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Brexit - what will be different?

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#Big Farming Survey



RABI survey - get involved to help make a difference

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Reaction to Agriculture (Wales) White Paper

THE FUW has reacted to the release of the Welsh Government's Agriculture (Wales) White Paper, which outlines plans for the future of Welsh agricultural support and regulation, saying the paper does little to reduce concerns regarding the impacts for families and communities of proposed sweeping changes to agricultural support.

At the heart of the proposals is that financial support for Welsh farms be provided through public goods payments - the system being adopted in England. Northern Ireland and Scotland plan to introduce more diverse forms of support.

Responding to the white paper, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "We all agree with the objectives of protecting and enhancing the economic, environmental and social sustainability of our rural communities, which are alluded to in this white paper.

"However, we have grave concerns that the public goods scheme that lies at the centre of the proposals will actually undermine these objectives and therefore threaten family farms and rural economics - not to mention being horrendously complicated and risking a postcode lottery."

Mr Roberts said that while he was encouraged by the change in language used by the Welsh Government in recent years, and the acknowledgement of the need for more realistic and less dangerous timetables than had originally been proposed, the public goods funding mechanism underpinning the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) proposals remained the same as those being brought forward in England.

"The mechanism for delivering the proposed SFS - payments for public goods - is basically the same as for England's Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme, and we remain

disappointed that Wales has not yet taken the opportunity to use the blank sheet of paper we have to create a bespoke scheme aimed at meeting Welsh priorities.

"Instead, we are taking a decades old Defra idea and shoe-horning it into a Welsh context, trying to fit Welsh priorities around an English scheme, rather than designing a Welsh scheme to meet Welsh priorities," he added.

In October 2018 the FUW and NFU Cymru outlined their joint 'Welsh way forward' policy, aimed at placing Wales' food, farming, livelihoods, communities and environment on a firm post-Brexit footing.

The policy outlined five key priorities for a future policy: stability, family farms, supporting rural communities and Welsh jobs, sustainable agriculture and rewarding environmental outcomes.

"I'm afraid that by placing the one-dimensional, untried and untested mechanism of public goods payments at the core of a future scheme places an inherent weakness at the heart of future policies.

"We firmly believe that public goods are only a part of the picture and that a more imaginative Welsh way forward should be forged."

Mr Roberts said that the FUW would be responding in full to the proposals set out in the white paper following consultation with its county branches.

Online lobby tool following cuts to rural funding

THE FUW is urging farmers and members of the public to use an online tool to lobby Welsh politicians over cuts to Wales' agriculture and rural development budget announced by the UK Chancellor on November 25.

The tool allows people to email their elected Members of Parliament and Members of the Welsh Senedd calling on them to fight for the restoration of Wales' agriculture and rural development budget to pre-EU Exit levels in real terms - in line with promises made to Welsh and UK constituents by numerous politicians, UK Government ministers.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "The UK Government has cut funding for Welsh agriculture and rural development by at least 27% and up to 41% if Pillar transfer funds are included, and the implications for the economic, environmental and cultural sustainability of our communities are severe. "We've therefore set up a lobbying tool so farmers and members of the public can write to their elected representatives urging them to lobby the UK Government to ensure funding for Welsh agriculture and rural development is restored to pre-EU Exit levels."

The farming industry and general public were assured repeatedly by leading campaigners for Brexit and UK Government ministers that funding for Welsh



agriculture and rural development would not be reduced after the UK had left the EU, while the 2019 Conservative manifesto claimed '...we will guarantee the current annual [Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)] budget to farmers in every year of the next Parliament.'

However, the UK Treasury has used unspent money from the 2014-2020 Common Agricultural Policy budget to calculate the total funding for Welsh agriculture and rural development in 2021-2022, meaning Wales will receive £95 million (28%) less than would have expected if the spirit of the promises had been met.

"The UK Government's failure to take account of the 15% Pillar Transfer figure increases this loss to £137 million - a reduction in funding for Welsh rural communities of 41% - and I would urge all those who care about Wales to contact their elected politicians regarding this issue," said Mr Roberts.

Elected politicians can be contacted in either English or Welsh using the following links:

English: <https://fuw.org.uk/en/policy/contact-your-mp>

Welsh: <https://fuw.org.uk/cy/polisi/cysylltwch-a-ch-as-lleol>

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I am confident we can secure a bright future for Welsh agriculture and our family farms

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President



This is equivalent to between 3% and 4% of the value of current UK meat exports.

Meanwhile, the additional costs of these and other non-tariff barriers are estimated to be between 4% and 8% - equivalent to a reduction of between 8p and 18p per liveweight kilo based on current lamb prices (further details of such barriers and changes can be found in the Brexit changes article on pages 12 and 13).

Meanwhile, we also have certainty regarding the budget that will replace our EU CAP budget: in December 2019, the UK Government announced a Welsh BPS budget that took no account of the 15% Pillar Transfer, leaving a funding gap of £42 million. Then in November 2020, they announced a Welsh funding allocation that increases this funding gap for 2021-2022 to £137 million - equivalent to a cut of around 41%.

While those who support the UK Government have used creative interpretations of the promises made repeatedly by those lobbying for Brexit, government ministers and the Conservative manifesto to justify this, the reality is that they wasted no time in starting to cut the agricultural budget as soon as the Transition Period started.

There is no doubt that the impacts of these reductions will start to be felt in the New Year, and the FUW has argued for any necessary cuts to come from RDP spending rather than the BPS, and that Glastir payments need to be protected.

2021 will also mean much debate over the

“We clearly have a rocky road ahead of us in 2021, but whatever happens I am confident we can secure a bright future for Welsh agriculture and our family farms.”

future direction of Wales' agricultural and rural policies, following the publication of the Agriculture (Wales) White Paper consultation in mid-December.

While the paper highlights many of the concerns we all share, as with previous consultations the proposal is to make public goods payments the only revenue tool available to meet economic, environmental and social sustainable development objectives.

The FUW has been blunt in highlighting how unimaginative the Welsh Government has been in copying this decades-old Defra concept and trying to fit Welsh policy objectives around it, rather than looking at what we want to achieve then designing a system and the necessary tools to deliver these.

In my mind, this is like trying to find a way to change the gearbox, tune the engine and respray the bodywork while insisting it all has to be done with just a spanner, and I know I am not alone in feeling that we did not vote for devolution to see Wales simply adopting ideas dreamt up in London that have made it along the M4: We have previously deviated significantly from English policies, much to Defra's disappointment and our benefit, and should continue to do so, just as Scotland and Northern Ireland are forging ahead with their plans to use multiple tools to deliver what is needed for their own agriculture and rural communities.

We clearly have a rocky road ahead of us in 2021, but whatever happens I am confident we can secure a bright future for Welsh agriculture and our family farms.

Boris Johnson said he strained every sinew to get a Brexit deal. As individual farmers, we have been more proactive in lobbying in recent years than for decades, but we have not yet strained the smallest muscle, and in 2021 we must be prepared to redouble our lobbying and stand up strong to secure the future of farming and food production in Wales.

The FUW is committed to fighting for that future, and will continue to do so without fear or favour.

Mae'r golofn yma yn Gymraeg ar dudalen 4: "Dwi'n hyderus y gallwn sicrhau dyfodol llewyrchus i amaethyddiaeth a'n ffermydd teuluol yng Nghymru."

Farmhouse Breakfast Week returns with a difference



THE FUW is once again preparing for one of its key events - the annual Farmhouse Breakfast week, which will run from Monday 18 - Sunday 24 January 2021.

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

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

The Union is therefore encouraging the public to get involved with breakfast week by purchasing locally sourced breakfast ingredients, and sharing photos and videos of themselves with their breakfast through social media, using the hashtag #breakfastweek2021.

"We have joined forces with butchers, farm shops, cafes and other Welsh Food retailers across Wales to help spread the word about the fantastic produce that is available right on our doorstep. We hope many of you will support this campaign and take time out to enjoy the wonderful, sustainably grown, breakfast food we have on offer here in Wales."

The campaign is further hoping to raise vital funds for the DPJ Foundation by asking consumers to make a small donation alongside their breakfast produce purchase.

Details of participating businesses on page 3

2021 direct payment ceiling to match 2020

AS Y Tir went to press, Lesley Griffiths announced a total direct payment ceiling of £238 million for the 2021 Basic Payments Scheme (BPS), meaning payments next year will remain at the same level as in 2020.

FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "We very much welcome the Minister's confirmation that she intends to provide financial security for farming families and the tens of thousands of rural businesses they support at a time of unprecedented uncertainty."

In making the announcement, Lesley Griffiths acknowledged that her decision would "...provide the agricultural sector with much needed stability in very turbulent times."

Defra has already announced that English BPS payments will be cut from next year to make way for their Environmental Land Management scheme.

If we have published anything that is factually inaccurate, please contact the editor on 01970 820820 at ytir@fuw.org.uk or at FUW, Llŷs 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



Anglesey:

- Hootons Homegrown, Gwydryn Hir, Brynsiencyn, Anglesey, LL61 6SJ
- Glandŵr Butchers, Amlwch Road, Benllech, Anglesey, LL74 8TD
- Llechwedd Meats, Parc Bryn Cefni, Llangefni, Anglesey, LL77 7JA
- Valley Butchers, Anglesey Fine Foods, Station Road, Valley, Anglesey, LL65 3EB

Brecon & Radnor:

- Bob the Butcher Wales Ltd, West St, Rhayader, LD6 5AB
- Morgans Butchers, 12 High St, Builth Wells, LD2 3DN
- Morgan Butchers, 103 The Struet, Brecon, LD3 7LT
- PF Sweeney, 9-12 Market St, Brecon, LD3 9DA
- WJ George Ltd, Cross House, High St, Talgarth, Brecon, LD3 0PD

Ceredigion:

- Cigydd Bow Street, Pendre, Bow Street, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY24 5BQ
- Dewi James, 38 High Street, Cardigan, Ceredigion, SA43 1HE
- Rattray Butcher, 8 Chalybeate Street, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 1HS
- Cigydd Evans Butcher Tregaron, Castle House, The Square, Tregaron, Ceredigion, SY25 6JL
- Pentre Shop, Main Street, Llanon, Ceredigion, SY23 5LW

Caernarfon:

- K E Taylor Daughter & Son, Cricieth - 01766 523112
- John Williams & Son, Llanfairfechan - 01248 680715
- Edwards of Conwy, Conwy - 01492 592443
- Caffi Gerlan, Groeslon - 01286 831188
- O G Owen, Caernarfon - 01286 672146
- O E Metcalfe Butchers, Llanrwst - 01492 641755
- A L Williams, Edern - 01758 720227
- Oinc Oink, Llithfaen - 07879 844799
- Wavells Butchers Ltd, Llanrug - 01286 673574
- T J Parry-Jones & Daughters, Trefriw - 01492 640110



THE DPJ FOUNDATION



Carmarthen:

- Albert Rees, Unit 6, The Market, Carmarthen
- Deri Page Family Butchers, Pentre Road, St Clears, Carmarthen
- Eynons of St. Clears, Deganway, Pentre Road, St. Clears
- Colin Harries Butchers, London House, St John Street, Whitland
- Richies Meat, 8 Farmers Row, Llanelli
- Williams Butchers Ltd, 54 Bridge Street, Llangennech, Llanelli
- GH Watkins Butchers, 10 Heol y Neuadd, Tumble
- Dewi Roberts Family Butcher, 16 Towr terrace, Ffairfach, Llandeilo
- Cooper the Butchers, 4 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo
- Matthew Butchers, 6 Stone Street, Llandovery
- Martin the Butcher, 21 Quay Street, Ammanford
- Cig y Cennen, 5 High Street, Llandybie
- Mortons Fine Foods, Quality Family Butchers & Butchery, 5 Carmarthen Road, Cross Hands, Llanelli
- Castell Howell, Cross Hands Business, Cross Hands Food Park, Cross Hands, Llanelli SA14 6SX
- Castell Howell Cash and Carry, Myrtle Hill, Carmarthen, SA31 2NG

Pembrokeshire:

- Prendergast Butchers, Bryn Capel, Prendergast, Haverfordwest, SA61 2PF
- Fred Hughes Butchers, 37 Dew Street, Haverfordwest, SA61 1ST
- Jon James & Son Family Butcher, 64 Portfield, Haverfordwest, SA61 1BB
- Gate to Plate Farm Shop, Mayfield Golf Centre, Lower Freystrop, Haverfordwest, SA62 4ET
- Andrew Rees & Sons Ltd, 29 High Street, Narberth, SA67 7AS
- J O Griffiths & Sons, 23 High Street, Narberth, SA67 7AR
- Cig Lodor Carla's Farm Shop, Lodor Fach, Maenclochog, Clynderwen, SA66 7RD
- Ken Davies Butchers, London House, High Street, Crymch, SA41 3QE
- T G Davies & Sons, Waltham House, Market Street, Newport, SA42 0PH
- Gwaun Valley Meats, 3 St David's Road, Letterston, Haverfordwest, SA62 5SF
- Gwyn Davies & Sons Ltd, 2 High Street, St David's Haverfordwest, SA62 6SD
- J Blockwell & Son, 7 Priory Street, Milford Haven, SA73 2AD
- D J Etherington, 200 Robert Street, Milford Haven, SA73 2HT
- Justin's Joint, 65 Queen Street, Pembroke Dock, SA72 6JF
- M C & V A Mott, 56 Main Street, Pembroke, SA71 4NP
- Heywoods of Saundersfoot, 1-2 Milford Street, Saundersfoot, SA69 9EP
- The Copper Hog, Ashley House, 18 High Street, Tenby, SA70 7HD
- Brauns Butchers, Old Market Hall, High Street, Tenby, SA70 7EU

Glamorgan:

- Carno Dairies (contact through Facebook page)
- Farmers Pantry (www.farmerspantry.shop)
- Cyw Hapus Free Range Eggs (contact through Facebook page)

Meirionnydd:

- Aberdyfi Butchers, 3 Copperhill Street, Aberdyfi
- Cigydd Y Bala Butchers, Stryd Fawr, Y Bala
- London House Stores, Dyffryn Ardudwy
- Prysor Service Station, Trawsfynydd
- Roberts Bros Butchers, 2 Eldon Row, Dolgellau
- Siop Y Garreg, Llanfrothen
- T J Roberts & Son, Tryweryn House, Y Bala

Gwent:

- M.T Cashell & Sons, 53 Jubilee House, High st, Crickhowell, NP8 1BH
- Beavan Family Butchers, 31a Hillcrest Road, Abergavenny, NP7 6BN
- Wayne Grist Butchers, 21 Market Street, Ebbw Vale, Gwent, NP23 6HL

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Dwi'n hyderus y gallwn sicrhau dyfodol llewyrchus i amaethyddiaeth a'n ffermydd teuluol yng Nghymru

gan Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC

WRTH inni ddechrau ar Flwyddyn Newydd a'r gobaieth o ddychwelyd i ryw fath o normalrwydd, mae ymadawiad go iawn y DU o'r Undeb Ewropeidd ar ôl ysgariad hirfaith yn awgrymu na fydd 2021 yn un normal o bell ffordd.



dros wneud unrhyw gwtogi angenrheidiol o wariant y Rhaglen Datblygu Gwledig yn hytrach na Chynllun y Taliad Sylfaenol, a bod angen diogelu taliadau Glastir.

Bydd 2021 hefyd yn golygu cryn ddadlau dros gyfeiriad polisiâu amaethyddol a gwledig Cymru yn y dyfodol, yn

Wrth imi ysgrifennu, mae'r DU a'r UE yn dal i fod wrthi'n cynnal trafodaethau masnach, ond erbyn ichi ddarllen hwn dwi'n tybio y bydd bargen wedi'i tharo neu bydd y trafodaethau wedi chwalu - os mai'r olaf yw'r achos, bydd ein diwydiant yn wynebu problemau mawr yn sgil gosod tariffau all ostwng prisiau gât y fferm rhai nwyddau o 30% neu ragor.

Er bod honiadau niferus am fuddiannau ac anafanteision Brexit wedi'u trafod ers blynyddoedd, rydym o'r diwedd yn dechrau gweld rhai ffigurau mwy dibynadwy a fydd - p'un ai oes cytundeb masnach ai peidio - yn gwneud 2021 yn anodd a dweud y lleiaf i nifer o fusnesau Cymru.

Fel y dysgodd y cant a mwy o aelodau a ymunodd â'n gweminar Brexit ar 17 Rhagfyr, bydd y Tystysgrifau Iechyd Allforio sydd eu hangen gan weithgynhyrchwyr bwyd i allforio cynnyrch i'r UE yn costio tua £150 i £200 yr un, sy'n golygu bod cyfanswm bil y DU yn debygol o fod rhwng £45 miliwn a £60 miliwn yn 2021, os bydd allforio'n parhau ar y lefelau presennol.

Mae hyn yn cyfateb i rhwng 3% a 4% o werth allforion cig presennol y DU.

Yn y cyfamser, amcangyfrifir bod costau ychwanegol y rhwystrau hyn a rhwystrau eraill di-dariff rhwng 4% ac 8% - sy'n cyfateb i ostyngiad o rhwng 8c ac 18c ar bob cilo o bwysau byw, yn seiliedig ar y prisiau wryn presennol (ceir manylion pellach am rwystrau a newidiadau o'r fath yn yr erthygl ar newidiadau Brexit ar dudalennau 12 ac 13).

Yn y cyfamser, rydym hefyd wedi cael sicrwydd am y gyllideb a fydd yn disodli ein cyllideb PAC UE bresennol: yn Rhagfyr 2019, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth y DU gyllideb BPS ar gyfer Cymru nad oedd yn rhoi unrhyw ystyriaeth i'r 15% o drosglwyddiad o golofn i golofn, gan adael bwlch ariannu o £42 miliwn. Yna yn Nhachwedd 2020, cyhoeddwyd dyraniad cyllid ar gyfer Cymru sy'n lleadaenu'r bwlch hwn yn 2021-2022 i £137 miliwn - sy'n cyfateb i gwtogiad o tua 41%.

Er bod y rhai sy'n cefnogi Llywodraeth y DU wedi cynnig dehongliadau creadigol o'r addewidion a wnaed dro ar ôl tro gan y rhai oedd yn lobbio dros Brexit, gweinidogion y Llywodraeth, a maniffesto'r Toriaid i gyfiawnhau hyn, y realiti yw na wastraffwyd unrhyw amser cyn cwtogi ar y gyllideb amaethyddol unwaith bod y Cyfnod Pontio wedi dechrau.

Does dim amheuaeth y bydd effeithiau'r cwtogi hyn yn dechrau brathu yn y Flwyddyn Newydd, ac mae UAC wedi dadlau

sgil cyhoeddi ymgynghoriad Papur Gwyn Amaethyddiaeth (Cymru) ganol Rhagfyr.

Er bod y papur yn tynnu sylw at nifer o'r pryderon mae pob un ohonom yn eu rhannu, fel gydag ymgynghoriadau blaenorol, y cynnig yw gwneud taliadau nwyddau cyhoeddus yn unig arf refereni ar gyfer cwrdd ag amcanion datblygu cynaliadwy economaidd, amgylcheddol a chymdeithasol.

Mae UAC wedi bod yn ddflewyl ar dafod o ran tynnu sylw at ba mor ddiddychymyg mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi bod yn copio hen gysyniad Defra o ddegawdau yn ôl, a cheisio ffitio amcanion polisi Cymru o'i amgylch, yn hytrach nag edrych ar yr hyn rydym am ei gyflawni ac yna cynllunio'r system ar ei adnoddau angenrheidiol i wneud hynny.

Yn fy meddwl i, mae hyn fel ceisio dod o hyd i ffordd o newid y gerbocs, tiwnio'r injan ac ail-baentio'r corff gan fynnu bod yn rhaid gwneud y cyfan gyda sbaner yn unig, a gwn nad y fi yw'r unig un sy'n teimlo na wnaethon ni bleidleisio am ddatganoli i weld Cymru'n gwneud dim mwy na mabwysiadu syniadau a ddyfeisiwyd yn Llundain, cyn mudo i Gymru ar hyd yr M4.

Cyn hyn rydym wedi gwro'n sylweddol o bolisiâu Lloegr, er siom mawr i Defra ac er budd Cymru, a dylem barhau i wneud hynny, fel mae'r Alban a Gogledd Iwerddon yn symud ymlaen â'u cynlluniau i ddefnyddio arfau lluosog i gyflawni beth sydd ei angen ar gyfer eu gymunedau amaethyddol a gwledig eu hunain.

Mae'n amlwg bod cyfnod heriol yn ein hwynebu yn 2021, ond beth bynnag ddigwyddith, dwi'n hyderus y gallwn sicrhau dyfodol llewyrchus i amaethyddiaeth a'n ffermydd teuluol yma yng Nghymru.

Dyweddodd Boris Johnson iddo roi pob gewyn ar waith i geisio gael cytundeb Brexit. Fel ffermwr unigol, buom wrthi'n fwy diwyd yn lobbio dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf nag y buom ers degawdau, ond nid ydym eto wedi straenio hyd yn oed y cyhyr lleiaf, ac yn 2021 rhaid inni fod yn barod i ddyblu'n lobbio a sefyll yn gadarn dros ddyfodol ffermio a chynhyrchu bwyd yng Nghymru.

Mae UAC wedi ymrwmo i frwydro dros y dyfodol hwnnw, a bydd yn parhau i wneud hynny heb ofn na ffafriaeth.

This column is in English on page 2: "I am confident we can secure a bright future for Welsh agriculture and our family farms."

Policy Department Update

by Gareth Parry, FUW Policy Communications Officer

B-Day

1652 days since the Brexit referendum vote in June 2016, Brexit-day will have finally passed by the time this paper arrives on your doorstep, but somewhat unsurprisingly, it remains anyone's guess as to what we will come out with on the other side.

UK and EU producers, businesses and exporters were awaiting some sense of direction from the negotiations as we went to print. Nevertheless, the FUW Webinar: *What do Welsh farmers need to know from 1st January 2021* held on December 17 cast light on many of the latest developments - as well as concerns - and the fact that it was attended by more than 100 members highlights the concerns of farmers about what will happen in 2021. If you missed it, it can be re-watched on the Members' Section of the FUW Website.

With the end of the year fast approaching and the option of extending trade talks running out, it looks extremely likely that it will go down to the wire and that in actual fact, you will have the privilege of knowing more than me at the time of reading this.

On numerous occasions since the referendum and more recently in particular,

the FUW has warned how the failure by the UK and EU to reach a trade deal before the end of year will be catastrophic for industries and communities in Wales and across the UK.

Given that Wales' food and drink supply chain plays an integral role to the Welsh economy, employing more than 240,000 people in industries with a combined turnover of more than £22 billion, and that 73% of all Welsh food and drink exports are destined for the EU including the majority of exports of red meat and dairy products worth an estimated £320 million to Wales, a no deal scenario should be avoided at all costs - and if, by the time you are reading this, we have pulled out without a deal, there is every reason for negotiations to be restarted as soon as possible.

Deal or no-deal, industries are preparing to face major challenges from non-tariff barriers at borders to additional costs for agricultural exports, practical implications to the flow of goods and labour shortages in the food manufacturing sector.

Furthermore, depending on the outcome of current negotiations, the UK will likely be trading on third country terms, meaning new rules, some of which are outlined on pages 12 and 13.



Sheep sector support

According to the UK Government, the barley and sheep sectors are the most vulnerable agricultural markets when it comes to the impacts of a no-deal Brexit - because these sectors export so much to the EU. The FUW has consistently lobbied for financial support for all industries adversely affected by Brexit, including the Welsh sheep industry.

Over a third of sheep meat produced in Wales is exported annually and of this, more than 90% is exported to the EU. Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales believes that changes to the red meat industry are inevitable whatever the outcome and estimates that the additional bureaucracy and export requirements of lamb going to the EU from January 1 will increase costs by 4-8%, even under a free trade agreement scenario. If we have a no-deal, tariffs averaging around 50% of product value would apply on top of that, which is likely to halve the value of exports given that importers are unlikely to be willing to pay the tariffs at current market value.

If negotiations on support for the sheep sector prior to Brexit deadlines are anything to go by, one or other, or a combination of two systems of compensation are likely to be considered: a headage payment based on the previous year's annual inventory or a slaughter premium on lambs.

The FUW has highlighted that whatever is agreed, the support must be sufficient to make up for all losses and reach all lamb producers across the UK.

The UK Government is leading a Four Nations approach to contingency planning for the sheep sector, however no decisions have been made as of yet - and again, I hope by the time you read this we will have a deal and will not need to talk about emergency support.

Mae Adran Bolisi FUW yn dymuno Blwyddyn Newydd dda i chi.

Wishing you a very happy New Year from the FUW Policy Department.

If you have an email address and would like to receive the Agri-News and Farmers' Monthly FUW Bulletins, please contact gareth.parry@fuw.org.uk / 01970 629461

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Mae'r cefndir yn deillio o sgwrs a gafodd gyda pherchennog Canolfan Arddio a Siop Camlan yn lleol yn Ninas Mawddwy, ger Machynlleth. Pan ofynnodd Sion paham nad oedd modd gwerthu cig oen lleol yn y siop, yr ateb a gafodd oedd bod yn anodd dod o hyd iddo. Yn gwbl nodweddiadol o Sion, a gyda'i frwdfrydedd a'i ddiddordeb, penderfynodd wneud rhywbeth am y sefyllfa ac ymateb yn bositif.

Trefnodd i gael ei wŷn ei hun o Fferm Brynuchaf wedi eu cludo i ladd-dy Randall Parker yn Llanidloes, ac yna eu torri gan y cigydd Marcus Williams, eto yn lleol yn Llanidloes. Penderfynwyd ar y telerau, a chychwynnodd y fenter ym mis Ebrill 2019. Buan y datblygodd i fod yn cyflenwi 2 oen yr wythnos i'r siop, ac erbyn hyn mae'n cyflenwi 3 oen yr wythnos yn weddol rheolaidd.

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laswellt yn unig, a rhinweddau cig oen Cymreig ar ei orau. Mae egwyddorion cynladwydd, a bod yn gyfeillgar i'r amgylchedd yn holl bwysig yn y broses.

Prynu a gwerthu yn lleol cymaint â phosib sy'n bwysig i Sion a'i wraig Gwawr, sy'n ffermio ar y cyd gyda rhieni Gwawr ym Mrynuhaf, sydd tua 5 milltir i'r gogledd-ddwyrain o Ddinas Mawddwy.

Mae'r bartneriaeth yn bwysig yma, gyda Gwawr yn gyfrifol

am y marchnata ar wefnau cymdeithasol, a rhedeg y cyfrif Instagram @cigoenmawddwy. Mae balchder o weld y pecynnu taclus, a'r radd 5 hylendid bywd a ddyfarnwyd yn ddiweddar, a'r ffaith bod y carcass i gyd yn cael ei werthu yno. Dywed Sion fod y galw yn sicr wedi cynyddu yn dilyn dyfodiad y Covid-19. Noder hefyd fod Lisa ac Ian Allsop yn hynod frwdfrydig am y siop fferm, ac yn awyddus i werthu ar-lein yn y dyfodol agos.

Mae Sion yn gwbl argyhoeddedig fod gan y diwydiant amaeth stori dda i'w hadrodd, ac mae'r fenter lleol yma yn rhan ganolog o hynny. Mae'n ymhyfydu yn ei gynnyrch, ac mae balchder amlwg ar wyneb Sion pan ddaw adborth gan gwsmeriaid am flas arbennig y cig oen

Menter o raddfa fach yw hon ar hyn o bryd, ond dywed Sion fod y cyfan yn cyfrannu ychydig o leiaf i'r economi a'r gymuned yn lleol, a'r budd i'r hinsawdd sydd yn bwnc mor bwysig i'r dyfodol.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "Welsh lamb at its best."

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The recent betrayal of Welsh Agriculture support by the government (Y Tir December issue) also comes at a time when there is a major refocus of Agriculture from direct payments to paying 'public money for public goods'. These include increasing biodiversity, moving to net zero greenhouse gas emissions, measures to restore peatland and water retention in the uplands etc. By and large the farming unions have accepted that things have to change.

I hope the governments plan is not to bankrupt all farmers so they can buy the land very cheaply and cover it with trees. It is not very long ago that HMG was doling out 90% grants for drainage and generous grants to plough and re-seed which caused much of the biodiversity loss in the first place.

Such a change in direction needs to be well funded and also ensure food security. Farmers need to make a living. For most farms in Wales net farm income is below CAP payments. As a life long conservationist who also farms in a small way I refused to move from Tir Gofal to Glastir because the payments were derisory. At least I now don't have to explain to small children, sent out to feed the sheep in the snow, that they must not put the feed on habitat land. Glastir also doesn't properly pay for capital works.

The climate emergency and biodiversity decline are real. For example in 1980 there were approximately 100 sites for the Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterfly in Wales. Now there are less than 10 and getting grazing back on commons after foot and mouth helped many of those sites recover.

Farmers have a major role to play in tackling these problems. They not only provide our food but they maintain the countryside where tourists come to walk. I have seen land abandonment in many countries in Europe. In the long run it is not good for biodiversity and when the thorns meet in the middle of the field you cannot walk through it.

Yours Sincerely

Simon Spencer (Dr), Montgomeryshire

Dear Editor,

Am I the only person who thought that Britain would become a united and reasonably self sufficient nation when Brexit was complete and that farmers would be encouraged to provide more food for the ever increasing population which we now have? Obviously I was wrong unless we are all to turn to vegetarianism.

Yes, it is necessary to do what we can for the climate and it is nice to see green meadows with all manner of wild flowers and such but it is also nice to see those green meadows filled with sheep and cattle and to know that they will eventually be providing much needed food for hungry people in the future.

I agree that we must look after the environment but we must also face facts and realise that we do not live in Utopia.

It seems that DEFRA has forgotten that they were originally MAFF, particularly here in Wales.

Yours Sincerely

Tess

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AR ddechrau blwyddyn newydd, nid wyf yn mynd i'ch cyfarch gyda'r Blwyddyn Newydd Dda traddodiadol, ond yn hytrach rwyf am ddymuno Blwyddyn Newydd Well i chi, ac ar ôl 2020, mae'r gair gwell yn fwy pwysig nag erioed. Gobeithio bydd 2021 yn llawn iechyd, gobaith, llwyddiant a hapusrwydd i ni gyd.

Rydym wedi bod yn byw yng nghysgod Brexit ers blynyddoedd bellach, ac er yr holl ansicrwydd, mae cylchdro amaethyddiaeth yn gorfod parhau gyda'r tymor wyna ar y gorwel i nifer ohonom. Ond nid yw sialensiau ac ansicrwydd Brexit yn mynd i atal un ffermwr newydd o Sir Gaerfyrddin rhag arallgyfeirio i'r diwydiant amaethyddol.

Rydym mwy cyfarwydd a gweld Nigel Owens ar gae rygbi na chae fferm, ond ar ôl cadarnhau ei fod am ymddeol o'i yrfa fel dyfarnwr proffesiynol, a hynny wedi 100 gêm prawf, mae bellach am gyfnwyd yr esgidiau rygbi am y welingtons.

Nigel oedd gwŷr gwadd pwyllgor gwaith rithwir cangen Sir Gaerfyrddin ym mis Rhagfyr llynedd. Er bod Nigel yn cyfaddef na chafodd ei eni a'i fagu ar fferm, roedd ganddo ddiddordeb brwd mewn ffermio ers yn fachgen ifanc. Roedd yn treulio pob cyfle posib ar fferm ei dad-cu a'i fam-gu ym Mynydd Cerrig, yn aelod ffyddlon o CFFI Llanarthne, lle bu'n ysgrifennu chadeirydd cyn mynd ymlaen i fod yn gyn Llywydd o CFFI Cymru a Llywydd NFYFC eleni.

Efallai y bydd yn synod i chi glywed mae nid dyfarnwr oedd Nigel am fod yn wreiddiol. Ei uchelgais pennaf oedd bod yn ffermwr, a dyna oedd y freuddwyd plentyndod. Ond yn



16 mlwydd oed dechreuodd ei yrfa fel dyfarnwr rygbi a dechrau cynilo arian, yn y gobaith o wireddu ei freuddwyd o allu ffermio fferm ei hun rhyw ddiwrnod.

Gan bwyll bach, cam wrth gam, cafodd y freuddwyd ei wireddu, ac erbyn hyn mae Nigel a'i bartner Barrie wedi sicrhau fferm, peiriannau a stoc. Penderfynwyd cadw gwartheg cynhenid Henffordd sydd bellach yn agos iawn at galon Nigel.

Yr hyn sy'n amlwg o glywed Nigel yn sôn am y fferm yw ei angerdd tuag at amaethyddiaeth. Er nad yw wedi bod yn ffermio'n llawn amser, mae wastad yn brynwr brwd o gynnyrch Cymreig ac yn credu'n gryf mae'r diwydiant amaethyddol yw asgwrn cefn Cymru wledig.

Mae'n gweld sut mae'r gymuned ffermio'n cyfrannu'n enfawr at ein diwylliant a'n economi a bod ganddo ddyled fawr i'w gymuned leol am yr holl gymorth a'r gefnogaeth y mae wedi derbyn wrth fentro i fyd ffermio.

Ar ôl y cyfarfod, dywedodd David Waters, swyddog gweithredol Sir Gaerfyrddin: "Croesawyd Nigel Owens MBE yma i'n plith heno i'n pwyllgor gwaith, a chawsom fewnwelediad i'w fywyd personol, ei yrfa fel dyfarnwr, a'r ffordd y mae wedi arallgyfeirio i'r byd amaethyddol. Roedd yn noson ddiddorol iawn a phawb wrth ei bodd yn clywed hanes Nigel."

Pob lwc Nigel gyda'r fenter newydd oddi ar y cae rygbi, mae'ch dyfodol amaethyddol yn edrych yn ddisglair iawn! Mae'n braf iawn gweld cymaint o frwdfrydedd a phositifrwyd ar ddechrau blwyddyn newydd sbon.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "The final whistle."

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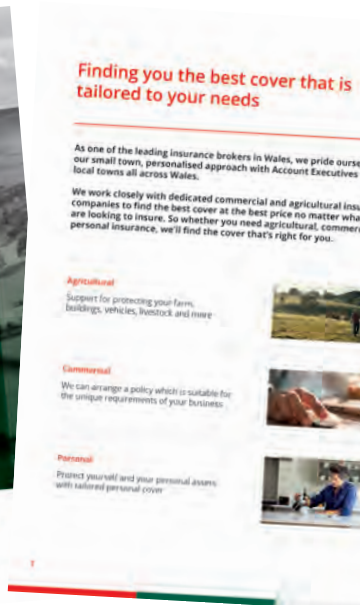
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How badly does a TB breakdown affect a farmer's mental health?

IT has long been recognised in farming circles that a bovine TB breakdown has multiple consequences, such as loss of stock, problems with cash flow, costs of housing and feeding additional stock, loss of business control and uncertainty over the future. All of these inevitably impact on the emotional well-being of farming families.



However, the true impact is likely to have been underestimated. Rebecca John, (pictured), a third generation farmer from Pembrokeshire, is therefore asking a pertinent question - **how does a TB breakdown on a farm affect our mental health?**

Familiar with the ups and downs of agriculture and livestock farming in Pembrokeshire, Rebecca is no stranger to seeing vets come and go for TB testing on the family holding Rinaston, near Haverfordwest, where they farm beef, sheep and dairy.

"We all understand to a degree that farmers who are trying to run their business under a bovine TB breakdown are at breaking point. Given that mental health is inextricably linked to farm business sustainability and solvency, we must fully understand the ground-level grass roots consequences of this disease.

"I have seen quite a few farmers being impacted by TB and I know how I felt myself after having a failed TB test here on the farm and seeing good animals go to slaughter. It puts everything on hold," said Rebecca John.

A final year Agriculture and Business student at

Aberystwyth University, she is now conducting a survey for her dissertation, which aims to explore the wider impacts of bovine TB breakdowns on farmers' mental health across Wales.

"For my dissertation I'm exploring the relationship between TB breakdowns and mental health further. What is worth considering, and something I'm

hoping the data will shed further light on is how it also affects people who haven't got a TB breakdown yet. We know there is a worry every time you have your test.

"There is always a doubt if you're going to pass or fail, and what that ultimately means for yourself and the business. I'm hoping many farmers can complete the survey to help me get a solid picture of the situation, which then hopefully can be used to address the problem further," she said.

While the debate about the efficacy of the Government's Bovine TB eradication policy and testing regime continues, farmers like Rebecca John, who wants to return home to farm after graduating, face an uncertain future.

"I'm quite interested in pedigree stock and have my own flock of Kerry Hil sheep, but I've always wanted a herd of pedigree Aberdeen's. But because the TB situation is so up and down with us, and we have never had a full clear test, I could never pursue that the way things are now," she added.

The bilingual survey can be accessed here: <https://aber.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/effaith-y-sefyllfardiciau-yn-nghymru-ar-iechyd-meddwl-ffe>

"There is always a doubt if you're going to pass or fail, and what that ultimately means for yourself and the business. I'm hoping many farmers can complete the survey to help me get a solid picture of the situation, which then hopefully can be used to address the problem further."

The DPJ Foundation is ready for 2021

by Kate Miles, Charity Manager, The DPJ Foundation

HERE at the DPJ Foundation we are looking ahead at what the new year may bring.

We have our first DPJ Foundation photo calendar on sale (you can get yours from our Etsy page: [Wearing is Caring DPJ by DPJFoundation on Etsy](#)) which has a different photo showcasing some of the landscape and livestock that Wales has to offer each month, along with a bilingual thought-provoking quote.

The photos were submitted as part of our photo competition, representing different parts of Wales. We would like to thank Signspeed who have sponsored these calendars and Mirain Glyn from Llanrwst who kindly judged the photographs (from the 150 photos submitted).

January 1st saw the start of #Run1000, a team challenge where runners (or wannabe runners) from Wales will take on rivals from England, Scotland, Ireland and the Rest of the World to see who will reach the 1,000 mile goal first. Whilst we may be small, I have every confidence that Team Wales can punch above our weight and take the title. To join in, you can sign up on Justgiving by paying £20 and the proceeds from the challenge will go to us along with other agricultural charities for the other countries.

January will also see us welcoming new Share the Load volunteers who will start their training with the Samaritans. As a charity we would not be able to offer our services without these volunteers who are the first line of contact for most people who access our service. I would like to thank each of our volunteers (Share the Load, Regional Champions and Trustees): without them we would not exist.

Everything you discuss is always treated confidentially and sharing your thoughts can be like lifting a weight off your shoulders - we are at the end of the phone if you need us, call 0800 587 4262.

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Brexit - what will be different from the 1st

From the 1st of January 2021, the UK will leave the EU customs area and the EU single market. As a result of this, and the UK becoming a third country, the UK must comply with. We have selected the main amendments that will impact farmers, whether through labelling, tagging, animal health status, and prices. However, whilst these details were correct at the time of going to print (18/12/20), there may have been additional changes not covered the impact of tariffs.



EU Third country listing & UK Animal health status

With or without a trade agreement, the UK will need to have its applications for third country listing approved. This determines the UK's animal health status, which impacts the movement of some goods to the EU.

The UK expects the EU to agree to this listing by the end of December. However, if a trade deal isn't reached, this may affect our listing, and therefore the type of health status the EU awards us. If we do not get this listing this could result in the EU insisting upon rules such as:

- A 40-day standstill on the last holding before the slaughter of cattle or sheep destined for export

- The systematic trichinella testing of pigs
- A clear bTB test within three months before the slaughter of cattle destined for export if not coming from an Officially TB Free (OTF) region
- Cattle destined for live export must originate from an Officially TB Free herd and either -
 - * Also originate from an OTF region, or
 - * Had a pre export skin test within 30 days, or
 - * Be less than 42 days of age

All of which would further stretch veterinary capacity. (The 40-day standstill **still applies for live animals** regardless of the third country listing.)

Prohibitions and restrictions on EU trade

Prohibitions and Restrictions (P&R) are trade requirements that will apply to certain commodities from January 1 2021. These trade requirements are based in EU law and prevent or restrict the import of certain goods from 'third countries'. P&R will also affect imports into GB (Wales, England and Scotland) from the EU as of January 1 2021, when the UK will carry over into domestic law EU provisions on P&R applicable to imports from third countries, including the EU.

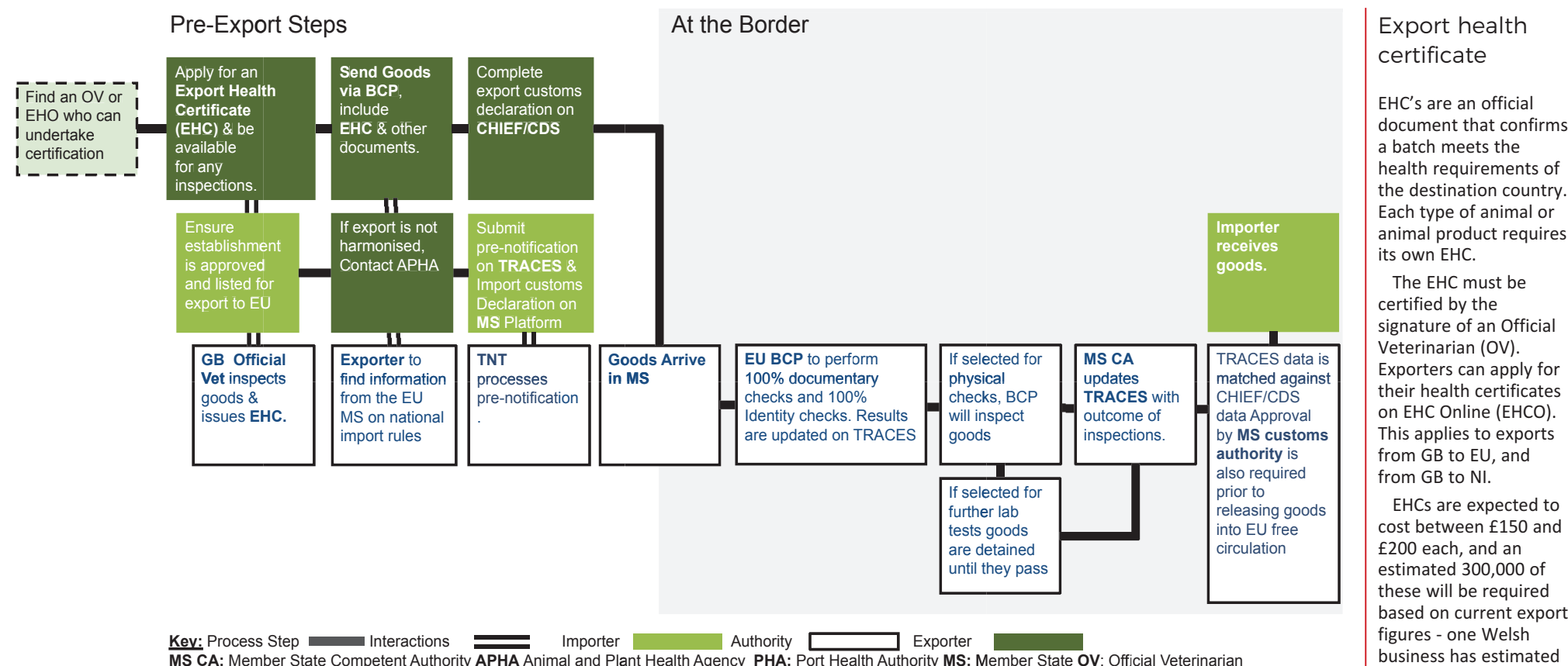
Examples of P&R impacting the farming industry

Chilled minced meat (red meat)	no exports possible
Chilled meat preparations	(only frozen allowed)
Minced meat (poultry)	no export
UK Milk - raw milk from TB infected herds	no exports possible from infected herds
Ungraded eggs	no exports
Used vehicles and machinery which cannot meet new EU requirements	possible but with new requirements
Trichinella testing	pork exports are not possible without full testing unless frozen

Export process

For the last 45 years, we haven't 'exported' to the rest of the EU as such - we have traded in the same way as we trade with other parts of the UK because we have been within a Common or Single Market. But from January 2021 we will be outside that market, meaning live animals and Products of Animal Origin (POAO) - meat, dairy products etc. - moving from GB to the EU will be subject to new export controls. Even with a basic Free Trade Agreement, the export logistics will in many respects be the same as in a no-deal scenario.

Up until December 31 2020, we traded with Europe through one commercial invoice. However, these new export controls include the requirement for Export Health Certificates (EHCs), import pre-notifications and entry via a Border Control Post (BCP) (figure 1 below).



Export health certificate

EHC's are an official document that confirms a batch meets the health requirements of the destination country. Each type of animal or animal product requires its own EHC.

The EHC must be certified by the signature of an Official Veterinarian (OV). Exporters can apply for their health certificates on EHC Online (EHCO). This applies to exports from GB to EU, and from GB to NI.

EHCs are expected to cost between £150 and £200 each, and an estimated 300,000 of these will be required based on current export figures - one Welsh business has estimated it will require 70,000 EHCs.

Figure 1: POAO process map from January 2020 published by UK Government

From January 2021 onwards?

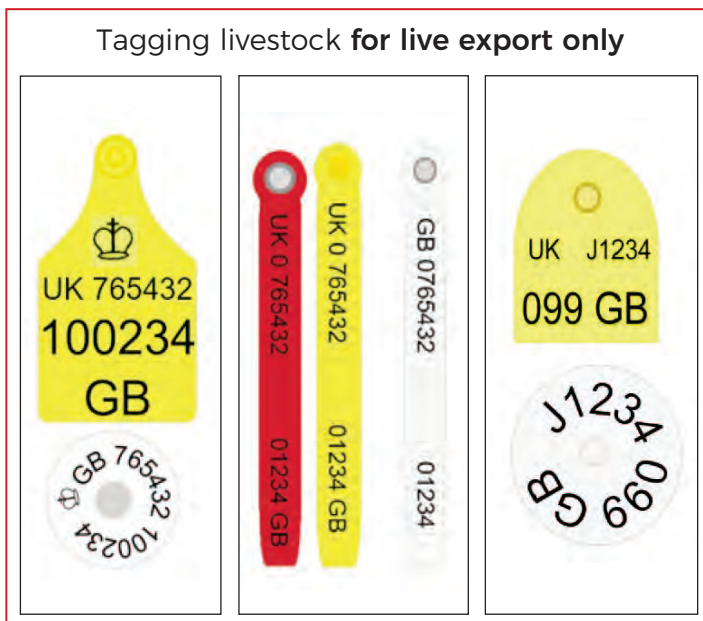
From January 2021 onwards, the UK will be treated as a 'third country', there will be new processes that UK exporters and importers must meet. There will be new health requirements before slaughter, or wider knock-on impacts to ease of trade and access to EU markets. This is not confirmed due to the ongoing trade negotiations with the EU. Please note we have



Cattle, sheep, pigs & goats

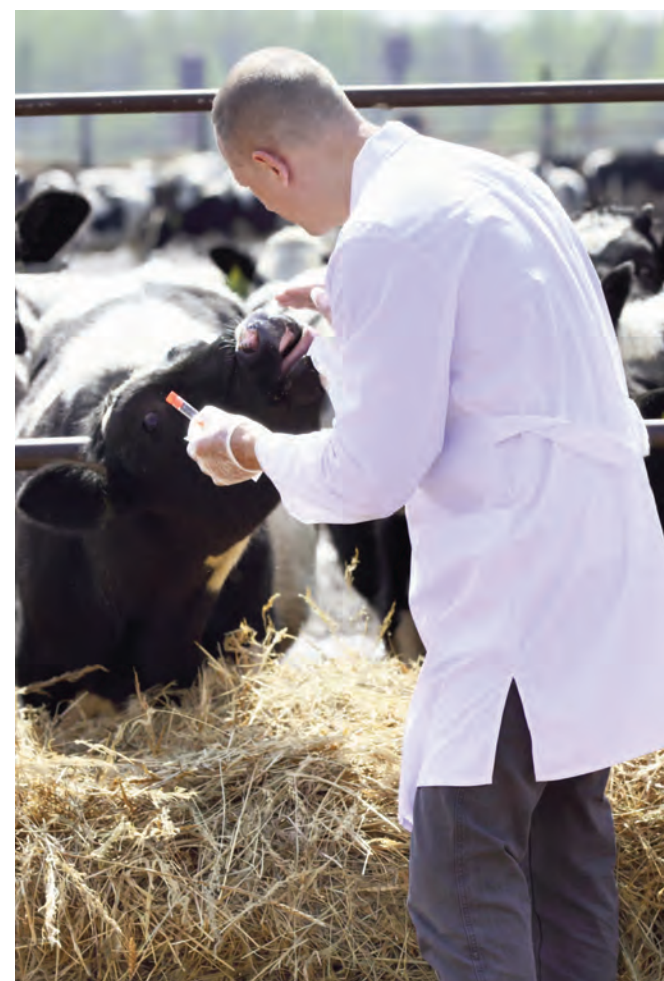
- Where animals are identified for the first time, the keeper can order new runs of UK tags with a 'GB' suffix on the secondary tag only for cattle, or on full EID tags for sheep OR a tattoo bearing the 'UK' prefix, herdmark, animal number and 'GB' suffix for pigs
- This is also the case for secondary replacement tags that are required for animals that have already been identified, but the tag is damaged, illegible or missing
- Where an animal is already registered and identified (with full EID for sheep), the keeper can order a third (management) tag with the prefix 'GB' followed by the animal's individual number OR apply a tattoo with the prefix 'GB' followed by the herdmark and animal number for pigs
- For lambs already identified with slaughter tags, they will need to be removed and replaced with full EID UK tags with a 'GB' suffix
- Tags will not be removed in any of these scenarios. This will only be allowed for sheep when upgrading slaughterer lambs to full EID
- If lambs are still on the holding of birth, the full EID replacements must be yellow
- If lambs are being re-identified off the holding of birth, the full EID replacement identifiers must be red

More information can be found at: www.gov.wales/exporting-uk-livestock-eu-1-january-2021



Possible delays/wider impacts

- Shortage of vets** - due to additional vets needed for EHC certification work, and other verification throughout the supply chain
- Delays at ports** - Most trade with the EU is fresh produce with tight delivery windows. Any delays at ports may affect shelf life and be commercially damaging.
- Access to EU labour** - Labour shortages could undermine the viability of some processing facilities in Wales, given the reliance on foreign workers. Furthermore, more than 80% of vets in abattoirs come from the EU.
- Northern Ireland protocol** - There will be a six-month grace period that will enable chilled meat products to move from GB to NI. The UK government has said that movements from NI to GB will receive unfettered market access from January 1 2021.



Food labelling

New UK Geographical Indication Scheme & logos

Wales has 15 food and drink categories with EU protected status, including Welsh Beef (PGI), Welsh Lamb (PGI) and Traditionally reared pedigree Welsh Pork (TSG).

Registered producers of British food, drink and agricultural GI products that are required to use the logos will have until January 1 2024 to change packaging to display the new UK GI logos.

At the end of the transition period, all existing protected UK products under the scheme will automatically get protection under a new UK GI status. The UK logo will be mandatory for GB products registered from January 1 2021 onwards.



Eggs

In GB, producers can continue to mark eggs that do not meet domestic egg trade regulations as 'non-EC standard' or 'non-UK standard' until September 30 2022. From October 1 2022, producers should mark these eggs as 'non-UK standard'.

Organic equivalence

EU recognition of the UK's organic control bodies has been confirmed until the end of 2021, so goods exported to the continent can continue to be marketed as organic. Whilst not a full mutual equivalency, this will provide short-term certainty for organic producers. If people or companies produce, process, label or trade in organic food and feed, they'll have to follow GB rules from January 1 2021.



Health and identification marks

The health mark is applied directly to POAO (typically meat carcass) by the FSA, or to wrapping, packaging or labelling which contains, or is attached to, the POAO.

Producers are no longer able to use the UK/EC mark from January 1 2021 for products destined for the EU or Northern Irish (NI) market.

However, legislation is being proposed to allow a 21-month period of adjustment for goods placed on the market in GB to reduce the impact of the change. This allows time to deplete existing stocks of labels etc.

Products 'placed on the market' before the end of December 2020 will be allowed to reach end users with the existing health and identification marks.

Examples of the health and identification marks that apply from January 1 2021:

FSA approved businesses in Great Britain



Local authority approved businesses in Great Britain



Definitions

POAO	Product of Animal Origin
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
EHC	Export Health Certificate
OV	Official Veterinarian
P&R	Prohibitions and Restrictions
NI	Northern Ireland
EU	European Union
FSA	Food Standards Agency
GI	Geographic Indicator
IPAFFS	Import of Products, Animals, Food and Feed System
BCP	Border Control Post
GB	Wales, England and Scotland
UK	Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland

Looking after the environment - the role the industry plays

by Anne Dunn, FUW Press Officer

NESTLED in the Pembrokeshire countryside just outside of Haverfordwest, the Miles family have made their home and livelihood on a dairy farm. Having moved to the Pembrokeshire countryside in 1997 Dai, Sharron and son Llŷr farm in partnership.

The business was started by Dai and Sharron, who took on the tenancy of Barnsley Farm, a 143 acres farm. At the time it was a stock/arable unit which they converted into an organic dairy unit starting with 33 cows and leased milk quota. In 2001 they took on a further 90 acres of pasture land and then in 2005 the neighbouring farm within the same estate.

In 2018 they purchased the neighbouring farm Beudy Bach, from the estate and installed a modern robotic milking system on the holding and son Llŷr has joined the business after returning from Aberystwyth University where he studied agriculture.

Llŷr said: "Mum and dad have always been farming, and I've had an interest in farming so went to Aberystwyth Uni to study agriculture and took a year in industry, then came home. It's what I enjoy doing and it's what I want to do."

Across the holdings, the family look after 110 hectares and 35 hectares of summer grazing for the heifers and use for silage. In the milking herd they have 130 cows and 60 followers. "We predominantly keep British Friesian cows and only occasionally buy some in, but we rear our own British Friesians. They're a great, hardy breed of cow, which we graze from February to November, they produce great milk from grass," said Llŷr.

His day starts much like any other dairy farmer - clear away the silage, wash the robots down, scrape, feed up and then check the computer who's milked, and who needs milking. "There are always 1 or 2 that haven't been into the robot. The biggest perk with the robot is that you're not tied down to a certain time of milking. The cows do it on their own during the day and night. I can go and do a job early morning or late in the afternoon and not have to worry about milking. It gives us an extra 5 hours in the day to do those odd jobs that normally have to wait," he adds.

As much as looking after the livestock, the family take their responsibility towards the environment seriously and are enrolled in the Glastir advanced scheme. "We fertilise the land by trailing shoe and muck, certain habitats on the farm are fenced off so the cows can't get in there. We also let the hedges grow a bit more to ensure there is plenty of biodiversity. We also have some solar on the farm, and as we're organic I would say we're practising a pretty sustainable form of food production," said Dai.



Llŷr and Dai Miles.

When it comes to the land the family utilise a rotation on 65 ha. The grass fields within cow walking distance are used as grazing paddocks for 5-6 years, then get planted with forage rape, and are then moved on to an arable silage crop, before going back to grass the following year. The silage fields grow a white clover mix for 4-5 years, then get an arable cover crop before being used for 2-3 years for growing a red clover mix. The farm also sustains about 15 ha of woodland and 30 ha of permanent pasture.

"We are currently investigating how much carbon is stored here, and are doing an inventory of our natural capital. We're working with Natural Capital Consortium Ltd and our milk buyer Calon Wen on this and have parcels of land here which we are looking to include in the natural capital project and develop it further next year," added Dai.

Llŷr, Sharron and Dai feel strongly about their role in looking after the environment. "We are an organic farm, so we don't use chemicals or synthetic fertilisers on the soil. We like to make sure that we leave the soil in a better condition, so that it's there for future generations. Maintaining soil structure is key to us, so we try not to take tractors or cattle

on fields if the conditions aren't right," said Llŷr.

"If you're using pesticides, you are affecting the food chain. Everything feeds on everything. That's where an organic farm comes into its own. The main thing is soil health, if the soil is healthy, the cattle are healthy and then biodiversity flourishes and the whole food chain is better. Consumers relate to wildlife but soil is not as sexy as birds but it's critically important. We have to produce food, but we limit our effect on the environment as best as we can," added Dai.

When it comes to food production, Llŷr, is keen for consumers to understand how their food is produced, and the impact it has on the environment. "Everyone is entitled to eat what they want and farmers in general are not really bothered about what diets people have, if it's vegan or vegetarian. What bothers us are the false stories, misconceptions and lack of knowledge on food production. Especially here in the UK, where we have high welfare standards and strict regulations," said Llŷr.

"If the soil is healthy, the cattle are healthy and then biodiversity flourishes and the whole food chain is better."

'Better utilisation of grass means better lamb growth'

A CEREDIGION farmer's involvement in a major grassland research project has led to major improvements in the performance of her sheep business, with measurable success in terms of pasture utilisation and lamb growth, and is now looking to take part in another trial to help move the industry to the next level.

FUW's Younger Voice for Farming Committee Vice Chairman, Anwen Hughes of Bryngido farm, near New Quay in Ceredigion has been part of GrassCheckGB, a research project run by Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales (HCC) and several other industry partners since the beginning of the project in 2018.

GrassCheckGB aims to improve grassland productivity and pasture utilisation, with fifty livestock farms across Britain including nine beef and sheep farms in Wales, closely measuring their grass yield and quality along with soil moisture, temperature and weather readings.

Anwen runs a flock of 200 Lleyn-cross commercial ewes in partnership with her husband, Rhodri and son, Glyn on 35 hectares. Since joining GrassCheckGB, Bryngido has moved to a rotational grazing system. Anwen explains: "GrassCheckGB taught us to utilise the grass in a more efficient way, and has enabled us to finish around 300 lambs on grass alone without the need for concentrates."

"Moving to a rotational grazing system has also meant that we have seen an increase in lamb deadweight. This year we are seeing an average weight of between 18.5 -19.0kg and we strongly believe that this increase in lamb growth is a direct result of better grass utilisation and management."

Anwen has recently been chosen to supply lambs for HCC's Welsh Lamb Meat Quality Project.

Dr Eleri Thomas, HCC Meat Quality Executive adds: "The Welsh Lamb Meat Quality project will research on-farm and processing factors that influence the eating quality of PGI Welsh Lamb. This year, the project will specifically be investigating lamb finishing diets and their possible influence on the taste of Welsh Lamb. Bryngido supplied grass-fed lambs to the project."



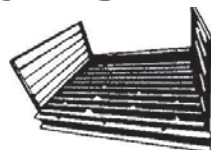
Anwen and Rhodri Hughes on their farm in Ceredigion.

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We would like to respectfully request that our farming clients also take all necessary measures and maintain 2 metre social distancing during visits where practically possible.

Normally our vets would welcome any offer of refreshments but under current circumstances, please do not be offended if our vets regretfully have to decline.

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Over 40 people have died on farms - it's time to change

OVER 40 people have been killed on farms in the UK this year according to fatality notifications from the HSE, including nine in Wales since January 2020. The numbers bring home the harrowing reality just how dangerous farming can be and the FUW is calling on the industry to make a change and start taking safety on farms seriously.

FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman said: "We need to let that statistic sink in. Over 40 people have died on farms across the UK in 2020. That's over 40 families who have lost a loved one and who are going through trauma, stress and are no doubt experiencing anxiety as well. The figure

is exceptionally higher than last year and we must make changes on our farms to drastically reduce the number of fatalities."

The FUW, as part of the Wales Farm Safety Partnership, is committed to highlighting that there are serious Health and Safety challenges on farms and through its work with the group aims to help improve the situation and to save lives on farms.

All organisations 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".

"The truth is that farming is a hazardous industry. We work with potentially dangerous machinery, vehicles, chemicals, livestock, at height or near pits and silos.

"It is also pretty clear that as an industry we could do much better at keeping ourselves and family members safe from harm. The numbers confirm the most tragic of incidents, but don't include the little accidents and near misses, which maybe should serve as a warning.

"So please, when you leave the house in the morning and say 'see you later' - mean it. Of course it's easier said than done, especially on a busy farm where there is never enough time to sit back, but planning the job - whatever that may be - could well be a life-saver," added Ian Rickman.



"When you leave the house in the morning and say 'see you later' - mean it, of course it's easier said than done, especially on a busy farm where there is never enough time to sit back, but planning the job - whatever that may be - could well be a life-saver."

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ANGLESEY

Paratoi ar gyfer y cyfnod wyna

Ar nos Fawrth yr 8fed o Ragfyr cynhaliwyd gweminar arbennig i aelodau ar baratoi ar gyfer y tymor wyna. Cafwyd cyflwyniadau hynod o ddifyr gan ein gŵyr gwadd, Mr Alwyn Llewelyn Jones, milfeddyg sy'n wreiddiol o Lanuwchllyn, ond bellach yn gweithio fel patholegydd milfeddygol yn yr Alban, a Mr Dyfrig Hughes o gwmni dwysfyd ForFarmers.

Rhannwyd nifer o gynghorion gwerthfawr ar gynnal cyflyrau iechyd a lles y ddiadell, yn ogystal â ymarferion gorau ar sicrhau glanweithdra o fewn y siediau wyna.

Diolch yn fawr i'r ddau ŵr gwadd am eu hamser ac i bawb a gefnogodd y noson hynod addysgiadol a buddiol. Pob lwc efo'r wyna pan ddaw.

On Tuesday December 8 we held a special webinar for members on preparing for the lambing season. Our guest speakers, Mr Alwyn Llewelyn Jones, a veterinary surgeon originally from Lanuwchllyn, but now working as a veterinary pathologist in Scotland, and Mr Dyfrig Hughes of the feed company ForFarmers, gave some very interesting presentations. A number of valuable tips on maintaining flock health and welfare conditions were shared as well as best practices on ensuring cleanliness within the lambing sheds. Many thanks to the two guest speakers for their time and to everyone who supported the extremely informative evening. Good luck with the lambing season.

01982 554030

breconandradnor@fuw.org.uk

BRECON & RADNOR

December county meeting



A big thank you to all our members who logged in for our December County Executive meeting on December 1. Our guest speaker was Gareth Jones, (pictured left), Producer Marketing Manager for the British Wool Marketing Board and former FUW employee.

Check your emails!



We have published our first e-newsletter - please check your emails.

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Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol y Sir

Cynhaliwyd Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol Sir Gaernarfon trwy gyfrwng Zoom am y tro cyntaf erioed ar nos Iau Rhagfyr y 10fed. Cafwyd cyflwyniadau gan y siaradwyr gwadd sef Jeremy Miles, Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Pontio Ewropeaidd, Llyr Huws Gruffydd o Blaid Cymru a Janet Finch-Saunders ar ran y Toriaid.

Y prif bwnc dan sylw oedd Brexit a goblygiadau hynny i ffermwr yn sgil y rheolau newydd sydd yn cael eu gweithredu o Ionawr 1af, 2021. Trafodwyd y Bil Amaeth, problemau tebygol ym mhorthladdoedd y wlad o Ionawr y 1af, toriadau i'r gyllideb amaeth a nifer o bynciau eraill yn ymwneud â'r economi wledig.

Hefyd yn bresennol oedd Bryn Edmunds o Fanc HSBC i roi safbwynt y banc ar yr holl newidiadau fydd yn effeithio'r diwydiant a'n busnesau.

Yn ogystal cafwyd diweddariad ar yr hyn yr ydym ni fel sir wedi bod yn ei wneud dros y deuddeg mis diwethaf. Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb a fynychodd ac yn enwedig i Richard Roberts ein cyfieithydd ar y noson. Blwyddyn Newydd Dda i chi gyd gan obeithio'n wir y bydd 2021 yn well blwyddyn i bawb.

The Caernarfonshire AGM was held via Zoom for the first time ever on Thursday December 10. The guest speakers were Jeremy Miles, Counsel General and European Transition Minister, Llyr Huws Gruffydd of Plaid Cymru and Janet Finch-Saunders on behalf of the Tories. The main topic of concern was Brexit and the implications of the new rules being implemented from January 1 2021 on farmers. The Agriculture Bill, likely problems at the country's ports from January 1, cuts to the agricultural budget and many other topics relating to the rural economy were discussed. Also in attendance was Bryn Edmunds of HSBC Bank to give the bank's perspective on all the changes that will affect the industry and our businesses. We also provided an update on what we as a county have been doing over the past twelve months. Many thanks to everyone who attended and especially to Richard Roberts our translator on the night. Happy New Year to you all and let's hope that 2021 will be a better year for everyone.



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CARMARTHEN

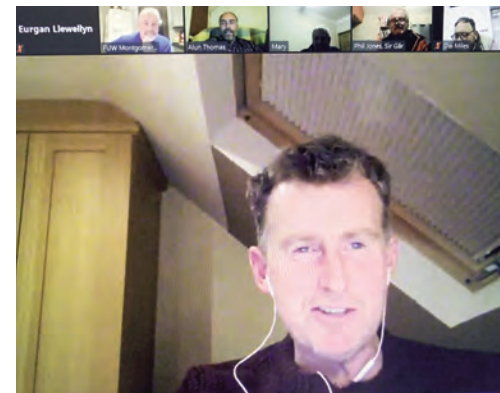
FUW's 65th birthday!



We celebrated the FUW's 65th birthday on December 8. Here is our County Executive Officer David Waters standing next to the plaque that commemorates the first meeting held at The Castle Hotel, Llandeilo on December 8 1955.

From refereeing to farming

A very interesting and well attended County Executive meeting was held on December 10 via Zoom with guest speaker Nigel Owens MBE and referee talking about his diversification from refereeing to farming. Thank you/diolch Nigel Ref Owens for attending the meeting.



Open meeting arranged

With ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the sub branch meetings for Carmarthenshire will not be taking place during the months of January and February 2021.

An open meeting has been arranged to discuss the implications of Brexit and future Farm Funding via Zoom with Guest Speaker FUW Head of Policy Dr Nick Fenwick taking place on Thursday evening February 4.

All members are invited to participate to listen and discuss these very important changes.

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CEREDIGION

Cyfarfod gyda Ben Lake AS

Ar nos Iau, 10 Rhagfyr cynhaliwyd cyfarfod llwyddiannus a diddorol yng nghwmni ein gŵr gwadd, Ben Lake AS, (*gweler ar y chwith*). Cafodd yr aelodau gyfle i glywed sefyllfa ddiweddaraf byd amaeth o San Steffan ar faterion megis, Brexit, TB ayb. Gobeithio gallwn groesawu Ben atom eto yn gynnar yn y flwyddyn newydd.

On Thursday, December 10 a successful and interesting meeting was held with our guest speaker, Ben Lake MP, (see left). Members were given an opportunity to hear the latest agricultural situation from Westminster on issues such as Brexit, TB etc. We hope to welcome Ben back again early in the New Year.



Enillwyr Clwb 200 Club winners

221 - Thomas, Eisteddfa Gurig

141 - Davies, Brynglas

31 - Lewis, Rhosgoch

205 - Morgan, Pentre

122 - Jones, Morfa

113 - Jenkins, Beiligwyn

01824 707198

dinbychflint@fuw.org.uk

DENBIGH & FLINT

Brecwast drwy Skype

Mae canghennau Dinbych a Fflint wedi penderfynu trefnu brecwast drwy Skype gyda Aelodau Cynulliad ac Aelodau Seneddol yr ardal. Mi fydd cyfarfod brecwast sir Dinbych ar ddydd Gwener Ionawr 22 a brecwast sir Fflint ar ddydd Sadwrn Ionawr 23. Mi fydd mwy o fanylion i aelodau'r pwyllgor gwaith ar e-bost.

The Denbigh and Flint branches have decided to organise breakfast over Skype with their local AMs and MPs. Denbigh will hold their Skype breakfast meeting on Friday January 22 and Flint on January 23. More details to follow via e-mail.



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GWENT

Let us know your views

As we start 2021, it is tradition for us to make a New Year resolution, or a commitment to abstain from something bad for us, or adapt our habits to do more good.

With the Agricultural industry facing enormous challenges, such as Brexit uncertainty, reduction in direct payments, plus the constant attack from some quarters about reducing greenhouse gas emissions, perhaps it is time for all FUW members to make a new year's resolution, to support the Gwent County Executive Committee.

The committee meets once a month to discuss the topics affecting Welsh farming, and helps the Union form a policy to present to politicians. It is vital that **YOUR** views are known, in order that the policy directive is a true and accurate reflection of members' ideas and opinions.

I am sure the current members of the Executive won't mind me saying that they are all classed as being in the 'More experienced age bracket,' and an influx of new blood is urgently needed. I realise that time is at a premium for all farmers, but with meetings now being held via Zoom, you can join in without leaving the comfort of your home.

If the Union is to enjoy another 65 years, it is essential to have greater participation in County Meetings, so I would urge you to consider joining.

We do, incidentally, enjoy the executive meetings, and always have a great rapport amongst members.

Please contact the county office for more details - 01873 853280.



01341 422298

meirionnydd@fuw.org.uk

MEIRIONNYDD

Pwysigrwydd diogelwch ar ein ffermydd

Yn ystod mis Rhagfyr trefnwyd fideo o Alun Edwards, Cae Coch, Rhydymain yn rhoi negeseuon pwysig ac amserol iawn yng nghyswllt diogelwch ar y fferm, yn benodol diogelwch wrth ymdrin â gwartheg.



Diolch yn fawr iawn i Alun am ei amser, ac am ei waith pwysig dros ben fel Llysgennad i Bartneriaeth Diogelwch Fferm Cymru.

Mae Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru yn chwarae rhan flaenllaw yn y Bartneriaeth, sydd â swyddogaeth bwysig o ddarbwylllo ffermwyr yng Nghymru bod yna heriau lechyd a Diogelwch difrifol ar ein ffermydd.

Mae hefyd yn rhoi cyngor ac arweiniad mewn cydweithrediad â'r Awdurdod Gweithredol Iechyd a Diogelwch (HSE) er mwyn gwella'r sefyllfa ac achub bywydau ar ein ffermydd.

During December a video was organised of Alun Edwards, Cae Coch, Rhydymain giving very important and timely messages regarding farm

safety, specifically safety when dealing with cattle.

Many thanks to Alun for his time, and for his very important work as an Ambassador for the Wales Farm Safety Partnership.

The Farmers' Union of Wales plays a leading role in the Partnership, which has an important role in convincing farmers in Wales that there are serious Health and Safety challenges on our farms.

It also provides advice and guidance in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to improve the situation and save lives on our farms.

Enillwyr Clwb 100 Club winners

Tynnwyd gwobrau Clwb 100 y Gangen Sirol am y flwyddyn 2020 mewn Pwyllgor dros Zoom ar ddechrau mis Rhagfyr, a chyhoeddwyd yr enillwyr fel a ganlyn. Rydym yn ddiolchgar i bawb am eu cefnogaeth i'r Clwb 100 bob blwyddyn.

Hydref/October

Gwilym Evans, Cefn Isaf, Llanbedr
Gruff a Doreen Jones, Maengwyn, Trawsfynydd
Geraint Owen, Sandilands, Tywyn
Emyr ag Eluned Jones, Rhiwedog, Rhosgwaliau
Rhys Williams, Hendre Cwm Prysor

Tachwedd/November

Iwan Jones, Cefn Faes, Gellilydan
Trefor Jones, Gwerniago, Pennal
Geraint Owen, Sandilands, Tywyn
Ron a Deilwen Bresse, Gogoarth, Pennal
Cynan Gwilym Rowlands, Castell Hen, Y Parc
Gwion Rowlands, Gargoed, Glanrafon

Rhagfyr/December

Gwilym Evans, Cefn Isaf, Llanbedr
Gwilym James, Arlyn, Trawsfynydd
Tegwyn Pughe Jones, Talglannau, Mallwyd
Edwin Jones, Nant Madyn, Llanegryn
Blodwen Davies, Clegir Isa, Betws Gwerfyl Goch

01446 774838

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GLAMORGAN

Double baby news!

Our county executive member and Younger Voice delegate Lee Pritchard and his fiancée Elin had a baby girl called Nia Lili on November 2. Also, our Vice-Chairman Phil Thomas and his wife Rachel recently welcomed their second son William into their family, congratulations from the county office and all Glamorgan members!



01686 626889

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MONTGOMERYSHIRE

Zoom meeting with Craig Williams MP

The FUW Montgomeryshire County Executive members met with Craig Williams MP for the December meeting virtually over Zoom. This was the first opportunity that the executive had to share local and wider concerns together with current issues within the agricultural industry with Mr Williams.



We would like to thank all those members who attended the evening and to those who sent in questions for the meeting. We are already looking forward to meeting up with Mr Williams again in the new year!

If you are interested in joining our meetings, they are held on the first Tuesday of every month - please get in touch with the County Office if you would like any further information on how to join.

01437 762913

pembrokeshire@fuw.org.uk

PEMBROKESHIRE

Focus on farm safety at next meeting

Brian Rees, (pictured right), a Farming Connect Farm Safety mentor and farm safety trainer will be speaking at our February County Executive Committee meeting, which will take place on February 2 at 7.30pm via Zoom. If you would be interested in joining us please contact the county office for further details.



Upcoming EOI window details

Scheme	Summary	Window closes
Glastir Woodland Creation (GWC)	The 10th Expression of Interest window is now open for the GWC scheme with a budget of £9 million. The scheme provides financial support for capital works including planting, fencing and in certain circumstances, annual maintenance and premium payments. You must contact a registered planner to discuss your proposals and they must then complete and submit an EOI on your behalf. The land put forward to be planted must be registered with the Rural Payment Wales Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) and be under your full management control.	15 January 2021
Farming Connect training application window	The next funding application window for training will open on Monday 11 January and closes on Friday 26 February 2021. Those registering for the first time during the above skills window in order to apply for a funded training course or need to update their account details, please contact Farming Connect before 5pm on Monday 22 February 2021.	11 January - 26 February 2021

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MEAT MATTERS

Food and farming in Wales is making a positive contribution

by Gwyn Howells, HCC Chief Executive

AT the start of December we were delighted to publish the 'Welsh Way' - a new piece of research which we have been working on for a year.

All sectors of human activity - including agriculture and food production - have a role to play in responding to the challenge of climate change. Difficult choices have to be made, and creative solutions found, in order to feed a growing world population equitably without further degrading the environment and adding to climate change.

In Welsh agriculture, we all feel frustration when we're tarred in the media with the same brush as farming in other parts of the world which consumes scarce water resources and leads to deforestation.

We need to be able to say to the world, backed up with solid evidence, that we have a good story to tell, and that we're aiming to be even better over the next few years.

The Welsh Way looks at the international context of climate change and sustainability, where Welsh sheep and beef farming currently stand, and where we can make further improvements.

Our new document draws on new research by Bangor University on emissions and carbon sequestration on Welsh farms, as well as a range of other experts who have looked at our changing understanding of methane, at the potential positive impact of further improvements on farms and the supply chain, and on how agriculture underpins economic and cultural sustainability.

It concludes that there is much that Wales is already doing well. We have farming systems that can best utilise our natural resources of abundant grassland and rain water efficiently and sustainably meaning that we produce quality

food with comparatively few additional inputs such as imported feeds.

Our environmental footprint is lower than has been previously estimated, and much lower than many other countries. Reducing production here and importing more meat would be exporting emissions in a very irresponsible way.

The research also means the consumer can be confident in choosing our lamb and beef. Importantly it also means that cutting livestock numbers here risks merely 'off-shoring' our emissions by importing food from countries where standards aren't so high.

Food and farming in Wales is already making a positive contribution, and can do more over the coming years.



Ar ddechrau mis Rhagfyr roeddem yn falch iawn o gyhoeddi'r 'Ffordd Gymreig' - darn newydd o ymchwil yr ydym wedi bod yn gweithio arno. Mae gan bob sector o weithgaredd dynol - gan gynnwys amaethyddiaeth a chynhyrchu bwyd - ran i'w chwarae wrth ymateb i her newid yn yr hinsawdd. Mae amaethyddiaeth Cymru yn teimlo'n rhwystredig wrth i ni gael ein gweld ar yr un lefel â ffermio mewn rhannau eraill o'r byd, mae angen i ni allu dweud wrth y byd, ynghyd â thystiolaeth gadarn, bod gennym ni stori dda i'w hadrodd, a'n bod ni'n anelu at fod hyd yn oed yn well dros yr ychydig flynyddoedd nesaf.

PROPERTY MATTERS

Negotiate carefully before accepting tenancy deals

by Edward Page of Davis Meade Property Consultants

WE have received a number of calls from tenants who have been approached by their landlord to enquire of their willingness to surrender old agricultural tenancies. We are advising them to be cautious and take advice before accepting anything. Mutually beneficial deals can be struck but the full value of a tenant's interest in the land must be acknowledged. Discussions around surrendering and re-granting old tenancies have been common place since the 2006 Tenancy Reform Industry Group's amendments. From that, discussions were driven by a landlord's Inheritance Tax position but generally deals could be amicably struck as the surrender didn't prejudice the tenant's long term interest and rights.

Now, at a time of uncertainty in the principle investment markets, we are seeing cases of new owners of land regarding the tenancy and land as separable parts of an investment.

The value of land subject to Agricultural Holdings Act tenancy can be discounted by anything up to 50 per cent depending on the terms of the lease.

These recent cases show the purchaser recognising the potential uplift in the value of their investment if they can achieve either an agreed surrender or forced lease termination. The Agricultural Holdings Act provides a tenant with a significant level of protection which these investors are not familiar with.

Although the tenant might be offered a sum of money to leave it is likely that they will be entitled to a good deal more. Farmers therefore should take advice from a tenancy specialist or their agent as it could be an opportunity to leave the farm with a decent surrender payment or 'golden handshake', which would be extremely advantageous for a tenant looking to retire with no successor.

Tenants should also consider the tax implications as a capital payment made by the landlord may be liable to Capital Gains Tax.

Edward Page can be contacted at Davis Meade Property Consultants on 01691 659658 or email: edwardpage@dmpcuk.com

Rydym wedi derbyn nifer o alwadau gan denantiaid y mae eu landlord wedi cysylltu â nhw i holi am eu parodrwydd i ildio hen denantiaethau amaethyddol. Rydym yn eu cynghori i fod yn wyladwrs a chymryd cyngor cyn derbyn unrhyw beth. Gellid dod i gytundeb sydd o fudd i'r ddwy ochr ond rhaid cydnabod gwerth llawn budd tenant yn y tir.

MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Cyfle i greu cymuned a chynefin gwell

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr



MAE'R flwyddyn newydd yn amser i flaengynllunio a dyna yn union y byddwn yn ei wneud dros y misoedd nesaf - Cynllunio yr Enfys o Obaith, trefnu gweithgareddau Mentergarwch Merched, Cynnig Cyfleoedd i ferched ddysgu mwy am sgiliau technoleg ac yn wir cynnig hyfforddiant a gweithdai llenyddol - gobeithio bydd rhywbeth at ddant pawb.

Os oes gan unrhyw un syniad neu weledigaeth rydym yn ddiolchgar iawn o glywed a gallwn obeithio troi'r syniad yn weithred.

Roedd ein Ffair Aeaf Rhithwir yn gyfle gwych i hyrwyddo ein talentau amryddawn a gobeithio fod pawb wedi mwynhau'r profiad o gymryd rhan - o greu fideos am ein cynefin i grefftau, gosod blodau i addurno cacennau a ffotograffiaeth. Roedd yn wledd i'r llygaid - diolch i'r 244 wnaeth gefnogi. Ewch draw i'n gweplyfr os hoffech weld mwy @ywawr

Os ydych wedi addunedu, tybed a ydych yn llwyddo i gadw at yr adduned - dwi yn credu fod geiriau ein hanthem eleni yn bwysicach nag erioed:

"Ein hiaith a'n Gwlad, Fe'i caraf fwy a mwy, fe beru popeth hardd, tra parant hwy".

Gobeithio bydd 2021 yn rhoi cyfle i bawb fanteisio ar bob cyfle posibl i greu cymuned a chynefin gwell.

The new year is a time to plan ahead and that's exactly what we will be doing over the coming months - Planning the Rainbow of Hope, organising Women's Enterprise activities, offering opportunities for women to learn more about technology skills and indeed offering literary training and workshops - hopefully there will be something for everyone. We would be very grateful to hear from anyone who has an idea, which hopefully we can implement. Hopefully 2021 will give everyone the opportunity to take advantage of every opportunity possible to create a better community.

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'The Big Farming Survey' - RABI to deliver insight into the issues impacting farming people



ON January 11 2021, RABI launches the largest ever research project across Wales and England relating to the wellbeing of farming people. This wide-ranging survey will consider for the first time the relationship between physical health, mental wellbeing and the health of farm businesses.

With mounting external pressures, this vital research will provide the most comprehensive overview of the farming community. It will identify the specific challenges that a generation of farming people face, as well as highlighting how these impact daily life.

FUW is supporting this important initiative and encourages everyone to get involved in this research. With the target of gathering 26,000 survey responses, Alicia Chivers, Chief Executive of RABI calls on the Welsh farming community to take part: "We've set ourselves an ambitious goal that requires support from farmers, agricultural businesses, organisations and individuals to spread the word as widely as possible.

"By setting aside 15 minutes to complete the survey, you'll be contributing towards creating an accurate picture of farming life today. The data that's collected will enable RABI and our partners to develop effective tools and support strategies for farming people in years to come," explains Alicia.

"FUW have been incredibly supportive of this project. We are immensely grateful for all the support they have provided to spread the message across their network. We hope that thousands of individual members will be kind enough to also get involved in the project and help us to make a difference.

"Beyond anecdotal or localised evidence, there is a pressing need for wide-scale, reliable data, obtained directly from our farming people. We believe there are

significant issues that need to be addressed but they're not yet clearly defined," adds Alicia.

Conducted by the University of Exeter, The Big Farming Survey is a key strand of RABI's ambitious 5-year strategy that will enable the charity to reach a far wider audience. It's a further step towards achieving their vision that no farmer should ever face adversity alone.

The research project closely follows the introduction of RABI's online wellbeing platforms which launched in October. Featuring two distinct, age appropriate websites - Qwell for adults and Kooth for young people aged 11-18 - the online service provides free and confidential access to numerous resources and counselling support.

Users can anonymously access farmer-specific and other insightful content on these sites, as well as a wealth of discussion boards, case studies and messaging functions. There are many tools, tips and articles which are free to all, and users can also access one-to-one counselling through a chat function from British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy accredited counsellors. Two Welsh speaking counsellors have also recently been recruited to support an even wider audience. Both sites can be reached via www.rabi.org.uk/kooth

"Through both the online wellbeing platforms and The Big Farming Survey, we aim to make a real difference to the farming community that RABI has been dedicated to for the past 160 years. We're aware that RABI must continue to develop and adapt our services to deliver enhanced, proactive support as everyone continues to adapt to changing routines, challenges and expectations," concludes Alicia.

Please set aside 15 minutes to take part by completing the online form: <http://ex.ac.uk/BigFarmingSurvey> which is available in both Welsh and English formats. Thank you.



FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman supporting 'The Big Farming Survey'.

Goals of the #BigFarmingSurvey

- To understand the wellbeing of a farming generation
- To understand the health of our farmers and their businesses
- To gain insights into external impacts and pressures
- To shape future support and services

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After 25 years of dealing with the same customers, Welsh Farm Supplies are now actively looking for new customers. Owner Bryan Hammatt goes on to say "Whenever technology has bettered itself, if there are better ingredients that become available, better energy sources, whatever it may be, we have tried to improve our range for our existing users. My first vitamin and mineral drench was sold in 1996, a lot has changed since then! We have always gauged a product though not by how many people use them, but by how many come back for more. Our Sheep & Cattle Drench and Lamb Colostrum have been having incredible success outperforming everything our customers have used in the past."

A quick look at their social media sites or website will seem bear that out with regularly updated product reviews.

"We have so many reviews on both we are now trying to spread the word. Our service has also been applauded by new customers as it matches the quality of our products. We have local stockholders across Wales and the borders of England meaning collection is available same day, if you don't want to go out then if we know before midday, it will be there the following morning before 12:00."

For further information call:

Bryan Hammatt

07788 140848

Marc Harpham

07722 943153

John Price

07814 742508



SHEEP & CATTLE DRENCH

Welsh Farm Supplies

A targeted drench made specifically for Welsh farms but equally as effective in areas with similar deficiencies.

Smaller dosages from just 2ml – 5ml for sheep and just 5ml – 15ml for cattle.

Quicker, easier and cheaper to use.



Dosage Costs

Lambs under	Ewes under	Calves under	Cows under
8p	20p	20p	60p



Call Bryan Hammatt for more information or to order:

01792 209075 / 07788 140848

Call before 12 p.m. for Next Day Delivery



LAMB COLOSTRUM

Welsh Farm Supplies

Unique Formulation Lamb Colostrum
Containing whole colostrum including full
colostral fat sourced from British Farms

Actively supports immunity, gut health and productivity.

Targeted vitamins, minerals, trace elements and probiotics.



Dosage Costs

Lambs

£1.50



Welsh Farm Supplies

www.welshfarmsupplies.co.uk

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