cau hyd yn oed os nad yw'r sefyllfa'n gwella. Nid ydym am i hyn ddigwydd, ond mae diogelwch pawb sy'n mynd yno'n hollbwysig.

Cyng Philip Hughes, Aelod y Bwrdd Gweithredol dros Diogelu'r Cyhoedd

Help us "Light Up" Christmas 2020

by Kate Miles, Charity Manager,
The DPJ Foundation

THIS winter may prove to be longer than most without the usual Christmas gatherings. That is why the DPJ Foundation is hoping to bring some festive cheer to a community near you (in a socially distanced way). We are encouraging farmers, young farmers and tractor enthusiasts to decorate your vehicles (ideally with fairy lights and other Christmas accessories) and to join with others within your community to take part in one of a series of festive tractor runs that will take place on the weekend of December 19 and 20 2020.

Many Christmas concerts and carol singing events that so many farmers and farm children look forward to won't be able to take place in the usual way this year so we see this as a safe alternative. We are encouraging groups at a local level to plan a route for their area (that will take them through villages and to farms) to allow families to come safely to their doorsteps to see what should be a Christmas spectacle pass by. We hope that this will bring a smile to the faces of young, old and everyone in between and will help lift spirits in the run up to Christmas.

In order to ensure that Covid-19 rules are adhered to, we encourage you to avoid gathering at the start or end of the event and to only have participants from the same household within each road legal vehicle.

We have a standard risk assessment available on request and encourage you to take part (even if with just a couple of vehicles) to help raise spirits and to help us raise awareness of the DPJ Foundation's work in relation to Mental Health. It is up to you whether you choose to raise funds for us, another charity or whether to hold the event to raise awareness. However, we hope that you will help us create a network of events across the whole of Wales across a single weekend.

We are already aware of events that are taking place in Pembrokeshire, Glamorgan, Brecon and Penllyn so if you would like more information about one of these or to register your event please contact Kate Miles on kate@thedpjfoundation.co.uk or 07984 169652.

The DPJ Foundation operates a completely confidential 24 hour call line "Share the Load". We also provide fully funded professional counselling within a week of your initial call. Our telephone number is 0800 587 4262.

If you didn't make it to our All Wales Mental Health conference you can catch up with the sessions on our social media platforms and the members section of our website - www.fuw.org.uk

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Promoting positive discussions around mental health is essential for our industry

by Jude McCann, CEO, Farming Community Network

THIS winter period national rural charity The Farming Community Network (FCN) is encouraging those in the industry not to suffer in silence when things get tough - and to openly talk about what's on your mind.

With the many changes to Welsh and English farming expected in the coming months and years, there's certainly a lot to talk about. Knowing someone is available who can listen, and that your voice is being heard, can make a big difference and help us blow off steam.

FCN is a charity operating throughout Wales and England, with over 400 volunteers, many of whom are from farming families and understand farming pressures. FCN's volunteers are available to talk via our Helpline (03000 111 999) or email, for those who prefer to put their thoughts into words (help@fcn.org.uk).

Our support is free, confidential and non-judgemental - and we will walk with you through issues big or small. Through our 25 years as a charity, we have helped thousands of farming families facing a wide range of challenges.

Much has been said about growing mental health concerns in farming, exacerbated this year by Covid-19, preparing for Brexit and stress caused by poor and unpredictable weather across the UK. FCN has seen an increase this year in mental health-related calls to our support Helpline - indeed, mental health issues, including heightened levels of stress and anxiety, are now the main factor in cases presenting to FCN. This shift is noticeable and shows a growing need to support the farming community with concerns around mental health.

As an industry we must do everything we can to continue to promote positive discussions around mental health and to reduce stigma. Too much negativity and doom-and-gloom can be counter-productive and may put people off from wanting to talk. Thankfully, in October, World Mental Health Day and Ag Mental Health Week saw many organisations and charities



Jude McCann.

come together to share real-life stories from members of the farming community, who bravely opened up about some of the hardships they have experienced in an effort to create an open dialogue. These sorts of campaigns remind us that talking about mental health is not a weakness.

It can be hard to admit when we're struggling. Many of us are prideful people with a lot of responsibilities on our shoulders and we don't want people's perception of us to change. FCN provides a useful service - contacting us is confidential and our volunteers are available 7am-11pm every day of the year, to help you should you need that extra assistance or simply just someone to have a chat with.

Admitting when we need help and seeking support to overcome adversity is a sign of strength. As an industry, we must continue to promote positive discussions around mental health and take a joined up approach in tackling stigma.

Online wellbeing platform

IN October, RABI launched a new online wellbeing platform across England and Wales in order to provide free and confidential access to online counselling and support. The initiative features two distinct sites - Qwell.io/rabi for adults and Kooth.com/rabi for young people aged 11-17.

Users will be able to anonymously access farmer specific and more generic content, as well as a wealth of discussion boards, case studies and messaging functions.

There are many tools, such as a journal to record and track progress against personal goals, as well as tips and articles. In addition, all users can access one-to-one counselling support from BACP recognised, qualified professionals through a chat function. The practitioners are trained in different forms of counselling, allowing them to meet individual needs and preferences.

Katie Davies, Wales YFC Chair, explains why she feels this new service is important: "It's reassuring to know there's a safe space for farmers to visit. Anyone struggling with wellbeing issues will find a supportive community - so you need never feel alone. Having trailed the platform with other YFC members we all agreed that it was easy to use, whilst also having a wealth of resources and blogs (on mental health and issues in the agricultural industry) available for those that need it.

"It has the option of being as anonymous as the user wishes, allowing them to choose their own name and use as much or as little of the platform as they want. This is important to those in the agricultural industry or our organisation who may want support but don't know where to turn and are worried about talking to someone.

"Mental health has come to the fore as a concern in our industry over the past few years, by providing support 24/7 and 365 days a year, this platform is a vital tool to help. As an industry we are aware that isolation and mental health issues have increased during Covid-19, this platform will be a way for those isolated to be connected and access support whenever they need and whoever they may be." More information: rabi.org.uk

Samaritans: 116 123 or
Welsh Language Line (Llinell
Cymraeg): 0808 164 0123

SAMARITANS

DPJ Foundation:
Call 0800 587 4262 /
Text 07860 048799

**THE
DPJ FOUNDATION**

Mind Cymru: 0300 123
3393 / info@mind.org.uk /
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Welsh Leg of Lamb with Gin and Cranberries

by Elwen Roberts, Hybu Cig Cymru Consumer Executive

THIS year many people are saying they are going to buy a smaller turkey or look at cooking something else for Christmas, but why not have both! This is what I'm going to do - in our house it wouldn't be Christmas without a turkey therefore I'm going to buy a turkey crown and also cook an amazing leg of PGI Welsh lamb to serve on the day.

This recipe is easy to prepare and you can prepare the stuffed onions a day in advance so that they're ready just to pop into the oven when the lamb is cooking. The leg is just roasted and basted with ingredients that I'm sure most of us will have in the house at Christmas - Cranberry sauce and Gin! These compliment the flavour of the meat beautifully. We like to eat the leftover turkey just sliced in sandwiches and I'll make a lovely festive curry or stew with the leftover lamb.

There are some great recipe ideas on eatwelshlambandbeef.com

Ingredients

- 1 PGI Welsh Lamb leg joint, allow 175-350g per person
- 450g sausages, slit skins and remove meat
- 6 tbsp gin
- 3 tbsp cranberry sauce
- 4 small red onions
- 1 tsp butter
- 2 sprigs of fresh rosemary

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C / 160°C fan / Gas 4-5. Weigh the joint and calculate the cooking time: medium - 25 minutes per 450g / 500g plus 25 minutes or well done - 30 minutes per 450g / 500g plus 30 minutes.
2. Line a roasting pan with two sheets of foil and place the lamb leg onto the foil. Mix together the gin and cranberry sauce and spoon this over the lamb.
3. Scrunch the foil around the joint but leave the top exposed. Place in the oven and baste occasionally during cooking.
4. Cut the onions in half horizontally (stalk at top) and using a spoon scoop out some of the layers leaving 2-3 in the shell.
5. Roughly chop the removed onion. In a pan heat butter and lightly fry the onion. Remove from heat and allow to cool slightly. Add the rosemary and sausage meat and combine together.
6. Take a handful of mixture and stuff into onion shells. Prop up around the joint, drizzle with a little olive oil and cook for the last 40-50 minutes until onions are soft and fully golden. Rest the joint for about 15 minutes before carving.



FUW member elected President



ON Saturday November 14 The North Country Cheviot Sheep Society held its 75th AGM - the first time in a virtual meeting format and also celebrated FUW member Melfyn Williams, (pictured left), from Brynysencyn, Anglesey (Pengroes flock) being elected as the first Welshman to be President of the 500 plus strong membership.

Originally due to be held on the new presidents home ground on the Isle of Anglesey, North Wales - current Covid-19 restrictions diverted planned events online. While the North Country Cheviot first arrived at Pengroes around 1970; initially used to cross onto the Welsh ewe it was 40 years

ago in 1980 that the NCC flock was established by Melfyn's father John Huw Williams. Huw remains involved while Melfyn has taken over the day-to-day running of the flock comprising now of both pure bred park and hill types.

Pengroes has over the years been consistent in the sale and show ring scooping many breed titles with a couple of the highlights being the first northies flock to win an interbreed title at the Royal Welsh Show and son Joe winning the young handler championship at the Royal Highland Show in 2012.

Melfyn remarked that that he could not over emphasis how fantastic the people within the Society are: helpful to new entrants; enthusiastic about the breed; and very hospitable. He looks forward to working with the council, to continue the promotion of the breed as it maintains its growth in popularity stating we should stay true to the attributes which have made the Northie a success, remembering at the end of the day, it is a hill breed.

Melfyn, who is also an auctioneer & chartered surveyor believes the true advantage of the North Country Cheviot is the distinct two types that should allow this outstanding animal to thrive for its owner in different areas and on different land quality. Working alongside Melfyn in the Vice-President role will be Robert MacDonald, Robert lives near in Grantown-on-Spey and has been involved with the Society with his Castle Grant flock of Hill North Country Cheviots since 1982.

Retiring president George Cormack commented on the hard work of all the Auction Companies and their staff throughout the year but especially over the autumn sales period, it had been no easy task to get the balance right, ensuring a safe environment for vendors, buyers and their staff but they have all more than rose to the challenge and should be appreciated for this.

The Society is delighted to have launched a mobile first new version of their website, which the Society hopes will encourage people to take a look and learn what they can about the breeds history, different types and also the Society itself www.nc-cheviot.co.uk

“Helpful to new entrants; enthusiastic about the breed; and very hospitable” - Melfyn's view on the Society.

The digital divide in rural areas

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

GLOBALLY internet access is increasingly viewed as a necessity for all, rather than a commodity. In the UK, despite government-led plans supplying 96% of households with wired internet, 1.1 million households still lack broadband access to their homes.

This issue is proportionally higher within rural areas as opposed to urban and suburban locales, causing inequality to residents and rural businesses. Within agriculture, more services are being offered via online platforms, including; information and application processes for grants, documentation of livestock births and movements and other forms of farm paperwork. In some instances, lacking the ability to fill forms out online is also met with financial penalties through increased administration costs.

Furthermore, online sales and marketplaces offer additional routes for farmers to profit from their products. Whilst technologies in agriculture in the form of management apps and various internet of things (IoT) enabled devices and sensors are able to provide many farmers with productivity gains, which without internet access, others may be unfairly barred from achieving.

Alternative strategies to internet access in the more remote rural areas can include utilising mobile internet coverage via 4G, however, even then, up to 8% of the landmass lacks coverage within Wales



across all networks. Whilst 5G has been heavily discussed as the future for mobile broadband, its focus is based on higher speeds rather than increasing UK wide coverage, as such, it will be unlikely to benefit rural communities or farmers.

Other alternatives for mobile broadband involve changing current 4G mast frequencies to boost distances covered whilst reducing speeds and strategically building masts to cover mobile dead zones, though currently there is no suggestion of government support to achieve this.

Others have taken advantage of the government's broadband access grants to develop community broadband-based initiatives or to construct satellite broadband infrastructure, however, the first requires significantly high commitment within the community to be successful and the second is limited by currently disproportionately costly package deals and lower internet speeds than traditional broadband.

Whilst projects such as Farming Connect's Wales-wide LoRaWAN gateway installation can assist in giving rural farmers access to the benefits of newer technologies, such systems tend to have a higher impact when integrated

with direct internet access. For rural and agricultural communities to have equal access to opportunities provided by the internet more support and consideration needs to be provided by local governments.



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ANGLESEY

Clefyd Coed Ynn

Ar nos Iau 19eg o Dachwedd cynhaliwyd cyfarfod hynod ddifyr ac addysgol gan ein gŵr gwadd, Mr Jacob Milner, Cydlynnydd Clefyd Coed Ynn, Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn. Cafwyd cyfle i ddysgu mwy am hanes yr afiechyd a sut i adnabod yr arwyddion.

Pwysleisiwyd y cyfrifoldeb sydd ar dir feddiannwyr i ddelio gyda choed heintiedig sy'n peri peryg i ddiogelwch y cyhoedd ar dramwyon cyhoeddus, gan gynnwys llwybrau cyhoeddus sy'n rhedeg drwy eu tir, a hynny o fewn mis o dderbyn hysbysiad gan yr Awdurdod Lleol. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiynau neu bryderon am yr afiechyd hwn peidiwch oedi cyn cysylltu â ni am wybodaeth bellach.

On Thursday November 19 our guest speaker, Mr Jacob Milner, Ash Tree Disease Co-ordinator, Isle of Anglesey County Council, held a very interesting and educational meeting. There was an opportunity to learn more about the disease and how to recognise the signs. It was emphasised that, within one month of receiving notification from the Local Authority, it is the landowners responsibility to deal with infected trees that pose a risk to public safety on public rights of way, including public footpaths running through their land. If you have any questions or concerns about this disease please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

CFFl Ynys Môn

Cyn y cyfnod clo, cafodd y mudiad ei enwebu ar gyfer Gwobr y Gymraeg mewn Gwaith Ieuenctid yng Ngwobrau Rhagoriaeth Gwaith Ieuenctid am drefnu Eisteddfod Môn nôl ym mis Mai 2019.

Aeth y mudiad ati i ymgymryd â'r her ar ôl derbyn y cynnig gan Lys yr Eisteddfod.

Roeddent wedi gwirioni'n lân i gael gwybod ei bod nhw nid yn unig wedi cael ei gosod yn y tri uchaf ond wedi ennill y wobwr hefyd!

Before lockdown, the organisation was nominated for the Welsh Language Youth Work Award at the Youth Work Excellence Awards for organising the Anglesey Eisteddfod back in May 2019. The organisation took on the challenge after accepting the offer from Llys yr Eisteddfod. They were absolutely delighted to find out that they were not only placed in the top three but had also won the award!

Cyfarchion yr Wyl

Anodd yw coelio bod blwyddyn arall yn dirwyn i ben, a honno yn flwyddyn ble newidiwyd ein bywydau mewn ffyrdd na ddychmygwyd oedd yn bosib. Ar ran holl dîm UAC, Sir Fôn diolchwn i chi fel aelodau am eich cefnogaeth a chydweithrediad parhaol drwy gydol y flwyddyn heriol hon. Gan ddymuno Nadolig Llawen iawn i chi a'ch teuluoedd a mawr obeithio am Flwyddyn Newydd lewyrchus a diogel. Cadwch yn saff.

It's hard to believe that another year is coming to an end, one that has changed our lives in unimaginable ways. On behalf of the Anglesey FUW team, we thank you as members for your continued support and co-operation throughout this challenging year. Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and hope for a prosperous and safe New Year. Stay safe.

01286 672541

caernarfon@fuw.org.uk

CAERNARFON

Trafod gyda Dafydd Elis-Thomas

Cafodd y Cadeirydd, yr Is-gadeirydd a Llywydd Cenedlaethol yr Undeb gyfarfod difyr gyda Dafydd Elis-Thomas yn ddiweddar i drafod materion sy'n poeni'r diwydiant ar hyn o bryd. Trafodwyd dogfen ymgynghorol ddiweddaraf Llywodraeth Cymru ar ddyfodol cymorthdaliadau i'r diwydiant amaeth.

Mynegwyd pryder am ddiffyg cytundeb i sefydlu Fframwaith ar gyfer y Deyrnas Unedig ar gyfer cynorthwyo'r diwydiant yn dilyn gadael Ewrop, yn ogystal â chyfeirio Dafydd Elis-Thomas at y problemau tebygol, yn bennaf i'r sector defaid yng Nghymru os na fydd San Steffan yn dod i gytundeb masnachu gydag Ewrop.

Cyn dod â'r cyfarfod i ben trafodwyd y rheolau newydd arfaethedig ar gyfer rheoli tail a slyri y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ystyried eu cyflwyno, a sut fydd y rheolau hynny yn gwbl anymarferol, ac o bosib yn fwy o fgythiad i'r amgylchedd, a hefyd y bygythiad gan rai i geisio ail gyflwyno'r Eryr i Eryri.

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and National President of the Union recently had an interesting meeting with Dafydd Elis-Thomas to discuss issues that currently concern the industry. The Welsh Government's latest consultation document on the future of the agricultural industry subsidies was discussed. Concern was expressed at the lack of agreement to establish a UK Framework to support the industry after leaving Europe, as well as

referring Dafydd Elis-Thomas to the likely problems, mainly for the sheep sector in Wales if Westminster does not reach a trade agreement with Europe. Before the meeting ended we discussed the proposed new rules for manure and slurry management that the Welsh Government is considering introducing, and how those rules will be completely impractical, and potentially more of a threat to the environment, and also the threat from some to try to reintroduce the Eagle to Snowdonia.

Cyfarfod Blynyddol

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Blynyddol Cangen Sir Gaernarfon dros Zoom ar nos Iau 10fed o Ragfyr am 7.30yh gyda Bryn Edmunds o HSBC, a 3 Aelod o Senedd Cymru sef Jeremy Miles, Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Pontio Ewropëaidd, Llyr Huws Gruffydd a Janet Finch-Saunders. Os hoffech ymuno â'r cyfarfod, cysylltwch gyda'r Swyddfa Sirol.

The Caernarfonshire Branch will be holding its AGM on Thursday evening, December 10 at 7.30pm via Zoom with guest speakers Bryn Edmunds from HSBC, and 3 Members of the Senedd, Jeremy Miles Counsel General and Minister for European Transition, Llyr Huws Gruffydd and Janet Finch-Saunders. If you'd like to join the meeting please contact the County Office.

01982 554030

breconandradnor@fuw.org.uk

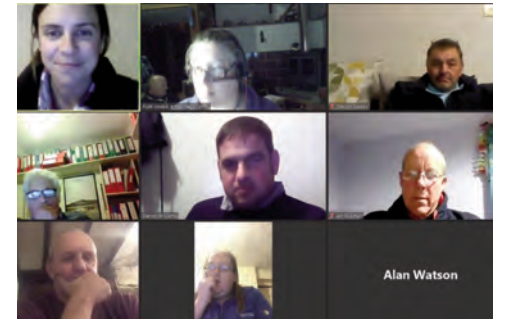
BRECON & RADNOR

Successful monthly meeting

At our November County Executive meeting members were treated to a presentation from Teleri Fielden, FUW Policy Officer, on her National Trust/Wales YFC scholarship at Llyndy Isaf and her plans for the future. The meeting continued with members discussing an amendment to Union Rules, then receiving updates from the President and the CEO.

Our Executive meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, via Zoom, and all Brecon & Radnor FUW members are invited to attend, a link is sent via email on the last Tuesday of the month before so please check your junk mail.

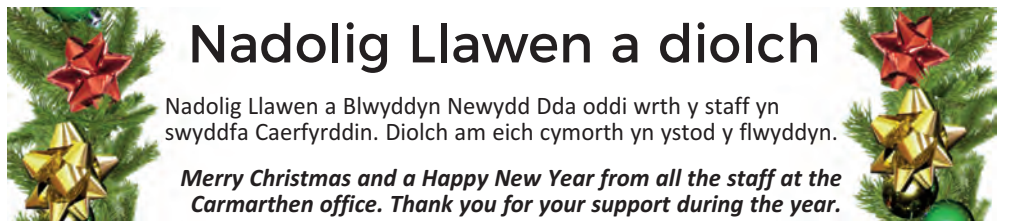
We are hoping to have a representative from RDP Law in January to discuss wills, succession planning and probate.



01267 237974

carmarthen@fuw.org.uk

CARMARTHEN



Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda oddi wrth y staff yn swyddfa Caerfyrddin. Diolch am eich cymorth yn ystod y flwyddyn.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the staff at the Carmarthen office. Thank you for your support during the year.

01570 424515

ceredigion@fuw.org.uk

CEREDIGION

Menter newydd i fferm Pantfeillionen

Deunaw mis yn ôl, cychwynnodd Lyn a Lowri Thomas ar fenter newydd yn gwerthu llaeth crai o'u fferm, Pantfeillionen, ger Llandysul, Ceredigion.

Sefydlwyd Llaeth Meillionen Milk mewn ymateb i gais gan gymdigion i'w cyflenwi â llaeth crai. Fferm gymharol fychan ydy Pantfeillionen yn godro 65 o wartheg croesfrid Coch a Gwyn Sweden, Friesian Prydeinig a Holstein ac yn magu nifer fach o wartheg biff.

Mae lleoliad diarffordd y fferm yn golygu bod hi'n anodd apelio at gwsmeriaid sy'n pasio, felly mae'r pâr yn gwerthu'r llaeth i archebion mewn poteli gwyrdd 1 litr sy'n cael eu dychwelyd i'w golchi a'u sterilieiddio.

Mae'r busnes erbyn hyn yn gwerthu oddeutu 1,000 litr y mis yn uniongyrchol i'r cwsmeriaid sy'n casglu tair gwaith yr wythnos o'r fferm, ac mae gwerthiant yn parhau i gynyddu.

Oherwydd nad ydy'r llaeth wedi ei basteureiddio mae cyfyngiadau ar ei werthu. Rhaid bod rhybudd iechyd yn cael ei arddangos ar bob potel ac mae'r pâr yn angerddol dros gynhyrchu llaeth glân o'r ansawdd gorau, sy'n cael ei brofi'n rheolaidd ganddynt eu hunain yn ogystal â'r Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd.

Am fwy o wybodaeth mae croeso i chi gysylltu ar y ffôn ar 01559 363297 neu drwy eu tudalen Facebook @llaethmeillionenmilk

Mae'r gefnogaeth wedi bod yn aruthrol a hoffai Lyn a Lowri ddiolch o waelod calon i bawb sydd yn eu cefnogi.



Eighteen months ago, Lyn and Lowri Thomas embarked on a new business venture selling raw milk from their farm, Pantfeillionen, near Llandysul, Ceredigion. Llaeth Meillionen Milk was established in response to a request from neighbours to supply them with raw milk.

Pantfeillionen is a relatively small farm milking 65 crossbred Swedish Red and White, British Friesian and Holstein cows along side a small number of beef cows. The farm's location off the main road means that appealing to passing trade would be difficult and so the pair sell the milk to order in 1 litre glass bottles that are returned for cleaning and sterilising. The business now sells approximately 1,000 litres a month direct to customers who collect up to three times a week from the farm with sales continuing to rise. As the milk is not pasteurised there are restrictions to sales. Bottles must display a health warning and the pair are passionate about producing clean milk of excellent quality which is subject to their own rigorous testing regime in addition to that of the Food Standards Agency. For more information you are welcome to get in touch by phone on 01559 363297 or via their Facebook page @llaethmeillionenmilk Support has been phenomenal and Lyn and Lowri would like to thank everyone wholeheartedly for supporting them.

Clwb 200

71: Lewis, Bronwydd	25: Roberts, Gelli Deg
134: Jones Maes y Môr	45: Jones, Frongoch
118: Lewis, Gorsaf Dawel	145: Williams, Bayllau

01446 774838 glamorgan@fuw.org.uk
GLAMORGAN

County Executive meeting

Guest speakers at our County Executive meeting held on November 17 were Brian Rees who provided a Farm Safety presentation and Keith Owen from KeBek who provided a question and answer session on the Farm Business Grant - Yard Coverings Scheme. Thank you to both speakers for joining us.



Brian Rees.



Keith Owen.

01873 853280 gwent@fuw.org.uk
GWENT

Members concerned about crime rates

Gwent members have raised their concern about the continuing high level of rural crime within the county.

There appears to be several hotspots, which criminals seem to be targeting, with thefts of Tractors, machinery and small tools occurring on a regular basis.

The county has written to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, expressing their discomfort about the increase in crime, and the impact it is having on members.

Members are urged to report any suspicious, vehicles or incidents to the rural crime team at Gwent police. They have emphasised the importance of reporting every incident, however trivial it may seem, as the information can be used to build a strong case against any suspect.

01686 626889 montgomeryshire@fuw.org.uk
MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Cyfarchion y tymor

Ar ran holl staff y sir, carem ddiolch i chi fel aelodau am eich cydweithrediad ac amynedd yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Gyda chyfarchion y tymor.

On behalf of all county staff, we wish to thank you for your co-operation and patience during the year. With season's greetings.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Rhian and John Jones, Rhos y Gerddi, Llanbryn-mair on the birth of their baby daughter - Beatrice Mary Jones, who was born on October 15 2020.

01437 762913 pembrookshire@fuw.org.uk
PEMBROKESHIRE

200 Club+ Winners



October	November
£25 - Vaughan, Gwel Y Deri	£25 - Thomas, Lodor Fach
£10 - Hart, Longford House	£10 - Griffiths, Penlan
£10 - Young, Upper Bastleford	£10 - John, Dolbetws

If you would like to be in with the chance of winning one of three monthly prizes and are not yet signed up to our 200+ Club, please contact the county office for further information.

01341 422298 meirionnydd@fuw.org.uk
MEIRIONNYDD

Pwyllgor Sirol

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod o Bwyllgor Sirol y gangen ynghanol mis Tachwedd drwy gyfrwng Zoom, a daeth nifer fawr ymlaen i'r cyfarfod. Roedd gennym 3 o siaradwyr gwadd yn bresennol, a dechreuwyd y cyfarfod gyda chyflwyniad byr gan Iwan Jones, un o gyfarwyddwyr yr Undeb sydd ar y Bwrdd Rheoli. Cyfeiriodd at un newid oedd yn cael ei argymhell i reolau'r Undeb, ac yna aethpwyd ymlaen i sôn am amrywiol faterion eraill yn gysylltiedig â gwaith Bwrdd Rheoli'r Undeb.

Yna, croesawyd Elfed Wyn Jones, Hafodwen, Trawsfynydd, a oedd gyda ni yn benodol i sôn am ei brosiect newydd 'Gwlân Gwynedd a Môn'. Teimlai fod angen cymryd mantais o beth sydd gennym fel amaethwyr, a chael gwell system o brisiau. Gall unrhyw un gysylltu gydag Elfed ar eliwyn123@gmail.com

Yn olaf, croesawyd Delyth Fon Owen, swyddog cyswllt a chydlynnydd i'r elusen Tir Dewi. Amlinellodd y gwasanaethau a gynigir ganddynt i amaethwyr. Roedd yn awyddus i gael cymorth yr Undeb i gael y gair allan am eu gwasanaethau, a hefyd yn gwahodd gwirfoddolwyr i'w cynorthwyo. Gall unrhyw un gysylltu â hi ar delyth@tirdewi.co.uk

A branch County Executive meeting was held in mid-November via Zoom, and was well attended. We had 3 guest speakers present, and the meeting began with a brief introduction from Iwan Jones, one of the Union's directors on the Management Board. We then welcomed Elfed Wyn Jones, Hafodwen, Trawsfynydd, who was with us specifically to talk about his new project 'Gwlân Gwynedd a Môn'. He felt that we needed to take advantage of what we have as farmers, and get a better price system. Finally, we welcomed Delyth Fon Owen, liaison officer and co-ordinator for the Tir Dewi charity, she invited volunteers to assist them. Anyone can contact her at delyth@tirdewi.co.uk

Ffenestr y swyddfa



Ein ffenestr yn swyddfa'r Undeb yn Nolgellau wedi'i addurno ar y thema gwlan. Diolch yn fawr iawn i Haf Puw am ei gwaith yn y cyswllt yma.

The Dolgellau FUW office window decorated on the theme of wool. Many thanks to Haf Puw for undertaking the work.

Hywel Dda University Health Board - Pharmacy Services

Hywel Dda University Health Board is undertaking a survey of the residents of Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire to obtain their views on pharmacy services in their community to help shape the future of the service. The survey can be accessed at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KX6PT89 and is open for responses until 13 December 2020.

Glastir Advanced Capital Works

If you have a Glastir Advanced contract you need to ensure that you have completed all of your 2020 capital works by 31 December 2020. If there are extenuating circumstances as to

why you are unable to comply with the deadline you need to notify these, in writing, to RPW as soon as possible for them to consider whether a derogation can be applied.

Upcoming EOI window details

Scheme	Summary	Window closes
Farm Business Grant - Yard Coverings	The Farm Business Grant Yard Coverings scheme seeks to support farmers to improve their current infrastructure for yard coverings - covering feeding areas, slurry pits, silage stores etc - where rainwater can be separated. The scheme will have two windows and offer support of between £3,000 and £12,000. Local FUW County Executive Officers will be able to explain the scheme requirements to members. FUW staff will not be able to complete the Expression of Interest on behalf of members due to the technical requirements. Further information and guidance is available on the Welsh Government website.	18 December 2020 (£1.5 million)
Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC)	The 10th Expression of Interest window is now open for the GWC scheme with a budget of £9 million. The scheme provides financial support for capital works including planting, fencing and in certain circumstances, annual maintenance and premium payments. You must contact a registered planner to discuss your proposals and they must then complete and submit an EOI on your behalf. The land put forward to be planted must be registered with the Rural Payment Wales Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) and be under your full management control.	15 January 2021

Thank you for your continued support throughout 2020

Diolch am eich cefnogaeth barhaol trwy gydol 2020

Merry Christmas Nadolig Plawen

FUW teams across Wales are on break from Wednesday 23rd December and welcome enquiries from Monday 4th January 2021 via phone and email.

Mae timau FUW ledled Cymru yn cymryd seibiant o ddydd Mercher 23^{ain} o Ragfyr ac yn croesawu ymholiadau o ddydd Llun 4^{ydd} o Ionawr 2021 dros y ffôn ac e-bost.



Work at height: preventing falls

FALLS are the second highest cause of death in agriculture - every year at least eight people die falling from a height. Those who survive suffer broken bones and worse.

Falls often happen from roofs, lofts, ladders, vehicles, bale stacks, and unsuitable access equipment, such as buckets. These accidents and injuries cause you pain and cost your farm time and money. Most fall injuries can be avoided.

The law says you need to follow these rules in this order:

- avoid work at height where you can; and if not
- use work equipment or measures to prevent falls; and if not
- use work equipment that minimises the distance and consequences of a fall.

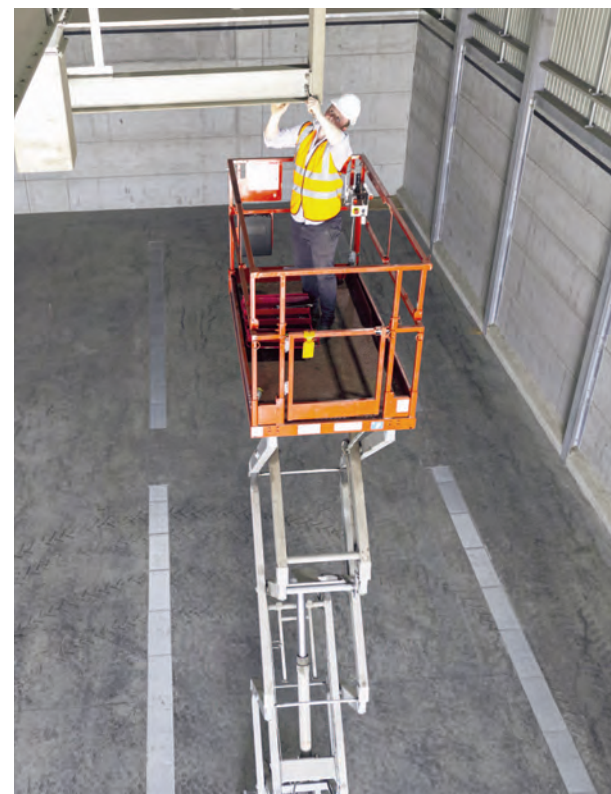


Working on roofs

- Most types of fibre cement roofs will be fragile.
- Roof lights will often also be fragile.
- No one must ever work on or from, or walk over, fragile roofs unless platforms, covers or similar are provided which will adequately support their weight.
- Always consider first whether it is really necessary to access the roof.
- Does the work need to be done, or could it be done in some other way, such as from below or from an integrated work platform?

If you, your employees or contractors do need access roofs for any reason then always:

- Plan the work.
- Set aside enough time to do the work.
- Take account of weather conditions such as light levels, ice, wind and rain.
- Make sure everyone knows the precautions to be followed when working at height.
- Fix a prominent permanent warning notice at the approach to any fragile roof.
- Never walk on fragile materials such as asbestos or other fibre cement sheet, roof lights or glass.
- Roof lights and glass may have been painted over.
- Never 'walk the purlins' or 'walk the line of the bolts'.
- Roof ladders or crawling boards must span at least three purlins. They should be at least 600mm wide and more when the work requires it.
- Don't use a pair of boards to 'leapfrog' across a fragile roof, but provide enough boards.
- Take precautions to prevent a person falling from the ladder or board. Use edge protection or safety harnesses, or safety netting where this is not feasible. Take specialised advice.
- Roof ladders must be securely placed, with the anchorage bearing on the opposite side of the roof. Never use gutters to support any ladder.



Work platforms on fork-lift trucks

- If you need to raise people above the ground, eg for building maintenance, use properly designed work platforms rather than ladders.
- Never use grain buckets, pallets, or other makeshift equipment. Serious injuries and death have resulted from buckets tipping accidentally.
- For planned or regular work at height, you should use a fully integrated and properly constructed working platform.

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

Mae BVD yn glefyd costus a all achosi erthyliad, anffrwythlondeb, anffurfiadau lloi ac iechyd gwael ar fuches.

Gofynnwch i'ch milfeddyg sgrinio'ch buches am ddim trwy raglen Gwaredu BVD.

Mae cymorth ychwanegol lan at £1,000 (+TAW) ar gael i ddod o hyd i anifeiliaid sydd wedi'u heintio'n barhaus (PI's).

BVD is a costly disease that can cause abortion, infertility, deformed calves and poor herd health.

Ask your vet to screen your herd for free through Gwaredu BVD.

Additional support of up to £1,000 (+VAT) is available to identify persistently infected (PI) animals.



ahww.cymru

01554 748 576

Gwaredu **BVD**

MEAT MATTERS

Consumers urged to share their Christmas cheer locally

by Rhys Llywelyn, HCC Marketing Manager

HCC is launching the latest phase of its 2020 campaigns to promote Welsh red meat, with a push over social and digital media to support local red meat producers and butchers across Wales over the festive season.

Campaigns have proved successful this year by adapting to people's changing shopping and cooking patterns during COVID restrictions. The aim has been to inspire people to cook new recipes with red meat at home, with top chefs enlisted to produce new recipe videos which have been promoted over a range of media.

Results from campaigns earlier in the year, for instance, proved that digital activities around Love Lamb Week were highly successful resulting in a 172% growth in impressions and a whopping 1,025% growth in video views year on year. A spike in visits to the Eatwelshlambandbeef.com website was also experienced with 36% more hits during the campaign period and visitors spending on average a longer period of time on the website.

This activity has helped bring a significant boost of between 15-20% in sales of lamb and beef across all types of shops over the summer and autumn. We've seen particularly strong growth in demand for steaks and roasting joints, and an encouraging jump in sales to families with children.

The new campaign will be working with top foodie influencers to get the message across through a new collection of recipe videos, and new material available through members of HCC's Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef Butchers' Club.

The campaign is aiming to keep the loyalty to high street butchers from this year after they have seen a large increase in fresh lamb sales. Over the summer, purchases were 45.5% higher than last

year according to retail research specialists Kantar Worldpanel.

In the current climate it is more important than ever to support local and independent producers and create a strong circular economy in Wales. At the same time consumers can be assured they are getting a quality product, that has low food miles and has been sustainably produced under the highest welfare standards.

Welsh Lamb, Welsh Beef and Porc from Wales is produced through the hard work and dedication of the whole supply chain from the family farms all over Wales that have been guardians of the land for hundreds of years to the family butchers that have been a staple of our communities for generations.

Mae HCC yn lansio cam diweddaraf ei ymgyrchoedd i hyrwyddo cig coch Cymru yn 2020, wrth ymgyrchu dros y cyfryngau cymdeithasol a digidol i gefnogi cynhyrchwyr a chigyddion cig coch lleol ledled Cymru dros yr Ŵyl. Bu ymgyrchoedd llwyddiannus eleni wrth i bobl addasu patrymau siopa a choginio yn ystod cyfyngiadau COVID. Y nod oedd ysbrydoli pobl i goginio ryseitiau newydd gyda chig coch gartref, gyda'r cogyddion gorau yn cynhyrchu fideos o ryseitiau newydd sydd wedi'u hyrwyddo dros ystod eang o gyfryngau.



PROPERTY MATTERS

Be aware of the risks and liabilities of farm trees

by Edward Page, Associate Director,
Davis Meade Property Consultants

WITH a national policy focused on the benefits that tree planting and tree management bring to ecology, carbon sequestration and water pollution, it is timely to highlight the risks and liabilities that come from our trees.

A farmer's responsibility for the holding's trees can sometimes be considered secondary to the principle areas of risk and liability from the farm. As a general rule, managing a farm's tree risk is best approached with a less and often strategy as such risk can suddenly become an immediate reactive issue without warning.

In the last few years, outbreaks of Phytophthora ramorum in larch, Chalara dieback of ash and acute oak decline have raised the profile of tree diseases in the UK and Wales with the impacts of ramorum disease forcing the clearance of large areas of larch, especially in the South Wales valleys.

So who is responsible for a farm holding's trees?

For owner occupier land managers this would seem straightforward but responsible to whom and for what is certainly not as clear. For an agricultural tenant, rights to timber are often reserved by a landlord but an element of responsibility can be left with the tenant through the wording of the lease.

It is common for a lease to require the tenant to inform the landlord of any item that would fall under the landlord's responsibilities. This is particularly relevant where the landlord or agent haven't inspected the holding for some time.

Where trees are your responsibility to maintain then keeping evidence of regular visual inspections is a good routine to get into. Trees that show signs of hazard, including disease or perhaps their proximity to a building or a public right of way, should be flagged and inspected by an expert who is qualified to undertake hazardous tree surveys.

Farmers must be aware of their liability to all third parties who access and cross the land. I have seen cases where delivery vehicles have made claims against farmers for driving into low reaching branches along the farm lane. I would advise that trees along a public right of way should be inspected or formally surveyed now before the weather worsens. Consider a temporary diversion or use of signage to manage the hazard if a tree presents a risk.

Along with the terms of the tenancy, reviewing the terms of your insurance policy is essential. It might make reference to a specific tree's proximity to a building or road or perhaps stipulate a frequency for tree inspection.

Welsh Government has continued to provide assistance through its subsidy schemes to help landowners tackle diseases in our ash and arch stocks, specially Phytophthora, Xylella and Ash Dieback albeit funding has had to be targeted where it can have the greatest impact.

The Forestry Industry Recovery Scheme closed in October which targeted more commercial forestry operations but I would advise readers to consider the ninth round of Glastir Woodland Restoration Scheme.

This has previously assisted, on a farm scale, the replacement of infected stands of larch to slow down the spread of Phytophthora ramorum. The scheme supports the clearing and replanting of an area with a diverse tree crop to increase resilience and mitigate the spread of disease.

The grant is expected to prioritise applications which lie within the disease limitation zone, by order of largest area first. The disease limitation zone is currently the area in the east and north of Wales where active control measures are still in place. The application window for the Glastir Woodland Restoration Scheme runs from May 18 to June 25, 2021. Contact your local FUW office for a referral to DMPC if further assistance or information is required.

Edward Page, MRICS, can be contacted on: 07496 914731 or email: edwardpage@dmpcuk.com

Yn ystod yr ychydig flynyddoedd diwethaf, mae achosion o Phytophthora Ramorum mewn coed Llarwydd, Gwywiad Coed Ynn a Dirywiad Derw Aciwt wedi codi proffil afiechydon coed yn y DU a Chymru. Cysylltwch ag Edward Page o Davis Meade ar 07496 914731 neu e-bost: edwardpage@dmpcuk.com am ragor o wybodaeth ynglŷn â'ch cyfrifoldebau a hawliau ayyb

MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Mae rhaid bod yn hyderus am y dyfodol

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

MAE cyfnod y Nadolig eleni yn mynd i fod yn gyfle i ddiolch - diolch am deulu, ffrindiau, cymdogion, iechyd a'r holl weithwyr sydd wedi sicrhau fod gennym fwyd, gwres, gwasanaethau iechyd a lluo o anghenion eraill.

Mae'r heriau eleni wedi bod yn eithriadol i nifer o unigolion, sefydliadau, busnesau a chymunedau. Ond mae rhaid bod yn hyderus am y dyfodol, rhaid edrych am y llygedyn o oleuni a rhaid diolch fod gennym gymuned o'm hamgylch.

I mi yn bersonol roedd methu mynychu Ffair Aeaf yn Llanelwedd yn rhywbeth yr oeddwn yn gweld ei gollu yn fawr, ond bu'r ffaith i ni fel mudiad, sy'n elusen, fedru cynnal Ffair Aeaf Rhithwir yn un o uchafbwyntiau'r flwyddyn.

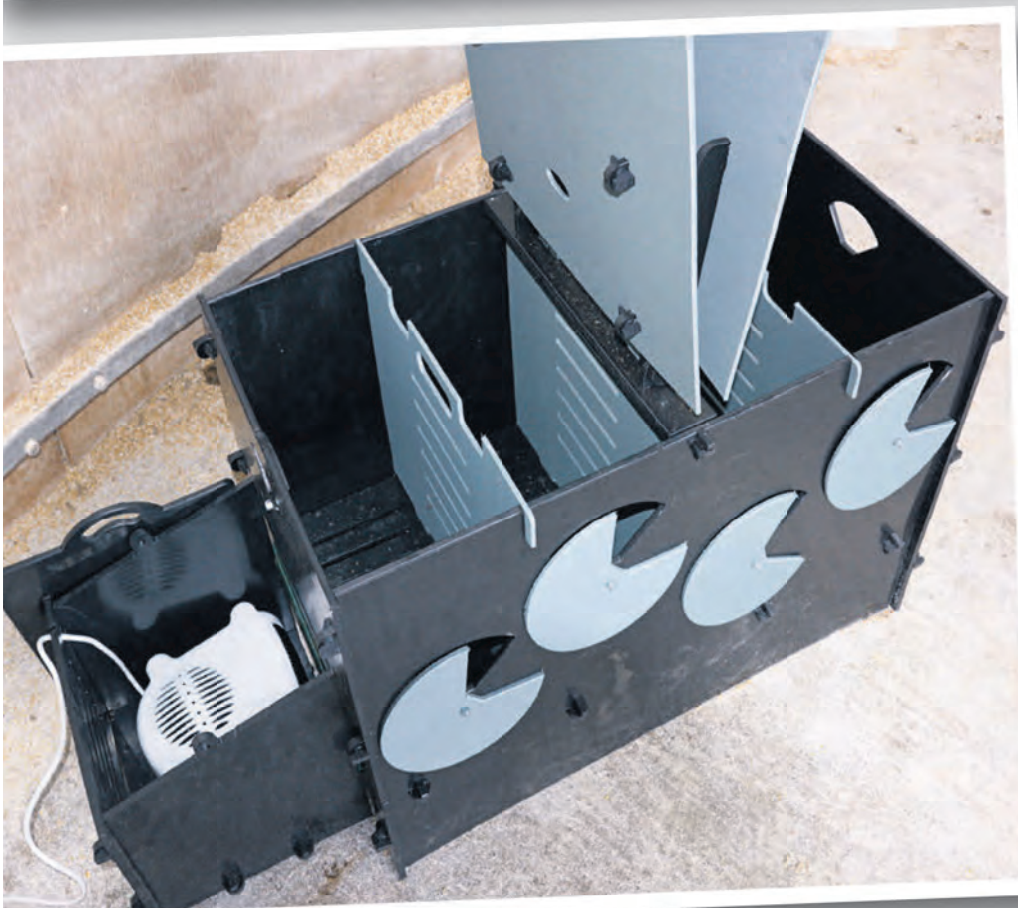
Roedd gweld brwdfrydedd y cystadleuwyr wrth iddynt ddanfod eu ceisiadau ar e-bost neu yn y post yn hyfryd, ac yn golygu ein bod yn medru dod at ein gilydd a chefnogi ein gilydd. Roedd y pum beirniad hefyd yn llawn brwdfrydedd ac roedd yn braf gweld cynifer yn cystadlu.

Mae digwyddiadau niferus yn cael eu cynllunio ar gyfer y flwyddyn newydd gan gynnwys, llawer mwy o hyfforddiant technegol, cyrsiau llenyddol, a digwyddiadau Mentegarwch Merched, gobeithio yn wir fod rhywbeth at ddant pawb.

Dros y misoedd diwethaf mae yna gymaint o amrywiaeth, cynhaliwyd cwis, nosweithiau gan awduron a chreffft, cadw'n heini a nifer o deithiau cerdded wedi ymbellhau yn gymdeithasol ac wrth gwrs fe gyhoeddwyd ein cylchgrawn Y Wawr.

Diolch am gael chwarae rhan fechan yn y darlun mawr o ddigwyddiadau ac edrychaf ymlaen at gael dymuno Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi gyd yn 2021.

This Christmas is going to be an opportunity to say thank you - to be grateful of family, friends, neighbours, health and all the workers who have ensured we have food, heating, health services and a host of other needs. The challenges this year have been exceptional for many individuals, organisations, businesses and communities. But we have to be confident about the future, look for that glimmer of hope and be grateful that we have a community around us.



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SsangYong's LWB Musso does the work-life balance well

by Huw Thomas, Vice Chairman, Welsh Motoring Writers

SSANGYONG'S current Musso dates from 2018. The previous model's payload was up-rated to 1-tonne just prior to that securing light commercial vehicle and VAT-exempt status for business purposes.

Load-bed length however is shorter than its main competitors (see below) although width and depth as good if not better. It can take a full-sized Euro pallet. Now, a range-topping Musso Rhino Long Wheel Base model takes load bed length to a class-leading 1.610m.

Standard Musso (6-speed manual) payload is 1095kg with a braked trailer weight maximum of 3.2t. For the 6-speed auto it's 1085kg but a BTW max of 3.5t. A combined payload-trailer capacity of 4.5t+ (auto) is front rank but the manual is not far behind at (just under) 4.3t.

Rhino LWB payload is up slightly to 1.140kg while BTW max stays at 3.5t. A total load capacity of 4,640kg is impressive. A longer wheel-base should bring a smoother (less 'choppy') ride but these are all substantial vehicles so it's a matter of 'incrementals' here.

Otherwise it's much as for the standard Musso. A separate chassis shared with the Rexton 4x4 means coil rather than semi-elliptic leaf springing for the rear beam axle. Cabin interior too nicely fitted out - front seats comfortable and fair amount of space for those behind. Refinement overall therefore earns high marks.

The engine is smoother and quieter than many a 4-cylinder rival but the autobox can be hesitant sometimes. A manual override switch on the side of the 'stick-shift' is easy and intuitive however. Manual 'box would be better but not offered on the LWB.

Steering is car-like (rack & pinion) and quite direct without being too sensitive off-road; on-road cornering is predictable. LWB ground clearance at 22cm is 5cm higher but wading depth similar at 35cm - neither as high as the competition.

Driveline is conventional: 4-cylinder, 2.2-litre, 181ps Diesel with high and low ratio gearing via transfer box. The 4x4 is part-time: 4x2 rear wheel drive on-road/normal conditions, 4x4HR (snow/ice and off-road) or 4x4LR (with front/rear 50/50 drive lock) for more demanding situations.



SsangYong LWB Musso.

A mechanical diff lock is not offered but electronic traction control is of use with Hill Hold and Hill Descent Controls also standard.

Pity on-road 4x4HR is not part of the package. But this criticism applies to all except Mitsubishi's 'SuperSelect' L200. That aside, with a decent degree of capability and comfort, SsangYong's LWB Musso does the "work-life balance" thing rather well.

Model Range & Competition: 'EX'; 'Rebel'; 'Saracen'*; 'Rhino LWB'*; £21,995-£29,995 (excl VAT). *'Built-in' SatNav standard; All comparably well-equipped. Mitsubishi L200; Isuzu D-Max; Ford Ranger; Toyota Hilux; Nissan Navara.

Facts & Figures: Rhino LWB £29,995; 107mph; 0-62 unquoted (13secs est); 28.2mpg (official); Trip Computer range on test 25-30 ('Avge' 27/28); Road Tax LGV TC39 £265; Ins Grp 42D; Max Towbar load 120kg; Warranty 7-years/150,000 miles.

Kia Sorento: £38,845-£46,945; Grades '2', '3', '4'; Diesel '3' £41,245

Kia's new Sorento arrived late Summer edging further into "premium" territory with yet another step up in fit and finish. A simple three-grade range and two engines: 1.6-litre HEV T-GDi 226bhp mild hybrid electric motor/battery aided petrol 6-speed auto, or 2.2 CRDi 199bhp 8-speed Dual Clutch Diesel. No manual 'box option, sadly.

Diesel ('3' only): 127mph; 0-60, 9.1-secs; 42.2mpg official (combined). Max braked trailer weight is 2,500kg (500kg up on previous model) and tow-ball capacity 100kg - a load-haul ability "usefully more than almost all ... key rivals" it is claimed.

All-wheel-drive standard throughout but the Diesel variant clearly has the best all-round ability. First impressions were good - space (5+2 seats) and pace (torque). More on the Sorento Diesel before long. (A 265ps petrol Plug-in Hybrid will arrive next year.)

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- 13 DEFENDER, 90 HARD TOP, SILVER, LOCAL.
- 06 DEFENDER, TD5 SWB, HARD TOP, NEW MOT, LOCALLY OWNED.

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- 2 DOOR PICKUPS
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CARS & VANS

- 09 VOLVO V50, 2.0D SPORT, IN RED.
- 06 MERCEDES C180 KOMP ELEGANCE SE AUTO, ONE LOCAL OWNER, 31,000 MILES.

OTHER

- 15 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN, SWB, SG2, COMMERCIAL, MANUAL, LOCALLY OWNED.
- 61 HONDA CR-V, 2.2 EX, AUTO, ONE LOCAL OWNER.
- 08 MITSUBISHI ELEGANCE, DI-D 3.2 MANUAL, ONE PRIVATE LADY OWNER, ONLY 35,000 WARRANTED MILES.
- 57 JEEP PATRIOT, LOCAL, LOW MILES, BLUE.
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- 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.
- 16 TIVOLI, 1.6, IN RED, ONE LADY OWNER, FSH, £30 TAX.
- 14 REXTON, W, 2L, ONE LOCAL OWNER, 7 SEATS, LOW MILES.
- 07 REXTON RX 270 SE 5, LOCAL SILVER.

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Use biocides safely. Always read the label and product information before use. Follow the CRRU code of practice for effective results and to reduce the risk to non-target animals and birds.
Can only be supplied to professional users holding certification demonstrating compliance with the CRRU UK Rodenticide Stewardship Regime. E&OE

Available from all Wynnstay stores - 20% off during Dec 2020 and Jan 2021