



YTIR

llais ffermwyr Cymru

the voice of Welsh farming

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Sheep scab eradication - where are we now?

page 9



Did you join us for a Farmhouse Breakfast?

picture special pages 12 & 13



Beth sy'n digwydd yn eich sir chi?

tudalennau 16 - 18

WE LIVE IN A LAND OF PLENTY, PROFICIENCY AND POTENTIAL

"WE need a partnership deal based on commitment, support and sustainability" - that was the call from FUW President Glyn Roberts at the annual farmhouse breakfast event in Cardiff, which was sponsored by Llŷr Gruffydd AM on Tuesday January 21.

Addressing Government Ministers, Assembly Members, industry stakeholders and civil servants, he said: "A new Assembly election is not that far away and our nation is at a crossroads. European membership is over; long-standing trade arrangements are up for grabs and, crucially, fundamental funding is to be redefined.

"With so much at stake, it is essential that we all play a part in healing divisions and encouraging the strongest democratic participation."

Mr Roberts highlighted that Wales' rich network of family farms supports and fuels local communities, pump primes the circular economy and protects and nourishes our special Welsh culture and identity.

Farmers in Wales, he said, are committed to doing everything they can but the Welsh Government had a role to play too.

"Farmers look after our precious landscape for local people and visitors to enjoy every day of the year. Our grass-based, rain refreshed, livestock production system is one of the world's most sustainable.

"Our farmers harness, encourage, replenish and replace the planet's natural resources. Our ewes, lambs and cattle are raised with the highest welfare standards. We work with nature; we produce in harmony with the planet.

"This honest way of providing wholesome food must not be spoken of in the same breath as those intensive farming empires in other parts of the world that readily pillage the environment for profit.

"We need your help to climb above the noise; your help to promote our timeless story, our way of producing and our farming champions."

Addressing the role farmers in Wales are willing to play in producing more than just food, he said: "Our industry can continue to lead the way with the Welsh Government's alternative energy ambitions. Between 2010 and 2017, with Government intervention, renewable energy production in Wales doubled."

Continues on page 2



From left, FUW Insurance Services Ltd. Managing Director Roger Van Praet, FUW Managing Director Alan Davies, Llŷr Gruffydd AM, FUW President Glyn Roberts and Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths AM.

FUW Ltd Annual General Meeting
March 10 2020, 12.30pm
William Davies Conference Suite, IBERS,
Aberystwyth

For all members to receive, consider and adopt the audited financial statements for the period ended March 31 2019, together with the Reports of the Directors and the Auditors thereon, and to appoint/reappoint auditors for the financial year ended March 31 2020

Any other business of which 21 days 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

Grand Council to follow



Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynnyddol FUW Ltd
Mawrth 10 2020, 12.30yp
Ystafell William Davies, IBERS,
Aberystwyth

I bob aelod dderbyn, ystyried a mabwysiadu'r gyfriflen ariannol wedi eu harchwilio ar gyfer y cyfnod a ddiweddir 31ain o Fawrth 2019, ynghyd ac adroddiadau'r Cyfarwyddwyr a'r Archwilwyr, ac i benodi/ail benodi Archwilwyr ar gyfer y cyfnod a ddiweddir Mawrth 31 2020

Unrhyw fusnes arall sydd wedi ei gyflwyno i'r Cyfarwyddwyr gydag o leiaf 21 diwrnod clir o rybudd gan unrhyw aelod sydd â hawl i bleidleisio yn y cyfarfod hwnnw

All unrhyw aelod o'r Undeb fynychu CCB FUW Ltd, ond dim ond aelodau'r Cyngor bydd yn gallu pleidleisio

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Sustainable Farming Scheme is essential

Continued from page 1

But it doesn't end with renewable energy production, Mr Roberts stressed. "Sustainability is not just about our industry's positive contributions to the environmental necessity of combatting climate change.

"We have new opportunities to build a wider, deeper sustainability around the way we live and work, to make a long-lasting, positive change to current and future generations of Welsh citizens.

"Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations Act requires public bodies in Wales to work better with people, communities and each other and to reduce and remove poverty and health inequalities, things that are sadly all too prevalent in rural Wales."

To achieve this, Mr Roberts said the delivery of a Sustainable Farming Scheme was essential.

"We believe such a scheme should link the annual provision of data and compliance with universal scheme rules with a baseline payment, in order to underpin the continued production of safe, high quality food and its associated benefits.

"It must be consistent not only with the Sustainable Land Management principles but also prioritise the wellbeing of our farming families and reduce the stresses that some are forced to live with in Wales."

In a strong message to elected members present, the Union President said: "There are no doubt a few challenges ahead. But a new decade offers new hope and new opportunities. We live in a land of plenty, proficiency and potential.

"I invite you today to make 2020 the year you break out of the Bay Bubble and wake up to resourceful Rural Wales."

Ffermio yng Nghymru yw'r ateb i newid yn yr hinsawdd

MAE gan ffermio yng Nghymru ran fawr i'w chwarae wrth fynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng newid yn yr hinsawdd ac mae ffermwyr yn barod i wneud yn union hynny, meddai Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru.

Ond wrth gyfeirio at gasgliadau allweddol yr adroddiad 'Defnydd Tir: Polisiâu ar gyfer Sero-Net DU' diweddaraf gan y Pwyllgor ar Newid Hinsawdd, rhybuddiodd Llywydd yr Undeb, Glyn Roberts, am beryglon canolbwyntio ar gynhyrchu da byw neu blannu coed yn amhriodol.

"Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn tynnu sylw at rai materion hanfodol, gan gynnwys yr angen am sector cynhyrchu bwyd cryf yn y DU a pheryglon cyflawni gostyngiadau mewn allyriadau yn y DU ar draul cynyddu ein dibyniaeth ar fwyd a fewnforir o wledydd sydd ag olion traed carbon llawer mwy," meddai Mr Roberts

Ar hyn o bryd mae amaethyddiaeth yn gyfrifol am oddeutu 10 y cant o allyriadau'r DU, gyda methan o gynhyrchu da byw yn cyfrannu at ychydig dros hanner y ffigur hwn. Mewn cymhariaeth, trafniadaeth ac ynni yw tua hanner holl allyriadau'r DU.

"Mae hyn yn golygu pe byddem yn rhoi'r gorau i gynhyrchu bwyd yn llwyr yn y DU, byddai 90 y cant o'r broblem yn parhau," meddai Mr Roberts.

"Ni all amaethyddiaeth yn unig ddatrys y broblem fyd-eang ac mae angen i bob un ohonom edrych yn ofalus ar yr hyn yr ydym yn ei fwyta a'i gynhyrchu o ran bwyd, ynni, electroneg, moduro, teithio ac yna addasu.

"Mae ffermwyr yng Nghymru yn chwarae eu rhan, ac fel y cydnabuwyd gan y Pwyllgor, byddai camu ffwrdd o gig coch a gynhyrchir yng Nghymru a'r DU yn cynyddu ôl troed carbon y genedl oherwydd mae gennym rai o'r allyriadau nwyon tŷ gwydr isaf o gig sy'n cael eu magu yn unrhyw le yn y byd."

Dyweddodd Mr Roberts fod y FUW, am y rheswm hwn, yn croesawu'r ffaith bod y Pwyllgor wedi cefnogi ei alwadau am bolisi masnach gadarn ar ôl Brexit sy'n adlewyrchu ôl troed carbon isel cynnyrch y DU.

Wrth sôn am yr alwad i gynyddu gorchudd coedwigaeth y DU o 13 y cant i oleiaf



17 y cant erbyn 2050 trwy blannu tua 30,000 hectar (90 - 120 miliwn o goed) o goetir llydanddail a chonwydd bob blwyddyn, dywedodd Mr Roberts: "Mae ein haelodau yn gwbl gefnogol i blannu coed yn briodol lle nad yw hyn yn tansellio cynhyrchiant fferm a'r amgylchedd, ac yn tynnu sylw at y rhwystrau maent yn wynebu yn rheolaidd wrth geisio plannu coed."

Tynnodd sylw hefyd at rwystredigaethau llawer o aelodau bod eu ceisiadau i blannu coed trwy gynllun Glastir wedi cael eu gwrthod yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf.

"Ond rhaid i ni beidio ag anghofio bod arwynebedd coetir Cymru wedi cynyddu deirgwaith yn y ganrif ddiwethaf, o 5 y cant ym 1919 i oddeutu 15 y cant yn 2016, gyda choetiroedd fferm collddail yn bennaf yn 30 y cant o'r ardal."

Pwysleisiodd Llywydd yr Undeb ymhellach fod profiad dros y ganrif ddiwethaf yn tynnu sylw at ddifrod posib polisiâu sydd â'r nod o gynyddu ardaloedd coetir.

"Mae ailosod tir sy'n cael ei bori gan ddefaid a gwartheg gyda choedwigoedd wedi cael ei gysylltu'n uniongyrchol gan wyddonwyr â cholli cynefinoedd a rhywogaethau mewn cannoedd o enghreifftiau o bob cwr o'r byd, gan gynnwys y DU, felly rhaid osgoi plannu brys ar bob cyfrif."

Pwysleisiodd Mr Roberts hefyd fod defnyddio tir sydd ar hyn o bryd yn cynhyrchu bwyd i wrthweithio cynnydd mewn allyriadau nwyon tŷ gwydr mewn diwydiannau eraill yn fyrbwyll.

"Yn y pum mlynedd hyd at 2018 cynyddodd allyriadau CO2 o gwmnïau hedfan wrth draean, tra bod Airbus wedi rhagweld y byddai nifer yr awyrennau masnachol sydd ar waith yn dyblu i 48,000 o awyrennau ledled y byd erbyn 2038.

"Byddai tansellio ecosystemau a chymunedau gwledig sy'n dibynnu ar gynhyrchu bwyd trwy blannu coed ar dir fferm er mwyn gwrthweithio cynnydd o'r fath yn amlwg yn fyrbwyll iawn," ychwanegodd.

This article is in English on the FUW website: "Farming in Wales is solution to climate change says FUW."

Cardiff breakfast guests told a new decade offers new hope



FUW President Glyn Roberts highlighted the wide range and superb quality of Welsh produce served at the Farmhouse Breakfast, one of those being yoghurt from FUW members Llaeth y Llan, he is pictured with Llŷr Gruffydd AM.



ABOVE LEFT: From left, Minister for Education Kirsty Williams AM; Director RSPB Cymru Katie-Jo Luxton; Procurement Director, Kepak UK Prys Morgan; Presiding Officer Elin Jones AM and Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism Dafydd Elis-Thomas.

ABOVE: From left, Chair Wales YFC Katie Davies; Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales Professor Christianne Glossop; Leader Welsh Conservative Party Paul Davies AM; Non Executive Director, FUW Ltd Nerys Evans and Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language Eluned Morgan AM.

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



We are positively fighting the drip-feed of negativity

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

JANUARY has been a busy month for the Union - politically but also in terms of managing the reputation of our industry.

To address the negativity surrounding red meat and dairy consumption, we have been running a social media campaign (Twitter & Facebook) highlighting the positive story we have to tell with a focus on sustainable farming in conjunction with HCC.

We have also issued columns which address the misinformation in the public domain, accentuating the positive things farming does and have met with the AHDB led group 'Owning our Reputation' before Christmas and throughout January to evaluate the situation.

An agreement was reached with all industry stakeholders that we will continue the positive engagement and promotion of our industry throughout 2020 and beyond. The FUW is working hard to address the negativity out there and we are prepared to fight it.

That is why this Union has already started a 12 months and probably longer campaign of reputation enhancement.

This will be a campaign that will remind the public of who and what we are, a campaign that cements in their minds the true benefits of not only buying Welsh produce but of the true health benefits that come from that decision and of course a campaign that focuses on the incredibly positive contribution that Welsh farms and family farms, in particular, play in dealing with the challenges of climate change and the maintenance of our beautiful country.

Veganuary put a cloud over many of us with a consistent drip feed of negativity that is unsettling many farmers across Wales. A series of messages delivered with almost messianic zeal that are making farmers very uncomfortable.

TV programmes and articles were not in short supply and we were outraged by programmes such as 'Meat the family', 'Apocalypse Cow' and 'How to steal pigs and influence people' broadcast on Channel 4.

What is worth remembering is that vegans only make up 0.6 per cent of the population and the shine of their campaign is slowly wearing off. The response to the George Monbiot programme on C4 has been mixed. Reaction on Twitter was varied and with a lot of the scientific assertions and facts around farming questioned by the audience.

Indeed, industry figures show that the three C4 programmes aired didn't feature in the top 60 viewed programmes across the main terrestrial channels.

On that note, I would like to highlight that we have written to the Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, in response to Channel 4 broadcasting "How to Steal Pigs and Influence People" on January 14 2020. We made it clear that through broadcasting the content of that programme the channel may have committed and encouraged others to commit criminal offences.

We don't normally use V words in public and it is an internal policy to not comment directly about V-stuff as that only provides the oxygen of publicity to their already weak arguments.

Instead, we will continue to promote the healthiest, the safest, the tastiest, the greenest, and the best. We will talk of food producers, animal welfare experts, carbon storers, flood preventers and so on.

The people we will talk about are of course the Welsh family farms who demonstrate day after day that farming matters to us all in so many ways.



Highlighting importance of Welsh and UK agriculture



FUW President Glyn Roberts and Deputy President Ian Rickman, met Defra Farming Minister George Eustice early in January to highlight the importance of ensuring Welsh and UK agriculture is prioritised in trade negotiations, and future funding and frameworks for agriculture. Pictured from left, Ian Rickman, George Eustice and Glyn Roberts.

Don't miss your chance to apply

FARMERS are being urged not to miss the opportunity to apply for the Glastir Entry and Advanced Support Scheme. The loan facility has been set up to help farmers who will not receive their Glastir Entry or Advanced 2019 payment early in the payment window.

The scheme will operate in the same way as the BPS Support Scheme and is an 'opt-in' scheme. Applications are now available on RPW Online and the window will close on February 14. It is anticipated that payment will be made during the week commencing February 24, to those eligible farm businesses who do not receive their Glastir Entry or Advanced 2019 payment early in the payment window.

The 2019 Glastir Entry and Advanced Support Scheme will pay a loan of 50 per cent of an individual farm business' anticipated Glastir Entry or Advanced 2019 claim value.

The Glastir Entry and Advanced Support Scheme payment will be intercepted from a farm business' full Glastir Entry or Advanced 2019 claim once processed.

There are some instances where a loan payment would not be appropriate, for example, a farm business may not be eligible for a Glastir Entry and Advanced Support Scheme payment if the business has an outstanding Grant of Probate or if penalties applied to the Glastir Entry or Advanced claim will not be covered by the Glastir Entry or Advanced balance payment.

FUW Membership and Operations Manager Caryl Roberts said: "I encourage all our members, who are part of these schemes to apply for the loan.

"Our county staff are on hand to help with these applications or if you have any questions about eligibility - just give your local office a call and make an appointment."

<p>Kubota M9540 C/W Loader, 3200 hours approx. 2016</p>	<p>New Holland TS100A. 2 wheel drive. 2526 hours approx. Three spools, Passenger seat. 2007</p>	<p>Kubota M7151 Premium Front Linkage PTO. 1600 Hours Approx In mint condition. 2017</p>	<p>Valtra T174 Active. 2328 hours approx. 4 Spools, Passenger seat. 2018</p>	<p>Deutz Agrofarm 430, 3991 hours approx. 3 Spools. 2009</p>
<p>Valtra T234 Active, 915 hours approx. 4 Spools, Front PTO and linkage. 2018</p>				
<p>Wacker Neuson EZ28, 1465 hours approx. complete with 3 buckets and quick hitch. 2018</p>	<p>IHI 35N, 2621 Hours Approx. complete with quick hitch and 3 buckets. 2007</p>	<p>Komatsu PC80mr, 5231 hours approx. complete with 3 buckets and quick hitch. 2011</p>	<p>Herbst 28' Low Loader, 27 Tonne, Tri Axle.</p>	<p>Farma FH100 Flail Head</p>

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FUW MATTERS

Plus ça Change, Plus C'est La Même Chose

by Alan Davies, FUW Managing Director

THERE'S an old French saying that sums up this month pretty well in my mind, it's: "Plus ça Change, Plus C'est La Même Chose". Translated, it roughly means: "The more it changes, the more it's the same thing".

It stacks up neatly by the expression linked so often to change programmes: "We want change provided everything just stays the same," and this is often linked to reasons why things don't change as they might have been expected to. Or more often than not, they don't progress because people don't really want things to change.

The reason I mention this today is that we are facing an historic moment in time, one that could, or even should, bring significant change. But will it?

My expectations are low - certainly for the short term. In fact if there are any big changes in the short term I think it will be going very badly indeed. Let me explain why.

On February 1, on the UK's first day out of the European Union after some four decades, we won't really and truly be out. Not in the way that a prisoner is "out" once they leave the jail. Instead we will be on a very carefully managed probation period - or in this case "implementation period" as we transition to January 2021, when we quite possibly could be "out".

But on 1 Feb - nothing changes. (There's an expression we've heard before! Remember when Theresa May said it during the 2017 election? - "Nothing has changed, nothing has changed". How wrong she was. But I digress. It is vital that we all understand that on 1 Feb, nothing has changed or even will change. We are to all intents and purposes still inextricably linked to EU regulations when it comes to the way we farm and care for animal health and welfare and of course care for the environment.

Any breaches of the rules will put at risk the longer term relations - so standard will stay the same, no bureaucracy will disappear and in fact nothing has changed.

So please please please do not think that just because we are out of the EU that you can

stop following EU rules because by then they will all be UK rules as well. They have been adopted, wholesale, from the EU to make sure that in trading terms at least we are still aligned.

And of course allied to this will be the inability of other countries to instantly flood our home markets with product, because trade deals will not have been agreed and signed. And that takes time. The chlorinated chicken won't be here in February, but unless we work hard to stop it coming it might arrive sometime - something that we must resist.

If we are working to the highest of standards we cannot possibly allow a Government to accept a deal that allows food produced to a standard that would be illegal in this country to enter this country and our food chain.

How this all plays out, of course only time will tell. But there's another useful expression that comes from Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft: "We always overestimate the change that will occur in the next two years and underestimate the change that will occur in the next ten. Don't let yourself be lulled into inaction."

I suspect his words will ring true this year too.



We will survive if we pull together and support each other

by Dwylan Davies, FUW Brecon & Radnor County Chairman

Dwylan Davies has been the County Chairman for Brecon and Radnor since May 2019, here he tells us a little bit about himself and what his aims are as chairman:

I farm beef and sheep on 400 acres in Cynghordy, Llandovery. I also farm 400 sheep on Epynt near Tirabad where I was brought up. I'm married to Carol, a Welsh language translator for Powys County Council, and have two daughters who are both qualified Welsh language primary school teachers, Rhian in the Welsh Unit in Rhayader School and Menna who is at present teaching in Kuwait. I have been a member of the Llanwrtyd Wells branch for over 30 years.

I have found that this is a large area with Epynt as the dividing backbone. The sheer distance from the top to the bottom of the region doesn't lend itself to an easy task of management. My aim as FUW County Chairman is to help our officers regenerate interest and participation in Union matters, from the younger element to members who until now have missed the call to arms to ensure that the County meetings are overflowing with ideas and support.

This of course means attending branch meetings, and whilst it may not be the most thrilling aspect of being a member it is a necessity to carry out business and of course to be able to provide input into the everchanging faces of our industry.

I would like to extend a warm invitation to all members or family connections with an interest in the current affairs of the industry to contact the local office to arrange attendance at our County meetings.

I do feel we are moving into a new era in Welsh Farming. It could take a few different avenues and not all of us will survive as we are now. We, as an industry, must take a broad outlook for the future and consider which avenue will accommodate our particular enterprise.

I know this sounds a little negative, but until we have any meat on the Brexit bones we must remain open-minded. On a positive side, as a farmer in business for 35+ years I have dealt with so much change over the last 20 years, a vast difference from the secure times for agriculture in the 80's and early 90's. We will come out the other side a little battered maybe, bruised probably but we will survive if we pull together and support each other.

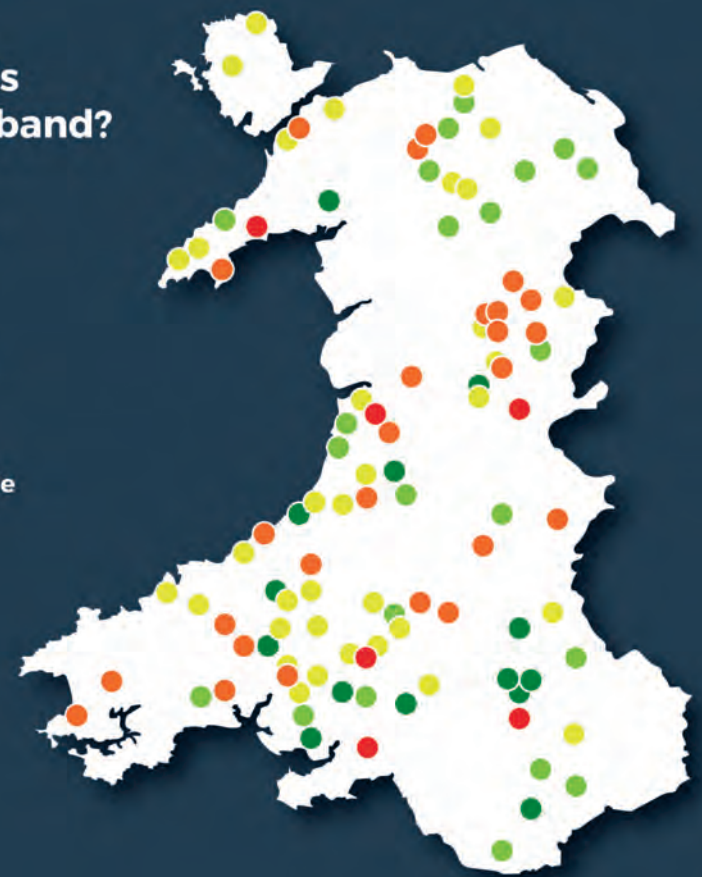
Unions and Governments must take heed of the wishes of the people on the ground. We are the industry's workforce, we are the caretakers of the environment. Once we in the hills have gone, it will be too late to try and send the young land manager back up onto the Epynt hill to feed the Hardy Speckled and Cheviot ewes on the bleakest winter days to the coldest part of Wales (Sennybridge/Tirabad) - well according to Derek Brockway's regular weather forecasts!



Winter Fair Survey 2019 Summary

How good is your broadband?

- Excellent
- Good
- Moderate
- Poor
- Not available



THANK YOU to everyone that filled in our FUW communications based survey at the Winter Fair a few months ago. More than 130 surveys were filled in by members visiting the FUW stand at the show. The results help inform what we do and we aim to use them to develop our communication methods in 2020.

We know that broadband speed is an issue for many. Around two thirds of those filling in the survey rated their broadband as excellent, good or moderate, whereas the remaining third stated that their broadband was poor or they were unable to have broadband. This is better than anticipated, but when we mapped the data we found that there are no distinctive areas or regions where these results apply, (see map above).

When it comes to FUW communications, the survey results showed that the top three preferred methods of communication were email, Y Tir and Facebook.

It is positive to see that half of those surveyed read the Farmers' Monthly e-bulletin, which is sent by email. This bulletin contains lots of up-to-date agricultural information so please let us know if you don't receive it but would like to by emailing: gareth.parry@fuw.org.uk

We are always interested in feedback from our members and we continue to learn and grow. All in all, the majority of the comments we received on FUW communications were really positive which gives us a good starting point for the year ahead!

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February 21 2020

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MIELE PREMIER DISHWASHER; very good condition - £35, Denbigh area. Tel: 07788 371641.

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HOLIDAYS

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Brwydro'n gadarn yn erbyn y negyddoldeb

gan Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC

MAE mis Ionawr wedi bod yn fis prysur i'r Undeb - yn wleidyddol ond hefyd o ran rheoli enw da ein diwydiant.

Er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r negyddoldeb sy'n gysylltiedig â bwyta cig coch a chynnyrch llaeth, rydym wedi cynnal ymgyrch ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol (Trydar a Facebook) yn tynnu sylw at y stori gadarnhaol gan ganolbwyntio ar ffermio cynaliadwy ar y cyd â HCC.

Rydym hefyd wedi cyhoeddi colofnau sy'n mynd i'r afael, yn gyhoeddus, â'r wybodaeth anghywir, gan bwysleisio'r elfen gadarnhaol o ffermio ac wedi cyfarfod â'r grŵp, 'Owning our Reputation' dan arweiniad AHDB cyn y Nadolig a thrwy gydol mis Ionawr er mwyn gwerthuso'r sefyllfa.

Daethpwyd i gytundeb gyda holl randdeiliaid y diwydiant y byddwn yn parhau i ymgysylltu a hyrwyddo ein diwydiant yn gadarnhaol trwy gydol 2020 a thu hwnt. Mae UAC yn gweithio'n galed i fynd i'r afael â'r negyddoldeb ac rydym yn barod i frwydro yn ei erbyn.

Dyna pam mae'r Undeb hon eisoes wedi cychwyn ymgyrch 12 mis a mwy i wella enw da.

Ymgyrch fydd hon i atgoffa'r cyhoedd o bwy a beth ydym ni, ymgyrch sy'n hybu buddion, nid yn unig prynu cynnyrch Cymreig, ond o'r gwir fudd iechyd a ddaw o'r penderfyniad hwnnw, ac wrth gwrs ymgyrch sydd yn canolbwyntio ar gyfraniad anhygoel o gadarnhaol ffermydd a ffermydd teuluol Cymru, yn benodol, wrth ddelio â heriau newid yn yr hinsawdd a gofalu ar ôl ein gwlad hardd.

Rhoddodd 'Veganuary' gwmwl dros lawer ohonom gyda'r negyddoldeb cyson sy'n peri pryder i lawer o ffermydd ledled Cymru. Cyfres o negeseuon wedi'u dosbarthu gyda'r fath frwdfrydedd sy'n gwneud ffermydd yn anghyfforddus iawn.

Roedd yna raglenni ac erthyglau di-rif, ac mi wylltwyd

ffermydd gan raglenni fel 'Meat the family', 'Apocalypse Cow' a 'How to steal pigs and influence people' a ddarlledwyd ar Sianel 4.

Yr hyn sy'n werth ei gofio yw mai dim ond 0.6 y cant o'r boblogaeth sy'n feganiaid ac mae sglein ei hymgyrch yn araf ddiplannu. Cymysg fu'r ymateb i raglen George Monbiot ar Sianel 4. Roedd yr ymateb ar Drydar yn amrywiol a gyda llawer o'r honiadau a'r ffeithiau gwyddonol ynghylch ffermio yn cael eu cwestiynu gan y gynulleidfa.

Yn wir, mae ffigurau'r diwydiant yn dangos nad oedd y tair rhaglen Sianel 4 a ddarlledwyd yn ymddangos yn y 60 rhaglen a wylwyd orau ar draws y prif sianeli daearol.

Ar y nodyn hwnnw, hoffwn dynnu sylw ein bod wedi ysgrifennu at Gadeirydd Cyngor Cenedlaethol Penaeithiad yr Heddlu, mewn ymateb i ddarllediad Sianel 4 "How to steal pigs and influence people" ar Ionawr 14 2020. Gwnaethom yn glir y gallai darlledu cynnwys y rhaglen honno arwain at annog eraill i gyflawni troseddau.

Nid ydym fel arfer yn defnyddio geiriau V yn gyhoeddus ac mae'n bolisi mewnol i beidio â gwneud sylwadau uniongyrchol ar bethau V oherwydd bod nhw'n darparu llwyfan cyhoeddus i'w dadleuon gwan.

Yn lle hynny, byddwn yn parhau i hyrwyddo'r iachaf, y mwyaf diogel, y mwyaf blasus, y gwyrddaf a'r gorau. Byddwn yn siarad am gynhyrchwyr bwyd, arbenigwyr lles anifeiliaid, storwyr carbon, atalwyr llifogydd ac ati.

Y bobl y byddwn yn siarad amdanynt wrth gwrs yw ffermydd teuluol Cymru sy'n dangos ddydd ar ôl dydd bod ffermio yn bwysig i ni i gyd mewn amryw o ffyrdd.

This article is in English on page 3: "We are positively fighting the drip-feed of negativity."

Ymhobman i bawb

gan Caryl Roberts, Rheolwr Aelodaeth a Gweithrediadau FUW

YDI ffermydd yn gwneud addunedau blwyddyn newydd? Wir, 'sgen i ddim cof o'n Nhad, na'n Nhaid yn cychwyn y flwyddyn trwy gyhoeddi adduned o newid mawr. Tybed pam? A'i oherwydd bod ffermydd yn gaeth i gylchdro naturiol y tymhorau? Neu ydi mam natur yn cadw tennyn tynn ar unrhyw ddyheadau o geisio rhywbeth newydd? Efallai, fod yna ddigon o waith i'w wneud heb fynd i chwilio amdano!

Un o fy addunedau i yw gofyn am help gyda fy ngwaith, i beidio a cheisio gwneud popeth fy hun ac i ymddiried mewn eraill i gwblhau gwaith ar fy rhan. Nid yw'n hawdd - coeliwch fi. Mae gofyn am help yn teimlo fel gwendid.

Mae dod i delerau gyda'r ffaith na allaf i fod yn bobman i bawb yn anodd dygymod ag o. Ond, dwi hefyd yn gweld fod yna bris i'w dalu os dwi'n parhau i geisio gwneud popeth fy hun. Mae rhywun ar ei golled, boed y plant, staff eraill, cyd-aelodau côr neu fi fy hun.

Tybed os yw'r straen o ddal fyny gyda'r holl negeseuon a gwaith papur sy'n deillio o RPW Ar-lein yr un fath i chi? Mae gwasanaeth asiant yr Undeb wedi ei gynllunio ar gyfer y pwrpas yma. Gadewch i ni gadw golwg ar eich cyfrif yn ddyddiol a'ch hysbysu o bob neges sydd angen eich sylw.

Ffoniwch eich swyddfa leol am fwy o wybodaeth i weld os yw'r gwasanaeth yn addas i chi.

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CORNEL CLECS

“Lle mae'r brechwast?”

gan Angharad Evans, Golygydd y Gymraeg

ERS blynyddoedd lawer bellach, mis Ionawr yw mis y brechwastau yma yn yr FUW. Cyfle grêt i bobl ddod at ei gilydd o amgylch y bwrdd brechwast i sgwrsio ac i fwynhau cynnyrch lleol gorau ein ffermwyr gweithgar. Ond mi aeth un o'n haelodau o gangen Sir Gaernarfon, Rhiannon Jones, un cam ymhellach i sicrhau llwyddiant y brechwast yng Nghaffi Tŷ Newydd, Uwchmynydd. Dyma Rhiannon i ddweud yr hanes:

“Pan ofynnodd Gwynedd i mi drefnu'r brechwast eleni, doedd gen i wir ddim syniad be oedd o'm mlaen i! Cywilydd i mi ddeud na fuos i erioed mewn brechwast FUW fy hun o'r blaen. (Mi oeddwn i yn adnabod un oedd yn mynychu bob blwyddyn wedyn mi nes i ffonio i holi!!) Wedi neud check list a chael bob dim yn ei le, wrth drafod, mi feddyliais i a fy ffrind Ella sai'n syniad cael rhywfath o arwydd.

“Roeddwn wedi dod ar draws baneri lliwgar trawiadol yn hysbysebu penblwyddi, ac wedi pysgota, mi ddois i ddeall eu bod yn cael eu creu gan ddisgyblion ysgol Glan y Môr, Pwllheli y nhw sydd yn cynllunio a chreu ac mae'r pres yn mynd at brynu adnoddau celf i ddisgyblion yr ysgol! Felly mi ofynnais yn garedig i'w hathrawes am faner ar y nos Sul at y dydd Mawrth!! Be well na chefnogi ysgol leol!

“Y syniad oedd bod y faner yn tynnu sylw bobl o'r newydd at y brechwast ac yn arwain pawb arall y ffordd iawn i bellteroedd byd! A thaswn i yn gwbl onast ma gynnai fy mryd ar lwyddo a thybiwn y byddai'n hyrwyddo'r brechwast ymhellach ac efallai tynnu cynulleidfya newydd i'r dyfodol!

“Roeddwn yn lwcus iawn o 6 ffrind a oedd yn barod i'n helpu ar y diwrnod, felly bûm yn pendroni am ffordd i ddiolch iddynt am eu trafferth, ac mi feddyliais am gynllunio ffeidogau amryliw ar gyfer y diwrnod a'i fod yna fel atgof iddyn hwythau wedyn! Unwaith yn rhagor



cefnogi busnes lleol o Bwllheli. Presant bach personol gen i, rhywbeth unigryw!

“Mae'n debyg na llwyddo ar awch i godi hynny y gallwn i o bres tuag at y tair elusen oedd tu ôl i bob dim, dwi'n berson penderfynol a bob amser yn rhoi fy mryd ar lwyddo! Mae'n bleser pur gen i drefnu petha o'r fath, a gweld ffrwyth fy llafur yn diwadd.

“Yn fuan iawn yn y bore fe ddaethom i sylweddoli ar yr elfen gymdeithasol o'r brechwast a'r mwyniant yr oedd bobl yn ei gael o weld hwn a llall! Bron fod rhai yn ei weld fel uchafbwynt yr wythnos a'i bod yn edrych ymlaen!

“Braf oedd gweld cymaint o wynebau newydd a hen, a chael sgwrs efo hwn a llall! Byddai torri'r arferiad o frechwast blynyddol yn bechod mawr! Y teimlad yr oeddwn i yn ei gael ei fod yn arferiad i grwpiau o bobl, ac wedi edrych yn ôl ar luniau brechwast UAC roeddwn yn dod ar draws ambell i wyneb cyfarwydd, braf oedd gweld bobl yn mwynhau clonc dros damad bach!

“Cefais bleser mawr o drefnu'r brechwast a balchder aruthrol o weld cwmnïau lleol mor gefnogol. Braf oedd cael codi cymaint o bres at elusennau teilwng iawn. Diolch i chi am y cyfle yma!”

Diolch i bobl fel Rhiannon, a nifer o wirfoddolwyr arall ymhob cwr o Gymru a fu'n brysur yn trefnu ac yn porthi'r pum mil, bu wythnos Brechwast FUW 2020 yn un llwyddiannus ac yn un i'w chofio, (*lluniau'r brechwastau ar dudalennau 12 a 13*).

Diolch byth am ymgyrchoedd cenedlaethol fel hyn i gadw'n cymunedau gwledig yn llawn cynnwrf! Ymlaen at frechwastau 2021!

This article is available in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News - "Where's the breakfast?"

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Lambing season - what to consider

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

As lambing season is upon us, change is in the air. As well as preparing your farm and your livestock for this intense period, it's also essential to consider other factors, such as your insurance. This can be an extremely stressful and demanding time for farmers, having to deal with tricky births, adoptions and working all hours to ensure things go as smoothly as possible. It's best to get prepared in advance so you're covered during this period of heightened risk.

Increased staff

Many farms hire additional staff to help during the lambing season to cope with the increased workload and the fast-paced environment. Remember that even if your staff are temporary, you're legally obliged to have employers' liability insurance and the same rules apply to voluntary staff. The only exception may apply to immediate family members but ensure to check this with your local Account Executive at FUW Insurance Services.

Larger flock

Your farm insurance should cover for all elements of your farm, from buildings and contents to livestock and liability. However, not all policies are the same and if the small details aren't taken care of, you could find yourself without the right cover. For example, whilst your core flock might be covered under your insurance policy, this figure might double during lambing season. To ensure you're covered for your lambs, you will need to make sure your policy covers for your flock including newly born lambs.

Whilst the lambs aren't considered as your flock per se, should anything happen to them before they're sold on, this feature of your cover will ensure that you're not left out of pocket.

Petting farms

If you allow the public access to your farm to meet your new arrivals, it's vital you have the right cover in place, including public liability insurance should you be found liable for injury or damage to a member of the public or their property.

If you're worried about the insurance implications of any changes during the lambing season, the best thing you can do is to conduct a review of your existing cover. Your local Account Executive at FUW Insurance Services will talk through any ideas, questions or concerns you have and ensure you have the cover in place to get you through this stressful time.

Call your local FUW Insurance Services branch for a chat with our friendly team.



FUWIS attends event at House of Commons



Roger Van Praet lectures Craig Tracey MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Insurance and Financial Services on the challenges faced in the Agricultural insurance sector.

FUWIS Managing Director, Roger Van Praet, and Ann Beynon were invited to the recent BIBA Manifesto 2020 at the House of Commons by BIBA Chairman, Jonathan Evans.

The British Insurance Brokers' Association (BIBA) is the UK's leading general insurance intermediary organization representing interests of insurance brokers, intermediaries and their customers.

General insurance brokers, of which FUWIS is one of the largest in Wales, contribute 1 per cent of GDP to the UK economy; they arrange 67 per cent of all general insurance and 81 per cent of all commercial insurance business.

BIBA is the voice of the broking sector advising members, consumer bodies and lobbying parliament and other stakeholders on key insurance issues.

The recently elected BIBA Chairman, Jonathan Evans is well known to the FUW being MP for Brecon and Radnor between 1992 and 1997 and then MEP for 10 years before returning to Parliament as MP for Cardiff North from 2010 till 2015. Jonathan served as Under Secretary of State for Wales and also Under Secretary for Trade and Industry during his time in the Commons.

FUWIS value the representation and support that BIBA provide to our sector and it is particularly reassuring to us that the present BIBA Chairman has both local and Welsh agricultural sector knowledge, as well as wider insurance sector expertise having also served as Non-Executive Directors of both NFU Mutual and Lloyd's Syndicate 2232.

During the launch of the BIBA 2020 Manifesto, subjects such as Brexit, broking challenges regulation and innovation were discussed.

"A broker's fundamental role is assisting customers with access to appropriate and suitable insurance. Brokers themselves, however, need access to insurance capacity for more challenging and complex risks," stated BIBA Chief Executive, Steve White. "The UK insurance sector is facing innumerable changes, uncertainty and also opportunity over the coming years.

"Action on regulation is essential for the broking sector and an examination of the demands the FCA places on it would not only enhance access to insurance but be of value to the whole UK economy."

BIBA Chair, Jonathan Evans stated: "This (BIBA) Manifesto is evidence of the work being done to push forward broker issues."



From left, FUWIS Managing Director Roger Van Praet; BIBA Executive Director, Graeme Trudgill; BIBA Chairman Jonathan Evans; FUWIS Non-Executive Director, Ann Beynon; Montgomery MP, Craig Williams and Steve White BIBA Chief Executive in the Terrace Pavilion, House of Commons.

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Cattle slaughtering due to Bovine TB unsustainable

THE latest data relating to bovine TB in Wales has revealed an alarming and unsustainable rise in the number of cattle slaughtered due to this disease.

According to recent data, the number of cattle slaughtered in Wales in the 12 months to October 2019 was 12,742 and this is the highest number on record.

Indeed, whilst the most recent data reveals a 12 per cent fall in New Herd Incidents in the 12 months to October 2019, the number of cattle slaughtered over the same period was 24 per cent higher than the previous year.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "Although the data from TB Dashboard shows improvement in some areas, the number of cattle slaughtered remains unsustainably high. Just 917 cattle were culled in 1996 due to this disease and it is a sad and disturbing fact that the Welsh cattle sector has now become somewhat used to cattle slaughtering reaching the many thousands each year."

The Union President added that losing TB-free status is devastating to farming families and their businesses. "The loss of precious stock and the restrictions on a farm business can be incredibly destructive and it is extremely distressing for our members who have worked hard to gain TB-free status, only to lose it again in the subsequent years."

"A TB breakdown is not only financially crippling for the farm, but also impacts more widely as struggling farm businesses are less able to contribute to both the local economy and further afield."

High sensitivity testing, such as gamma testing and the removal of inconclusive reactors at severe interpretation, is blamed for some of this rise. However, this will be of little comfort to FUW members, many of whom have seen a huge number of cattle removed from their farm, he added.

"Despite a wealth of evidence on the important contribution of wildlife control to TB eradication in some places, the current TB programme continues to focus almost entirely on cattle controls."

"The FUW has continued to reiterate members concerns regarding the implementation of measures such as high sensitivity testing, without significant measures to tackle the disease in wildlife."

"The number of cattle herds registered in Wales has declined by 43 per cent since 1996. Bovine TB is one of the most serious issues facing Welsh cattle farmers and a more holistic approach, which seriously tackles the wildlife reservoir, is required urgently," said Glyn Roberts.



Sheep scab eradication in Wales: Where are we now?



IN January 2019, the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, announced a 5.1 million pound fund for the eradication of sheep scab in Wales. The funds for the project come from the Rural Development Programme.

Prior to the announcement, the FUW and other industry bodies had submitted a paper to the Welsh Government outlining an industry endorsed programme for the eradication of sheep scab. This project was costed at around 8.6 million pounds over three years. The priority for funding expenditure in this report was for testing for the disease and for contiguous and co-ordinated treatment where the disease is confirmed on a farm.

The difference in funding has been examined by the FUW and others and we have repeated our funding priorities to the Welsh Government.

In August 2019, the tender for the sheep scab project was released on 'Sell to Wales' for expressions of interest. The final programme will depend on how the budget is spent by the winning tender.

An application has been invited by Welsh Government and is due to be submitted in February 2020. Following submission, the Welsh Government then has 90 days to make a final decision.

The timelines involved in the process make it very unlikely that a sheep scab programme will start before September 2020. The FUW has made its views clear to those involved in the tender process and we will be writing to Welsh Government to ask them to expedite their section of the process in order to ensure that funding is released as soon as possible.

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Committed to working together

THE New Year was off to a flying start with FUW President meeting the newly appointed Secretary of State for Wales, Simon Hart MP on the first working week of January.

The meeting, held in Cardiff, was a positive and open discussion about the key issues of the day and was also an excellent opportunity for both the President and the Secretary of State to get to know one another.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "I was encouraged by the positive nature of our meeting, we discussed Brexit, but perhaps more importantly the details of the withdrawal and implementation periods and the absolutely critical need to secure trading arrangements with the EU before the end of this year."

In addition to trade, there was much discussion on the Secretary of State's intention of developing positive relations in Wales and of a commitment to deliver on manifesto commitments.

The scourge of TB was also discussed even though it is a devolved matter, but it does impact Simon Hart's own constituency considerably.

The meeting ended with all present committed to working together positively and will be followed by at least two other meetings with the Secretary of State or his officials in January.



From left, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, David Davies MP, FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman, FUW President Glyn Roberts and Secretary of State for Wales, Simon Hart MP.

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References: 1. Yarnall and Thrusfield (2017) Vet Record doi: 10.1136/vr.104370 2. Kynetec (2019) BVD sales data by value. Full year 2018 3. For active immunisation of cattle against BVDV-1 and BVDV-2, to prevent the birth of persistently infected calves caused by transplacental infection.

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Concern over National Trust tree planting plans for tenants

FUW staff have expressed major concerns regarding the implications for members, who are National Trust tenants, given the Trust's plans to plant large numbers of trees on their land.

The concerns were expressed during a meeting of the Union's County Executive Officers who represent members in Wales' twelve FUW county regions, some of which include large areas of land owned by the trust.

On Thursday (January 9) the General Director of the Trust revealed plans to grow 20 million trees over the next 10 years by planting saplings or removing livestock to allow self-seeding and dozens of farm tenancies are to be altered as they come up for renewal to cut sheep and cattle numbers.

To achieve their target, the Trust is looking to spend about £90 million creating 18,000 hectares of woodland, increasing the proportion of Trust land that is forest from 10 per cent to 17 per cent by 2030.

Speaking after the meeting, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "Our members are fully supportive of appropriate tree planting where this does not undermine farm productivity and the environment. Indeed they regularly complain about the obstacles they come across when they try to plant trees.

"However, many National Trust farmers have contacted us to raise concerns regarding the announcement. Of course, given the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the role played by soils and plants in sequestering carbon is rightly attracting significant attention, with a particular focus on the planting of trees.

"But we mustn't forget 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 area."

The Union President further stressed that the experience over the past century highlights the damage that well-intentioned policies aimed at increasing woodland areas can have.

"With the trust proposing to remove sheep and cattle from land to allow natural afforestation, it must also be remembered that the removal of agriculture has been directly associated by scientists with habitat and species loss in hundreds of examples from around the world, including the UK."

The charity Plantlife recently warned that '...more than half of all wild plants need regular management or disturbance to thrive; 611 (39.6 per cent) species will decline within a decade if the land on which they grow is simply abandoned and 127 (16.4 per cent) will decline within 1-3 years'.

"If the National Trust wants to do more to become carbon neutral, perhaps looking at providing public transport to their sites would be a good place to start. That is especially pertinent if we consider their annual visitor numbers top 25 million and the carbon footprint these generate.

"Transport is the third-highest polluter, with agriculture responsible for just 10 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, UK beef and lamb carbon emissions are 35 per cent lower than the current global average and emissions from Welsh agriculture have decreased by 12 per cent since 1990 as a result of a range of improvements."

Given such concerns, Mr Roberts has written to the Trust to ask them to clarify their plans and highlighted the concerns of tenants as well as those who farm near National Trust land.



Ffenestri Ymgeisio Application Windows	Ar gyfer teithiau sy'n digwydd yn ystod y cyfnod: For visits taking place during the period:
1 Hydref - 31 Hydref 1st October - 31st October	1 Rhagfyr - 31 Mawrth 1st December - 31st March
1 Chwefror - 28 Chwefror 1st February - 28th February	1 Ebrill - 19 Awst 1st April - 19th August
1 Gorffennaf - 30 Gorffennaf 1st July - 30th July	20 Awst - 30 Tachwedd 20th August - 30th November

Teithiau Astudio

Gall treulio amser yn ymweld â busnesau eraill fod yn ffordd werthfawr i ganfod dulliau gwell o weithio, i weld arfer dda ar waith ac i ddod â syniadau newydd adref er mwyn datblygu arloesedd yn eich menter.

Gall grwpiau o ffermwyr a choedwigwyr cymwys wneud cais am hyd at **£3,000** i bob grŵp er mwyn ariannu **50% o gost** taith astudio o fewn y DU am gyfnod o hyd at **4 diwrnod**.

Mae'n rhaid i bob grŵp gyflwyno ffurflen gais i ymgeisio am gyllid, a disgwyllir iddynt gadw cofnod o'u canfyddiadau er mwyn rhannu gydag eraill pan fyddant yn dychwelyd.

Study Visits

Spending time visiting other businesses can be a valuable way to discover improved methods of working, see best practice in action and bring home new ideas to innovate your enterprise.

Groups of eligible farmers and foresters can apply for a maximum of **£3,000** per group to fund **50% of the cost** of a study visit within the UK for a period of up to **4 days**.

Each group must submit an application form to request funding and is expected to keep a record of its findings to share with others on their return.



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The application form including the full terms and conditions is now available to download from www.gov.wales/farmingconnect

Breakfast functions raise a ph

BREAKFAST functions all across Wales have raised over £15,000 within a week for FUW Presidential charity the DPJ Foundation, thanks to an army of farmers and hungry breakfast-goers.

The Farmers' Union of Wales' 12 county branches embraced the Union's annual Farmhouse Breakfast Week (Saturday January 18 - Saturday January 25) in the usual, unstoppable and enthusiastic fashion and hosted 30 breakfasts across Wales.

Aiming to not only raise the profile of the sustainable, local, high-quality food farmers produce, staff, members and officials also used the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings over a home-cooked breakfast and cup of tea.

Glyn Roberts, FUW President, said: "Our staff, members and wonderful volunteers have done an incredible job once again this year. Farming communities are close-knit and this shows what can be achieved when we all come together, with a common goal.

"Through these events, where we are all sat around the kitchen table to talk and share our thoughts about #FarmingMatters, we've strengthened ongoing and permanent relationships and established new ones.

"The money we have raised locally will go towards helping others - we must never forget that our communities are the engine room of people-powered change and that amazing things can be achieved and will be achieved.

"I can't thank everyone who supported us in the run-up, during and after the events enough - together we managed to raise a phenomenal amount of money for our charity, all whilst enjoying great, local, sustainable, high-quality food."



phenomenal amount for charity



Let us take the stress of form filling away - book today

IT'S that time of year again when we start thinking about Single Application Forms (SAF). The application window opens on Monday March 2 and the FUW is reminding its members that county staff are here to help and ready to take the stress of filling the form away from you.

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

FUW Managing Director Alan Davies said: "Our staff are not only well trained but very well practised in dealing with the complex application process. The SAF completion process is probably the single most important form completion exercise being carried out by Welsh farmers since 2004, and the financial repercussions of errors on the forms are severe."

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

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



2020 SINGLE APPLICATION FORM CHECKLIST

Please find below a list of the information which you will need to bring with you to your appointment, if applicable, to enable us to assist you with the completion of your form.



- RPW Online user ID and password, if you have not already provided it to us.
- 2019 SAF copy.
- Copies of any Manage My Land forms submitted during 2019 and/or 2020.
- Details of any new land to be added to your form including field numbers, their sizes, a map and the owner's contact details.
- The start and end dates of new or renewed agreements for any rented land which you may have. This includes both written and verbal agreements.
- Your mobile phone number and/or e-mail address.
- Your full agreement and scheme maps if you are in, either, Glastir Entry, Glastir Advanced or a farm woodland scheme. In addition, if you opted for the dairy uplift under Glastir you will need to provide a copy of your milk contract or a letter from your milk buyer confirming that your contract covers the 2020 year. If you opted for Option 37, 'UK native breeds at risk', you will need to submit either the individual pedigree certificates or the breed society's herd, flock or stud book.
- Your farm assurance scheme number/s.
- Your original certificate and field schedule from your organic certification body and your Glastir Organic contract.
- Original seed labels if you are growing winter and spring varieties of the same crop.
- Details of any entitlements which you have traded, through sales, purchases or leases.
- A copy of any queries received from Rural Payments Wales with regards to your 2019 SAF, including remote sensing inspection reports.
- Total approximate stock figures for the following categories:
 - All dairy cows, bulls and replacement heifers 6 months old and over but under 24 months.
 - All dairy cows, bulls and replacement heifers 24 months old or over.
 - All beef cows, bulls and replacement heifers 6 months old and over but under 24 months.
 - All beef cows, bulls and replacement heifers 24 months old or over.
 - All store/finishing cattle 6 months old and over but under 24 months.
 - All store/finishing cattle 24 months old or over.
 - All sheep over 6 months old.
 - Pigs, goats, poultry, horses and any other livestock.



SAF YN ACHOSI PENBLETH?

Gadewch i ni gymryd straen llenwi'r ffurflen oddi wrthyh - ffoniwch eich swyddfa sirol i wneud apwyntiad

Ynys Môn/Anglesey:	01248 750250
Brycheiniog a Maesyfed/Brecon and Radnorshire:	01982 554030
Caernarfon:	01286 672541
Caerfyrddin/Carmarthenshire:	01267 237974
Ceredigion:	01570 424515
Dinbych a Fflint/Denbigh and Flint:	01824 707198
Morgannwg/Glamorgan:	01446 774838
Gwent:	01873 853280
Meirionnydd/Merioneth:	01341 422298
Sir Drefaldwyn/Montgomeryshire:	01686 626889
Sir Benfro/Pembrokeshire:	01437 762913

CONFUSED ABOUT YOUR SAF?

Let us take the stress of form filling away - call your local county office to book your appointment

The fight against weeds is heating up

TWO dairy farmers near Raglan, Monmouthshire, are taking part in an EIP Wales project which is one of the first of its kind in the UK to investigate how electrophysical weeding can reduce our dependency on herbicides when controlling docks.

Docks can significantly reduce grazing or silage quality as they have only 65 per cent of the feed value of grass. This, along with their ability to quickly take over fields make them a very troublesome weed for grassland farmers. There is an increasing need for the agricultural sector to move away from chemical methods of weed control due to the growing concerns of the effects that herbicides are having on both our environment and human health.

As part of this unique two year project, two grazing fields have been split into trial plots of 2m x 6m to compare the effectiveness of electrical treatment against normal herbicide application. The farmers are working with the company RootWave who is pioneering the use of electricity as a sustainable and scalable organic alternative to herbicides.

The electrical weeder is designed to send a high voltage current through the plant where the natural resistance of the weed transforms the electrical energy into heat which boils it inside out from the root upwards.

For the small trial plots in the project a hand-held lance with a 20m cable powered by a petrol generator is being used. Each dock plant in a plot is touched with the charged lance for approximately 5-10 seconds before moving on to the next plant. The results from the first growing season show electrical

treatment has been effective at killing the docks however it was found that repeated treatments are needed to be as effective as the herbicide.

Commercial Director for RootWave, Stephen Jelley said: "Benefits of using electricity include the fact that the system is precise and only kills the docks, or plants it touches. It is sustainable, residue-free, efficient and does not disturb the soil."

There are very few clover-safe options for dock herbicide sprays therefore this technology has great potential for both organic and conventional systems.

Current prices make the machine unviable for smaller farms to buy however it could be more viable if contracted in. It is early days for this technology and as with anything new, developments will lead to greater effectiveness and a reduction in price.

"This unique method of dock control has great potential for both organic and conventional farmers. The technology is scalable and larger tractor based electrical weeders could be used in a variety of different farm situations," said Will John, ADAS, the Innovation Broker for the project.

The trials will continue in 2020 where some adjustments will be made to the timings of the treatments and replications.

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



Water being evaporated in the plant tissue. Each dock plant in a plot was touched with the charged lance for approximately 5-10 seconds before moving on to the next plant.

Lambing at St Fagans National Museum of History



EVERYONE knows that baby animals rule the internet and this St David's Day sees the return of #lambcam, a live web feed giving a 24/7 view of all the action in the lambing shed at St Fagans National Museum of History. This year we have a larger flock, and an extra camera, so you can see more of the action live on the farm.

As well as giving 24 hr access to the lambing shed, #lambcam gives an up to date running total of births on the lamb-o-meter (which comes with an associated health warning - 'Counting sheep may cause drowsiness!'). There's also a gallery of video highlights from the shed and regular updates on the progress of the new mums and lambs on the Museum's blog.

This year we'll also be live streaming #lambcam to the St Fagans Facebook page for a couple of special interactive sessions on March 2 and 9. With live commentary on whatever's going on in the shed at the time - it'll be a chance put all your lambing questions to the team

#Lambcam will run from March 1 until March 25. For further information, see the website: museum.wales/stfagans



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Brecon & Radnor's new CEO



Catrin on farm with her husband Gareth.

CATRIN Price has joined the FUW team as County Executive Officer in Brecon and Radnor.

Catrin lives with her husband on their beef and sheep farm in Llandeasant, near Llangadog. Catrin has lived on the family farm all her life, and enjoyed farming since an early age at home with her parents.

She attended Gelli Aur College where she gained a HND in Agriculture. She is no stranger to the FUW as she worked for nine years at the Carmarthen office, when she left to work for the YFC for four years before returning.

She enjoys helping out at home on the family farm and showing their sheep at the shows in the summer months, with the highlight of 2019 being winning the Supreme Hill Section at the RWAS Show with their North Country Hill Cheviot Sheep.

She looks forward to meeting the Brecon and Radnor FUW members.

Aled joins the Union's Policy team

ALED Jones (*pictured right*), has joined the FUW Policy team as Policy Adviser. After graduating from Aberystwyth University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1996, which included a sandwich year in New Zealand working in the dairy industry, Aled returned to the family farm near Cilycwm, Llandovery.

As well as farming, Aled also worked part-time as a lecturer in Gelli Aur Agricultural College teaching Business and Accounting and Animal Husbandry.

Aled then took on a full time position working as a Farm Business Consultant for Promar International prior to joining the FUW as County Executive Officer for Brecon and Radnor in September 2005. He was then FUW Senior Regional Officer for Brecon and Radnor and Ceredigion from 2018.

He joined the FUW Policy team in January 2020. Aled's policy areas include NVZ's, Milk & Dairy, Common Land and Animal Identification.



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anglesey@fuw.org.uk

ANGLESEY

Brecwast ffermdy



Diolch o galon i bawb a ddaeth i gefnogi ein brecwast ffermdy draw ar Gae Sioe Môn ar fore Sadwrn Ionawr 18. Roedd yn fore hynod lwyddiannus a llwyddwyd i godi dros £450 tuag at DPJ Foundation. Bu i bawb fwynhau gwledd o gynnyrch lleol wrth gael y cyfle i roi'r byd yn ei le gyda ffrindiau hen a newydd. Hoffwn ddiolch unwaith eto i'r llu o gyflenwyr lleol am eu rhoddion hael o eitemau i'r brecwast - ni fyddai'r digwyddiad yn bosib heb eu haelioni.

Many thanks to everyone who came to support our farmhouse breakfast over at the Anglesey Showground on Saturday morning January 18. It was a very successful morning and we raised over £450 for the DPJ Foundation. Everyone enjoyed a feast of local produce whilst also catching up with friends - old and new. I would like to once again thank the many local suppliers for their generous donations of breakfast items - the event would not have been possible without their generosity.

Ffurflenni Taliad Sylfaenol

A ninnau ar drothwy cyfnod cwblhau ffurflenni Taliad Sylfaenol 2020 cofiwch ein bod yn barod iawn i'ch cynorthwyo, a hynny yn wasanaeth sydd yn rhad ac am ddim i aelodau. Peidiwch oedi cyn cysylltu gyda'r swyddfa sirol ar 01248 750250 i drefnu apwyntiad!

As we approach the completion of the 2020 Basic Payment forms please remember that we are happy to assist you, which is a free service for members. Don't hesitate to contact the county office on 01248 750250 to arrange an appointment!

01982 554030

breconandradnor@fuw.org.uk

BRECON & RADNOR

Sub branch meetings

We are holding two sub branch meetings in February where a warm welcome is extended to all members to attend. It will be an opportunity for you to come along and enjoy a chat and meet the new County Executive Officer.

North Sub Branch

February 12 2020 at Builth Office. Guest Speaker will be a

member of the Policy Team from Head Office to give an update on the work of the FUW.

South Sub Branch

February 18 2020 at the Lamb Inn, Penderyn. Guest Speaker will be Dr Nick Fenwick, FUW Head of Policy, to give an update on the work of the FUW.

Join us for a quiz

The Brecon and Radnor Fundraising Committee for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) invite you to join them for a fundraising quiz on Friday February 7 at Talgarth Rugby Club.

The Quiz Master will be Steve Meredith and questions will be set by FUW Brecon & Radnor Admin Assistant and RABI Fundraising Committee Secretary Kath Shaw.

The quiz starts at 7.30pm, tickets are £10 per person and this includes a hot beef roll at half time.

Teams of four are welcome or come along as an individual and find some team mates on the night! Tickets available from the Brecon & Radnor FUW Office on 01982 554030.



Recruiting Reps - See website for details

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CAERNARFON

Diolch



Mae wedi bod yn gyfnod prysur yn y sir gyda 6 brecwast llwyddiannus dros ben. Hoffwn ddiolch i'r holl griw yn Llechnant, Cefn Cae, Caffi Tŷ Newydd, Moel y Ci, Caffi Bryncir a Dylasau Uchaf am goginio a gweini'r bwyd, y noddwyr am eu cynnyrch ac i'n haelodau am gefnogaeth wych eto eleni.

Hefyd mae croeso i'n aelodau gysylltu gyda'r swyddfa sirol i drefnu apwyntiad ar gyfer llenwi eu ffurflen Cais Sengl, sydd yn dod allan dechrau mis nesa.

It's been a busy time in the county with 6 extremely successful breakfasts held. I would like to thank everyone at Llechnant, Cefn Cae, Tŷ Newydd Cafe, Moel y Ci, Bryncir Café and Dylasau Uchaf for cooking and serving

the food, the sponsors for their produce and our members for the fantastic support again this year. Our members are also welcome to contact the county office to arrange an appointment to complete their Single Application form, which is due out early next month.

01267 237974

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CARMARTHEN

Noson Bingo lwyddiannus

Cynhaliwyd Noson Bingo ar nos Lun Ionawr 6 yn y Talardd Arms, Llanllwni lle codwyd £284 ar gyfer y DPJ Foundation. Diolch i bawb am ddod!

A successful bingo night was held on Monday January 6 at the Talardd Arms, Llanllwni which raised £284 for the DPJ Foundation. Thank you to everyone who attended!

01570 424515

ceredigion@fuw.org.uk

CEREDIGION

Pwyllgor Gwaith y Sir

Ar nos Iau, 16 Ionawr cynhaliwyd Pwyllgor Gwaith y sir yng nglwb Rygbi Aberaeron gyda Dai Miles, is Lywydd yr Undeb yn ŵr gwadd, (*gweler ar y dde*). Cafwyd noson ddi-ddorol yng nghwmni Dai a cafodd yr aelodau cyfle i drafod nifer o faterion pwysig yn ymwneud a'r byd amaeth. Cadeiriwyd y noson gan Morys Iwan, Cadeirydd y sir.



On Thursday, January 16, the County Executive Committee was held at Aberaeron Rugby Club with Dai Miles, the union's Vice President as guest speaker (pictured right). It was an interesting evening where members had the opportunity to discuss a number of important agricultural issues. The evening was chaired by Morys Iwan, County Chairman.

01824 707198

dinbychflint@fuw.org.uk

DENBIGH & FLINT

Police and Crime Commissioner meeting

On Tuesday January 21, County Executive Officer Mari Jones attended a conference hosted by the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner on Modern Slavery within Agriculture and Farming. It was a very eye-opening event and showed how criminals can take advantage of farmers in several ways. The Denbigh and Flint branch will be hosting a similar meeting very soon to educate and protect members.

01873 853280

gwent@fuw.org.uk

GWENT

100 Club

The results for the winter draw in the 100 club are as follows:

1st Prize - £50 - Mr C Jones, Tyla Farm, Govilon.

2nd Prize - £30 - Mrs H Warren, Argoed Farm, Aberbeeg.

3rd Prize - £10 - Mr A Lewis, Great House Farm, Llangattock.

Congratulations to the winners, to all other paid up members - better luck next time.

Membership of the 100 club cost £10 per year. Remember you have to be in it to win it.

01446 774838

glamorgan@fuw.org.uk

GLAMORGAN

National Vintage Tractor Road Run



There's a National Vintage Tractor Road Run organised on April 12 at Glamorgan Vintage Tractor Club, Llanilid Farm, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 5LA. Proudly supporting Wales Air Ambulance and Marie Curie Foundation.

Contact Wayne Griffiths on 07866 495064 for more information.

01341 422298

meirionnydd@fuw.org.uk

MEIRIONNYDD

Trafod pwysigrwydd diogelwch ar y fferm

Cafwyd cyfle yn ddiweddar i alw heibio Wil Ellis, Hafod Dywyll, ger Dolgellau sydd ar fin cymryd awennau busnes gwerthu a thrwsio peiriannau fferm Dewi Thomas yn Nyffryn Ardudwy. Cafwyd trafodaeth gydag Alun Edwards Llysgennad y Bartneriaeth Diogelwch Fferm Cymru am bwysigrwydd diogelwch ar y fferm, pwysigrwydd cael y cyfarpar cywir, a chael y cyngor ac arweiniad gorau. Bydd mwy o fanylion am y busnes newydd yn y rhifyn nesaf. Dyma lun o Alun gyda Will Ellis ar safle'r busnes, sef yr 'Old RAF camp' yn Llanbedr, Dyffryn Ardudwy.



Wil Ellis (chwith) gyda Alun Edwards.

There was an opportunity recently to visit Wil Ellis, Hafod Dywyll, near Dolgellau who is about to take over Dewi Thomas's farm machinery sales and repair business in Dyffryn Ardudwy. Discussion took place with Alun Edwards, Ambassador of the Wales Farm Safety Partnership about the importance of farm safety, the importance of getting the right equipment, and getting the best advice and guidance. More details on the new business will be in the next issue. This is a picture of Alun with Will Ellis on the business site, the 'Old RAF camp' in Llanbedr, Dyffryn Ardudwy.

Cyfarfod gyda Dafydd Elis Thomas AC

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod gyda Dafydd Elis Thomas AM at the Union office in Dolgellau ar ddiwedd mis Ionawr i gael trafodaeth bellach ynglŷn â'r rheolau arfaethedig yng nghyswllt ehangu'r ardaloedd NVZ drwy Gymru. Cafwyd cyfle da i esbonio pryderon ffermwyr o fewn y sir, ac i fynegi gwrthwynebiad chwynr yr Undeb.

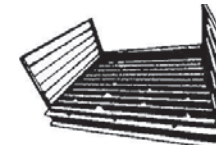


O'r chwith, Llywydd y Sir, Olwen Ford; Dafydd Elis Thomas AC; Alun Edwards, Cae Coch Rhydymain; Dr Nick Fenwick, Pennaeth Polisi FUW a Huw Price, Cefn Eclo, Cwm Hafod Oer.

A meeting was held with Dafydd Elis Thomas AM at the Union office in Dolgellau at the end of January to discuss further the proposed rules for expanding the NVZ areas throughout Wales. It was an opportunity to explain the concerns of farmers within the county, and to express the Union's strong opposition.

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MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Cffi Maldwyn yn ymuno i ymladd i 'rannu'r baich'

Cymerodd 27 o aelodau Cffi Sir Drefaldwyn ran mewn diwrnod hyfforddiant lechyd Meddwl a gynhaliwyd gan y DPJ Foundation yn ddiweddar. Cynhaliwyd y diwrnod ym marchnad Da Byw'r Trallwng.

Sefydlwyd DPJ Foundation gan Emma Picton-Jones ar ôl i'w gŵr gymryd ei fywyd ei hun ym mis Gorffennaf 2016. Mae'r elusen yn cefnogi pobl yn y sector amaethyddol yng Nghymru sydd â phroblemau iechyd meddwl, a dyma elusen Llywydd FUW. Mae 'Rhannwch y Baich' yn wasanaeth cymorth a therapi sgwrsio sy'n cael ei redeg gan DPJ Foundation. Mae'r gwasanaeth cwbl gyfrinachol ar gael i unrhyw un sydd angen cymorth a chefnogaeth drwy ffonio 0800 587 4262 neu anfon neges destun at 07860 048799.

Roedd y diwrnod hyfforddi yn cynnwys: cydnabod arwyddion problemau iechyd meddwl, y gwahanol agweddau o iechyd meddwl, sut y gallwch ofalu am iechyd meddwl eich hun a sut y gallwch chi gefnogi'r bobl o'ch cwrpas, eich teulu neu'ch cymuned, gydag unrhyw faterion iechyd meddwl.

Roedd hi'n ddiwrnod oedd yn pricio'r meddwl ac yn ddiwrnod diddorol iawn lle roeddem fel aelodau Cffi, yn gallu archwilio'r pwnc cyfredol iawn o iechyd meddwl. Yn anffodus, mae'n rhywbeth sydd wedi effeithio ar ein cymunedau a bydd yn parhau i wneud hynny, felly roeddem yn gwerthfawrogi'r cyfle i ddyysgu mwy amdano.

Diolch i Farchnad Da Byw'r Trallwng am ganiatáu i ni gynnal yr hyfforddiant yn y lleoliad. Diolch yn fawr iawn i Emma o Hyfforddiant DPJ ac i'r aelodau a gymerodd ran.

27 Montgomeryshire YFC members took part in a Mental Health training day held recently by the DPJ Foundation. The day was held at Welshpool Livestock Market. The DPJ Foundation was founded by Emma Picton-Jones after her husband took his own life in July 2016. The charity supports people in the agricultural sector in Wales who have mental health problems, and is the FUW President's charity. 'Share the Load' is a chat support and therapy service run by the DPJ Foundation. The completely confidential service is available to anyone who needs help and support by calling 0800 587 4262 or texting 07860 048799.



Aelodau Cffi Sir Drefaldwyn gyda Emma Picton-Jones (3ydd o'r chwith), o'r DPJ Foundation.

Montgomery YFC carol singing

Aberhafesp YFC managed to raise £123 for yellow wellies whilst carol singing. Their Christmas bingo was a huge success which made £671 for the club.

Berriew YFC made a total of £213.91 carol singing for Wales Air Ambulance in memory of past member, Gareth Rogers. The Wales Air Ambulance was the charity chosen for his funeral donations so Berriew YFC wanted to contribute for Gareth. Berriew YFC also hosted a Christmas Bingo where they raised £589 which will be put into the clubs funds.

Bro Ddyfi YFC raised £537 at their Carol Concert in Glantwymyn. All proceeds will be split between the DPJ foundation and Mind mental health charity.

Dyffryn Banw YFC raised £1,045 carol singing in aid of Lingen Davies and ward 23 Oncology Shrewsbury in memory of Alan Kightley and £450 to the club with the Christmas bingo.

Four Crosses YFC raised a total of £63 from carol singing in the Arddleen community for Wales Air Ambulance.

Llanfair YFC raised £352.50 for the DPJ Foundation with carol singing. Their Christmas Bingo made a total of £672.

Llanfyllin YFC raised total of £310 for their carol singing in aid of Hope house. Llidiartywaen YFC raised £300 at their Christmas bingo. The money raised was put back into clubs funds. Llidiartywaen Carol Singing raised £1,640 for the brain tumour charity, the braken trust and Llidiartywaen YFC.

Mochdre & Penstrowed YFC raised £603.70 from carol singing. The money raised will be split between Rhys Jones' Bucket List and Cedewain School.

Trefeglwys YFC carol singers raised a massive £810 for Wales Air Ambulance and Lingen Davies Cancer Fund (Shrewsbury).

Tregynon YFC raised £445.93 carol singing for Lingen Davies and Macmillan. Vyrnwy Valley YFC raised £350 from carol singing which will be donated to Lingen Davies.

In total, £9,176.04 raised by YFC clubs in Montgomeryshire!!

The training day included: recognising the signs of mental health problems, the different aspects of mental health, how you can look after your own mental health and how you can support the people around you, your family or your community, with any mental health issues.

It was a thought-provoking and interesting day where we as YFC members were able to explore the very current topic of mental health. Unfortunately, it's something that has and will continue to impact on our communities, so we appreciated the opportunity to learn more about it.

Thank you to Welshpool Livestock Market for allowing us to hold the training at the venue. Many thanks to Emma from DPJ Training and to the members who took part.

PEMBROKESHIRE

Charity Breakfasts

A big thank you to all of you who came along and supported our charity breakfasts in aid of The DPJ Foundation, you helped us raise the fantastic sum of £1,469.74. In addition, we would also like to say a huge thank you to all of you who helped with donations of produce and/or your time, in the run up to the events and on the days. We couldn't do it without you.



Land Transfers and Field Boundary Changes

Please remember that you are still required to notify RPW of certain changes to land within 30 days of the change taking place in order to avoid penalties. A Manage My Land form needs to be submitted via RPW Online when you:

- Buy or sell land
- Rent new land in that you have the management control of at May 15
- The boundary of a field is changed on a permanent basis
- A field is amalgamated or divided on a permanent basis
- A field is being registered and mapped for the first time
- The permanent feature area recorded in a field increases or decreases.

Greening Requirements for 2020 BPS

If you would like any assistance with the calculation of your EFAs or crop diversification figures for 2020, before you plant your crops, please contact the county office to make an appointment.

Upcoming EOI Window Details

Scheme	Summary	Window opens	Window closes
Farming Connect Skills and Training Programme	The programme allows anyone registered with Farming Connect to apply for funding of up to 80% towards completing short training courses. The full list of courses and further information is available in the January Farmers' Monthly Bulletin or on the Farming Connect website. Applicants registering for the first time during this application window in order to apply for a funded course or to update their account details, please contact Farming Connect before 5pm Monday February 24 2020 on 08456 000 813.		28 Feb 2020
BPS Transfer of Entitlements	You can now transfer BPS entitlements through sale, lease or inheritance. It must be accessed through the RPW online account. The recipient of entitlements transferred by sale or lease must meet the Active Farmer requirements (see SAF Rules for details).	3 June 2019	30 April 2020

Planting Hedges or Woodland?

• Trees & Hedging Plants

Native Provenance, Handled with GREAT CARE

• Transparent Spiral Guards

"OWN Brand" Better Quality

Overlapped for easy chemical control

• Fine Mesh Shelters for Shrubs & Trees

- no outdated tubes!

All Planting Accessories, Deer Fencing etc.

Farm Forestry Co Ltd

Tel: 01588 650496 | Fax: 01588 650631



www.farmforestry.co.uk

The role of the Wales Farm Safety Partnership through its affiliated organisations is to firstly convince farmers in Wales that we have serious Health and Safety challenges on our farms. Secondly, to provide advice and guidance in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive in order to improve the situation and to save lives on our farms.

Over the last twenty years, other industries such as construction and quarrying have greatly improved their safety records, while farming has not, you are now six times more likely to be killed on a farm than you would on a building site. All organisations here in Wales who are signed up to the 'On Farm Health and Safety Charter for Wales' are committed to: "Working together to make farming safer".



Don't become a farm fatality statistic this year

Agriculture is known to be one of the most dangerous professions, which often sees farmers and farm workers working in solitude, challenging weather conditions and in stressful situations.

The risks on farms are all well-known and readily managed, but all too often farmers and farm workers put themselves in situations where one slip can have life changing or even fatal consequences.

The figures published in the Health and Safety Executive's report 'Fatal injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Great Britain 2018/19' show 39 people were killed as a result of farming and other agriculture-related activities during the year.

That's 6 more than last year and 6 more than the 5-year average (33). Of these deaths, 7 members of the public were killed, which included 2 children.

Agriculture has the worst rate of worker fatal injury (per 100,000) of the main industrial sectors. It is eighteen times as high as the average rate across all industries.

Nearly half of the agricultural workers killed were over 60 and transport - overturning vehicles or being struck by moving vehicles - caused most deaths.

6 people died in Wales. That's 6 families who went through life-changing trauma and many more will have been affected by the tragedies.

Together with our partners in the Wales Farm Safety Partnership, we are working on raising awareness and reducing the risk of harm faced by those in our industry.

The aim for the first three months this year is to bring better awareness of transport and machinery incidents. Here's what the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advise when it comes to the use of ATVs.



Health and Safety Executive Advice on the use of ATVs

ATVs such as quad bikes are designed to cope with a wide variety of off-road conditions, but if used carelessly can very rapidly become unstable.

Many quad bike fatalities in the UK have been caused by head injuries. Helmets would have prevented most, if not all, of these deaths. You should always wear a suitable helmet when riding a quad bike.

The long seat on a quad bike allows operators to shift their body weight backwards and forwards for different slope conditions, a technique known as 'active' riding. It is not for carrying passengers.

To help reduce the risks:

- * carry out safety checks and maintenance in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, eg regularly check tyre pressures, brakes and throttle;
- * secure loads on racks and make sure they are not overloaded and evenly balanced;
- * always read and follow the owner's manual;
- * stick to planned routes, where possible, and walk new routes if necessary to check for hidden obstructions, hollows or other hazards;
- * take extra care with trailed or mounted equipment and understand how they affect stability;
- * make sure all riders receive adequate training.

Never carry a child as a passenger; it is illegal and will reduce your ability to control the ATV.

Children under 13 years old are prohibited from using an ATV at work. Over-13s should only ride ATVs - of an appropriate size and power - after formal training on a low-power ATV.

WFSP ar gwefannau gymdeithasol



WFSP on social media

#diogelwchfferm

#farmsafety

@farmsafetywales

Wales Farm Safety

TGB announce five-year warranty on full ATV range



TGB distributor Dualways has announced that from January 1 all new TGB models are covered by a new five-year limited warranty. Dualways claims that this is the longest warranty in the UK ATV industry.

Dualways Director Henry Maplethorpe explained: "We are very confident in the TGB brand and we are sure that adding such a premium warranty will highlight to prospective trade and retail customers the confidence we have in TGB."

The new five-year warranty covers the full TGB ATV range from the popular Blade 520SL utility 4x4 model right through to the latest full-featured 1000 LTX flagship model. Check out the full range at www.dualways.com



Meet the Haverfordwest team



Rebecca Voyle County Executive Officer

How long with the Union? 19 years

Previous jobs/education? Degree in Accounting, Finance and Law. Worked on a farm that was open to the public from the age of 13 at weekends and school holidays. After graduating joined a consultancy firm who provided advice to farms that were open to the public. Had a temporary job, part of which involved arranging the cleaning of ball pool pits, which put me off ever allowing any children in my care in one when they are with me!! Also volunteered as a crowd control steward at Wrexham Football Club

Home life (married/single etc)? Married to Rob, who is a dairy farmer and have a Miniature Schnauzer called Hettie

Hobbies/other activities outside work? Taking Hettie for long walks on the Pembrokeshire Coast path, helping Pembrokeshire YFC with their stockjudging competitions and Rally, spending time with my nephew and niece and in particular going with my nephew to Swansea City matches whenever we can

What does your job entail? Assisting members with all manners of queries and providing advice and guidance

Most unusual request? Where to obtain a copy of a marriage certificate? To this day I still don't know why the copy was required but I can confirm that they are still married

What do you enjoy doing most? Being able to provide solutions to members problems

What's the most important part of your job? The contact with members

Typical day? There is no typical day in this job as no matter how much you plan your day, one phone call from a member with a problem can mean you have to put all your plans to one side to assist them.



Susan James Administrative Assistant

How long with the Union? 20 years

Previous jobs/education? Home on family farm

Home life (married/single etc)? Married to Ian and have 5 year old son Eifion

Hobbies/other activities outside work? Home on parents farm as well as looking after our herd of pedigree herefords on husbands farm

What does your job entail? Helping members

What do you enjoy doing most? Talking to members

What's the most important part of your job? Keeping everyone happy.



Kelly John Insurance Account Handler

How long with the Union? Started April 29 2019

Previous jobs/education? The Grove Hotel. Tasker Milward VC School

Home life (married/single etc)? Single

Hobbies/other activities outside work? Exploring and finding new adventures with the dogs, running, socialising with friends and spending time with family

What does your job entail? Following through with any requests from my Account Executive, answering the phone in a clear and professional manner and dealing with any requests from clients, updating risk details, processing renewals

What do you enjoy doing most? I'd have to say I enjoy everything I do on a daily basis. Any changes clients make are always different so you get the chance to learn something new which I like

What's the most important part of your job? Knowing how and being able to deal with clients' needs in a professional and friendly manner

What would you change to make your job even better? Perhaps being out of the office more with the Account Executive

Typical day? Checking any tasks my Account Executive may have set me and following them through, processing renewals, answering the phone and dealing with any client requests during the day.

Marion Davies Senior Administrative Assistant

How long with the Union? 25 - yes 25, that is not a typing error!

Previous jobs/education?

Worked for 13 years in a Georgian Mansion hotel which belonged to the Pride of Britain Group. The work was very rewarding as I got to travel a lot in the UK visiting other hotels in the group. Working in the hotel gave me valuable people skills which have served me well through all my jobs in life. Moved to Pembrokeshire in 1992 and worked in the front office at Dairy Crest in Whitland until its closure in 1994. As the saying goes, when one door closes another opens and it was in the December of 1994 that I commenced my employment with the FUW!

Home life (married/single etc)? Currently engaged to be married to Elgan (second time around for both of us). Enjoy helping Elgan with his farm which is home from home for me having been brought up on a beef and sheep farm in a little village called Garth near Builth Wells.

Hobbies/other activities outside work? Enjoy listening to classical music and opera - a great way to wind down after a busy day! Love all things rural, nature and the countryside at large. Like to spend time with loved ones and friends and Elgan's two grandsons - the cheeky monkeys! I like to take regular trips back "home" to Garth to catch up with the family

What does your job entail? That's a good



question as you never know what query or problem will land on your desk! But in general, answering the phone, keeping office records up-to-date, BCMS movements on behalf of members, assisting Rebecca Voyle in the organising of meetings and events in the county. A varied job to say the least!

Most unusual request? I once had a member phone the office and ask "tell me Marion, what was said in mart yesterday?" I replied, very politely, that I wasn't sure but if I happened to find out then he would be the first to know - I'm sorry to say I never did find out and the member is now farming

that great estate in the sky the one that we all hope we will end up in!

What do you enjoy doing most? Love, just love talking to our members about all sorts of stuff. They are such kind souls and are the salt of the earth. Despite the troubled times that we live in, there is still a great generosity, from the heart, of our members. If you were to ask me the question about what I least like about my job then I would have to say hearing about another case of TB. If I could have the power of a magic wand to rid the scurge that is TB then that would be just fantastic. The effects, both mentally and physically, that it has on farming families is cruel

What's the most important part of your job? Helping to solve issues for members and hopefully giving them peace of mind at the same time

Typical day? 9am-5pm but with the odd curve ball thrown in just enough to throw what was your planned day right out of the window!



Melony Richards Senior Account Executive

How long with the Union? Nearly 19 years

Previous jobs/education?

Started work as a travel agent on leaving school at 16 and after being made redundant after 4 years I was employed at Lloyd Motors in Cardigan as the Accounts Clerk which lasted for 10 years when I decided a change was needed and was lucky enough to be offered the post of Area Officer for Mid Pembrokeshire. The post has now expanded to cover the whole of Pembrokeshire

Home life (married/single etc)? I live with my 21-year-old son in the lovely village of Hermon in North Pembrokeshire

Hobbies/other activities outside work? Arranging holidays for friends and family, member of Clwb Gwawr Hermon, Trustee of the local community hall, going on outings/holidays with friends, reading

What does your job entail? Looking after clients insurance needs, be it quoting for any new business, assessing current clients policies, claims etc etc

Most unusual request? There are many but I cannot tell you what they are as they may read this!

What do you enjoy doing most? Dealing with the clients, they are what makes this job so enjoyable

What's the most important part of your job? The people

What would you change to make your job even better? More time in the day

Typical day? Reviewing renewals, quoting new business, dealing with claims, discussing policies with clients, making changes to policies etc - no two days are the same

Anything else? I count myself extremely lucky to do a job that I love, not many people are able to say this.

Dewi Evans Insurance Account Handler

How long with the Union? Since June 2001

Previous jobs/education?

Carmarthen Grammar School and NatWest Bank

Home life (married/single etc)? Divorced, have a son and daughter

Hobbies/other activities outside work? Walking, sports, Ornithology, family

What does your job entail? Assisting Account Executive, maintenance of policy records and amendments, Compliance, Accounts, dealing with telephone enquiries

What do you enjoy doing most? Seeing clients' needs being met

What's the most important part of your job? To be compliant

What would you change to make your job even better? To be out of the office more

Typical day? Actioning policy changes, dealing with telephone enquiries, assisting the Account Executive, maintenance of policy records and correspondence.



MEAT MATTERS

A new chance to join the Hill Ram Scheme

by Gwawr Parry, HCC Flock Genetics Executive

AT the end of 2019 we completed DNA sampling on our 29 Hill Ram Scheme farms. Over 6000 DNA samples were taken as part of the project for farmers to monitor DNA parentage within their flocks. Our seven Leader Flocks have received their first set of results and our 22 Phase 1 farmers are going into their first lambing season as part of the project.

The Scheme is dedicated to the improvement of the hill sector - which is a vital part of the Welsh sheep industry. The aim is to empower hill farmers to enter the world of performance recording without the need to change their current system - so as hill farmers can make informed, data-based decisions to achieve their flock ambitions. It is also hoped that these benefits will trickle through Wales' stratified sheep system.

The Scheme is part of the Red Meat Development Programme - HCC's 5-year strategic initiative to enhance and improve the red meat sector in Wales. It is funded through the Welsh Government and the EU Rural Development Programme.

We have a very wide range of farmers involved in the project, stretching from the Preseli mountains, to Snowdonia National Park. Many farmers are looking to achieve different things within the Scheme: some are looking to improve lamb liveweight gains, some are looking to improve ewe performance whilst others wanted the added benefit of EBVs for selling breeding rams. Part of the beauty of the Scheme is that farmers



can use the results to help achieve their long-term business aims.

Now, we are opening up the opportunity for more hill farmers to join the scheme and start their own journey in the world of performance recording. Each participating flock will receive support in recording the genetic performance of their flocks - be that through either manual or EID recording. They will also receive guidance on analysing and interpreting genetic data to help inform their future flock planning decisions as well as specialist training and marketing advice on how to promote and sell their rams. An Expression of Interest window opened in early January and will close on March 31 - hopefully allowing enough time for farmers to think about the process and sign-up in

between the throes of lambing. To register your interest, go to the HCC website and fill in the online form or, in the meantime, get in contact with us at HCC if you would like more information on the Scheme.

Ar ddiwedd 2019 cwblhaodd HCC samplu DNA ar 29 o ffermydd Cynllun Hyrddod Mynydd. Cymerwyd dros 6,000 o samplau DNA fel rhan o'r prosiect i ffermwyr fonitro DNA teuluol eu diadelloedd. Mae ein saith Diadell Arweiniol wedi derbyn eu set gyntaf o ganlyniadau ac mae ein 22 ffermwr Cam 1 ar fin dechrau'i tymor wyna cyntaf fel rhan o'r prosiect. Am ragor o wybodaeth am y cynllun, cysylltwch â HCC ar 01970 625050.

PROPERTY MATTERS

BPS to continue at same level of funding

by Kathryn Williams, Davis Meade Property Consultants

NEWS that farmers in Wales will be paid the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) in 2020 at the same level as in recent years will enable farmers to plan their farming year with greater confidence.

It has also been announced that the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) in Wales is likely to continue in 2021, meaning that the transition to the proposed new Land Management Programme will not start until 2022.

Support for Wales' rural economy and environment will also be maximised after Brexit by transferring 15 per cent of the 2020 budget for the BPS to support rural development in 2021/22.

Under the Common Agricultural Policy, member states and administrations are permitted to transfer up to 15 per cent of their BPS budget to their Rural Development budget.

This funding can be invested in a range of important schemes and priorities including: reducing carbon and greenhouse emissions, delivering water and air quality improvements, improving habitats and species, planting trees and supporting food and drink businesses.

The vast majority of farmers will already have received their 2019 BPS payment and they should also have received a BPS statement. Check this statement carefully for errors and query them immediately.

If you have made changes to land parcels for 2020 you must inform the Welsh Government of transfers within 30 days of the change(s) taking place. You can do this by completing a 'Manage My Land' submission, using your RPW Online account to notify any changes to ownership or tenures of land or to register new land or notify changes to permanent features or field boundaries.

You must declare only the land you have at your disposal on May 15, not any land you own but have rented out. Do not declare land that you occupy if the tenancy has expired by the cut-off date.

RPW will carry out initial checks on your submitted SAF to identify any differences between your declaration and the mapped field information held. RPW will also check to see if any of the land included on your SAF has also been declared by another claimant.

BPS is claimed at RPW online via a Single Application Form (SAF) and the deadline for submitting your SAF 2020 is midnight, May 15. Entitlement transfers in Wales must be completed by midnight April 30, 2020 through the RPW online account.

Contact Kathryn Williams at Davis Meade Property Consultants, 01691 659658 email kathryn.williams@dmpcuk.com

Mae'r newyddion bydd ffermwyr yng Nghymru yn derbyn yr un lefel o Gynllun Taliad Sylfaenol (BPS) yn 2020 ag yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf yn galluogi ffermwyr i gynllunio eu blwyddyn gyda mwy o hyder. Cyhoeddwyd hefyd bod y Cynllun Taliad Sylfaenol (BPS) yng Nghymru yn debygol o barhau yn 2021, sy'n golygu na fydd y newid i'r Rhaglen Rheoli Tir newydd arfaethedig yn dechrau tan 2022. Bydd cefnogaeth i economi ac amgylchedd gwledig Cymru hefyd yn cael ei gynyddu i'r eithaf ar ôl Brexit trwy drosglwyddo 15 y cant o gyllideb 2020 BPS er mwyn cefnogi datblygiad gwledig yn 2021/22.

MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

A oeddech chi wedi gwneud addunedau blwyddyn newydd?

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

A OEDDECH chi wedi gwneud addunedau blwyddyn newydd? Ac os felly a ydych chi eu cadw neu eu torri yn barod? Mae'n debyg bod ffitrwydd yn un o brif nodau nifer o bobl ar ddechrau blwyddyn ond i bawb mae'n debyg "lechyd ydyw'r trysor mwyafr".

Dwi yn bersonol yn hoff iawn o gael cyfle i gymdeithasu gyda ffrindiau, ac o ddysgu sut mae mwynhau creu crefft newydd. Ac yn wir dyna a ddigwyddodd yn Glasdir Llanrwst ganol Ionawr gyda hanner cant o ferched yn dysgu sgiliau newydd a'r thema "blodau" yn ysbrydoli pawb yn barod i gystadleuaeth "Eden Werdd" yn sioe Llanelwedd.

Fe fyddwn yn dysgu mwy am grefftau yn y De ym mis Mawrth - lle bydd, creu blodau o bapur, ffeltio, gosod blodau a chreu bag - ac yn sicr fe fydd yn ddiwrnod cymdeithasol. Dwi hefyd yn dwli ar y tywydd oer rhylllyd, lle mae'r barrug yn troi'r byd yn wyn ac am olygfeydd godidog sydd gennym yng Nghymru.

Beth am fynd allan i gofnodi prydfwrthwch eich cymunedau - tynnu llun ar y camera neu'r ffôn symudol a'i rannu gyda gweddill y byd? Beth am gofnodi blwyddyn o gefn gwlad, amaethyddiaeth neu fyd natur? Dwi yn grediniol ein bod yn byw mewn gwlad i'w thrysori a'i mwynhau

Ac er bod costau postio yn mynd yn uwch ac yn uwch, beth am ddanfôn nodyn, cerdyn post neu hyd yn oed un o'ch lluniau at ffrind, perthynas neu rywun o'ch ardal enedigol i ddweud eich bod yn meddwl amdanynt ac yn danfôn eich cofion atynt.

Mae Mawrth 1af yn gyffrous iawn i ni fel mudiad, gwelwn ddathlu 20 mlynedd ers agor y ganolfan sy'n cael ei defnyddio gan amryw o fudiadau a sefydliadau - galwch draw i'n gweld yno.

Eleni mae yn flwyddyn yr "Awyr Agored". Felly ewch amdani - ymunwch ar daith gerdded, ewch i gynorthwyo rhywun sydd yn cynnal prosiect cymunedol neu beth am blannu rhai coed neu flodau i wella eich cymuned leol.

Felly peidiwch â gofidio os oes adduned blwyddyn newydd wedi ei dorri - mae yna ddigon o bethau da a hwyliog y medrwn wneud i wella ein bywydau. Yn y cyfamser cychwynnawch sgwrs a mwynhewch gwmni eich gilydd.

Have you made any new year's resolutions? If so, have you kept them or broken them already?! Fifty Merched y Wawr members took part in an event in Llanrwst recently to learn new skills on the theme of 'Flowers'. There will be a chance to learn new skills in South Wales in March with paper flowers, felting, flower arranging and creating a bag on the agenda. What about going outside to take pictures of our beautiful community? Why not record a year of the countryside, agriculture or nature? Don't worry too much about breaking resolutions, there are so many good and fun things we can do to make life better.

Ail-lansio cynllun gwaredu plaladdwyr

Dŵr Cymru
Welsh Water

CYNLLUN GWAREDU PLALADDWYR AM DDIM

Yn dilyn llwyddiant y cynllun yn 2019, rydym ni wedi ail-lansio ein cynllun gwaredu plaladdwyr cyfrinachol rhad ac am ddim ar gyfer ffermwyr a rheolwyr tir yng Nghymru.

MAE'N CYNWYS

- Plaladdwyr
- Pelenni lladd gwllthod
- Gwenwyn Lygod
- Chwynladdwyr
- Dip defaid

SUT MAE'N GWEITHIO

- 1** Cofrestru
Cofrestrwch gyda ni ar-lein neu dros y ffôn.
- 2** Byddwn ni'n cadarnhau a ydych chi'n gymwys ai peidio
Fe wnawn ni hyn trwy ofyn ambell i gwestiwn syml i chi.
- 3** Byddwn ni'n trosglwyddo'ch manylion
Os ydych chi'n gymwys, byddwn ni'n trosglwyddo'ch manylion yn ddiogel i'n contractwr trydydd parti.
- 4** Casglu
Bydd ein contractwr yn gofyn i chi beth rydych chi am ei waredu a faint sydd gennych, ac yn trefnu dyddiad casglu.

Cofrestrwch rhwng 1 Mawrth a 31 Mawrth 2020
dwcymru.com/disposalscheme
01443 452716
Caiff y Gwaith ei gyflawni rhwng Mai a Medi 2020

dwcymru.com/disposalscheme

MAE Dŵr Cymru wedi ail-lansio'r Cynllun gwaredu plaladdwyr cyfrinachol rhad ac am ddim ar gyfer ffermwyr a rheolwyr tir yng Nghymru.

Y dyddiad pwysig i'w nodi ydi'r 1af - 31ain o Fawrth - Dyma'r cyfnod lle bydd yn rhaid i'r aelodau gofrestru ar gyfer y Cynllun.

Welsh Water have relaunched the free and confidential Pesticide Disposal Scheme for farmers and land managers in Wales.

The important date to note is March 1st - 31st - this is the period that members can register for the scheme.

Dŵr Cymru
Welsh Water

FREE PESTICIDE DISPOSAL SCHEME

Following its success in 2019 we've relaunched our free and confidential pesticide disposal scheme for farmers and land managers in Wales.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Pesticides
- Herbicides/ Weed killer
- Slug pellets
- Sheep dip
- Rodenticides

HOW IT WORKS

- 1** Register with us online or by phone.
- 2** We'll confirm if you're eligible. We'll do this by asking you some simple questions.
- 3** We'll transfer your details. If you're eligible, we'll securely transfer your details to our third party contractor.
- 4** Collection. Our contractor will ask what you want to dispose of, how much you have and arrange a collection date.

Register between 1st March and 31st March 2020
dwcymru.com/disposalscheme
01443 452716
Collection will take place between May and September 2020

dwcymru.com/disposalscheme

Grant Busnes i Ffermydd (FBG)

MAE Ffenestr 7 yn agor ar y 2il o Fawrth. Er mwyn bod yn gymwys am y cynllun grant hwn bydd yn rhaid i aelodau fynychu Digwyddiad Cyswllt Ffermio - 'Ffermio Ar Gyfer y Dyfodol', hynny yw, os nad ydynt eisoes wedi bod mewn digwyddiad o'r fath yn y gorffennol.

Dyma'r rhestr digwyddiadau fydd ar gael:

- Mawrth y 3ydd - Glastir, Llanrwst, 7yh
- Mawrth y 5ed - Ysgol Penglais, Aberystwyth, 7yh
- Mawrth y 10fed - The Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot, 7yh.

Window 7 opens on the March 2. In order to be eligible for this grant scheme members will have to attend a Farming Connect event - 'Farming for the Future', that is, if they have not already attended one in the past.

Here is the list of events:

- March 3 - Glastir, Llanrwst, 7pm
- March 5 - Penglais School, Aberystwyth, 7pm
- March 10 - The Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot, 7pm.

Corbett Williams & Sons

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SALES | SERVICE | SPARES

4X4 ESTATES

16/16 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 4 LANDMARK AUTO LEATHER (LOW R/TAX) 255 BHP 3.0 LTR TURBO/D 41000 MLS
15/15 LANDROVER DISCOVERY SPORT SE TECH 7 SEAT MANUAL LEATHER 190 BHP 2.2 T/D 44000 MLS
15/15 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN SG4 AUTO 7 SEAT LEATHER A/C (LOW R/TAX) 197 BHP 3.2 TURBO/D 31000 MLS
15/15 JEEP CHEROKEE CRD LONGITUDE M/JET A/C ETC 6 SPEED 140 BHP 2.0 TURBO/D ONLY 29000 MLS
14/14 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN BARBARIAN 3 DOOR (AUTO) LEATHER (LOW ROAD TAX) 197 BHP 3.2 T/D 41000 MLS
14/14 LANDROVER FREELANDER 2 GS 5 DOOR LEATHER A/CON 6 SPEED 158 BHP 2.2 TURBO/D 51000 MLS
14/63 HYUNDAI IX 35 PREMIUM CRD 5 DOOR AIR/CON LEATHER 6 SPEED 134 BHP 2.0 LTR TURBO/D 36000 MLS
12/62 MAZDA CX5 SPORT NAV (AUTOMATIC) LEATHER ETC 175 BHP 2.2 TURBO/D 42000 MLS
12/12 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 4 XS 8 SPEED AUTO LEATHER CLIMATE 7 SEAT 255 BHP 3.0 LTR T/D 97000 MLS
11/61 HONDA CRV -ES 5 DOOR AIR/CON LEATHER ETC 6 SPEED 148 BHP 2.2 TURBO/D 48000 MLS
10/60 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE S LIMITED (AUTOMATIC) LEATHER ETC 237 BHP 3.0 LTR TURBO/D 72000 MLS
10/10 LANDROVER DISCOVERY 4 XS (AUTOMATIC) 7 SEAT LEATHER 242 BHP 3.0 LTR TURBO/D 73000 MLS
10/10 KIA SPORTAGE XS 5 DOOR LEATHER AIR/CON ETC 6 SPEED 2.0 LTR TURBO/D 58000 MLS
09/09 CITROEN C-CROSSER VTR HDI 7 SEAT LEATHER A/CON ETC 156 BHP 2.2 TURBO/D 56000 MLS
08/08 DAIHATSU TERIOS CENTENARY 5 DOOR AIR/CON ETC 1.5 PETROL ONLY 43000 MLS
07/56 DAIHATSU TERIOS S 5 DOOR AIR/CON ETC 1.5 PETROL ONLY 47000 MLS
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Vermicomposting: An alternative method for organic waste management

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

ORGANIC or green waste generation (materials including food, plant or animal wastes, such as manure) can be a major problem for agricultural businesses, which can be difficult and costly to manage effectively. Vermicomposting (sometimes referred to as a wormery) is an alternative method for organic waste management, which can simultaneously recycle valuable resources such as nutrients.

An effective vermicomposting system can rapidly reduce the burden of organic agricultural waste whilst producing value added products such as fertiliser, soil conditioner, and earthworm biomass.

The vermicomposting process is similar to traditional composting, in that organic waste is broken down through biological decomposition in an aerobic environment to produce stabilised organic fertilizer. Unlike composting however, vermicomposting includes action by earthworms as well as microorganisms, which acts to biodegrade organic waste at a faster rate.

The actions of earthworms in the vermicomposting process are both physical and biochemical. Earthworms break up the organic material through physical action, which also increases turnover and aeration, increasing the activity rates of other microbial organisms. Through active digestion the organic material is also transformed by enzymatic processes, which acts to recycle important nutrients into forms that are readily available for plant uptake.

Vermicomposting systems can be designed at small or large scale, but it is important to consider certain factors in order to achieve maximum potential. Earthworms are the essential component of this system, and these organisms will require a specific environment to thrive. For instance, earthworms require damp environments to maintain activity rates, as these organisms breathe through their skin.

Earthworm activities are also significantly affected by temperature; should temperatures drop below 10oC, reproduction and metabolic rates will decline. The system must be aerated, as these organisms require oxygen, which is typically achieved through manual turning. However, this action should be undertaken sensitively as earthworms are highly photosensitive and prolonged exposure to light will have adverse effects.

The nature of the organic waste applied also needs to be considered. The carbon to nitrogen ratio of feed material will affect earthworms when this is either too high or too low, by influencing growth and reproduction rates. Feed material pH is also important; whilst earthworms can process most organic materials, certain substances, such as those with pH <5, may require pre-treatment or bulking with other organic materials to avoid harm to these organisms.



The future is bright for Welsh farming

Pembrokeshire-based Aled Thomas wins Agricultural Student of the Year award

by Rob Edwards, Business Development Manager, Kubota UK

FARMING may be one of the oldest institutions in the world but in recent times it hasn't escaped the well-publicised and ever-increasing UK-wide skills shortage.

Today's changing landscape - politically, environmentally and socially - has transformed the traditional image of the 'farmer'. Nowadays, those who choose to follow this career path require not only an excellent knowledge of practical agricultural techniques but also a broader business mindset and the ability to sell and market their goods and services.

This shift in skillset is where the problem often lies when it comes to attracting new talent. At Kubota, we recognise the key role that the next generation of talented farming professionals will play in order to take us into the new era of agriculture. This is why we're so proud to celebrate the achievements of rising stars within the industry and also why we choose to sponsor the 'Agricultural Student of the Year' category at this year's British Farming Awards.

The winner of the prestigious award this year was Pembrokeshire-based Aled Thomas. Having spent his childhood growing up on a 350-acre, beef and arable farm in Haverfordwest, at the age of 19, Aled decided to apply to university and was accepted onto

the BSc Agriculture course at Harper Adams University.

Despite being unsure whether he'd chosen the right path at first and finding the first term challenging, Aled now claims that the four year's studying has better prepared him for his future career in agriculture, granting him the scientific knowledge and business acumen needed to be successful.

2019 has been a year full of achievement for Aled who graduated with a 2:1 in September and was then, of course, crowned 'Agricultural Student of the Year' after being nominated by one of his lecturers.

Commenting on his win and the industry Aled Thomas said: "Winning this award is a huge achievement for me. I think that awards like this one, sponsored by an industry leader like Kubota, could have a big impact on helping to reduce the skills gap.

"They help to raise the profile of farming as an industry and showcase its value. They also help to dispel many of the myths around it - such as poor pay and lack of opportunity."

"The reality is that the agriculture market is always expanding. It's an exciting and versatile profession to get in to and there is a lot of opportunity for young people. The pace of change - especially when it comes to the modern technologies now being used across the sector - means that often younger people who are open to newer ways of thinking and working can be really successful."

"The reality is that the agriculture market is always expanding. It's an exciting and versatile profession to get in to and there is a lot of opportunity for young people."



From left, 2019 British Farming Awards host Vernon Kay, Agricultural Student of the Year award winner, Aled Thomas and Kubota Business Development Manager, Rob Edwards.

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