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Gwarcheidwaid Tir Cymru
Guardians of the Welsh Land

tudalennau / pages 12 - 16

MPs to act in UK nations' interests after UK and Australia PMs sign broad terms of agreement

THE FUW has highlighted the need for Members of Parliament to do all they can to fully scrutinise and have a say on an UK-Australia trade deal, after Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison agreed the broad terms of a deal.

"We have grave concerns that we could end up with a deal that's catastrophic for animal welfare, the

"MPs must do all they can to prevent a culture of 'ignore the warnings, get it done and deal with the consequences later' predominating when it comes to this and other trade deals."



wants to ignore it, but the other G7 members have been blunt in telling him that international treaties are binding and the rule of international law must be respected."

Mr Roberts said MPs must therefore take extremely seriously the warnings about the implications of a trade deal that sets the UK on a permanent legally binding course to open us up to food produced to lower

environment, our family farms and our food security - and that it will be set in stone," said FUW President Glyn Roberts.

Mr Roberts said that Boris Johnson had come under significant pressure from the world's most powerful leaders because he had ignored all the warnings about the consequences of a deal he struck with the EU - the Northern Ireland Protocol.

"A few months after the Protocol came in he has decided it's bad and

environmental and welfare standards and undermines our food security and the viability of our family farms.

"MPs must do all they can to prevent a culture of 'ignore the warnings, get it done and deal with the consequences later' predominating when it comes to this and other trade deals," said Mr Roberts.

Over the last month the FUW has written to the Prime Minister and met with Government Ministers and MPs from across Wales, highlighting the major differences between UK and Australian standards and the economic damage cheap food imports could cause to our family farms.

The Union has also written to the Welsh Affairs Committee asking it to conduct an inquiry into the implications of a bad deal for Wales' farmers, food standards and rural communities.

"We have made it clear during our meetings and in correspondence with all Welsh MPs that we are not opposed to a UK-Australia deal, but we are opposed to a damaging deal that paves the way for further deals that add to that damage," he added.

See more on page 4.

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FUW UPDATE

Due diligence - we do it every day, why does the Government not do the same?

by Guto Bebb, FUW Group Managing Director

IT is now fifteen months since I started as the Managing Director of FUW Insurance Services. FUWIS is a large general insurance business and what has become very apparent to me over that fifteen-month period is the amount of due diligence and risk analysis that the team needs to undertake before we can sell any insurance policy compliantly.

It's remarkable how much work we need to do just to ensure that what we recommend to our customers as an appropriate policy is exactly that. For some of the team, who were with FUWIS well before general insurance became regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), this has been a steep learning curve.

It is no longer good enough to provide your customer with an appropriate and cost-effective insurance policy. These days you need to be able to show the regulator why the policy in question was appropriate, what work was undertaken to identify the needs of the customer and to what extent were options offered in terms of the extent of cover on offer coupled with various options in terms of price. For FUWIS the message is simple - we do want to make new sales and grow the business, but these days those sales need to be compliant.

There is absolutely no point in making a sale only to find ourselves deemed to have sold an inappropriate policy when a customer finds that they cannot claim for an accident or that the cover on offer does not actually extend to a certain use of a vehicle or piece of equipment. As such, we do our research and we look at all possible downsides before we recommend a product and we do all of this because the Government has, correctly in my view, taken the view that the customer needs to be better served when they buy insurance cover.

Well, what's good enough for us as an insurance business should also apply to the Government when they are signing trade deals. It's all very well to have the fanfare of good publicity from the press when you announce a deal but as with an insurance policy - the devil is in the detail and as the policy team are highlighting the detail of this Australian Trade Deal is not great for agriculture.

It is revealing, to say the least, that the



agricultural elements, not least the very significant changes to beef and lamb quotas were not published initially by our Government at Westminster. We only got that detail initially because the Australian Government were highlighting their great success in serving their own farming community. Such a lack of transparency in the sale of an insurance policy would have consequences and yet, when the future economic viability of beef and sheep farmers are in the balance, the Government seems less willing on checking the detail than what they demand of us when we sell a very basic tractor policy.

This deal shows scant respect to the interests of Welsh agricultural businesses and even less willingness to deal with real world consequences rather than cheap headlines about Aussie wine being 5p a bottle cheaper (which is good news for Australian wine producers but of no economic advantage for the UK).

I think the message is clear - if we sold insurance the way this trade deal has been done, we would be facing serious consequences for a failure to protect our customers. In simple terms - this deal is not what we in FUWIS would describe as compliant with the needs of those we serve.

Meet the new team at the helm for FUW Gwent and Glamorgan branches

THE FUW has appointed a new County Executive Officer and Deputy County Executive Officer to serve the members in the the counties of Gwent and Glamorgan.

Sharon Pritchard joins the team as County Executive Officer, bringing with her a significant background in agriculture having been involved on the family farm in Talgarth, Brecon and she also has over twenty years of experience working with McCartneys in Brecon and Builth.

Helen Thomas, who has been appointed as Deputy County Executive Officer, has been a loyal and respected part of the Gwent FUW team for 14 years and has also worked with members in Glamorgan in her previous role as an administrative assistant with the Union.

Speaking about the appointments, FUW Group Managing Director Guto Bebb said: "We have made two excellent appointments to serve members in the counties of Gwent and Glamorgan. Both Sharon and Helen come with a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the agriculture sector and I have no doubt that members in both counties will be well looked after by the new team."

Current Welsh Government advice with regards to Covid-19 continues to state that those that can work from homes should do so. As such, members can contact Sharon Pritchard and Helen Thomas via phone or email for the time being but they will be back in the offices as soon as Government advice allows.

Sharon Pritchard said: "I am excited to embark on this new journey with the FUW and look forward to working with members in both counties. Of course, at the moment the offices remain physically closed but our service and dedication to the membership remains the same."

Helen Thomas added: "Having worked with the FUW for 14 years, alongside our former County Executive Officer for Gwent, Glyn Davies, and also Rachel Saunders and Christine Anstee in the Glamorgan office, I'm excited to take on the role of Deputy County Executive Officer for both counties.

"Members can be assured that both Sharon and myself will do all we can to ensure we have thriving, sustainable family farms in both counties."

Members wanting to contact the new team can do so by emailing:
sharon.pritchard@fuw.org.uk or
helen.thomas@fuw.org.uk



Sharon Pritchard.



Helen Thomas.

"We have made two excellent appointments to serve members in the counties of Gwent and Glamorgan. Both Sharon and Helen come with a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the agriculture sector and I have no doubt that members in both counties will be well looked after by the new team."

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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Sut i gysylltu gyda Y Tir / How to contact Y Tir

Pennaeth Cyfathrebu/Head of Communications: Anne Dunn - anne.dunn@fuw.org.uk

Pennaeth Marchnata/Head of Marketing: Meryl Roberts - meryl.roberts@fuw.org.uk

Golygydd/Editor: Nia Davies-Jones - ytir@fuw.org.uk

Swyddog Cyfathrebu'r Iaith Gymraeg/Welsh Language Communications Officer:
Angharad Evans - angharad.evans@fuw.org.uk

www.fuw.org.uk



The work of this Union is now perhaps more important than it has ever been

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

JUNE has come and gone and under normal circumstances many of us would be getting ready for the various agricultural shows up and down the country. As it stands it looks like a few shows are taking place, including Usk Show, or are planned depending on Covid-19 restrictions going forward and the Royal Welsh Show is also taking place in a virtual capacity only.

As Covid-19 restrictions continue to affect our lives we must try our hardest to stay positive and look after one another - even if it is by phone until we can socialise over cups of tea and share our thoughts, concerns and worries at FUW marquees again.

Farming can be isolating at the best of times and we must look after one another during these uncertain times. While stress levels might be running high with shearing, silage and the other usual day-to-day jobs that need doing on farms, I urge you to take a step back once in a while and look, not just after your farm, but after yourselves as well.

For the Union the past few months have been busy as we do our bit in looking after the industry. The team has been lobbying relentlessly to highlight the dangers posed by a free trade agreement with Australia, including our county officers who have met with Conservative MP's across Wales to discuss the matter in great detail. No stone was left unturned.

We have also worked hard with other industry bodies and cross-party politicians to highlight the devastating impact the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 are already having on the sector. We therefore welcomed the fact that there will be a review and are looking forward to working with Welsh Government to tailor a policy that is proportionate and reflects the need here in Wales.

We sincerely hope that the review will take into full consideration the financial implications these regulations have on small and medium sized farm businesses and tenant farmers and that they also consider the social and cultural impacts on rural communities, given the implications of these regulations on young farmers, tenants, and new entrants to the industry.

Another issue that has kept us on our toes over recent months is that of second homes and tourism in Wales. The importance of tourism to Wales' economy and the incomes of many farms that have diversified cannot be understated, yet the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted some of the problems tourism can cause for rural communities, designated areas and farmers.

With an alarming amount of properties sold, in Gwynedd for example, during the Covid-19 pandemic and those having been bought as second homes, the negative impacts of designation and tourism on communities, housing affordability and the Welsh Language cannot be denied. It is worth highlighting though that this issue prevails across the country, not just in specific pockets of Wales.

The FUW has therefore previously called on the Welsh Government to establish a committee to assess the impact of second homes on rural areas. We know that farming businesses are financially and socially dedicated to their local area and community due to the long-term and generational nature of farming, and they are therefore, alongside others in the rural community, the drivers behind the viability of local schools, agricultural and county shows, chapels and fundraising events.

This is in direct contrast to second homes which may be empty for a significant period of the year.

We have also seen large numbers of homes being effectively taken off the market or placed beyond the financial reach of young local families. Many are denied the

chance to remain in their local area and live in the houses of their forefathers, adding to pressures that cause young people to leave rural areas.

To address these concerns and problems a review of the current 1 per cent Land Transaction Tax on second homes is essential. This should aim to protect rural communities from inflated house prices and enable young people to live in their local areas, whilst recognising the role of housing for agricultural labourers.

It's now almost twelve months since the FUW wrote to the Welsh Government asking them to urgently set up a committee to consider how such problems should be addressed, and given that this issue is now receiving daily attention in the media across the UK it is a great pity that this action - which would have put Wales ahead of other nations - was not taken.

Over the last 12 months many local authorities and designated areas in Wales have also been stretched beyond their ability to resource the increase in visitors, which is particularly the case for mountain rescue teams and parking wardens. Conversely, some local authorities are having to reduce their responsibilities and funding towards public footpaths.

This questions the carrying capacity of rural and designated areas and to what level local authorities can afford in regard to sustainable tourism. Equally, it does not reflect Wales as a welcoming Nation if tourists have unpleasant experiences.

Of course, there is a strong need to continue to promote the appropriate growth in tourism which benefits rural businesses, local residents and local food producers, but we must work to ensure that residents and businesses within designated areas are not subject to restrictions and costs not present outside those areas, either by removing such inequalities or compensating those affected by them.

With plans afoot to upgrade the Clwydian Range AONB to the status of National Park, despite Government promises a decade ago that this would never happen, and a drive by some to designate the Cambrian Mountains, a conversation on how local homes and livelihoods can be prioritised over the recreational interests of visitors is long overdue.

The work of this Union is now perhaps more important than it has ever been and we will continue to fight for thriving, sustainable family farms here in Wales.

Mae'r golofn yma yn Gymraeg ar wefan UAC - Newyddion - Newyddion Y Tir: "Bellach mae gwaith yr Undeb hon, o bosib yn bwysicach nag y bu erioed."



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What do we know about the UK-Australia trade deal?

by Gareth Parry, FUW Policy Communications Officer

Various announcements, claims, figures and details have been bouncing around in the Press over recent weeks but what exactly do we know about the UK-Australia trade deal?

What are the positives?

If you solely listened to MPs and others who are loyal to the Government's position, you would believe it was the best thing since sliced bread. They claim that this deal will bring great benefits to the UK and that it will be a stepping stone to the UK becoming a member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), bringing new markets for UK agriculture.

To put this into perspective, the UK Government's own figures estimate the economic benefits to the UK as between 0.01 and 0.02% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over fifteen years with a mere 7.3% increase in UK exports to Australia. By comparison, the predicted increase in Australian imports to the UK is 83%, with food products making up a large portion of this.

Clearly, if there are opportunities to access new markets for Welsh agricultural produce in some of the CPTPP countries, they should be explored. However, many of these are already long established destinations for products produced by major red meat and dairy producers such as Australia, Canada and New Zealand - all of which are CPTPP members.

Plus, they say that Australian cattle prices are currently much higher than they are in the UK and therefore they are not currently coming close to filling their UK import quotas of 3,761 tonnes for beef and 13,335 tonnes for lamb, and won't do so in future, but...

What are the negatives?

...this is due to significant and unusual protein shortages in the southern hemisphere caused by swine fever in China and other factors, such as exchange rates. If market conditions change back to a more normal pattern and there is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with increased or unlimited quotas, Australia will inevitably increase export volumes to the UK.

Australia's EU lamb import quota allocation before Brexit was 19,186 tonnes which it used completely in 2017 and utilised 99% and 96% of in 2015 and 2016 respectively. Their biggest beef exporter has already predicted that a zero tariff trade deal could boost UK sales by as much as tenfold and while you could argue that this increase would be very low given the UK imported just 560 tonnes of beef and veal worth £4.1 million from Australia last year, it barely highlights how quickly import volumes can change.

On a similar note, beef prices may be significantly higher in Australia than they are in the UK currently but in the two years up to January 2020, they were around 75 pence per kg lower. The only mechanisms that protected our domestic beef prices during those years were tariffs and quotas.

A deal that fully liberalises tariffs and quotas will also set the precedent for trade deals with other major international countries in future. New Zealand Trade Minister Damien O'Connor has said that he is aware of the media reports in relation to the UK - Australia trade negotiations and that they will be expecting comprehensive tariff elimination, including on agricultural goods. Chief Executive of the New Zealand Meat Industry Association, Sirma Karapeeva, says that they will be looking for an even better outcome in a future UK - New Zealand trade deal.

New Zealand and other CPTPP members now hold the cards as they could block the UK's application to join the partnership, giving them significant negotiation power to agree a deal that mirrors the liberal access of Australia at a minimum.

Furthermore, given the risk of Australian products entering the EU without quotas or meeting EU standards, the EU is likely to introduce additional checks at the UK border as would be required under World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules, increasing barriers and costs for Welsh and UK exports.

What has been agreed in principle?

As things currently stand, the agreement in principle sets out timelines towards the full liberalisation of tariffs and quotas for different goods between the two nations.

Once the deal is signed, there will be immediate access to a duty-free quota of 35,000 tonnes for beef, rising in equal instalments to 110,000 tonnes in year ten. This will increase to 170,000 tonnes by year fifteen with product specific safeguards in place.

There will be immediate access to a duty-free quota of 25,000 tonnes for lamb, rising in equal instalments to 75,000 tonnes in year ten. This will increase to 125,000 tonnes by year fifteen with product specific safeguards in place.

There will be immediate access to a duty-free quota of 80,000 tonnes for sugar, rising in equal instalments to 220,000 tonnes in year eight.

In terms of dairy products, tariffs will be eliminated over the first five years. There will be immediate access to a duty-free quota of 24,000 tonnes for cheese, rising in equal instalments to 48,000 tonnes in year five. For butter, it will be 5,500 tonnes rising to 11,500 tonnes and non-cheese dairy will be 20,000 tonnes from day one.

There are general safeguard mechanisms for all goods set out within the agreement to ensure Australian and UK businesses can seek protection from unfair trading practices or unforeseen surges in imports, however, it must be remembered that this, if imposed, won't be taken likely by the other nation and could result in a trade war.



What about standards?

Many will quite rightly say that we already have an FTA with the EU, so what's the fuss all about? To answer that question, we need to understand the differences in scale and standards.

Given that the EU is our closest neighbour and that we haven't long left, our economies of scale, agricultural production systems, commodity markets and subsidy and regulatory mechanisms currently work in par with each other - similarities that are particularly important when it comes to the Republic of Ireland, which is our main beef importer.

In Australia, the average farm size is 4,331 hectares whereas in Wales, it's around 50 hectares, England around 90 hectares and Scotland around 100 hectares.

This makes the average farm size in Australia around 90 times bigger than the average farm size in Wales, and for a number of other reasons, their production costs are around a third of UK farmers.

In addition, 65% of Australian farms are between 100 and 400 head of cattle with farms over 5,400 head of cattle accounting for 30% of the nation's herd.

In contrast, the average beef cattle herd in Wales is around 30 animals.

When it comes to standards, we must remember the Conservative election manifesto that states "in all our trade negotiations, we will not compromise on our high environmental protection, animal welfare and food standards", yet Australian farmers routinely use production and land management practices that would lead to a Welsh farmer being prosecuted.

To give just a few examples, Australia allows:

- "Mulesing" - cutting off sheep rear ends, including skin and flesh, without anaesthetic
- 70% of Australia's egg-laying flock are confined to battery cages
- Chlorinated chicken
- Sow stalls
- Growth hormone treatment for beef
- Animal journey times of up to 48 hours without rest or water
- Live exports
- Australian farmers use at least 16 times more antibiotics in poultry than the UK, and nearly three times as much in pigs

While Section 1.6 Sanitary and phytosanitary measures of the agreement in principle outlines that "imports will still have to meet the same respective UK and Australian food safety and biosecurity standards", Section 1.7 Animal welfare and antimicrobial resistance states that Australia and the UK will have the right to "establish its own policies and priorities for the protection of animal welfare", suggesting a direction away from a level playing field.

Provisions will be put in place for cooperation on combating antimicrobial resistance and positive remarks are made in regard to ongoing cooperation and initiatives for animal welfare, but only "in areas of mutual interest."

Similarly, Section 4.2 Environment gives the right "of each country to establish its own levels of domestic environmental protection and its own priorities relating to the environment."

What powers do we have?

There seems to be a great deal of confusion amongst MPs when asked about the avenues of scrutiny that will be available before and after the deal is finalised.

The new Trade and Agriculture Commission (TAC) is in the process of being established under the UK Agriculture Act 2020 where the full text of the deal will be scrutinised, although the Government will not be bound to the findings of the TAC and will therefore have the ability to ignore them if they wish.

According to Greg Hands MP, the UK Parliament will have the ability to block a trade deal, and any other international treaty for that matter, through forcing a vote in the House of Commons through what is known as the Constitutional Reform and Governance (CRAG) Act 2010, however, this process is rarely used.

The International Trade and Agriculture Committees of the House of Commons and the International Agreements Committee of the House of Lords will also have the ability to scrutinise the deal, although the powers they will have to amend or stop the deal is unclear.

The FUW has written to the PM and Welsh Affairs Committee asking them to ensure, through scrutiny of the proposals, that they reject anything that compromises family farms, animal welfare, food security and standards and our global environment.

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1. Beth oedd yn rhaid i ti ei wneud ar gyfer y gystadleuaeth?

Ar gyfer y gystadleuaeth yma y gofyn oedd ysgrifennu neges e-bost i'r Bwrdd Gwlan yn rhoi rhesymau pam yr oeddwn i'n meddwl y dylwn gael fy ystyried ar gyfer y wob, ac yn dilyn hynny, roedd y Bwrdd Gwlan yn dewis rhestr fer o'r ymgeiswyr gorau. Y cam nesaf wedyn oedd cael fy ngwahodd am gyfweiliad rhithwir dros Zoom. Roedd y panel wedyn yn dewis un enillydd oedd yn dod i'r brig o bob gwlad ym Mhrydain.

2. Beth mae ennill y Rhaglen hon yn golygu i dy gynlluniau ar gyfer y dyfodol?

Mae ennill y wob hon yn fuddiol iawn i mi ar gyfer gwella fy sgiliau cneifio. Credaf fod y cyrsiau mae'r Bwrdd Gwlan yn eu rhedeg yn gyrsiau hanfodol i unrhyw un sydd eisiau dysgu'r grefft yn gywir - mae cneifio yn swydd anodd felly mae'n bwysig dysgu'r ffordd fwyaf rhwydd o'i gwneud. 'Rwyf hefyd yn edrych ymlaen at fynd ar y cwrs ar sut i ofalu am y peiriant cneifio ayb, 'rwy'n siŵr y bydd yn addysgiadol ac mae'n rhan mor bwysig o wneud y gwaith mor effeithiol â phosib. 'Rwy'n gobeithio y bydd ennill y wob hon hefyd yn fy helpu ar gyfer gallu teithio'r byd gyda chneifio yn y dyfodol.

3. Sut mae'r tymor cneifio wedi mynd eleni?

Mae'r tymor cneifio eleni yn mynd yn dda hyd yn hyn. Ar ôl dechrau eithaf anodd gyda nifer o ddiwrnodau gwlyb mae yn prysuro rwan gyda ffermwyr ar dân eisiau cneifio, felly anodd cadw pawb yn hapus ar adegau!

Dyweddodd Richard Schofield, Rheolwr Cneifio, Gwlan Prydain: "Ar ran Gwlan Prydain rwy'n llonyfarch Elis ar ei gyflawniad wrth ennill y gystadleuaeth hon yng Nghymru. Roedd safon y cystadleuwyr yn uchel iawn ac roedd angerdd Elis dros gneifio ac eisiau datblygu ymhellach ar ei wybodaeth a'i sgiliau presennol yn amlwg."

Llonyfarchiadau mawr i ti Elis ar dy lwyddiant, ac mae'n braf gweld person ifanc yn llawn brwdfrydedd ac yn barod i ddysgu a gwella sgiliau. Pob lwc gyda'r cneifio ac edrychwn ymlaen at glywed rhagor o'r hanes wrth i ti deithio'r byd yn cneifio.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "Elis's passion for shearing."



Rheolwr Cyllid Grŵp UAC wedi'i ethol i Gyngor Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru

Mae Wyn Lewis, Rheolwr Cyllid Grŵp UAC, (*gwelir ar y dde*), wedi'i ethol i gyngor Cymdeithas Bêl-droed Cymru (FAW).

Bydd cadeirydd Clwb Pêl-droed Bow Street yn cynrychioli Is-ardal Canolbarth Cymru am weddill y cyfnod o bedair blynedd a ddaw i ben ar Orffennaf 31, 2023. Llonyfarchiadau Wyn!

WYN Lewis, FUW Group Finance Manager, (pictured right), has been elected to the Football Association of Wales (FAW) council.

The Bow Street Football Club chairman will represent the Central Wales Sub-Area for the remainder of the quadrennial period ending July 31, 2023. Congratulations Wyn!



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* Spreads to areas covered by fleece, other areas may not be protected, including the feet. † Due to *Lucilia sericata*.

How to keep animals secure on your land

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

THE task of properly protecting your land can be arduous, especially if you own multiple outhouses and compounds or are located amongst unusual terrain - but it can be well worth the time and effort if it keeps land, property, machinery and any animals you house safe from thieves and predators.

Firstly, a thorough assessment of your security requirements must be made. What does your land comprise, and what is it used for? What kind of threats might you need to guard against?

Here are the basics to consider installing:

Wire mesh fencing

One of the most effective ways of preventing animals from escaping their enclosures, wire mesh fencing can also discourage intruders from trespassing onto your land. Differing gauges and materials are suitable for different animals, from keeping dogs inside kennel paddocks to keeping foxes out of chicken coops.

Other options include wood panel fencing or electric fences. In each case the height and strength of fencing needed should be considered, and all components should be properly maintained to ensure safety.

Security lighting and cameras

As well as keeping you and others traversing your land safe at night, particularly in the dark winter months, motion-activated lights can also alert you to the presence of strangers and deter thieves. But be careful - installing lights in the wrong position could mean they are constantly triggered by your animals, which could be startling for them.

CCTV camera systems can be bought relatively cheaply nowadays, and monitored yourself. Whilst it might seem extreme, the value of animals and equipment could outweigh the initial outlay.

Clear signs

That CCTV is likely to be more effective as a deterrent if its presence is pointed out to would-be criminals. Fit your aforementioned fencing with No Entry and Livestock signs in accordance with the guidance for farmers and land managers to make it clear where your territory starts and ends, and the location of any animals.

Good quality locks

Locks are not just useful for your homestead. If animals are housed in sheds, barns, kennels or other constructions, investing in good-quality locks can secure gates, doors and windows well enough to prevent opportunist break-ins and will make sure you have not breached the conditions of your insurance policy if you do have to claim.

Up-to-date insurance

Automatically renewing your insurance annually without first checking if your cover is up-to-



date can result in missing gaps in your protection, which may not be discovered until you try to make a claim.

Some agricultural policies include security conditions which must be fully complied with, so make sure to read the small print. Contact your local FUW Insurance Services Account Executive who will be happy to assess your situation.

Your local branch telephone numbers are below.

CCTV camera systems can be bought relatively cheaply nowadays, and monitored yourself. Whilst it might seem extreme, the value of animals and equipment could outweigh the initial outlay.



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Review of Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations welcomed

THE FUW has welcomed the decision of the Senedd to review the current Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations, which are currently being phased in and are set to cost the industry millions.

A joint opposition party motion called for a Senedd committee to hold an "urgent" review of the new regulations and the call for a review was passed by 58 votes to nil on Wednesday, June 9.

Responding to the news, FUW Vice President Dai Miles, *(pictured right)*, said: "We are pleased to see that a robust discussion in the Senedd has led to all Welsh Senedd members backing a review into the regulations as they currently stand.

"The FUW and other industry bodies have repeatedly expressed our frustration and anger at the way these rules have been pushed through and warned of the dangers that come with what is currently being asked of the industry.

"We sincerely hope that the review will take into full consideration the financial implications these regulations have on small and medium sized farm businesses and tenant farmers and that they also consider the social and cultural impacts on rural communities, given the implications of these regulations on young farmers, tenants, and new entrants to the industry.



"Now that a review has been agreed it is imperative that an impact assessment is conducted into the loss of biodiversity if these costly proposals were to lead to a decline in upland cattle grazing, a concern that a previous report submitted by the industry working group highlighted.

"As farmers we care deeply about the environment and with this acceptance of a need for a review we have the opportunity, we hope, to once again become partners with Welsh Government in the efforts to tackle pollution and to protect our environment."

Celebrating dairy for World Milk day 2021

THE FUW encouraged consumers across the world to raise a glass to milk and dairy products on World Milk Day - Tuesday June 1 2021. World Milk Day was first launched in 2001 by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) to celebrate and increase public awareness about the nutritional and economic importance of milk and milk products around the globe.

Speaking from his Pembrokeshire dairy farm, FUW Vice President Dai Miles said: "We called on everybody to celebrate and drink milk on June 1st. There are so many benefits of including milk and dairy in our lives - nutritionally, economically and environmentally.

"The FUW recognises the importance of milk as a global food and celebrated World Milk Day to increase public awareness about all aspects of natural milk such as its natural origin and nutritional value as well as its economic importance throughout the globe."

Milk is the fifth largest provider of energy and the third largest provider of protein and fat for humans. "Milk and dairy products are nutrient-dense foods supplying energy and significant amounts of protein and micronutrients, which are essential to reduce hunger and malnutrition particularly amongst the most vulnerable such as pregnant women and children," said Mr Miles.

Addressing concerns of animal welfare in the industry, Mr Miles stressed that dairy farmers, like others in the agricultural industry in the UK and Wales, already comply with and produce to world leading standards.

"Our dairy farmers comply with some of the highest regulations on animal health and welfare, as well as environmental standards. Consumers can rest assured that milk from Wales has been produced sustainably and with the environment in mind. As dairy farmers we rely on our cows being healthy and the ground they graze to be healthy too. That is reflected in an outstanding, trustworthy product that keeps us healthy and the rural economy flourishing," he added.



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Lameness is a major animal health and welfare concern for cattle and is one of the top three diseases affecting productivity including fertility and mastitis. The top 3 causes of lameness are: digital dermatitis, sole ulcers, and white line disease. Digital dermatitis is an infectious condition and one of the major causes of lameness reducing mobility, comfort, feed intake, milk yield and fertility. This infectious condition can spread quickly through the entire herd and in dairy, can reduce milk yield by at least one litre per cow per day.

Lameness is also one of the biggest problems in sheep farming and the condition causes considerable morbidity by impacting significantly on productivity and economic returns. It is also a major animal welfare issue. In the UK, the farmer-estimated prevalence of lameness over a period of ten years in English flocks was an average of 8.4% and was similar a decade later at 10%. Foot rot and scald account for 90% of lameness in most sheep farms.

Although lameness is a challenge, measures can be taken to help control and prevent it.

With 30% of livestock affected at any one time and probably almost 100% over a lifetime, there is lots of opportunity to improve and gain better foot health. To do so, proper management and the use of effective products are required. Formaldehyde and copper sulfate are traditionally used in footbaths but both have drawbacks. Formaldehyde is known to be carcinogenic and an irritant and copper sulfate is environmentally toxic.

United Farmers teamed up with industry experts to find a better solution. This has led to the development of the Hoof Solution product range for lameness in cattle and sheep under their exclusive Country UF brand. The range is safe, effective, and sustainable. The Hoof Solution range includes footbath solution, cattle gel and sheep spray representing a revolutionary, patent pending and unique product range in the marketplace using self-assembling targeted micro-emulsion technology. The scientifically developed formulation helps attack lameness bacteria on the hoof from both the outside and inside! The micro emulsion technology in Hoof Solution

aids easier passage of active ingredients through the cell walls of harmful bacteria and also enhances adherence capability to the hoof and skin allowing longer lasting activity.

For optimum results, foot bathing with Hoof Solution as often as possible (dairy: every milking, every day. sheep: every week at housing). The highly concentrated formula allows for use at 1% dilution rate for maintenance and 2% + dilution for increased herd or flock issues and more challenging conditions. Hoof Solution Cattle Gel is recommended for topical application during hoof trimming or milking routine. It can be used with a hoof bandage for added retention. Hoof Solution Sheep Spray is recommended for topical application during foot trimming or routine handling. Hoof Solution is cost-effective allowing up to 750 cow passes through a 200-litre footbath and up to 600 sheep passes through a 100-litre foot bath.

For more information, please email enquiries@united-farmers.org.uk.



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Pembrokeshire dairy farming family say NVZ regulations leave no choice but to reduce herd



PEMBROKESHIRE husband and wife team Jeff and Sarah Wheeler, who farm at Clyngwyn, Efailwen, Clynderwen, (pictured above), feel the current Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations are going to make their business unviable and are asking the Welsh Government to take a hard look at what they're asking the industry to do.

The third generation to farm here, the couple milk 150 cows on a spring calving system, looking after 195 acres which is down to grass land (of which 35 acres is rented), plus 50 acres of woodland.

Under current NVZ regulations in other UK and EU Nations and previous regulations in Wales, farmers with more than 80% of their holding designated as grassland had the ability to apply for a derogation to increase the annual livestock manure Nitrate whole farm limit from 170kg N per ha to 250kg N per ha.

Despite the same option being included in Welsh Government's draft Water Resources regulations published in 2020, it was omitted from the regulations before being laid in front of the Senedd in 2021 without any form of warning or explanation.

Jeff says: "We've got enough storage for slurry but the stocking rates will hit us badly. They've brought in the nitrate limit, which wasn't in the initial draft regulation, it came out of the blue. Any other country with such regulations has a derogation on the nitrate limit. If you're 80% down to grassland, which we are, you can keep more stock in other countries. Why is that not the case here now?"

The decision by Welsh Government to remove the option of applying for a derogation will restrict the ability of Welsh farmers to maintain milk and beef production levels from 1 January 2023, while further eroding the ability of Wales' farmers to compete on a level playing field with the rest of the UK - where it is understood that derogation provisions are continuing.

"Welsh Government has not included such a derogation, so we will be forced to reduce the stock down to unsustainable levels. For us that means we'll only be able to keep about 120 cows and lose a fair bit of our milk income. The 170kg N per ha whole farm limit with increased slurry storage requirements and consequent reduction in stocking rates will make a large proportion of dairy farm businesses financially unviable and will prevent them from optimising the use of slurry as a natural fertiliser," he added.

The family are also worried about the wider impact on the rural economy. Sarah says: "We have good grass growing land for dairy here. Pembrokeshire is a dairy county. With everyone looking for more land to keep their dairy herds, there will be problems, big ones. People will have to cut back, because they can't afford the land or can't get hold of it, so the milk is going to be lost to other countries as well.

"Think of the economic impact and the ripple effect that will have. Loss of revenue, loss of money going to contractors, the wider rural economy is going to feel the impact of this just as much as farmers are."

Farmers like the Wheeler family are looking to buy or rent additional land in preparation for when the nitrogen limit is imposed on 1 January 2023 to be able to maintain livestock levels by having enough land area available to spread the amount of slurry produced.

"We had a sustainable production grant 4 years ago to build extra slurry storage with the cubicles on top. We submitted a business plan for that to the Welsh Government and that was based on 150 cows. Now they turn around and tell us we can't keep 150 cows unless we take on more land.

"If we took on more land, either rented or bought, to meet the nitrates limit we would be ok but try getting hold of more land, it's impossible. We're surrounded by dairy farms who all have the same problem. There are some big dairy farms around here and competition for land is fierce. Even if you find the land, it's not going to be cheap," explains Sarah Wheeler.

The question for the family business is whether or not to reduce the number of cows or find the land. But the price of the land, they fear, would not leave them with a profitable business.

"If you keep the extra cows, all the money would be going on paying for the extra land, which makes no sense. We would be allowed to spread nearly the same amount of artificial fertiliser as we did before to produce the same amount of grass but our stocking rate has to go down. If we reduce cow numbers we lose income which jeopardises the economic viability of the business," said Jeff Wheeler.

Despite the decision of the Senedd to review the current Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations, Jeff and Sarah are concerned about their livelihood and the future.

"We know that there is going to be a review but we are not hopeful at the moment. Such draconian regulations will in the end achieve the exact opposite of what they set out to achieve. Farmers are being used as a scapegoat for all the problems and I can't see how anything will positively change for us. I am worried about the future. It's very stressful.

"We knew there was a change coming, and we've prepared for it as best as we can but they said they weren't going to bring these rules in while the covid pandemic is on-going and they have gone back on their word. What else will they go back on? It's very difficult for the industry to trust them. I worry what they will throw at us from one day to the next," says Sarah Wheeler.

Jeff adds: "In a way we're lucky as we are an established business but where does that leave younger businesses and the next generation? Those who have started in the last 10 years for example and have borrowed huge amounts of money to set-up their business and then they are forced to pay for this - it could well be the end for some of those young businesses. It's going to hit every dairy farm.

"We borrowed the money to build the slurry store and yard coverings 4 years ago with the assistance of the sustainable production grant, which also paid for calving pens, feed areas etc. The business plan which was agreed by the Welsh Government was based on 150 cows. Where do we go from here? We were trying to prepare for the

"We are trying our best to look after the countryside, look after our animals and produce healthy and safe food for people to eat. Why are they making it so hard? Rules and regulations from all corners, our milk buyer wants us to do one thing, Welsh Government wants us to do another thing, keep fewer cows and everything else."

potential of NVZs and we borrowed a lot of money to make this happen but with the reduction in cow numbers how are we going to pay that back? The business plan, drawn up by a business consultant, was based on a 10 to 15 year repayment period but we won't have the same income from our milk now due to us being forced to reduce the size of the dairy herd."

Frustrations with the Welsh Government's approach is clear here, with the family questioning the rationale behind the regulations. Jeff said: "We have a devolved government so what are they doing copying regulations that are out of date, have been proven to be ineffective and are not specific to Wales. They will not achieve with this regulation what they have set out to, unless they are set to destroy our farming industry and the environment at the same time."

In preparation for the next phase of the regulations and the required reduction in livestock numbers, the family have started to sell off their dairy herd. Sarah said: "We have already sold a few cows, the price for them at the moment is fairly good, and we are keeping less heifers from this year and are putting less cows in calf. We will gradually have to let the numbers fall. It's not what we want to do but there isn't much other choice."

"The trouble is we don't really know what's going to happen. You can't just say let's get rid of these 20-30 cows instantly, because maybe next year things will change. The uncertainty is not workable. At the moment the price for cows is good, but when everyone realises that they have to get rid of their livestock at the same time, the price is not going to be so good. So what do you do? Nobody is going to want the cows in 2 years time.

"I'm the third generation to farm here and have been doing this for over 20 years. The way things are at the moment, I'd sell the farm tomorrow but Sarah wants to keep going. It has gone too far. These regulations are going to be the end of the industry, there is no doubt in my mind," added Jeff.

Sarah, who grew up on a dairy farm in Canada, says their whole lives are being turned upside down and put in jeopardy. "Farming is my life. I come from a dairy farming background in Canada, I grew up on a farm, my father and grandfather milked and we sold the cows there when I was about 10 years old because the quota system came in in Canada. Then we kept suckler cows and I was a vet for over 15 years. I love farming more than Jeff does I think. It's just in you. We want to be outside, work with the animals.

"We are trying our best to look after the countryside, look after our animals and produce healthy and safe food for people to eat. Why are they making it so hard? Rules and regulations from all corners, our milk buyer wants us to do one thing, Welsh Government wants us to do another thing, keep fewer cows and everything else.

"All we want to do is do our job. At the end of the day people need to eat and we're being made to look as if we're the villains in all of this. Our intentions are good and it's our way of life. I'd like to know what the farming industry has ever done to the Minister. Why does she feel so much hate for us? Because that's what it looks like. TB policy isn't working and it's horrendous, now the extra regulations on top. It's one thing after another with this government. There is just no light at the end of the tunnel."

What will the future bring?

'Guardians of the Welsh Land' campaign

by Ian Rickman, FUW Deputy President

LAST month we launched our 'Guardians of the Welsh Land' campaign and I would like to take the opportunity to once again thank our members for standing up to tell their stories and showcasing all the great work that is already being done on farms in Wales. I'm equally pleased to say that this month we are meeting another 3 champions of the Welsh countryside - Carwyn Jones from Montgomeryshire, Alun Edwards from Meirionnydd and Jayne Richards from Pembrokeshire. We can be proud to have such members in our midst and I hope that consumers and governments are taking note of their stories and achievements as well.

To further support our farmers on the global scale, the FUW, alongside other stakeholders including Hybu Cig Cymru-Meat Promotion Wales (HCC), producers, industry bodies, government, NGOs, global processors, butchers and retailers from around the world, also joined an international conversation to input into the United Nations Food Systems Summit.

International experts led discussions on 'the role of the global meat sector in future sustainable food systems' aiming at positive and lasting change on the role of protein in feeding the growing world's population; the dietary implications of going without red meat; the sustainable management of existing food production systems; future-proofing our food systems; and the essential maintenance of a balanced debate.

Laura Ryan (Co-Chair of Global Meat Alliance) said: "Whilst it's important for individual countries to demonstrate the effectiveness of their production systems and the fantastic sustainability investments, it's absolutely essential the global meat industry comes together in a pre-competitive space to discuss the joint challenges and opportunities there are for animal agriculture. At an inter-governmental level there is a huge amount of pressure in the meat industry and it's essential we work together with a fact based approach."

HCC Export Market Development Executive Deanna Jones, who attended the event explained that, alongside further domestic development, helping to unify the global industry behind positive sustainable practices was an essential target for HCC.

We are keen to continue to fly the flag for our farmers here in Wales, who are making excellent contributions to increasing biodiversity, combating climate change, reversing soil degradation and much more, whilst producing sustainable, nutritious food



"While our farmers work to reinforce their sustainability performance, there are international issues to improve and that's at the top of the agenda of a number of significant meetings being held at an intergovernmental level during 2021 including COP26 in Glasgow.

"It's so important for our industry to engage collectively at a pre-competitive level to ensure our best practices are represented and to further drive innovation and improvement for the sustainability of our sector - HCC is determined to lead the way in this field," she said.

"Our non-intensive beef and sheep farming practices, with animals reared in tune with our landscape using natural grass and rainwater and with farmers managing grassland in ways that help capture carbon, are making a positive difference to climate change," said Deanna.

Through our engagement with the wider industry and stakeholders over the past month we have also come to understand that the UK Government is keen to commit to Action Track 3 and 5 for the United Nations Food Systems Summit, which is being held in September in New York this year.

Action Track 3 will work to optimize environmental resource use in food production, processing and distribution, thereby reducing biodiversity loss, pollution, water use, soil degradation and greenhouse gas emissions. In its pursuit of this goal, the Action Track will aim to deepen understanding of the constraints and opportunities facing smallholder farmers and small-scale enterprises along the food value chain. It will also strive to support food system governance that realigns incentives to reduce food losses and other negative environmental impacts.

Action Track 5 will work to ensure the continued functionality of sustainable food systems in areas that are prone to conflict or natural disasters. The Action Track will also promote global action to protect food supplies from the impacts of pandemics. The ambition behind Action Track 5 is to ensure that all people within a food system are empowered to prepare for, withstand, and recover from instability. Action Track 5 also aims to help people everywhere participate in food systems that, despite shocks and stressors, deliver food security, nutrition and equitable livelihoods for all.

With this in mind we are keen to continue to fly the flag for our farmers here in Wales, who as we have seen over the past 4 weeks and will see in the weeks going forward, are making excellent contributions to increasing biodiversity, combating climate change, reversing soil degradation and much more, whilst producing sustainable, nutritious food.

More information on the FUW's 'Guardians of the Welsh Land' campaign can be found here:

English: <https://www.fuw.org.uk/en/members/latest-campaign>

Welsh: <https://www.fuw.org.uk/cy/adnoddau/ymgyrchoedd-diweddaraf>

More info on the United Nations Food Systems Summit can be found here:

<https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/action-tracks>

Meet our case studies for this month



Mae'n rhaid i natur, cadwraeth a chynhyrchu bwyd fynd law yn llaw



All we want as farmers is to work in partnership, but that partnership is breaking down at the moment



If farms like ours weren't here, it would not just be the land and wildlife that would suffer

Cadwraeth natur wrth wraidd fferm bîff a defaid



MAE'N rhaid i natur, cadwraeth a chynhyrchu bwyd fynd law yn llaw, yn ôl Carwyn Jones, ffermwr bîff a defaid o Sir Drefaldwyn, (*gweler uchod*). Mae'n ffermio yn Nhŷ Mawr, Dolanog yn Nyffryn Efyrynwy tua 14 milltir o'r Trallwng a 6 milltir o lyn Efyrynwy. Mae'r fferm bîff a defaid 160 erw wedi bod yn y teulu ers cenedlaethau lawer, gyda Carwyn yn cymryd rheolaeth lawn o'r daliad oddi wrth ei ewythr yn 2002.

Wrth ddisgrifio'r tir dywed: "Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r tir yma yn eithaf serth. Nid oes llawer o bridd, tua 2 fodfedd o bridd a 2 filltir o graig. Felly mae'n rhaid i mi reoli hynny'n ofalus. Mae gennym lawer o goetir o amgylch y fferm ac rwyf hefyd yn edrych ar ôl oddeutu 30 erw o'n coetir ein hunain ar y fferm. Mae cymaint o amrywiaeth o rywogaethau adar a bywyd gwylt o gwmpas ac rwy'n credu'n gryf bod hynny'n bodoli oherwydd sut mae'r tir hwn yn cael ei reoli."

Yn blygwyr gwrych penigamp, mae Carwyn wedi sefydlu dros filltir o wrychoedd wrth ochr y fferm ar bob ochr i'r trac ac wedi plannu dros 600 o blanhigion gwrychoedd newydd yn ddiweddar. "Ar y cyfan, rydw i'n edrych ar ôl tua 4 milltir o wrychoedd ar dir y fferm. Rwyf bob amser wedi bod yn ffan o wrychoedd a choed. I mi, rwy'n gwneud yr hyn rwy'n ei wneud o ran natur a gwaith cadwraeth am y cariad o'i wneud. Rwy'n dwlu ar wrychoedd a'r buddion a ddaw yn eu sgil i'r tir a bywyd gwylt."



Fodd bynnag, mae Carwyn yn glir na ellir eithrio da byw o'r sgwrs. "Mae'r da byw a'r tir yn cydweithio'n dda. Rwy'n cadw defaid Cymreig, ac nid wyf yn eu croesi ag unrhyw beth arall. Rydw i hefyd yn cadw gwartheg croes Henffordd. Nid yw'r fferm yn gynhyrchiol iawn, nid wyf yn ei ffermio i'w llawn botensial - mewnbyn isel ydyw. Fel y mae nawr, mae'r defaid Cymreig a'r gwartheg yn gweddu'n dda iawn iddo. Fyddwn i ddim eisiau gormod o fridiau cyfandirol. Rwy'n eu croesi â tharw Charolais ond rydych chi eisiau gwartheg eithaf gwydn i fyny yma. Mae'r da byw yn chwarae rhan hanfodol o ran bioamrywiaeth," esboniodd Carwyn.

Wrth gerdded ar draws y caeau, a gwerthfawrogi'r amrywiaeth o blanhigion ac anifeiliaid, meddai: "Y gair mawr yw ail-wylltio, sy'n swnio'n dda ar bapur. Ond pe baem yn mynd â'r holl dda byw i ffwrdd o'r fan hon, nid wyf am ddychmygu sut olwg fyddai ar y dirwedd hon. Ni fydddech yn gallu gweld y coed gan brennau.

"Edrychwch ar y gwahaniaeth rhwng tirwedd sy'n cael ei bori gan ychydig o wartheg a defaid ac un sydd ddim - does dim amheuaeth bod pori cymysg yn darparu canlyniadau gwell."

Mae pobl yn dweud bod ffermwyr yn dinistrio ein tirwedd hardd ond pam maen nhw'n ei alw'n brydferth? Mae'n brydferth oherwydd y ffordd y mae'n derbyn gofal ar hyn o bryd. Y ffermwyr sy'n gwarchod y tir ac mae yna gylch bywyd i'r cyfan. Rydyn ni'n gweithio gyda natur.

"Mae'r tir rydyn ni arno nawr angen cymysgedd o ddefaid a gwartheg arno. Pe baem ond yn cadw defaid yma ni fyddem yn cael yr un fioamrywiaeth. Mae'n rhaid i chi gael tail ar gaeau. Mae gen i'r comin ar un ochr, ucheldir ar yr ochr arall a rhywfaint o iseldir, yn ogystal â'r afon. Mae gennym gynefin unigryw yma ar y fferm ac rydw i eisiau ei wella ymhellach.

"Rwy'n credu fy mod yn un o'r cadwraethwyr mwyaf yr ardal yn ôl pob tebyg. Yr oedd fy nhaid ac ewythr yr un fath hefyd. Roedden nhw hefyd yn erbyn chwistrellu a gwrteithio'r ddaear, gan wthio'r tir yn ormodol. Mae eu hethos o edrych ar ôl y tir wedi dylanwadu arnaf. 1989 oedd y tro diwethaf i unrhyw wrtaith gael ei roi ar y ddaear yma. Mae'r fferm yn hollol naturiol. O bosib fy mod i'n fwy organig yma na rhai o'r ffermydd ardystiedig."

Nid yw dull pori'r fferm wedi newid llawer ers i dad-cu Carwyn ffermio'r tir ond mae'r lefelau stocio wedi gostwng i sicrhau bod defaid a natur yn ffynnu. "Y peth cyntaf wnes i wrth gymryd yr awenau oedd gostwng niferoedd y defaid o tua thraean. Roedd gormod ohonynt, a heb wrteithio ni fyddai porfa ar eu cyfer. Nawr mae gennym ni fwy o flodau a lle mae'r gwartheg, mae'r fioamrywiaeth wedi cynyddu'n aruthrol. Bellach mae gan y tir fwy o amser i anadlu, sy'n rhoi gwell planhigion ac anifeiliaid i ni.

"Mae'r blodau menyn a blodau eraill yn y dolydd yn gwneud rhyfeddodau i'n peillwyr hefyd. Mae gen i ddolydd gwair gwyh oherwydd bod nhw'n naturiol ac nid ydynt yn cael eu gorfodi. Rwyf wedi cadw'r dolydd yr un peth ers y cychwyn, nid wyf yn rhan o unrhyw gynllun cyfyngol sy'n bwriadu'n dda, ond yn y diwedd yn creu'r gwrthwyneb i'r hyn a ddymunir yn y lle cyntaf," meddai.

Wrth gerdded lawr i edrych ar y defaid sy'n pori ger afon Efyrynwy, gan basio gwrychoedd blodeuol yr haf, ychwanega Carwyn: "Yr hyn sy'n rhaid ei ddeall yw bod pob gwlad yn wahanol ac nid yw ein systemau ffermio yma yng Nghymru yn debyg i'r rhai sydd yn Ne America er enghraifft. Mae'r difrod a wnaed i'r amgylchedd gan rai o'r gwledydd hynny yn doralonnus ac nid dyna'r hyn a wnawn yma yng Nghymru.

"Mae'r da byw yma yn pori ar dir organig fwy neu lai, maent yn cael eu bwydo'n naturiol ac rydw i'n cadw safon uchel o iechyd a lles. Nid dyna sy'n digwydd mewn gwledydd eraill ac mae angen i ddefnyddwyr yn ogystal â gwleidyddion weld y gwahaniaeth clir hwnnw. Rydw i yn erbyn ffermio dwys, ond ofnaf ein bod ni'n cael ein gwthio i mewn iddo ar ddamwain. Gyda rhai o'r rheoliadau sy'n bodoli nawr, ni fydd y fferm deuluol fach yn gallu cadw i fyny, a bydd y ffermydd mawr yn cymryd drosodd, gan lyncu ffermwyr bach fel ni."

Er bod y fferm mor organig â phosibl, nid yw Carwyn yn rhy hoff o rai o'r cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd a gynigir.

"Grantiau Bach Glastir yw'r unig gynllun rydw i wedi cymryd rhan ynddo, sydd yn bennaf ar gyfer gwrychoedd a gwaith ffin. Mae angen i ffermwyr gael mwy o ddweud yn yr hyn maent am ei wneud, yn seiliedig ar yr hyn sy'n gweithio i'r tir maent yn ei ffermio. Mae angen teilwra cynlluniau i'r fferm a'r ardal benodol, yn hytrach na'r un dull i bawb.

"Nid ydym yn y cynlluniau hyn i wneud arian. Ond mae angen i ni allu dweud beth sy'n gweithio a beth sydd ddim. Nid oes gen i wrychoedd wedi methu ar y fferm ac maent wedi eu profi hefyd, gyda'r gwanwynau sych. Rwyf wedi plannu lle mae'n gweithio ac nid ar hap yn unig er mwyn ticio blwch ar ffurflen. Ni allwch blannu coed a gwrychoedd yn unrhyw le yr hoffech chi. Rydw i wedi creu lleiniau clustogi, cysgod ar gyfer da byw ac adar gyda'r gwrychoedd ychwanegol rydw i wedi'u plannu ac maent wedi gweithio'n dda iawn.

"Rhaid iddo fod yn werth chweil i'r ffermwyr gymryd rhan mewn cynlluniau amaeth-amgylchedd. Fel rheol, y ffermwyr bach, fel fi, sy'n agored i'r cynlluniau hyn ond nid ydym yn cael y gwobrau ariannol amdano fel y dylem. Nid oes a wnelo o gwbl a bachu arian, ond byddai gwell gwobr yn annog mwy o bobl

i gymryd rhan wrth gynhyrchu bwyd cynaliadwy, maethlon," meddai.

Wrth fynd i'r afael â honiadau o lygredd wrth iddo edrych ar draws yr afon sy'n mynd drwy'r fferm, dywedodd Carwyn: "Ni allaf weld sut mae'r ffordd rwy'n ffermio yn llygru mwy na phe na bai fferm yma a dim ond anifeiliaid gwylt yn crwydro o gwmpas. Does gen i ddim slyri gan fod y da byw yn cael eu cadw y tu allan a dim ond 15 o wartheg sydd yma beth bynnag. Arolygwyd y fferm a'r afon Efyrynwy sy'n rhedeg trwy'r tir yma ac mae'r adroddiad wedi dod yn ôl i ddweud ei fod yn lân iawn heb unrhyw lygredd a bod y bywyd dyfrol yn ffynnu. Mae'n rhwystredig iawn pan fydd y diwydiant cyfan yn cael ei bardduo fel yna, a bod hi'n ofynnol i ni i gyd wario arian ar bethau fydd ddim yn gwneud gwahaniaeth i'r mwyafrif o ddaliadau.



Wrth barhau i fynd o amgylch y fferm, gan edrych ar y gwrychoedd sydd newydd eu plannu a'r gwartheg, meddai: "Mae gennym ni bob aderyn bach y gallwch chi feddwl amdano yma, fodd bynnag, mae rhai adar a oedd yma ar y comin 30 mlynedd yn ôl, fel cornchwilogol a'r gylfinirod, wedi diflannu. Rwy'n meddwl bod hynny oherwydd ysglyfaethwyr naturiol fel moch daear. Pan oedd yr ysglyfaethwr naturiol yn cael ei reoli, roedd digon o gornchwilogol yma.

"Nid oes unrhyw beth arall wedi newid yma. Mae poblogaeth y moch daear wedi cynyddu yma yn ystod yr ugain mlynedd diwethaf a bellach prin fod yr un o'r adar hyn ar ôl. Roedd y gylfinirod yn arfer nythu ar y cae uchaf, a dim ond un dwi wedi clywed eleni. Yn y 1970au, mi fydddech yn clywed nifer ohonynt a byddai heidiau o gornchwilogol ar y comin. Mae gan ffermio rhan i'w chwarae mewn rhai dirywiadau ond yn sicr nid o gwmpas yma."

Mae materion eraill, fel TB, hefyd yn pwysu'n drwm ar feddwl Carwyn a dywed eu bod yn fygythiad gwirioneddol i ffermydd teuluol bach yng Nghymru. "Os na wneir dim a bod yr holl wartheg yn mynd, yna ni fyddwn yn gallu edrych ar ôl yr amgylchedd yn ffordd yr ydym yn ei wneud nawr. Gwartheg yw'r cadwraethwyr gorau sydd gennym.

Edrychwch ar y gwahaniaeth rhwng tirwedd sy'n cael ei bori gan ychydig o wartheg a defaid ac un sydd ddim - does dim amheuaeth bod pori cymysg yn darparu canlyniadau gwell. Mae'n fy nhristâu, oherwydd llwfrdra'r llywodraeth, fod y rhywogaethau y maent yn addo eu gwarchod, yn dirywio mewn gwirionedd, ac mae ein bywoliaeth a'r amgylchedd yn cael eu peryglu.

"Yn anffodus, i bwynt, mae systemau ffermio fel un ni yma dan fygythiad. Dim ond nifer fach o wartheg yr wyf yn eu cadw ond nid wyf yn siŵr sut y gallwn gystadlu â ffermwyr o ochrau eraill y byd sydd ddim o dan yr un rheolaeth a rheoliadau. Mae'n fy mhoeni. Rydym yn cadw ein system ffermio yn naturiol, gyda lefelau stocio isel. Gallwch chi ffermio a bod yn gadwraethwr. Mae'n gweithio law yn llaw ond mae'n rhaid rhoi cyfle i ni wneud hynny," ychwanegodd.

This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "Nature conservation is at the heart of Montgomeryshire beef and sheep farm."

The environment and our management of it is just as central to our existence and our aims as food production, says Meirionnydd farmer



A SHORT drive from Dolgellau, Meirionnydd, just off the main road is Cae Coch farm, Rhydymain, home of well-known TV presenter and farming champion Alun Edwards, (pictured left). Driving up a short farm track, it is impossible not to notice how green it is here.

The eye is drawn up to the surrounding hills, the trees envelope the interspersed small fields, none of which are bigger than 5 acres. The fields here are not square and there is a mosaic of them. Some are scattered with a modicum of animals - Welsh Black cattle and their calves are resting, chewing the cud; a few sheep are visible on the mountain ridges.

It is obvious that this land is being looked after by someone. There are hay fields with flowers in them, buttercups and daisies. The land is not pushed here and there are docks, thistles and dandelions. The fields have hedges and stone walls as borders, and have been here since the middle ages.

Moving up through the land, it's sloping and north facing, shrub land or ffridd land as it's called here is followed by unimproved land that includes gorse. There is purple heather on a crested flat and then you get to the white mountain - where you find sedge grasses and the sheep graze in the summer. Wherever you look it feels like a combination of wild and managed land.

The farm itself includes 735 acres with a turnover of £60-70k a year. It's a mountain farm and it's worth making that distinction between hill and mountain farms, as it goes up to almost 3,000 feet. The farm is situated on the Aran Fawddwy ridge and out of those 735 acres 480 acres are not accessible by tractor.

There is molinia and sedge grass on the mountain and below that about 100 acres of blanket bog and heather where some of the cattle are. Alun makes silage on approximately 33 acres to provide winter feed for the 18 Welsh black cows and the bull and a few offspring. 600 Welsh mountain ewes also call the farm home. This along with the subsidy and environmental scheme payments is what keeps Alun Edwards going, something he says the industry depends on.



Though well established in the farming community today, Alun's farming career was not an immediate choice. He explains: "When I took over the farm in 1997 on the death of my father, I was 37 years old and a professional actor. I wasn't brought up as a farmer. Yes I could shear but I was encouraged to go away. I'm a product of that generation where your parents wanted something better for you and they came from the post war era where they have seen some tough times as farmers.

"They thought well if your kid is bright enough, they should go away and have a much easier and better paid life than we had. However, by now I've



spent the last 20 years trying to encourage people to look at farming and countryside work as a viable future and a lot of that comes down to environmental work but of course, it's not for everyone.

"People talk romantically about the land and their connection to it but it's hard here. The winters are long, cold and wet. We struggle through them to get to May. It is challenging here. But I work with nature not against it. If you work against nature you will never win. However, I felt a moral responsibility to come home to farm after my father died and my mother wanted to keep the farm. People have different connections to the land and why they do what they do. Mine was family loyalty. It was my conscience that brought and kept me here initially."

Alun understands the need to look after the environment around him and the role food production plays in maintaining biodiversity and habitats, but also the role farmers play in the wider rural economy, culture and society. He says: "We're a small country, distinct in our culture and I live through the Welsh language here. We're happy to conserve walls, birds, trees and the Welsh language. You can hear traffic, so we're not too far from the road and civilization. I can do all my business within 8 miles of the farm. It's a vibrant place and people are busy working, earning a living and bringing up families.

"My father rejected the environmental pilot scheme that was introduced first - Tir Cymen - because it meant destocking about 100 ewes. He felt that his speciality was sheep and cattle and he was not convinced that it would balance out in terms of income. Many farms in the area were the same at the time.

"When I came here and looked at the finances, I felt that from a financial point of view it would be reasonable to go into an environmental scheme, which then was Tir Gofal. Initially I went into it for the money, I have to be honest. I was constantly reading up about things and by now we've reached a point where we realise that farmers were doing a lot of environmental work before such schemes existed. There was no recognition of it then and certainly not from a public goods point of view."

The Tir Gofal scheme initiated an enthusiasm in Alun to do more for the environment around him. Walking down the farm track to check on some of the cattle that graze the lower part of the fields he says: "I became enamoured with environmental schemes. Tir Gofal worked well and you could grow your understanding of many things like wildlife corridor connectivity.

"We looked at the historical environment, we've been restoring dry stone walls, and if you think they've been here for over 1,000 years it's what people come to see when they come to visit. That is a public good but also a blessing for us.

"Once you start looking at things like that you look at the stone in that wall and you see it's covered in lichen and moss - it's got life on it. There are gaps for rabbits and the other day, I was walking past a farm building and I could hear birds nesting in a crack in the wall.

"I do a little bit of surface reseeding here too but I also include things like bee bombs on rough margins; you have to see the big picture. It's not just about cattle and sheep here by any means. The environment and our management of it has now become just as central to our existence and our aims."

"I'm not sure why our industry has been picked out as a bad example when there are industries such as energy, transport and construction that have also got a role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

With the help of friends and neighbours Alun has planted 20 thousand hedging trees on the lower lands but he is concerned about tree planting ambitions by the Welsh Government. "Where are they going to put them? I know where I would put more trees - on my poorest land but I can't do that because it has been denoted as habitat and the government has decided that we have to freeze habitat in its present state. So the only place left to plant trees is what we call our white lands - land which has been improved and which we use for the production of food.

"We're not going to do that, so the only way I can see that we can do it here is to plant them along every single fenced border I have. I have a lot of double fenced hedges now and I've also added new skills to my portfolio. I've become a hedgelayer and it's a beautiful, satisfying thing to do in the winter. You can see the difference in wildlife in the winter."

Improvement works on the river that's running through the farm has been started and in 2000 Alun was approached to fence out the river bank to keep the cattle out. He has also planted trees on those banks including black poplar. "The problem was of course that once we fenced it all off it became a bit of a weed bank, including Japanese Knotweed. We had some support from the National Park to deal with that, which was good."

A few years ago, Alun provided the Environment Agency with land for a fish breeding pool, where 8,000 sea trout and salmon were tagged and reared before being released back into the Wnion river. "The results weren't fantastic though and about 5 years ago they closed all the hatcheries because it was felt they didn't want to breed artificially and rather let nature take its course. Now we're looking at the habitats for fish in the river.



"This land could be opened up for people to visit. I can imagine this space being used for care-farming. We sometimes forget how many benefits there are to spending time outdoors and some people need access to such spaces. There are some very damaged people out there for whom it would be a blessing to be out here. It's all encompassing, gentle and calm. There are so many smells here, living creatures. All of life is here in this little microcosm and I'm sure if we let people in we could help their mental states a great deal," he says.

Heading up to the mountain, where the panoramic views are breathtaking, Alun explains the benefits of keeping a mix of livestock. "We keep cattle here and we graze them quite high. I know I penalise the cattle grazing them high on the heather moorland, because they don't produce as well but they do wonders for the land. We've still got a few grouse up there.

"I remember a time, when my father was still here, when all the heather was the same height. They were almost like trees on those 100 acres and nothing would go there. You couldn't burn it because of nearby conifer woodland, so the obvious answer is to

let the livestock do the job. But you can't be too heavy handed with the livestock because that won't help the situation either. I hope by doing it the way we do it now, we create a much more varied option for ground nesting birds such as the snipe.

"One of the things farmers are being encouraged to concentrate on, is having a mix of sheep and cattle grazing the mosaic habitat. It's really good here on the blanket bog and heather moorland because we have the Welsh clearwing here. You have to have your wits about you to see them but the micro things are just as important as the big things," he adds.

As well as adding solar panels on the cattle sheds, which means the farm is now more or less independent in terms of electricity, Alun has decided to start keeping bees. "Last year I embarked on that journey and signed up with a mentor from Farming Connect and it looks like they have overwintered well but some of them have swarmed. Half of them are still with me and I'm now building a second hive.

"In planting all those trees here on the farm, we've created flowers all year round and that's really good for our pollinators. Willow hedges in the boggy areas, then the Hazel will flower, we've got Blackthorn flowering when nothing else is in flower and gorse, and then we get the Hawthorn, which has been tremendous this year. We're building up a portfolio of what we as farmers always did but maybe we weren't aware of how beneficial it was," he said.

Taking all of the conservation and environmental work being done on this farm into account, it's easy to understand the frustration Alun feels about how the industry is portrayed. "I'm not sure why our industry has been picked out as a bad example when there are industries such as energy, transport and construction that have also got a role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"I'm surprised so much emphasis is put on cattle. However, if you look at the wider context of who is behind these things, it's big corporations. I'm worried about who is buying up all the land. Once the small farms get squeezed out, which is what will happen and my farm may well be one of them, it will be big farms taking over. Small family farms are seen as an inconvenience in the global picture of big business. It's not a coincidence that people like Bill Gates are making things like the 'impossible burger'. They're setting trends and finding ways to sell that ideal image. I'm not sure who is following who, especially as vegan and vegetarianism are still a minority of the consumers."

Climate change, he adds, we're all aware of but he struggles to see what more he can do as an individual. "I always strive to be conscientious. We recycle our plastics, we recycle our cow waste. For every cow I keep that emits methane she also provides fertiliser so that the grass grows and that grass then absorbs CO₂ - it's a balance. I find that probably, if we look at the figures that are coming out in terms of emissions the whole picture isn't considered and they're only looking at the negatives rather than balancing it against the positives. We do what we can but we need the government to do more and things need to be done at scale.

"All we want as farmers is to work in partnership but that partnership is breaking down at the moment. It's a pity really. You can't be at loggerheads if you want results," he said.



"We've added big rocks in the middle to restore pools, so the gravel collects behind them and makes ideal nesting places for the salmon and sea trout. We've also added big trees into the river and pinned them down, to create resting shelters for migratory fish on their way to spawn. We take every opportunity we can to enhance biodiversity, while still maintaining our primary role of producing food. People like Welsh lamb and beef," he says.

It is clear that the environmental work here is carried out with passion and enthusiasm, from dry stone walling, planting trees, and hedge laying and recently Alun joined a flood prevention scheme with the Snowdonia National Park. He explains: "We were approached by Rhys Owen from Snowdonia National Park as there was a scheme coming up and of course, the original sources of our rivers are mainly in upland catchments. We've got 10 farms involved and the whole of this upper valley is now in a flood prevention scheme.

"As part of our work with the scheme we slow down any water that runs off our hills and we've closed some of the ditches on the upland peat bogs; we plant hedges across slopes so that the water hits them and absorbs some of it.

"We build dams and ditches to step water down into the river and make pools and ponds. I will be creating a pond soon that will collect water from the main road. The amount of pollutants from the main road is crazy - fragments of tyres, salt from gritting. If we can catch it before it goes into the rivers and create sumps we should be doing it. Of course, those sumps are also going to be biodiverse habitats for frogs and certain birds. I'm interested to see how that will work out. Things always change."

Standing in 6 acres of woodland on sloping land, which is not suitable for livestock grazing, it was fenced out and 300 oak trees were planted. "My research led me to believe that an oak woodland gives you the best options as far as biodiversity is concerned. Though what has happened is that some of the oaks struggled a bit but the birch came like crazy. If we left it they would probably take over. The next step for something like this is to cut down a few trees to make glades. If you don't have sunlight touching the ground you lose biodiversity," said Alun.

There is wild garlic and strawberries growing here in the woods and a sense of calm takes over. Alun is not opposed to opening small sections of the land to visitors.



Pembrokeshire farming family embrace wildlife conservation and food production



FARMING has a key role to play in looking after the environment and combating climate change but the production of food must not be excluded from the conversation, says Pembrokeshire beef, sheep and arable farmer Jayne Richards, (pictured above).

Jayne, who farms with her parents Michael and Margaret and husband Ali at Jordanston Farm, St Mary's Park, Jordanston, just outside of Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, has no doubt that if it weren't for small family farms up and down the country the environment would suffer. The aesthetic look of the Welsh countryside would change dramatically, with rural communities being lost.

However, the family are clear that food production and the care of the environment both have a critical role to play and one can't function without the other.

The 350 acre farm, which is in the Glastir scheme, is home to 400 breeding ewes and 140 beef cattle, as well as a small suckler herd. The family keep mostly Welsh half bred ewes and breed their own Texel rams and replacement ewes. They also keep some store lambs in the autumn and winter to finish on root crops.

The family grow all their own fodder for the cattle, including silage, haylage, and wheat and barley, and rent out 20 acres for potato production. 50 acres of woodland surround the farm, creating a big wildlife corridor that has been beneficial for wildlife on the farm and also in terms of carbon storage.

Jayne's grandfather bought the farm in the 1950s and at the time it was a land settlement farm for miners who came down from the valleys. Explaining the history of the farm, Jayne says: "The miners who came here could either work on the farm or they had a house of their own with a greenhouse and kept a pig for themselves. They were fairly self-sufficient then. The farm used to be a horticulture holding and also grew vegetables.

"Jordanston was quite intensive at that time, every inch of the land was in production and the farm had its own pig unit, as well as a horticulture nursery. When my grandfather bought the farm he grew potatoes and kept sheep and beef cattle."

Since then the family has more or less carried on in the same way. Looking after the land and producing food has always gone hand in hand. Jayne, who used to work in the Tir Gofal team, said the environment schemes are of vital importance but food production and the existing farming business has to work alongside the schemes.

"When Tir Gofal first started we did a plan for the farm taking into consideration the wildlife element but also the commercial business aspect. We managed to do quite a few things around the farm that enhanced what's here and improved things for the future. Amongst many things we have restored hedgerows, we look after 6 irrigation ponds and 3 of them are surrounded by scrubland, a great habitat for wildlife but also a carbon store. These ponds are fenced off as wildlife corridors and they link directly to the woodland. We also leave stubble for over-wintering birds.

"Being a mixed farm is a good thing for wildlife because you don't have as much monoculture, you can produce sustainable food with habitat left for wildlife in between the cropping, which enhances the movement of species around the farm.

"We rotate the crops every 3 years including swedes, barley, wheat and grass, which is good for the soil. These things have to work together and farms like ours manage it quite well," she explains.

As part of their environmental work the family have reclaimed the pond at the front of the house and planted 2 miles of native Thorns and hedgerow trees to create a Pembrokeshire hedge. "Our hedges are really well established now and provide excellent habitat for birds. Last year we also included a strip of wildflower meadow and it was lovely to see the poppies, cornflowers, daisies and many other varieties - it did wonders for the birds and insects here on the farm. We try to do lots of small things and as a family we do enjoy the wildlife, but we also have to live and make a profit. It's about striking a balance," she said.

Walking around the farm Jayne explains the history of the irrigation ponds that positively enhance the wildlife and create biodiverse habitats. "The ponds were originally set up to irrigate potatoes which were grown for many years here at Jordanston. They're scattered all around the farm so we were able to get irrigation pipes to different areas of the farm. One of them is over 50 years old. Over the years the ponds have been really successful from a wildlife point of view as well. Today we have herons, snipe, many different species of duck and moorhens here and it's nice to see them. The ponds are still used for irrigation purposes.



"We have the streamside corridors now too which protect the habitat and the animals which were drinking from the side no longer erode the banks. We even had an otter on the farm on one of the ponds."

The land and the farm are of historical importance and preservation of the buildings and way of life is as important to Jayne as the countryside and woodland that surround it. She said: "You can feel the history as you walk around and I'm particularly fond of our woodland, which includes broadleaf trees such as Ash, Sycamore, Beech and Oak.

"There are tawny owls in the woods, and we fenced the wood off to regenerate it all those years ago. It would be good to graze it a little bit though but at the moment under Glastir that's not really an option. We need to create a few glades in the woodland and grazing would help with that. It would help the invertebrates and birds too. The brambles are getting quite prolific there now and it just shows that a bit of sympathetic land management is needed for the benefit of the environment. If land isn't managed you end up with too much of the same overgrowth and scrub which does not support such a wide range of species and becomes of little use to anyone or anything."

Whilst the family are enthusiastic about looking after the wildlife and caring for the environment, they are clear that for one aspect to function properly, the other, food production and the role of the livestock must be appreciated. "The livestock is essential, not just for our income but



the way they graze the land helps to ensure that the land and insects here are flourishing too. If the livestock wasn't here it would all go wild and then you couldn't use it for anything. People don't talk about the good things farmers do, only the things they think we don't do. The livestock is vital in everything that happens here.

"If farms like ours weren't here, it would not just be the land and wildlife that would suffer. The infrastructure of the countryside depends on agricultural businesses. We feel very connected to the land; it's an extension of our home and we care what happens to it. They are our fields and our responsibility and we take that seriously," said Jayne.

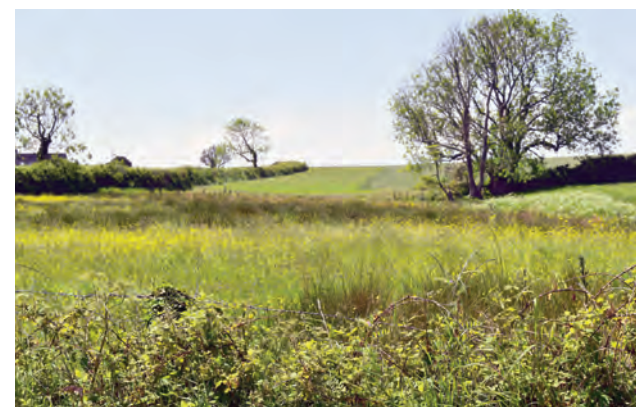
Many of the elements from Tir Gofal were carried over into the Glastir scheme here and Jayne feels strongly that it's important to be in an agri-environment scheme, not only from an environmental point of view but from a business point of view as well.

"It reflects on how you farm and your customers want to see that you're environmentally aware. A lot of farmers do environmental work, as part of the jobs to do on a farm list, without properly realising that what they are doing is a form of conservation but it doesn't always have a name.

"Farming here in Wales is so different to other parts of the world. You cannot class all farms in the same way. The type of farming changes according to geographic location, the climate and soil type, one system will not fit all. You cannot combine everything in a global summary.

"I feel quite angry when the industry here in Wales gets accused and portrayed as being bad for the environment and making climate change worse. Farming is not an easy job, many farmers do improve things for wildlife and encourage the environment to flourish. Sadly that aspect isn't talked about, it's always the negative side we hear about.

"There are some issues of course, but that's equally true for other industries. Most farmers are trying their best to address these environmental issues, but there are ways and means to implement change. It should not be at the cost of the farming businesses and rural communities. After all these are the people with the countryside knowledge and skills who have the ability to successfully produce food in Wales and to care for the Welsh countryside in the future."



New appointments to key group promoting high standard of animal health & welfare in Wales

FIVE new members will play an important role working with Welsh Government to ensure high standards of animal health and welfare in Wales.

Sara Pedersen, Phillip Jones, Iestyn Tudur-Jones, Catherine Nakielny and Gary Yeomans have all joined the Wales Animal Health & Welfare Framework (AHWF) Group since June 1 for a three-year period, having been selected through a public appointment process.

These new members bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework, supporting delivery of five strategic objectives:

- Wales has healthy productive animals
- Animals in Wales have a good quality of life
- People trust and have confidence in the way food is produced and the way public health is protected
- Wales has a thriving rural economy
- Wales has a high quality environment

Members of the group also play a key role in strengthening the link between the Welsh Government, livestock keepers, other animal owners, the veterinary profession and industry

representatives, covering the whole spectrum of animal health and welfare challenges.

Rural Affairs Minister, Lesley Griffiths said: "I am pleased to appoint five new members to the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group and I am certain they will make a major contribution in this important area.

"We are extremely proud of the excellent animal health and welfare standards in Wales and this group of people possess the experience and skills needed to increase awareness and contribute to raising standards even further.

"I would also like to thank the departing members Ifan Lloyd, Dai Davies, Paula Boyden, Abi Reader and Moss Jones for their vital work and the significant impact to the development of animal health and welfare policy in Wales."

Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales, Christianne Glossop added: "The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group plays a vital role in identifying priorities and encouraging collaborative working between all interested parties.

"The new members have been chosen for their breadth and depth of experience, and understanding of what's most important to the livestock and wider animal sector in Wales. I look forward to working closely with them over the next three years."



"We are extremely proud of the excellent animal health and welfare standards in Wales and this group of people possess the experience and skills needed to increase awareness and contribute to raising standards even further."



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Swyddog Polisi / Policy Officer

Cyflog / Salary: £24,000- £27,000 pro rata

Lle bo hynny'n addas, gall yr ymgeisydd llwyddiannus ddewis i weithio o bell neu o un o'n tair swyddfa ar ddeg ledled Cymru, ac yn rhan o Adran Bolisi UAC, gan ddatblygu meysydd polisi allweddol, cydosod, dehongli a dadansoddi gwybodaeth, a chydweithio â rhanddeiliaid perthnasol eraill pan fo angen.

Bydd angen i ymgeisydd ddangos tystiolaeth o sgiliau cyfathrebu ysgrifenedig a llafar cryf, lefel uchel o gymhelliant a blaengarwch, diddordeb cadarn mewn polisi amaethyddol, a'r gallu i feddwl yn ddadansoddol.

Mae gradd berthnasol a phrofiad helaeth mewn amaethyddiaeth neu faes polisi cysylltiedig yn ddymunol, ynghyd â'r gallu i gyfathrebu trwy'r Gymraeg a'r Saesneg.

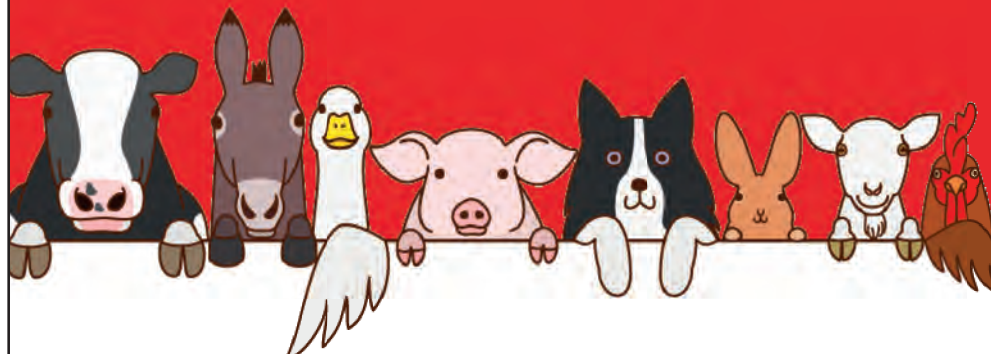
Where suitable, the successful applicant may choose to work remotely or from one of our thirteen offices located throughout Wales, and will be part of the FUW's Policy Department, developing key policy areas, assembling, interpreting and analysing information, and collaborating with other relevant stakeholders when necessary.

Applicants will need to show evidence of strong written and oral communication skills, a high level of motivation and initiative, a firm interest in agricultural policy, and an ability to think analytically.

A relevant degree and extensive experience in agriculture or a related policy area are desirable, as is the ability to communicate through the mediums of Welsh and English.

Dyddiad cau / Closing date:
12fed Gorffennaf 2021 / 12 July 2021

Mwy o fanylion / Further information:
head.office@fuw.org.uk neu 01970 820820



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“Gobeithiaf y bydd digon o gyfleoedd i ni’r ffermwyr ifanc”

gan Elliw Grug Davies, merch fferm biff o Synod Uchaf, Synod Inn, Ceredigion

MAE diddordeb gen i ym myd amaethyddiaeth ers fy mhentyndod wrth weithio gartref ar y fferm deuluol, ac mae wedi bod yn rhan fawr o fy mywyd i. Mae’r Clybiau Ffermwyr Ifanc wedi bod yn rhan annatod o fy mywyd ers sawl blwyddyn bellach. Dw i yn mwynhau bob eiliad o fod yn aelod o CFFI Caerwedros. Dw i wedi derbyn profiadau amrywiol gyda’r mudiad o siarad cyhoeddus, sydd wedi fy ngalluogi i ddatblygu fy hunan hyder ac i fy helpu yn yr hir dymor mewn cyfweiliadau swyddi. Yn ogystal i hyn, dw i wedi manteisio o farnu stoc wrth ddysgu agweddau gwahanol o fridiau gwahanol. Dw i wedi gwneud ffrindiau a chwrdd â phobl newydd o fewn y mudiad yma gyda sawl blwyddyn i ddod eto.

Rhyw dair blynedd yn ôl, fues i’n rhan o’r Academi Amaethyddiaeth, Rhaglen yr Ifanc, drwy law Cyswllt Ffermio. Cefais y cyfle i gwrdd â phobl ifanc arall sydd yn diddori a gweithio ym myd ffermio. Hefyd, cefais y cyfle i ddod i adnabod siaradwyr gwadd yn y maes yma, wrth drafod am eu busnesau amaethyddol. Yn ogystal â’r sesiynau hyn, mi oedd yn agoriad llygaid amser es i ar drip addysgiadol i Iwerddon.

Ers fy nghyfnod yn Ysgol Gyfun Aberaeron, es i i astudio Amaethyddiaeth ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth. Fe wnes i ganolbwyntio ar astudio busnes, systemau da byw a gwneud y mwyafrif o borfa wrth ffermio. Cefais y cyfle i fynd ar daith astudio i Gaergrawnt, wrth ymweld â ffermydd â’r ac ati. Roedd mynd i’r brifysgol wedi sicrhau fy mod yn derbyn swydd dda o fewn y diwydiant yma.

Ers hynny, dw i wedi bod yn helpu fy nhad sy’n gweithio gartref ar y fferm. Yn ogystal â hyn, dw i wedi bod yn gweithio ar sawl fferm odro a defaid amrywiol. Yn bennaf, fy swydd i ar y ffermydd godro organig a gonfensiynol oedd godro. Cefais y cyfle i wyna ar fferm ddefaid mynydd, ac yna helpu dosio a phacio gwllan yn yr haf.

Bellach, dw i wedi derbyn swydd llawn amser fel Gweithredwr Biwro gydag EID Cymru (“Electronic Identification”). Mae’r cwmni yn gyfrifol am ddelio gyda phrosesu trwyddedau sy’n symud defaid a geifr o fferm i fferm ac o farchnad i fferm o fewn Cymru. Hefyd, mae’r sefydliad yma yn cynnig cymorth ar gyfer ceidwaid sy’n gwneud symudiadau ar-lein ar y wefan. Dw i wir yn mwynhau gweithio fel rhan o dîm gyda’r gweithle yma.

Ers i mi ddechrau’r swydd, daeth Covid ar ein traws. Newidiodd hyn y ffordd o weithio yn y swyddfa a bellach dwi’n gweithio wythnos ar y tro adref ac yna’r wythnos ddilynol yn y swyddfa. Mae’n bwysig i bob un i fod yn hyblyg mewn ffordd sy’n elwa’r cyflogwr a’r gweithiwr.

Fy ngobeithion ar gyfer y diwydiant amaethyddiaeth

Gobeithiaf y bydd dyfodol sicr iawn i bobl ifanc ac y bydd digonedd o gyfleoedd allan yna. Hefyd, dw i wir yn gobeithio y bydd y cyhoedd yn

gwerthfawrogi ffermio yn fwy, o ran ble mae bywyd yn dod a sut mae ffermydd o fudd i’r amgylchedd. Hoffwn i petai ffermio yn rhan o addysg plant yn yr ysgol gynradd ac uwchradd, i ehangu eu dealltwriaeth am y gwaith caled sydd yn cael ei roi mewn gyda’r ffermwyr hynny. O ran y mesurau newydd i’r NVZ’s (“Nitrate Vulnerable Zones”), gobeithiaf y bydd y llywodraeth yn ail-ystyried y polisi yma i sicrhau bod ffermydd da byw yn parhau i ffynnu a llwyddo.

O ran cynhyrchu a phrynu bywyd yn lleol, mae angen i bobl ystyried a chymryd ffermio yn fwy o ddi’ri i sicrhau bod ffermwyr yn derbyn pob cefnogaeth ar fesul sawl mater gwledig gwahanol. Mae angen parhad cryf ar gyfer ffermydd bach a mawr i sicrhau dyfodol disglair i gefn gwlad Cymru ac i’r gymuned ehangach.

Mae ffermio yn enghraifft wych o ddiwydiant sy’n cadw at lefelau carbon isel iawn. Dw i wir yn edrych ymlaen yn fawr iawn at beth fydd gan y diwydiant yma i’w gynnig i ni’r ifanc i’r dyfodol agos. Fel dywedodd y Prifardd Dic Jones “*tra bo dynoliaeth, fe fydd amaethu*”.

Fy ngobaith i yn y pen draw yw byw yn fy milltir sgwâr, ond i symud o adref ac i fyw’n annibynnol. Ond ar y foment, mae prisiau tai yn rhy ddrud ac mae’r dewis o fyw yn fy nghymuned cefn gwlad leol wedi cael ei gyfyngu gan reolau llym polisiâu cynllunio. Gobeithiaf bydd newidiadau er mwyn sicrhau fod y genhedlaeth ifanc yn gallu byw yn eu cymunedau cefn gwlad os y dymunir ac nid yn y trefi a’r dinasoedd yn unig.

*This article is in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News:
“I hope there will be plenty of opportunities for us young farmers.”*

Ydych chi’n ystyried datblygu isadeiledd eich fferm er mwyn gwella effeithlonrwydd, cynnal iechyd anifeiliaid o’r safon uchaf a lleihau’r peryglon i’r amgylchedd?

Sicrhewch gyngor un-i-un am ddim gyda chynghorydd arbenigol er mwyn cael arweiniad sy’n benodol i’ch busnes.

MAE’R PYNCIAU’N CYNNWYS:

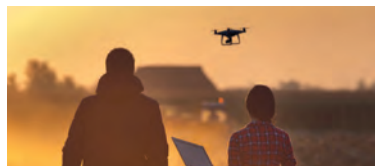
- ✓ Isadeiledd
- ✓ Cynllunio a datblygu
- ✓ Systemau trin anifeiliaid
- ✓ Dyluniad ac effeithlonrwydd parlwr godro
- ✓ Effeithlonrwydd ynni / Ynni adnewyddadwy
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In the summertime, when the weather is fine

by Kate Miles, Charity Manager, The DPJ Foundation



it was another long day ahead. They were playing catch up after the drizzle in the week, but hoping that the next farm had “peelers” to get an early finish. One of them explained that he hadn’t managed to get home that week before his son had gone to bed so he was desperately keen to see him and spend time with him. I’m sure many farmers will recognise this as the lighter evenings mean longer working days.

Being a farmer or contractor’s partner can also be pretty lonely at these times (even if you are also farming): often shouldering the childcare, making sure there is a steady supply of clean clothes and lunch box snacks and not getting much in the way of conversation. I have seen it said more than once on various Facebook groups that it can feel like being single again, just lonelier and with more dirty washing.

Fittingly, June saw Men’s Health Week, and this year focussed on Mental Health and Wellbeing. It can be so difficult to look after your wellbeing when you are working 15+ hour days and pushing your body to its limits or confined to a tractor all day. Having a proper conversation can be the last thing you want when you finally get in after a hard day. However, building in some tools to look after your wellbeing can be vital to get you through, whether that is catching up with some friends over the phone (handsfree), making sure you get sufficient sleep and eating proper food. We make more mistakes when we are tired and whether you’re driving a tractor and trailer or a handpiece you’re responsible for a potentially dangerous tool.

June was also Pride Month and we were pleased to be able to share some stories from people in agriculture who also happen to be LGBTQ+. Farming can be lonely, and it can be even more lonely if you feel “different”. We wanted to provide some hope to those who may be struggling alone, to show that you are never alone. We were pleased to work with Wales YFC, NFYFC and Tir Dewi on this as well as with Agrespect the rural LGBTQ+ network <https://agrespect.com/>

As always, we are here to listen when you need us on 0800 587 4262, and we certainly won’t judge.

SITTING down to write this month’s article, I’m looking out at glorious sunshine, lambs grazing in the field, a neighbour turning hay; it’s a perfect summer’s day. However, for some this means one of two things: silage or shearing. After a cold, wet start to summer the pressure is on to get grass cut and in and sheep shorn, but that can mean long day after long day with little sleep in between for the contractors who are responsible for making it happen. It can also mean anxious waits for the farmers who want to be next on the list before we get more rain.

We sheared some ewes and hogs on the weekend and I was talking to the boys who came to shear as I was packing wool. In the early morning heat, I was asking where they were off to next and whether

Building in some tools to look after your wellbeing can be vital to get you through, whether that is catching up with some friends over the phone (handsfree), making sure you get sufficient sleep and eating proper food.

We're here to help

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SAMARITANS

RABI:
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DPJ Foundation:

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Mind Cymru:

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Tir Dewi:

0800 121
4722



RABI introduce 24-hour helpline for farming people

RESPONDING to the increasing demand from farming people, RABI is extending its freephone helpline this autumn, to provide the farming community with a 24-hour service.

The national farming charity believes that a ‘round the clock’ service will better meet the needs of a sector renowned for working long and often unpredictable hours.

“Improving accessibility and ensuring farming people know there is someone to talk to who will understand them, no matter what time it is, is a priority for RABI,” says Alicia Chivers, Chief Executive of RABI.

“For generations, RABI has provided guidance and support to the farming community. With the challenges facing farming people becoming increasingly diverse and complex it is crucial that we remove as many barriers to accessing vital help as possible.

“Talking to someone and proactively seeking support is such a positive step and now there will be someone available

at any time of the night or day. The 24/7 helpline will remain free for all to access and is an important addition to RABI’s services,” concludes Alicia.

RABI is employing a progressive strategy of evolution to ensure there is a toolkit of holistic support available for people to access as they need it. Working with partners to strengthen and broaden the charity’s reach, RABI recently introduced the online wellbeing platform rabi.org.uk/kooth, and launched the sector-wide research project - The Big Farming Survey.

The roll-out of RABI’s Community Pillars Scheme pilots, bringing together small forums of local farming people within safe, informal but supported environments will continue during 2021.



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It's not the quad bike that's dangerous, it's the way it's handled - get to know your vehicle



OVER the year's Quad bikes and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) have become essential on most farms. However, like any piece of machinery, it's not the quad bike that is dangerous, it's the way it's handled.

So, before you jump on and start up your ATV, take the time to get to know the vehicle, know your limits and know the dangers.

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

The injuries from these vehicles can often be fatal, because they can achieve high speeds and when an ATV overturns, there is no roll bar to protect the driver's head or neck (as is the case with a tractor or utility vehicle). In fact, many quad bike fatalities in the UK have been caused by head injuries.

Helmets would have prevented most, if not all, of these deaths. So please make sure you always wear a suitable helmet when riding a quad bike.

There is no one cause of all ATV accidents. However, many of these incidents involve the negligence or recklessness of the driver or another person nearby.

Causes of ATV accidents include drunk driving, speeding recklessly, to unsuitable terrain, to vehicle rollover; the list goes on and on. These accidents are also caused by less obvious reasons, such as poor maintenance or exceeding the carrying capacity on the ATV.

It is worth remembering that ATVs, in light agricultural use, are designed to hold the operator, and the operator only. Whilst the long seat on a quad bike allows you to shift your body weight backwards and forwards for different slope conditions, - it is not for carrying passengers!

There is no doubt that ATVs are a real aid on the farm, but if you have an ATV, you are being negligent if you don't at least familiarise yourself with safe driving practices and prevent children (those under 16 years of age) from driving the ATV in any circumstances.

Here's what you can do to reduce the risk:

- 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.

Follow the **SAFE STOP** procedure if you need to check equipment, carry out maintenance work or clear blockages:

- Fully apply the handbrake
- Put all controls in neutral
- Stop the engine
- Remove the key from the ignition



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MEAT MATTERS

Figures Show Value of Red Meat to Welsh Economy and Society

by Glesni Phillips, HCC Data Analyst

THE value of the beef, lamb and pork sectors to the Welsh economy has risen again according to new figures, as consumers turned to local, sustainable, quality food during the COVID pandemic.

New figures from the Welsh Government 'Aggregate Agricultural Output and Income' report show that the total value of agricultural output in Wales for 2020 is projected to stand at £1.7billion - a 6.2% (or £99 million) increase on the provisional figure for 2019.

Cattle and sheep account for 44% of this total at £750million; the highest proportion recorded since 2016. The agricultural output value for Wales's pig sector also increased (by 34.3% or £2 million) to a value of £8 million.

Demand for beef and lamb have been strong in the domestic retail market since the immediate aftermath of the first COVID lockdown in spring 2020. After initial market volatility, marketing campaigns by HCC and other bodies encouraged consumers to recreate restaurant meals at home.

Consumers across Britain spent £4.1 billion on beef, lamb and pork in 12 months alone, according to the latest data by Kantar, the consumer-insight experts, for the 52 weeks to mid-May 2021. This is an impressive increase of 12.6% when compared to the previous year.



Sales of lamb in particular were substantial, with over half of GB consumers buying lamb during this period. Almost 54% of Britain's total population chose to buy lamb during the 12 months, which is 3.8% up on the previous year.

The strong demand for red meat from the domestic consumer has helped drive market prices for beef and lamb at Welsh livestock markets in the second half of 2020 and into the early months of 2021.

It's no surprise, therefore, to see that the overall value of the industry is projected to have grown. We have seen inflation in the costs on farmers, however it's heartening to see consumers' support for quality Welsh produce.

Welsh Lamb and Welsh Beef remain key drivers of our rural economy, and given their excellent brand reputation, they act as flagship products for the growing Welsh food and drink sector.

Mae gwerth y sectorau cig eidion, cig oen a phorc i economi Cymru wedi codi eto yn ôl ffigurau newydd, wrth i ddefnyddwyr droi at fwyd lleol, cynaliadwy o anawdd yn ystod y pandemig COVID. Mae'r galw am gig eidion a chig oen wedi bod yn gryf yn y farchnad adwerthu ddomestig ers y cyfnod clo cyntaf yng ngwanwyn 2020. Ar ôl anweddolrwydd cychwynnol y farchnad, anogodd ymgyrchoedd marchnata gan HCC a chyryff eraill ddefnyddwyr i ail-greu prydau bwyty gartref.

PROPERTY MATTERS

Amendment to renting homes bill bring greater security for tenants in Wales

by Eifion Bibby, Davis Meade Property Consultants



NEW regulations are expected to come into force for private landlords in Autumn 2021 as the Welsh Government looks to provide greater security for people who rent residential properties in Wales, particularly those in the private rented sector.

The Renting Homes (Amendment) (Wales) Bill 2016, if enacted, will create two forms of residential occupation: Standard Contracts, largely for use by private sector landlords and Secure Contracts giving security of tenure, for use mainly by social housing providers.

Standard Contracts will replace assured shorthold tenancies (ASTs) for new lettings commencing after the amended 2016 Act is brought fully into force and the regulations will also apply to existing arrangements. ASTs and Assured Tenancies already in place when the provisions are brought in will be converted into Standard Contracts but their terms will continue to apply where they do not conflict with the new rules.

The Renting Homes (Amendment) (Wales) Bill will result in changes regarding no-fault possession. For instance, a landlord will be able to serve a notice requiring possession on no-fault grounds, with the minimum notice period extended from two to six months effectively creating a minimum 12 month letting period.

For specific short term rentals no-fault possession on two months' notice will still be permitted, such as for service occupancy arrangements, student accommodation and temporary lets.

Also, shorter notice periods are to be available where a Tenant is at fault. One month applies to the general "breach of contract" notice period but this can be subject to court challenge by the Tenant. The notice period will be two weeks for serious rent arrears where more than two months' rent is overdue.

In addition, the Landlord will need to comply with various requirements before a valid notice can be served, such as ensuring that an appropriate written statement of contract is provided to the contract holder and in respect of deposit provisions.

For further details visit Senedd Wales website or contact Eifion Bibby at the Colwyn Bay office of Davis Meade Property Consultants on 01492 510360, email eifionbibby@dmpcuk.com

Disgwylir i reoliadau newydd ddod i rym ar gyfer landlordiaid preifat yn Hydref 2021 wrth i Lywodraeth Cymru geisio darparu mwy o ddiogelwch i bobl sy'n rhentu eiddo preswyl yng Nghymru, yn enwedig y rhai yn y sector rhentu preifat. Am ragor o wybodaeth cysylltwch ag Eifion Bibby yn swyddfa Bae Colwyn o Davis Meade Property Consultants ar 01492 510360, e-bost eifionbibby@dmpcuk.com

MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Diolch i bawb am y cydweithio hapus

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

ER na fydd Sioe Fawr yn Llanelwedd eleni, rydym yn falch iawn o ymateb ein haelodau ac fe fyddwn yn cynnal Sioe Rithwir, mae dros 160 o gystadleuwyr wedi ymgeisio ar grefft, ffotograffiaeth, coginio a chreu fideo. Edrychwn ymlaen at gyhoeddi'r canlyniadau yn ystod wythnos y Sioe. Diolchwn hefyd i'r tair mam a merch sydd yn mynd i gynnal sgysiaau am eu profiadau o fyd amaeth a'u cyfraniad i'r diwydiant yn ystod wythnos y Sioe.

Diolchwn hefyd am frwdfrydedd a dyfeisgarwch yr holl aelodau wrth drefnu cyfarfodydd yn ystod y misoedd diwethaf, nifer fawr ohonynt yng nghefn gwlad ac yn amrywio o feysydd parcio i lwybrau cyhoeddus i safleoedd hanesyddol.

Mae technoleg hefyd yn dal i chwarae rhan allweddol yng ngweithgareddau'r mudiad gyda chyfarfodydd Zoom, ffyrdd o addysgu am ddiogelwch ar lein a hefyd ffyrdd o greu podlediadau ac o gofnodi ein hanesion llafar ymysg rhai o'r gweithgareddau diweddar.

Mae ymateb arbennig hefyd i gylchgrawn "Y Wawr" gydag amrywiaeth yr erthyglau yn sicr o blesio cynulleidfa eang o ran diddordebau. Diolchwn i bawb am y cydweithio hapus yn ystod y flwyddyn heriol a aeth heibio, a gobeithio am Ffair Aeaf go iawn eleni, er mwyn galluogi'r gymdeithas i gael cyfle i gymdeithasu yn ddiogel.

Although there will be no Royal Welsh Show this year, Merched y Wawr are very pleased with the response of their members and will be hosting a Virtual Show, with over 160 competitors entered in craft, photography, cooking and video making competitions. The results will be announced during the Show week.





Ford Ranger.

New discount scheme with Ford

WE are delighted to announce the launch of a new discount scheme for the acquisition of new Ford cars and commercial vehicles. Full details of the scheme, the discounts and how to obtain them are available on the FUW Members website.

The scheme covers a wide range of Ford's award winning vehicles, and product information and specifications can be accessed by visiting www.ford.co.uk

A vehicle of particular interest to members may be the Ford Ranger, Europe's best-selling pick-up and 2020 International Pick-Up Of The Year Award winner.

Available in three body styles (Regular, Super and Double Cab), as a 6-speed manual or 10-speed automatic, all models have an electronic "shift-on-the-fly" system: change from two-wheel drive to four-wheel drive - and back again - at the flick of a switch when you're on the move.

Offering an outstanding combination of four-wheel drive capability, impressive power and traction, a 1-tonne payload (excludes Raptor model) and partnered with up to 3,500kg maximum towing capacity, the Ranger is so capable you'll have to remind yourself that you are actually pulling a fully laden

trailer. With an exceptional wading capability, the Ranger is designed to drive through water up to 800mm deep.

Ranger introduces a wider range of advanced features than any Ford pick-up before. Innovative technologies are supported by a forward-facing camera and sensors that can monitor the area around your vehicle and scan the road ahead, to help you and those around you.

Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection is designed to monitor your proximity to other vehicles and pedestrians - even in the dark - and can alert you to a potential collision. If you don't respond to the system's warning signals, Active Braking pre-charges the braking system for enhanced effectiveness when you brake. If the system determines a collision may occur, Active Braking is designed to automatically apply the brakes to help reduce the impact of frontal collisions.

Ford Ranger has a long-established reputation as one of the most capable pick-ups. With its four-wheel drive system with Roll Stability Control and Traction Control - in addition to an electronic locking rear differential (standard or optional) - the versatile and sure-footed Ranger is perfect for a tough week at work, followed by an adventurous weekend off-road.

ANGLESEY

anglesey@fuw.org.uk

01248 750250

Trosglwyddo awenau



O'r chwith, Mr William Hughes - Cadeirydd, Mr Huw Williams, Mr Richard Williams - cyn-Gadeirydd, Mr Gerald Thomas - Llywydd Sirol.

Yn dilyn cyfnod o dair blynedd fel Cadeirydd Sir daeth yr amser i Mr Richard Williams drosglwyddo'r awenau ymlaen i'r Cadeirydd newydd, Mr William Hughes. Gweler yma yn y llun yn derbyn ffon arbennig o hardd wedi ei gwneud gan Mr Huw Williams fel rhodd o ddiolch am ei waith fel Cadeirydd.

Following a three year term as County Chairman, it was time for Mr Richard Williams to hand over to the new Chairman, Mr William Hughes. He is seen in the picture receiving a beautiful stick made by Mr Huw Williams as a thank you for his work as Chairman.

Cyfarfod Blynyddol

Ar nos Iau 10fed o Fehefin cynhaliwyd Cyfarfod Blynyddol y Sir drwy gyfrwng Zoom. Roedd dau ŵr gwadd yn bresennol sef Mr Guto Bebb, Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Grŵp UAC ynghyd a Mr Keith Owen o Gwmni KeBek.

Cafwyd noson hynod ddifyr a braf oedd i'r aelodau gael y cyfle i gyfarfod ein Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr newydd a chlywed am ei weledigaeth a'i obeithion i'r Undeb yn y dyfodol.

Rhoddodd Mr Keith Owen, sy'n ymgynghorydd amgylcheddol ac yn gyfarwyddwr cwmni KeBek, gyflwyniad arbenigol ar y Rheoliadau Llygredd Dŵr Amaethyddol (NVZ) newydd. Soniodd yn benodol am y prif newidiadau a'r dyddiadau byddent yn dod i rym.

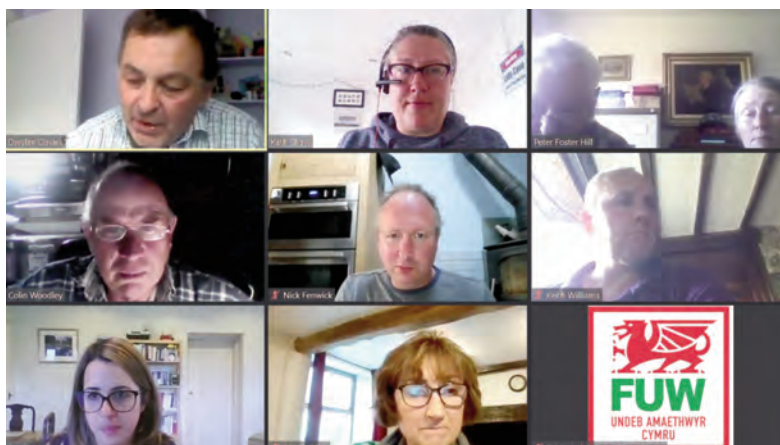
On Thursday evening June 10, the county's Annual Meeting was held via Zoom. The two guest speakers were Mr Guto Bebb, FUW Group Managing Director along with Mr Keith Owen of KeBek. It was a very enjoyable evening where members had the opportunity to meet our new Managing Director and hear about his vision and hopes for the Union in the future. Mr Keith Owen, an environmental consultant and director of KeBek, gave a specialist presentation on the new Agricultural Water Pollution Regulations (NVZ), and talked mainly about the main changes and the dates they would come into effect.

BRECON & RADNOR

breconandradnor@fuw.org.uk

01982 554030

County executive meeting



An emergency County executive meeting was held on Tuesday June 1 via Zoom. Fay Jones MP joined to hear our concerns about the potential impact of the UK/Australia trade deal on Welsh farming.

CAERNARFON

caernarfon@fuw.org.uk

01286 672541

Codi pryderon ynglŷn â chytundeb fasnach Awstralia gydag AS lleol



O'r chwith, Is-lywydd UAC Eifion Huws, Llywydd UAC Glyn Roberts, Robin Millar AS, Aelod o Bwyllgor Gweithredol UAC Sir Gaernarfon Dafydd Gwyndaf ac Aelod o Bwyllgor Gweithredol UAC Sir Dinbych Elwy Williams.

Mae aelodau UAC o Sir Gaernarfon a Sir Dinbych wedi amlinellu eu pryderon a'u gwrthwynebiadau i'r cytundeb masnach rydd gydag Awstralia mewn cyfarfod diweddar ag AS Aberconwy, Robin Millar.

Wrth siarad ar ôl y cyfarfod, a gynhaliwyd gan Lywydd UAC Glyn Roberts ar ei fferm, Dylasau Uchaf, ger Betws y Coed, dywedodd Dafydd Gwyndaf, Aelod o Bwyllgor Gweithredol UAC Sir Gaernarfon: "Gwnaethom yn glir iawn yn ein cyfarfod â Robin Millar AS bod cytundebau masnach yn rhwymo Llywodraethau'r DU presennol a rhai'r dyfodol, ac felly bod angen amser ac ystyriaeth drylwyr ohonynt."

Ychwanegodd Aelod o Bwyllgor Gweithredol UAC Sir Dinbych Elwy Williams: "Fel y mae - nid oes gennym ni yng Nghymru unrhyw allu o dan y ddeddfwriaeth bresennol i ostwng ein safonau i'r graddau eu bod yn dod yn agos at gwrdd â'r fantais gystadleuol y byddai mewnforion Awstralia yn manteisio arnynt. Byddai gwneud hynny i unrhyw raddau fel hynny yn cyfateb i 'ras i'r gwaelod' a fyddai'n ychwanegu at ffrithiant i'n hallforion i'n prif farchnadoedd yn Ewrop."

Members from Caernarfonshire and Denbighshire have outlined their concerns and objections to the free trade agreement with Australia at a recent meeting with Aberconwy MP Robin Millar. Speaking after the meeting, which was hosted by FUW President Glyn Roberts at his home farm Dylasau Uchaf, near Betws y Coed, FUW Caernarfonshire County Executive Committee Member Dafydd Gwyndaf said: "We made it very clear in our meeting with Robin Millar MP that trade deals lock the current and future governments into them, and as such need time and thorough scrutiny." FUW Denbighshire County Executive Committee Member Elwy Williams added: "As it stands - we in Wales have no ability under existing legislation to reduce our standards to the extent that they come close to meeting the competitive advantage that Australian imports would enjoy. Doing so to any extent like that would equate to a 'race to the bottom' that would add to friction for our exports to our main markets in Europe."

CARMARTHEN

carmarthen@fuw.org.uk

01267 237974

Annual General Meeting



Our Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday June 3 via Zoom. It was a very well attended meeting. We would like to thank the guest speaker, Guto Bebb, FFW Group Managing Director, (pictured left). Many different topics were discussed.

Cynhaliwyd ein Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynnyddol nos Iau 3ydd o Fehefin drwy Zoom. Ymunodd llawer o aelodau. Hoffem ddiolch i'r siaradwr gwadd, Guto Bebb, Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Grŵp UAC, (gweler ar y chwith). Trafodwyd llawer o wahanol bynciau.

Outlining concerns

FUW members from Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire outlined their concerns and objections to the free trade agreement with Australia at a meeting on June 8 with their local MP Simon Hart.

The meeting was hosted jointly with NFU Cymru via Zoom.

CEREDIGION

ceredigion@fuw.org.uk

01570 424515

Enillwyr Clwb 200 Winners

Llongyfarchiadau i enillwyr Clwb 200 Mehefin Ceredigion:
Congratulations to the June 200 Club winners:

14: Jones, Frongoch

34: Lewis, Rhosgoch

171: Lewis, Cysgod y Gwynt

DENBIGH & FLINT

dinbychflint@fuw.org.uk

01824 707198

Taith dractorau Dyffryn Clwyd



Ar ddydd Sul Mehefin 6 cynhaliwyd taith dractorau Dyffryn Clwyd. Nod y daith oedd codi arian tuag at y *DPJ Foundation*. Roedd Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol Dinbych a Fflint, Mari Jones, yn stiwardio gyda John Roberts, Simdde Fawr a Clwyd Spencer, Maes y Groes.

"Roedd hi'n braf iawn gweld aelodau yn mwynhau eu hunain yn y tractorau, yn stiwardio ag yn eu cefnogi wrth iddyn nhw fynd heibio. Diolch i bawb am gefnogi'r achos," meddai Mari.

On Sunday June 6 Vale of Clwyd Tractor Run was held. The aim of the trip was to raise money for the DPJ Foundation. Denbighshire and Flintshire County Executive Officer Mari Jones was stewarding with John Roberts, Simdde Fawr and Clwyd Spencer, Maes y Groes. "It was great to see members enjoying themselves in the tractors, stewarding and supporting them as they passed. Thanks to everyone for supporting the event," said Mari.



John Roberts a Clwyd Spencer.

Cywiriad/Correction

Yn rhifyn mis Mehefin Y Tir roedd yna erthygl am gyfarfod hystings ar gyfer aelodau UAC Sir Fflint. Roedd yna dri ymgeisydd yn rhan o'r drafodaeth, sef Barbara Hughes, Ceidwadwyr Cymreig, De Clwyd (dim Llafur fel yr argraffwyd yn rhifyn mis Mehefin Y Tir); Llyr Gruffydd, Plaid Cymru, Gorllewin Clwyd a Gogledd Cymru a Tim Sly, Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru, Wrecsam.

In the June issue of Y Tir there was an article about a hustings meeting that was held for Flintshire FUW members. Three candidates were involved in the discussion, Barbara Hughes, Welsh Conservatives, Clwyd South (not Labour as was printed last month); Llyr Gruffydd, Plaid Cymru, Clwyd West and North Wales and Tim Sly, Welsh Liberal Democrats, Wrexham.

GLAMORGAN & GWENT

glamorgan@fuw.org.uk

01446 774838

gwent@fuw.org.uk

01873 853280

Changing times

by Glyn Davies, past Gwent County Executive Officer



From left, newly appointed Glamorgan and Gwent Deputy County Executive Officer Helen Thomas; FUW Insurance Services Ltd Account Handler Julie Phillips; Glyn Davies and FUW Insurance Services Ltd Account Executive Gwen Evans - wishing Glyn a happy retirement.

They say time flies as you get older and believe me, this is certainly true, for it does not seem like 14 years have passed since I started with the FUW.

There have been a lot of changes during that time, not just within the Union, but in the farming industry as a whole.

Firstly, in the Union, I have seen the wheel do a complete circle. We had the separation of the Union side from the insurance, and now recently the move to work more closely together again. The old F&O Committee has been replaced by a board of Directors, and of course we have had the appointment of 2 managing directors. I am sure the more recent changes will help the Union move forward as a united organisation.

There has also been a complete alteration to the way that we work. The introduction of RPW on-line meant that we needed to become more and more adept at using a computer, a skill which I personally struggle with, much preferring the old-fashioned pen and paper. However, you can teach 'an old dog new tricks' and with everything these days being computer orientated, it is vital that farmers embrace the 'on-line' world in order to stay up-to-date.

Of course, we still have some of the old problems like Tb, and one of my most painful memories with the Union has been listening to how Tb has affected members. We must continue to fight to get this disease eradicated. If we can tackle the

Covid pandemic, then solving the Tb problem should be easy.

The one thing that did not change over the 14 years was the help and support of the members and particularly the County Executive Committee. We always had interesting and lively county exec meetings, with Gwent members not being afraid to voice their opinions, no matter who was present, and long may this continue. This was also true of the Glamorgan Executive members, during the times when I was covering Glamorgan.

What became clear over lockdown was how much I enjoyed the face-to-face county meetings, and I sincerely hope these will return soon. I will miss this part of the work.

I was lucky to work with 6 county chairmen who have all become personal friends, and may I thank them all for their wisdom, judgement, and commitment to the Union.

Another person I must thank is Helen, who was my assistance throughout this time. Helen's commitment and professionalism is second to none, and I wish her well in her new role as Deputy County Executive Officer.

Finally, I would like to thank all Gwent & Glamorgan members for being challenging at times, but always friendly, supportive, and appreciative of whatever you did for them.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.



Gwent County Chairman Wayne Langford (right), presents Glyn with a leaving gift.

Usk Show 2021

Usk Show are hoping to stage a "near normal" show on September 11 2021 and the FUW will be there! Keep your eyes peeled for more details in the next issue of Y Tir and on our Facebook page.

We know rules and guidelines can change overnight so we're keeping a close eye on things, but we are staying hopeful that the show will go ahead as planned.

meirionnydd@fuw.org.uk
MEIRIONNYDD
 01341 422298

montgomeryshire@fuw.org.uk
MONTGOMERYSHIRE
 01686 626889

Gerald Williams, Yr Ysgwrn, 1929- 2021



Swyddog Sirol Meirionnydd Huw Jones yn sgwrsio gyda Gerald Williams yn Eisteddfod Ynys Môn 2017.

Gyda thristwch mawr rhaid cofnodi marwolaeth Gerald Williams, Yr Ysgwrn, Trawsfynydd, a oedd yn nai i'r bardd Hedd Wyn, ac yn geidwad ysbrydoledig y ffermdy. Treuliodd ei oes yn gwarchod a chadw Yr Ysgwrn yn agored, a chroesawu miloedd o ymwelwyr yno dros y blynnyddoedd. Rydym yn danfon ein cydymdeimlad dwysaf a'i deulu.

Roedd yn ffermio Yr Ysgwrn hyd at ychydig flynyddoedd yn ôl, a chafwyd sawl sgwrs ddiddorol gydag ef.

It is with great sadness that we record the death

of Gerald Williams, Yr Ysgwrn, Trawsfynydd, who was the nephew of the poet Hedd Wyn, and the inspirational keeper of the farmhouse. He spent his life guarding and keeping Yr Ysgwrn open, welcoming thousands of visitors there over the years. We send our deepest condolences to his family. He farmed Yr Ysgwrn until a few years ago, and had many interesting conversations with him.

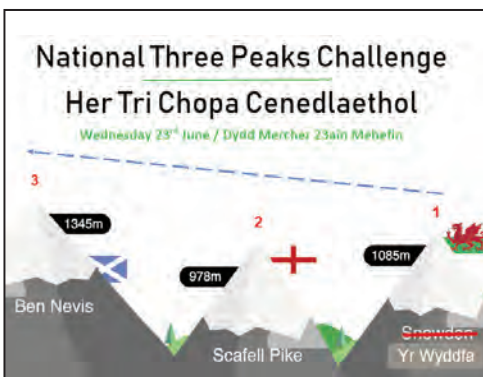
Ymweliad Guto Bebb

Braf iawn oedd cael croesawu Guto Bebb, Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr UAC i Feirionnydd ynghanol mis Mehefin. Cafwyd cyfle i gyfarfod rhai o staff a swyddogion y sir, galw yn sydyn mewn ambell fferm, gan gynnwys Fedw Arian, y Bala; Tymawr, Llanfrothen a Rhiwaedog Rhosygwaliau, a chael sgwrs ganddo yn y Pwylgor Cyllid a Threfn a gyfarfu fin nos. Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb am eu croeso. Gweler rhai o luniau'r diwrnod isod.

It was a pleasure to welcome Guto Bebb, FUW's Managing Director to Meirionnydd mid June. There was an opportunity to meet some of the county staff and officers, before quickly calling at some farms, including Fedw Arian, Bala; Tymawr, Llanfrothen and Rhiwaedog Rhosygwaliau. He also spoke at the Finance and Organisation Committee that met that evening. Thank you very much to everyone for their welcome. A few pictures of the day can be seen below.



Her Tri Chopa Cenedlaethol



Ar Ddydd Mercher 23ain Mehefin 2021 cymerodd Emyr Wyn Davies, Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol Sir Drefaldwyn, ynghyd a 10 arall ran mewn her i gerdded y Tri Chopa Cenedlaethol mewn 24 awr, gan gychwyn gyda'r Wyddfa.

Roedd yr her yn codi arian tuag at DPJ Foundation, Ambiwllans Awyr Cymru a Ronald McDonald House Charities UK. I wneud cyfraniad ewch i: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/3peaks2021>

Lluniau yn rhifyn mis Awst Y Tir.

On Wednesday June 23 2021 Emyr Wyn Davies, Montgomeryshire County Executive Officer and 10 others took on the challenge of the National Three Peaks within 24hrs, starting off at Yr Wyddfa. They are raising funds for DPJ Foundation, Air Ambulance Wales and Ronald McDonald House Charities UK. To make a donation go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/3peaks2021>

Pictures in the August issue of Y Tir.

Discussing trade deal concerns with local MP



Members from Montgomeryshire have outlined their concerns and objections to the free trade agreement with Australia at a recent meeting with their local MP Craig Williams.

Speaking after the meeting FUW Montgomeryshire county chairman Bryn Francis said: "We made it very clear in our meeting that trade deals lock the current and future governments into them, and as such need time and thorough scrutiny.

"Under no circumstances should they be rushed, but that is what is happening here, on top of which the UK Parliament will not be able to scrutinise and have a final say on a deal in the way other democratic nations do."

pembrokeshire@fuw.org.uk
PEMBROKESHIRE
 01437 762913

Australia trade deal meeting

Farmers from Pembrokeshire have discussed the free trade agreement with their local MP Stephen Crabb and UK Minister for Trade Policy Gregg Hands at a recent virtual meeting, highlighting the concerns the industry has about the wider implications about a deal that severely undermines food producers in Wales and the UK.

Speaking after the meeting, which took place on Wednesday June 16, just a day after the UK government announced that an agreement in principle had been reached, FUW Pembrokeshire County Executive Officer Rebecca Voyle said: "We thank both Stephen Crabb and Greg Hands for speaking to us about the free trade agreement with Australia. Members took the opportunity to listen to the many assurances made by the Minister but concerns prevail.

"We asked both Stephen Crabb and the Minister to ensure thorough scrutiny of the proposals and to reject anything that compromises family farms, animal welfare, food security and standards and our global environment."

Mrs Voyle added that MPs should consider carefully why the Australian Government placed food exports at

the top of its press statement, including quota figures, while the UK Government held those details back for two days.

"Whatever a final deal looks like, MPs must also consider that international treaties are things they and future governments will have to live with for a very long time. If the concerns expressed by the FUW and many others are not realised then fine, but if they turn out to be right, be it in two or ten years, and we are locked into an irreversible deal with only rudimentary safeguards, there will be little a government or parliament will be able to do without taking drastic action that may breach WTO rules," she added.

For this reason, Mrs Voyle said, whatever the final deal looks like - and the FUW is firmly opposed to what is currently agreed in principle.

"We need a belt and braces mechanism such as a break clause that, if the worst comes to the worst, allows the UK Government or Parliament to step in to protect our family farms, animal welfare, food security and standards and our global environment," she said.

Upcoming EOI window details

Scheme	Summary	Window closes
Farming Connect ICT Programme	Farming Connect is now offering ICT training courses for beginners and intermediate learners. One-to-one sessions and online workshops are also available on integrating ICT technology into your farm business. To book, please contact Lantra on 01982 552646 or catherine.hughes@lantra.co.uk	
Nuffield Farming Scholarships	Applications for the 2021 Nuffield Farming Scholarships are now open. Successful applicants tend to be from those working in farming, food or horticulture and are provided a substantial bursary to fund travel to study their chosen topic. Further information and details on how to apply can be found here: https://www.nuffieldscholar.org/	31 July 2021

DEI WILLIAMS
07507 611 195
North Wales

JULIETTE EATWELL
07535 552 871
South Wales

JUSTIN REES
07870 517 729
Shropshire & North Wales

JOHN DAVIES
07971 262 772
West Wales

WYN JAMES
07557 147 151
Mid & West Wales

CARWYN MORGAN
07805 041 637
Mid & South Wales

KIWIKIT WELSH OFFICE
01239 213120

TagFaster

DATAMARS

We have been using TagFaster for a few years now and find them fantastic, the automatic system saves us valuable time when tagging lambs which can be sold in lots of 300+. We have a great relationship with our local business manager, and we can always rely on our tags arriving quickly.

Matthew Roberts, Ty -Draw Farm



Do you want to claim your own FREE TagFaster cap, and find out how to get a free singlet?

Fill out the form at: offers.roxan.co.uk/media

www.kiwikit.co.uk ■ www.roxan.co.uk

Kiwikit **ROXAN**

Overmilking indicated as one of the biggest factors affecting dairy herd udder health

by Owain Rowlands, European Innovation Partnership Officer, Menter a Busnes

PRELIMINARY results from an EIP Wales project are indicating the importance of rectifying over milking to improve udder health.

Four dairy farmers in Carmarthenshire, with an average herd size of 260 cows, have been working with Dr Sotirios Karvountzis of Mendip Vets, Llandeilo to investigate the benefits of a dynamic testing routine when working towards improving udder health by reducing bactoscan levels and instances of subclinical and clinical mastitis.

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.

A simple way to describe dynamic testing is to compare the testing of a milking machine with the road testing of a car. A road test will show hidden problems that exist when the car is put under pressure when driven under load on real road conditions. Dynamic testing is the equivalent of a road test, where we are looking for issues that can damage the cow, which any other type of static milking parlour test would not identify.

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“A static test does not test if the Automatic Cluster Removal (ACR) is not timed correctly. Furthermore, despite increased automation in parlours, problems do not always automatically flag up hence why the dynamic testing is more suitable for preventing issues with udder health,” says Dr Karvountzis.

Dynamic testing also includes the examination of a sample of cows for any abnormal teat-end configuration such as any signs of hyperkeratosis.

“One of the main contributing factors of poorer udder health that has been highlighted from the project to date is overmilking,” says Dr Karvountzis.

Overmilking takes place when the cow has the milking units (and therefore vacuum) on her udder for longer than is required. During overmilking the machine is milking at full vacuum with low or no milk flow. The primary causes for this is when the ACR is set to remove the milk units at too low a milk flow (e.g. 200ml / min), or the delay in pulling the milk units off the udder and cutting the vacuum off the milk liners is set too high (e.g. over 10 sec).

Huw Morgan, who farms with his parents, is one of the four farmers taking part in the project.

“Our plan is to increase cow numbers up to 200 and improve our facilities. We wanted to take part in the project because we are a low input, low output system so maximising profits from our cows is important and we saw the project as a chance to ‘fine tune’ the system, and a good chance to get healthier cows meaning less antibiotic usage which is important to everyone. Healthier udders, healthier milk, healthier cow, healthier bank balance,” explains Huw.



Huw Morgan (left), and Dr Sotirios Karvountzis testing the performance of the parlour.

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