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Water Resources - opportunity to influence change

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Setting boundaries to maintain mental-wellbeing

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Importance of scrutiny stressed in Trade Bill evidence session

THE FUW has stressed the importance of scrutiny to any trade deals the UK makes when it gave evidence to the Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill committee on

Wednesday October 12.

Speaking after the evidence session, FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry said: "We welcomed the opportunity to give evidence at the committee stage. Whilst this Bill refers specifically to the procurement sections of the trade deals and, if passed, will be the final piece of the jigsaw for the UK Government to ratify the deals, it nonetheless gave us the opportunity to voice our concerns regarding potential impacts and the current scrutiny process.

"If New Zealand and Australian producers can apply for procurement contracts in the UK, it acts as a further incentive to flood our domestic markets. In the grand scheme of things, it's unlikely that UK producers would be able to compete for procurement

contracts in their countries due to differences in scale and production methods, but this simply emphasises the importance of directing procurement policies in the UK towards Welsh and British produce."

Essential for any trade deal, Mr Parry stressed, was the need for a better scrutiny process of the deals.

"Members of Parliament need to ensure that the scrutiny of any future trade deals is effective so that their powers are not undermined as Politicians. The fact that the government did not have the opportunity to hold a debate under the CRaG process, and that

this Trade Bill must be passed in order to change domestic Law to be in line with what has been agreed, and to ratify the deals shows how rushed and ill-thought through the scrutiny process has been.

"There will always be winners and losers when it comes to negotiating liberalised free trade agreements, and it is clear from the UK Government's impact assessments that UK agriculture will be one of

the losers if these deals are ratified; impacts of which will be more acute in Wales due to our greater reliance on farmers and food producers.

"Members of Parliament have previously expressed disappointment that food imports from Australia and New Zealand won't be required to meet core UK food production standards. This is why we have been calling for safeguards to create a level playing field between producers, which is what quotas and tariffs were designed for," he said.

The FUW continues to stress that Members of Parliament should table amendments to the Trade Bill which - in any way, shape or form - create safeguards for UK producers and the world-leading standards they adhere to, and at the very least, ensure that the process of scrutinising any future trade deals is effective.

TRADE DEAL

Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol Undeb Amaethwyr Cymru (FUW Ltd)

Rhagfyr 15fed 2022, 2yp



I'w gynnal naill ai wyneb-yn-wyneb yn Ystafell Gynhadledd William Davies, IBERS, Plas Gogerddan, Aberystwyth neu drwy gyfrwng Zoom

I bob aelod dderbyn, ystyried a phasio cyfriflenni ariannol archwiliedig ar gyfer y cyfnod 31ain o Fawrth 2022 ynghyd ag adroddiadau'r Cyfarwyddwyr a'r Archwilwyr, ac i benodi/ail benodi archwilwyr ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol at ddiwedd Mawrth 31ain 2023.

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

Gall unrhyw aelod o'r Undeb fynychu CCB FUW Ltd, ond dim ond aelodau'r Prif Gyngor all bleidleisio.

Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW Ltd) Annual General Meeting

December 15th 2022, 2pm

To be held either in person at the William Davies Conference Centre, IBERS, Plas Gogerddan, Aberystwyth or via Zoom

For all members to receive, consider and adopt the Audited financial statements for the period 31st March 2022, together with the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon, and to appoint/reappoint auditors for the financial year ended March 31st 2023.

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

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

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FUW UPDATE

Stability and coherence - too much to ask for?

by Guto Bebb, FUW Group Managing Director

I MISSED the Dairy Show in Carmarthen due to a stinking case of man-flu which was very frustrating and resulted in no sympathy from the FUW team or my family! Such is life. I was very disappointed to miss the event since we know that the Welsh Dairy sector is world leading in terms of efficiency and working practices. This point was hammered home by our President in his interview on Radio Cymru where he also demanded that the sector needed stability in order to plan and grow.

This issue of stability and a coherence of approach to the support structures for Welsh farming was also the main theme of our packed joint fringe meeting with NFU Cymru at the Plaid Cymru conference. It is remarkable that the FUW, working with NFU Cymru, have been leading the way in providing a coherent vision of how agricultural support should look here in Wales post Brexit.

Our lobbying has been of crucial importance in moving Welsh Government away from their initial approach, which was the English experiment on steroids, to a much more plausible position with the publication of the Sustainable Farming Scheme. We are not yet at a point where we can accept the proposal as the finished article, as the President explains on page 3, but when we look at the impact of the English scheme on small family farms, I think it's fair to say that we are on a better path here in Wales than anybody could have expected when the 'Brexit and our Land' consultation was published.

However, whilst Welsh Government slowly moves towards a position that will offer both coherence and stability to our family farms over the next decade, we are still challenged by what can only be described as a political circus down in Westminster.

As I write our new Prime Minister, the third in fifty days, is putting together his new cabinet. There will again be changes at the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and at the Wales Office whilst the big decisions will be in the hands of our latest Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, who is the fourth to hold this office in four months. Under these circumstances how are we supposed to plan and make

decisions about our farming businesses? Over the past six weeks alone we have had to plan for 25%, then 19% and now 25% rates of corporation tax which is a remarkable state of affairs.

With such a clear lack of stability at Westminster it has been concerning that whilst we appear to be making progress here in Wales, we are also very aware that any such progress will be dependent upon the financial support made available from Westminster.

As members will know, the promises made to maintain the level of financial support for Welsh agriculture and the former European funding programmes in Wales was not delivered by the Boris Johnson administration and it's worth keeping in mind the fact that the Chancellor who made those funding decisions is none-other than our new Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak.

I know that the FUW will work with the new administration in Westminster in the same way as we have worked with the Lizz Truss and Boris Johnson Governments. We, as a Union, are there to represent our members and despite the frustration of dealing with the constant chopping and changing of personnel and policy, we will engage with goodwill with the new holders of the great offices of State that have an immediate bearing on the livelihoods of our members.

However, as the Prime Minister works on his new team I hope it's not too much for us to ask him to deliver a period of stability and coherence. It is long overdue.



First shipment of PGI Welsh Lamb to USA is good news for industry



THE FUW has welcomed news that the first consignment of PGI Welsh Lamb in decades has been shipped to the United States.

The first consignment of UK lamb destined for the USA, since imports were banned in 1996 due to potential BSE risk, was processed at Dunbia in Carmarthenshire, the first plant in the UK to achieve approval for export.

Responding to the news, FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman, (pictured right), said: "The FUW welcomed the announcement by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson in September last year that the long standing ban was expected to be lifted. It is great news for the industry."

Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales have highlighted that the potential market for PGI Welsh Lamb in the USA is estimated to be worth as much as £20 million a year within five years of gaining a foothold in the market.

"We have long discussed the prospect of lifting the ban with the USDA in various

meetings over the past decades and we need those new markets now more than ever.

Of course, that does not negate the need for our closest and largest export market for red meat in the EU, nor extra support for our producers in order to absorb the additional costs associated with supplying markets further afield," he said.

Research by Hybu Cig Cymru - Meat Promotion Wales further suggests that there could be a strong demand for Welsh Lamb, particularly in high-end foodservice and retail outlets on the East Coast.

"With our strong reputation for some of the best food, animal health and welfare and environmental standards in the world, and with a shelf life for Welsh Lamb now nearer to 40 days, the US market is one we are keen to develop much stronger relationships with and this news is most welcome news for our sheep industry," said Ian Rickman.



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Irish trip shows how results-based payments can be positive

by Glyn Roberts, FUW President

OVER the past few months, many of us have been meeting with our elected representatives from Cardiff and Westminster to discuss the most critical of farming matters. One of these is of course the Welsh Government's proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme. The design, budget and practicalities of the scheme will obviously have a huge impact on our sector in the years ahead.

We have, as members would expect, been engaging with the proposals and overall we have welcomed the commitment by the Welsh Government to a baseline payment for all farmers, providing much needed stability for food producing family farms.



Study tour in Ireland.

We firmly believe that the majority of the budget should be used to provide this stability payment in return for meeting the new Universal Actions required of farmers, particularly as they will be in addition to the new 'National Minimum Standards' (based on current cross-compliance). We still have concerns about the impact of budget cuts from Westminster and the size of the budget after 2023, not least since the proposals are ambitious and cover a wide range of objectives at a time when farmers are experiencing a significant increase in costs.

We have also been clear in our discussions with Members of the Senedd that it is highly disappointing that the outcomes required of the scheme, which are based around Sustainable Land Management principles such as Clean Air and Resilient Ecosystems, still do not incorporate explicitly the economic sustainability of farming families, agricultural supply chains, rural communities and food production. Without such objectives being central to the scheme there is a risk of economic damage, particularly if the calculation of baseline payment rates cannot take such economic support into account.

Many of the proposed Universal Actions would be wholly impractical for large numbers of farmers and therefore require further detailed consideration. Most notably is the requirement for all farms to reach 10 per cent tree cover during their contract in order to receive the baseline payment.

For farmers who are tenants, have a vast amount of habitat land or designations unsuitable for planting, or who farm in areas where trees will not grow this would be difficult or impossible. The proposal would also be extremely challenging for highly productive farms, particularly given the current strain on food security.

Whilst the recent document is not consulting on the National Minimum Standards explicitly, the scheme will be underpinned by that legislative framework. We have repeatedly stressed that consideration must be given to ensuring that a raised regulatory baseline does not lead to a competitive disadvantage for Wales' farmers when compared with imports from countries with lower environmental and animal welfare standards.

I am pleased to see that the scheme framework has significantly changed and reflects many of the issues we have been lobbying on since the 2018 Brexit and our Land consultation. Positive changes include the provision of a baseline payment for undertaking Universal Actions, utilising RPW Online and existing data collection, the consideration of capping payments, a lengthy transition to avoid a cliff-edge of funding, an emphasis on active farmers, and payments for both the maintenance and creation of environmental outcomes. Members can be assured that our work will continue on this issue and that all of our representatives and staff are working hard to ensure that we have thriving, sustainable family farms here in Wales for years to come.

A positive example of how many of these things could work, was something that I learnt when I visited Ireland recently to see how results-based payments have been implemented there.

The main project funder, the Gower Sustainable Development Fund, administered by the Gower AONB, gave us the opportunity to join a study tour to Ireland to visit four projects operating on a results based payment approach, which is in place to support and encourage sustainable farm management. The visit took place between September 12 and 15 2022.

The study trip was really helpful and

The farmers in Ireland were working with the Government and implemented the action required to achieve the desired outcome

informative and the biggest factor that contributed to the success of the schemes as far as I could tell was that the Irish Government took the farmers with them. The farmers in Ireland were working with the Government and implemented the action required to achieve the desired outcome. The schemes were based on outcomes monitored through a scorecard and the farmers had the option to monitor the different outcomes to reflect the score card.

Obviously the higher the score card the higher the payment. What was nice to see was that it was more of a carrot than a stick approach.

Summary of the projects visited

The first two initiatives we visited (Pearl Mussel Project and Hen Harrier Project) were large projects which were the subject of specific calls for tender by the Irish Government under the last Rural Development Plan. Badged as EIP projects, they were run under the Cooperation Measure, allowing the development of solutions during the lifetime of the project, and allowing for a range of 'measures' (AECM-like payments, non-productive Investments-like capital payments, advisory service-like aspects) to be developed and delivered seamlessly during the lifetime of the project.

Their purpose was to develop innovative possible solutions to what had become obvious were intractable problems for the default delivery models in the case of two Annex species - the hen harrier and the freshwater pearl mussel. As such it was intended that they 'inform the next RDP' and the study trip occurred at a time of transition from the discrete 'EIP' projects into a larger quasi-national ACRES Cooperation scheme, with its 8 Cooperation Project teams. The PMP team will be responsible for 2 of those teams and the HHP for 3.

Further details of both of those projects, including scorecards from the 'EIP' period (ACRES documentation still in preparation), can be found on their respective websites: Henharrierproject.ie / Pearlmusselproject.ie

The Burren Programme is much older, with work starting in the early 2000s in the form of BurrenLife, transitioning into the CAP in 2010 as an Art. 69 scheme, with the most recent incarnation being as a mainstream but local AECM in the last RDP. It will also transition into one of the ACRES Cooperation areas, expanding its footprint and incorporating also the Aran EIP project (Caomhnú Árann). Further details at: Burrenprogramme.com

The final visit was to a very different area, where intensive dairy farming is the dominant sector. The BRIDE project was truly grassroots-initiated and was funded under an open call for environmentally focussed 'EIP' projects, again run under the Cooperation Measure. The project is now over but the same team also got a small project under a similar more recent call, this time for a project aimed at adding value to products, called Farming with Nature. Some further information at: www.thebrideproject.ie/

On a final note, I would like to thank Gwyn Jones from the European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism for arranging and organising the worthwhile trip. There are many lessons we can take from this visit.

Mae'r golofn yma ar gael yn Gymraeg ar wefan UAC - Newyddion - Newyddion Y Tir: "Taith i Iwerddon yn dangos sut y gall taliadau ar sail canlyniadau fod yn gadarnhaol," neu o'ch swyddfa sirol leol.



Cystadleuaeth cerdyn Nadolig UAC FUW Christmas card competition



Cadwch lygad am y cardiau Nadolig buddugol yn y rhifyn nesaf!

Look out for the winning Christmas card designs in the next issue!



Water Resources announcement is a welcomed opportunity to influence change

by Gareth Parry, FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer

THE latest announcement on the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations, which sets out intentions to delay the implementation of the annual whole farm nitrogen limit of 170kg per hectare and consult on a licensing scheme to increase that limit, is now a welcomed opportunity to influence change.

The written statement from Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd on Wednesday October 5 2022, which was issued under the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru, recognised that as result of uncertainty, some farm businesses will have delayed taking investment decisions and making the necessary preparations.

In recognition of these circumstances, the Minister set out her intentions to consult on a licensing scheme this autumn to be operational until 2025 and provide a short extension of the implementation of the whole farm nitrogen limit of 170kg per hectare until April 2023.

The scheme will allow any farm business to apply for a licence for a higher annual holding nitrogen limit of 250kg per hectare subject to crop need and other legal considerations in line with similar derogations in other UK and EU Nitrate Vulnerable Zone designated areas.

We believe that this is a welcomed opportunity for us to influence change and shows that continued lobbying has had some positive effects on what was an unworkable regulation.

The proposed licensing regime would serve as a significant safety net for a number of farmers in Wales in the short term who are already above the 170kg limit. This is especially important where reducing stock numbers or buying or renting additional land are not viable options, and compliance with the 170kg limit will breach contracts or tenancy agreements, or compromise the ability to repay loans.

However, this is just one regulation out of forty-six set out in this piece of legislation and therefore we must consider the long term implications of these regulations as a whole for our members.

Furthermore, the Minister indicated that a further, specific Regulatory Impact Assessment that considers the economic and environmental impacts of the 170kg per hectare annual holding nitrogen limit is going to be carried out and the Welsh Government will review the implications of this assessment for the future deployment of the regulations.

It is important that the impacts of the 170kg per hectare limit are scrutinised and the hope is that the Regulatory Impact Assessment will provide more evidence to the Welsh Government which demonstrates the need to introduce the licensing regime into the regulations on a permanent basis.

The Welsh Government will also be providing an additional £20 million in extra funding to support compliance with the regulations, and will accelerate its work to encourage

potential alternative technological solutions using the Regulation 45 mechanism.

The extra funding of £20 million to support compliance is a mere drop in the ocean when we consider that the potential infrastructure costs for Welsh farmers is upwards of £450 million by now given current inflation rates of 25% for construction materials.

However, given that the Welsh Government is committed to using the Regulation 45 mechanism to consider potential alternative technological solutions to certain regulations, and that they will consider the outcome of the specific Regulatory Impact Assessment and be required to review the effectiveness of the regulations in April 2025, we still firmly believe that the regulations set to be introduced in August 2024 should also be delayed.

While this announcement will provide some breathing space for Welsh farmers over the next two years, it is outrageous to expect Welsh farmers to build new slurry stores by August 2024 with the support of the additional funding, only for the Welsh Government to consider and implement alternative technologies in 2025 which may then negate the need for closed periods and set slurry storage capacities in the future.

The FUW's recent submission of alternative measures to the regulations urged the Welsh Government to consider delaying the regulations in order to relieve pressures on farmers; consider other factors such as the financial implications for farming businesses when reviewing the regulations and utilise technologies to allow for a shift away from prescribed storage requirements and fixed closed periods, alongside a number of other proposals.

It is welcomed to see that as part of the Co-operation Agreement the Welsh Labour Government and Plaid Cymru have agreed to delay and implement amendments to the regulations following a consultation this autumn. However, in order to avoid yet further uncertainty for our members, the third stage of the regulations must also be delayed in order to have a clearer understanding of what farmers will be required to do in future before spending tens of thousands of pounds on new infrastructure.

We thank both the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru for their co-operation on these regulations for the benefit of Welsh farming, and we look forward to our continued working relationship over the coming months.



From 1st January 2023

Nutrient Management Planning (Regs 6 & 7)

Farmers will be tasked with calculating the required amounts of nitrogen for each crop, including grassland. Using a workbook, a plan must be produced for spreading nitrogen fertiliser each year. This **Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)** must provide the following information:

- a field reference
- area of the field
- type of crop & sowing date
- soil type
- previous crop
- the soil nitrogen supply and the method used to establish this figure
- the anticipated month the crop will be planted
- the anticipated yield (if arable)
- the optimum amount of nitrogen that should be spread on the crop taking into account SNS
- area on which the organic manure will be spread
- amount of manure to be spread
- planned date for spreading (month)
- type of organic manure
- total Nitrogen content in organic manure and how much is available to the crop (Reg 9)
- amount of manufactured fertiliser required
- total nitrogen spread on a holding

Risk maps (Reg 11)

- risk maps need to show each field, its area in hectares; and all surface waters
- any boreholes, springs or wells on the holding or within 50 metres of the holding boundary
- areas with sandy or shallow soils
- land with an incline greater than 12°
- land within 10 metres of surface waters; land drains (6m if using precision equipment)
- land within 50 metres of a borehole, spring or well
- sites suitable for temporary field heaps
- land that has a low run-off risk

Livestock manure limits (Regs 4, 5 & 10)

Farmers will be required to limit the total amount of livestock manure applied to areas of the farm identified as spreadable areas, to the following limits:

- ~~Total Nitrogen from manure (animal or spreading) on the holding must not exceed 170 kg/ha~~
- No area may exceed 250kg Nitrogen/ha from organic manure

The total amount of Nitrogen from manufactured fertiliser and that available from organic manure must not exceed limits set out for individual crops. Some examples of the more commonly grown crops are listed below. Some extra fertiliser allowances are available for some crops grown under certain conditions, e.g. An additional 40 kg Nitrogen per hectare is permitted for grass that is cut at least three times in a year.

Forage maize	150 kg N/ha
Grass	300 kg N/ha
Potatoes	270 kg N/ha
Autumn or early winter sown wheat	220 kg N/ha

DELAYED
UNTIL
APRIL
2023



continues on page 5

Further measures

- Slurry spreading must be carried out using spreading equipment with a trajectory which is below 4 metres from the ground (Reg 15)
- Temporary field sites for manure must not be located on waterlogged ground, within 50m of a borehole, spring or well or within 10m of surface water. It cannot be located in the same location for more than 12 months or be located in the same place as a previous site within two years. Further rules on topsoil use and the positioning of heaps according to the risk maps (Reg 27)
- Recording of holding size (Reg 33)
- Records must be kept for the amount of manure produced by the number of stock during the storage period. First time introductions of animals must be recorded within one month and storage capacity changes must be recorded within one week (Reg 34)
- Before April 30, records of the number of housed animals during the previous storage period must be completed (Reg 35)
- Record the amount of available nitrogen in manure produced by animals (Reg 9); number and category of animals on holding and the number of days spent by each animal on the holding before April 30 every year (Reg 36)
- Record the area, quantity, dates, method of spreading, total N content, crop availability of organic manure within one week of spreading (Reg 40)
- Record dates of manufactured fertiliser spreading and amounts of N spread within one week of spreading unless 80% of farm is grassland, and N from organic manure is less than 100kg/ha and total N from manufactured fertiliser is less than 90kg/ha (Reg 40)
- When bringing or taking livestock manure off the holding, records must be made on the type, amount, date, N content and name and address of the buyer/recipient (Reg 37)
- A person who has applied N fertiliser must record the yield of the arable crop within one week of harvest. Before April 30, the farmer must record how the grassland was managed in the previous year (Reg 41)

Useful resources

In order to help farmers understand and comply with the new regulations, the Welsh Government has published numerous guidance documents on its website: gov.wales/farm-pollution

- Guidance for farmers and land managers
- Frequently asked questions
- Farm workbook
- Summary of measures and timeline
- Frequently asked questions regarding tenanted land

The FUW wishes to remind members that they can receive 10% off consultancy fees with Kebek - Rural Environmental Services, who can be contacted via enquiries@kebek.co.uk

The FUW will maintain to keep members informed of any developments in regard to changes or further guidance of these regulations. We will also be responding to the forthcoming consultation on the whole farm nitrogen application limit and we urge all members to do the same.



NB: In light of the Minister's statement, it is understood (as of October 27th 2022) that only Regulation 4 i.e. the 170kg/ha whole farm nitrogen limit will be delayed until April 2023. The FUW will provide an update to members if all of the above regulations set to be introduced on 1st January 2023 will also be delayed as part of the amendment.

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

Agriculture (Wales) Bill must protect farm incomes



THE FUW has renewed its call for the addition of a fifth objective in the Agriculture (Wales) Bill to ensure that farm economics and viability are encompassed under the Welsh Government's Sustainable Land Management (SLM) framework.

The necessity of an objective relating to farm incomes was discussed by the FUW at a recent Environment, Trade and Rural Affairs (ETRA) Committee evidence session held in Cardiff.

Speaking after the evidence session, FUW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright said: "We welcomed the opportunity to give evidence at the committee stage. This Bill, if designed appropriately, represents a chance to develop farming policies which are tailored for the needs of those living and working in Wales and underpins the biggest change for Welsh agriculture since the UK joined the European Union.

"As it stands, the objectives contained in the Bill are solely derived from the definition of SLM used by the United Nations. This definition states that the use of land resources, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs, must simultaneously ensure the long-term potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental benefits."

The FUW, Dr Wright added, is not opposed to this definition per se, however wider definitions of SLM exist and Covid-19, the war in the Ukraine and the rising costs of imports continue to demonstrate that the core principle of safe and secure food supplies remains valid.

"Those living and working in Wales continue to require policies which protect domestic food security and food production whilst recognising the role of agriculture in helping meet Welsh climate change, wellbeing and diversity goals," she said.

The Committee further heard that the SLM objectives are of immense significance to the agricultural sector in Wales as they represent the ideologies that will underpin the future financial support provided via the secondary legislation pertaining to the Sustainable Farming Scheme.

"The 1947 Agriculture Act was designed to ensure enough affordable food to feed the UK in a way which provides fair incomes for farmers and agricultural workers and a fair

return on their investment. Similarly, the EU's CAP was launched in 1962 and was predominantly designed to ensure an adequate and secure food supply.

"We therefore believe it appropriate that the list of SLM objectives be lengthened to create an objective which explicitly seeks to ensure the economic stability of farming families. Indeed, whilst there is a narrative around sustainable food production, there are currently no direct rewards for it, nor are there direct rewards for the supply of safe, traceable, high standard food or the protection of domestic food security.

"Without such inclusion, subsequent policies may allow for the provision of future schemes under the same overarching framework created by the Bill whilst placing no obligations on Welsh Ministers to look after the financial viability and well-being of farmers," she added.

The FUW continues to scrutinise and evaluate the 500 pages of legislation, Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment and will be submitting formal written evidence outlining members' concerns in due course.

"We will continue to work with Members of the Senedd and relevant Committees to ensure that the new Bill protects and enhances family farms in Wales," said Dr Wright.

Chief Veterinary Officer thanked after 17 years of service

THE FUW has paid tribute to Wales' Chief Veterinary Officer, Christianne Glossop, who has stood down after 17 years in the role.

FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman commented: "We thank Professor Glossop, who was Wales' first Chief Veterinary Officer following the devolution of animal health and welfare powers in 2005, for her service to the industry and wish her well in her future endeavours.

"We look forward to working with the next CVO to be appointed and hope to make progress in resolving animal health issues such as bovine TB and sheep scab."



From left, Christianne Glossop, Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales and Trefnydd Lesley Griffiths and FUW President Glyn Roberts.

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gan Angharad Evans, Swyddog Cyfathrebu'r Iaith Gymraeg



RWY'N siŵr bod chithau fel minnau wedi mwynhau edrych ar luniau a darllen hanes ein swyddfeydd sirol yn mynd allan i'w hysgolion lleol i ddathlu Diwrnod Llaeth Ysgol y Byd yn ddiweddar.

Mae cyfleoedd fel hyn yn hollbwysig er mwyn addysgu plant o oedran ifanc iawn lle yn union daw'r bwyd sydd ar eu plât bob dydd o. Fel Undeb rydym yn hynod o ffodus bod gennym aelodau sy'n fodlon gwneud yn union hynny, rhoi ychydig o'u hamser gwerthfawr er mwyn treulio amser gyda phlant ysgol i'w haddysgu am bwysigrwydd amaethyddiaeth a hyrwyddo holl fanteision y bwyd maent yn ei gynhyrchu.

Un sy'n defnyddio'r ffaith ei fod yn ffermio un o atyniadau mwyaf poblogaidd Cymru, Y Gogarth yn Llandudno i fanteisio ar y cyfle i addysgu'r cyhoedd a phlant ysgol yw Dan Jones. Roedd Dan yn un o nifer o ffermwyr oedd yn rhan o'n hymgyrch Bwyd, Tir a Phobl llynedd, a oedd yn canolbwyntio ar amryw o faterion cynaliadwyedd, ac yn tynnu sylw at y gwaith cadarnhaol y mae ffermwyr yng Nghymru yn ei wneud i fynd i'r afael â nodau datblygu cynaliadwyedd.

Yn ogystal ag addysgu pobl ar bob cyfle posib, mae Dan, aelod o'r Undeb yng Nghaernarfon, hefyd yn croesawu'r ysgol leol yn Llandudno ar ymweliad a'i fferm ar y Gogarth yn flynyddol er mwyn addysgu'r plant am bwysigrwydd ffermio ac i esbonio'n union le daw bwyd o. Mae Dan newydd groesawu'r ysgol yn ôl eleni, a chafodd Cornel Clecs gyfle i gael sgwrs gydag ef am yr ymweliad.

"Un o'r heriau rwy'n ei wynebu ar fy fferm, ac o fewn y diwydiant ffermio yn ei gyfanrwydd, yw'r cydbwysedd rhwng rhedeg busnes preifat ac addysgu'r cyhoedd am faterion ffermio a chynhyrchu bwyd," eglura Dan. "Ar un llaw, mae ffermio a bywyd gwledig yn cynnig caeau gwyrdd, awyr iach a'r gallu i fwrw ymlaen â'ch gwaith yn annibynnol, ac mae'n ffordd o fyw. Ar y llaw arall, mae'n fwyfwy pwysig addysgu pobl am gynhyrchu bwyd a sut mae ffermio'n llunio cefn gwlad a mannau gwyrdd sy'n cael eu mwynhau gan gynifer.

"Wythnos diwethaf cawsom ein hymweliad blynyddol gan yr ysgol gynradd leol, Ysgol San Siôr, ysgol natur-gyfeillgar sydd â Chlwb Eco ar ôl ysgol, menter wyau a chychod gwenyn. Mae hwn bob amser yn fore llawn hwyl gyda disgyblion brwdfrydig Blwyddyn 1 yn gwneud y daith i fyny'r allt o Landudno.

"Diolch byth roedd y tywydd yn garedig a'r siacedi pac-a-mac a'r welingtons gliter yn addas ar gyfer y daith fferm hon. Mae gan blant ffordd adfywiol o fod yn hollol uniongyrchol, rhywbeth fel oedolion y gallem ddysgu oddi wrtho. Y cwestiwn cyntaf i'r grŵp o blant 5 a 6 oed a oedd yn gwrando'n eiddgar oedd "Pam rydyn ni'n ffermio?" Daeth ateb ar unwaith "Er mwyn i ni gael bwyd i'w fwyta". Gwnaeth yr ateb yna argraff arnaf, gofynnais pwy oedd wedi siarad â hi ynghylch o ble mae bwyd yn dod, yr ateb "Mam". Roedd y ffaith bod rhieni yn rhannu gwybodaeth werthfawr gyda'u plant yn gadael argraff fawr arnaf, a gofynnais beth yw enw dy fam. Yr ateb:- "Mam"!

"Un o uchafbwyntiau'r ymweliad yw gwyllo Tian y ci defaid yn hel grŵp o famogiaid sy'n cael eu dewis yn arbennig (mae'r rhai sy'n creu helynt yn cael eu gadael yn ddiogel yn y gorlan!) Rwy'n ceisio ail-greu stori "Y Ddafad Golledig" lle mae dafad yn ailymuno a'i phraidd. Dros y blynyddoedd, bu ambell dro yn y stori. Chwalwyd y disgwyliadau uchel llynedd pan ddihangodd y ddafad goll cyn yr amser iawn yn y stori! Eleni fodd bynnag, er mawr lawenydd i'r plant ac er mawr ryddhad i mi, ailymunodd y ddafad â'r praid. Ac wrth gwrs, Tian yw'r arwr ac yn cymryd yr holl glod.

"Wrth ffarwelio â'r dosbarth a nôl Tian oddi ar y bws, meddyliais am ba mor werth chweil oedd y bore wedi bod. Er bod Llandudno yn dref glan môr ac nad yw'n enwog am ei chysylltiadau cryf â'r gymuned ffermio, mae'n braf siarad â'r bobl ifanc hyn am ffermio, bwyd a'r amgylchedd a gwybod bod ganddynt ddealltwriaeth dda o'r pwnc hwn eisoes. Mae'r math hwn o ymgysylltu â'r cyhoedd yn hynod werthfawr a gobeithio y bydd yn helpu i bontio'r bwlch rhwng ffermwyr a'r genhedlaeth nesaf."

Diolch yn fawr i chi Dan am rannu'r stori fach hyfryd yna gyda ni, ac mae'n profi bod y berthynas rhwng ffermwyr a'r genhedlaeth nesaf yn cryfhau o hyd, a bod plant gwirioneddol yn awchu am wybod mwy am ein ffordd o fyw fel ffermwyr, ac weithiau wrth gwrs, mae yna bethau allwn ni gyd ddysgu wrthyn nhw hefyd - gan y gwirion y ceir y gwir!

This article is available in English on the FUW website - News - Y Tir News: "The future of agriculture is safe in the hands of the young," or from your local county office.






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“Family farms are at the heart of our rural economy”

A DAIRY farming family from Carmarthenshire have highlighted the important role family farms play in keeping the rural economy alive, whilst producing nutritious food and looking after the environment.

Gareth Beynon Thomas, who farms Goitre Fach, Hendy, Pontarddulais with his wife Monica and family, opened the gates to the home farm on the eve of the Welsh Dairy Show to showcase how the business has progressed in recent years with a new milk vending machine venture.

After receiving a degree in Agriculture at Bangor University, Gareth returned to the farm in 1982. He married Monica in 1985 to form a partnership. They have 4 grown-up children; Sara and Alaw are both secondary school teachers, whilst Rhys the eldest son is a Director at Prostock Vets and helps on the farm on his days off. Ifan the youngest son, returned from Aberystwyth in 2014 to join his mother and father in partnership. By now the family farm some 700 acres, with 520 owned in a block within 1 mile of Goitre Fach.



From left, FFW President, Glyn Roberts; FFW Deputy President, Ian Rickman; County Chairman, Philip Jones; Ifan Thomas; Gareth Thomas; Monica Thomas and Rhys Thomas.

The family keeps a herd of 250 pedigree Holsteins, with a rolling 305d average of approximately 10,500 litres. They have also gained Master Breeder status in 2019 with the pedigree cows. They are fed on a grazing system, with the highs kept in at night all year round, while the lows graze day and night during the summer.

The cattle are fed on home grown maize and grass silage, with concentrates fed in the milking parlour and in out-of parlour feeders. They also keep some 280 followers, with surplus heifers sold as fresh calvers, through local markets or privately at home.

In addition to this, they keep a flock of 300 pedigree Berrichon ewes, with 60 yearling rams sold annually.

During the COVID-19 lock-down the family started to pasteurise and sell milk, milkshake and ice-cream through a vending machine under the business name of “Llaeth Beynon Dairy”. This side of the enterprise is run by Ifan, and by now employs two full time staff members and has 3 machines and a mobile trailer, with further two machines imminent to be located in Swansea city centre. He also supplies local coffee shops daily.

Speaking after the visit, FFW President Glyn Roberts said: “Family farms like Goitre Fach are a credit to our industry as a whole and the dairy industry. They make an immeasurable contribution to the local and rural economy, as well as providing nutritious and sustainable food.

“We have highlighted the fact that family farms in particular are at the heart of our rural economy. Farms like these are caring for our landscape, and of course our culture and they make innumerable other contributions to the well-being of Wales and the UK.

“Welsh food production sustains tens of thousands of other businesses - from upstream businesses such as feed merchants, agricultural contractors and engineers, to downstream businesses such as hauliers, processors and retailers and it is evident that for every pound generated on farm, around 6 pounds is spent in the wider economy.”



Stock judging success



Congratulations to FFW's Marketing Coordinator Angharad Thomas, on winning the YFC Dairy Stock Judging (under 28) at the Welsh Dairy Show.

Outstanding services to agriculture in Carmarthenshire award presented to long serving member of staff

THE FFW - United Counties Agricultural and Hunters Society Award has been presented to long serving member of staff and former FFW Facilities and General Administration Manager Peter Davies.

Peter joined the FFW on 3rd June 1991 and began his working career as a County Executive Officer for the Carmarthen area when he worked closely with members and staff for over 15 years before moving to work at Head Office in 2006.

“Over the years Peter has worked diligently to promote the name and the brand of the FFW by launching many awards and events such as the Award for Outstanding Service to the Welsh Dairy Industry and the FFW Farmhouse Breakfast function, which he started over 20 years ago.

“Through this award, we thank Peter for everything he has done on behalf of agriculture

and the FFW and wish him the very best for the future,” said FFW President Glyn Roberts.

Responding on behalf of the judging panel, Lynn Davies, Chair of the United Counties Agricultural and Hunters Society said: “It is without doubt that Peter Davies has tirelessly given years of devoted service to agriculture within Carmarthenshire. The dedication to his 15 years of service as FFW County Executive Officer for Carmarthenshire farmers, followed by widening his catchment and becoming the Facilities and General Administration Manager with the FFW for a further 16 years, allowed

him not only to oversee support to his home county but across the whole of Wales.

“His political and public service to the community has already been awarded an MBE and there was no doubt within the judging panel that Mr Davies is more than worthy of the accolade of the Farmers' Union of Wales - United Counties Agricultural and Hunters Society Award, to the person who has made the most outstanding contribution to agriculture in Carmarthenshire.

“The judging panel would like to thank Peter for his enthusiasm and resolve over the years and wish him well in his retirement.”

You can read more about Peter Davies on page 12.



FWW President Glyn Roberts (left) and United Counties Agricultural and Hunters Society Chair Lynn Davies (right) present Peter Davies with his award.

Calendr 2023 Calendar

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Carmarthenshire dairy farmer recognised for outstanding services to the dairy industry

A FAMILIAR face to many, and a highly respected dairy farmer from Carmarthenshire, Peter Rees has been recognised for his services to the Dairy Industry by the FUW Group at the eve of Welsh Dairy Show function.

Speaking on behalf of the judging panel, FUW Policy Officer Elin Jenkins said: "The broadness of experience that Mr Rees has accumulated over his career is extraordinary, from his grassroots on farm experience to working in education and inspiring future generations of dairy farmers to developing future technology for dairy farms.

"His time with Gelli Aur and Coleg Sir Gâr was instrumental in providing opportunities for many, who are now Wales's leading dairy farmers.

"He continues his support and work with the industry having held the role of chair in several influential groups and boards, not least the chair of AHDB Dairy Improvement Programme Steering Group and Interim AHDB Dairy Board Chair."

Peter was brought up on the family dairy farm at Erwlon and attended Llandovery County High School. After leaving school Peter obtained a BSc (Hons) in Agricultural Sciences from Nottingham University in 1978.

Between 1978 and 1995 he was a lecturer and senior lecturer at the Welsh Agricultural College in Aberystwyth, for the majority of this time specialising in Dairy production.

Between 1980 and 1988 he organised the Welsh Dairy Conference at the Welsh Agricultural College. In 1992 Peter obtained a Nuffield Scholarship focussing on "The development of Automated Milking Systems in Northern Europe".

In 1995 he left the Welsh Agricultural College to join Gelli Aur as the Head of Department for Agriculture, he subsequently took on a number of roles at Coleg Sir Gâr culminating in him taking on the role of Assistant Principal at the Further Education College.

Peter led the redevelopment of Gelli Aur as a Network of Excellence College with the establishment of the Farm Diversification & Technology Centre, and was key to the relocation of the Agricultural provision of Coleg Sir Gâr from the old Gelli Aur mansion to the purpose built facility that is being used today.



Peter Rees (left) receiving his award from FUW President Glyn Roberts at the Welsh Dairy Show.

He further established and supported the development of the Dairy Development Centre and associated extension work out from Gelli Aur and facilitated and managed the expansion of land based student numbers at Coleg Sir Gâr.

Peter was instrumental in the development of the farm enterprises at the college farm and over the course of his career in Dairying, and has been an important member of a number of influential dairy groups including the WDA Dairy Strategy Group, MDC Regional Committee for Wales and the WG Dairy Task force.

Throughout his career in education he remained an active member of the family dairy farming partnership. In 2015 Peter retired from Coleg Sir Gâr and he now spends more time at home with his brother and nephews driving forward the business. The family run a 300-cow dairy enterprise in Carmarthenshire based on an autumn calving, grass and high forage system.

The herd is now all home-bred pedigree British Friesian and Dairy Shorthorns with some additional crossbred animals. He is also co-owner and director, along with his brother, of an award-winning 5-star touring caravan park.

From 2016 until 2021 Peter was appointed to the Agricultural Advisory Panel for Wales as the Independent member on the panel with responsibility for Education. This highlights the knowledge and expertise that Peter has with regards to skills and education within agriculture.

Currently he is Lantra Wales Chair, a member of the Farming Connect Strategic Advisory Board and Chair of the Farming Connect Training sub group.

His contribution to Education and Technology Transfer to the Welsh Dairy Sector was recognised with the award of a Fellowship of the Royal Agricultural Societies (FRAGS).

Peter was a high-level Rugby referee officiating at European and Celtic league level. Since retiring from refereeing Peter has taken up various positions within Llandovery RFC and is currently Chairman of the Premier league outfit.

Mrs Jenkins added: "The drive and zest for dairy industry innovation and improvement that Mr Rees possesses makes him highly deserving of the FUW/FUW Insurance Services Ltd Award to the person who has made an outstanding contribution to the dairy industry."

Pembrokeshire tenant farmer raise concerns with local MS

A PEMBROKESHIRE tenant farmer has raised concern regarding the Agricultural Water Pollution regulations, the Sustainable Farming Scheme and wider farming matters with local Member of the Senedd, Sam Kurtz.

Tony Cadogan, who farms at New Shipping Farm, Cresselly, Kilgetty, Pembrokeshire, keeps a herd of 50 Hereford suckler cows plus followers. Farming 132 hectares which he manages as 56.5 hectares of arable and 53 hectares of grass along with grazed saltmarsh and woodland.

The land is split over three blocks, with the two main blocks being registered as organic, which are also in the Glastir Advanced and Glastir Organic schemes. Mr Cadogan is a big believer in farming to the benefit of the environment around him and the abundance of wildlife on the farm bears testament to this and the hard work which he has undertaken since taking on the tenancy of the farm in 2001.



From left, FUW Senior Policy & Communications Officer Gareth Parry; Sam Kurtz MS, FUW Pembrokeshire County Vice Chair, Gerwyn Williams; Tony Cadogan, Hywel Vaughan, Jeff Wheeler, John Savins and FUW Pembrokeshire County Chair Mike Kurtz.

Speaking about the Water Resources Regulations, Mr Cadogan said: "We have received funding under the Farm Business Grant Yard Covering Scheme to undertake work to help comply with the new Agricultural Water Resources regulations, however, the regulations must be amended in order to tackle agricultural pollution effectively."

"The latest announcement on the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations, which sets out intentions to delay the implementation of the annual whole farm nitrogen limit of 170kg per hectare and consult on a licensing scheme to increase that limit, is of course a welcome opportunity to influence change."

FUW Pembrokeshire County Executive Officer Rebecca Voyle said: "The proposed licensing regime would serve as a significant safety net for a number of farmers in Wales in the short term who are already above the 170kg limit. This is especially important where reducing stock numbers or buying or renting additional land are not viable options, and compliance with the 170kg limit will breach contracts or tenancy agreements, or compromise the ability to repay loans.

"However, this is just one regulation out of forty-six set out in this piece of legislation and therefore we must consider the long term implications of these regulations as a whole for our members."

Addressing the Sustainable Farming Scheme proposals, Mr Kurtz heard that the FUW welcomed the commitment to a baseline payment for all farmers, providing much needed stability for food producing family farms.

FUW Pembrokeshire County Vice Chair Gerwyn Williams said: "The FUW believes the majority of the budget should be used to provide this stability payment



in return for the new Universal Actions required of farmers on top of the 'National Minimum Standards'. "There are also still concerns about the impact of budget cuts from Westminster and the size of the budget after 2023, particularly as the proposals are ambitious, covering a wide range of objectives at a time when farmers are experiencing a significant increase in costs."

Union officials added that the proposal to use RPW Online as the main tool for farmers themselves to undertake a simplified Sustainability Review is welcome, as it recognises the value of existing data collection by farmers, the capability and user-friendliness of the current system, and the expense of using advisors to conduct the review on farm as was previously proposed.

"However, it is highly disappointing that the outcomes required of the scheme - based around the principles of Sustainable Land Management such as Clean air, Resilient ecosystems and Enhanced Access - still do not incorporate the economic sustainability of family farms, agricultural supply chains, rural communities or food production explicitly.

"Without such objectives being central to the scheme there is a risk of economic damage, particularly if the calculation of baseline payment rates doesn't take such economic support into account," added FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry.

Mr Parry further stressed that many of the Universal Actions would be wholly impractical for large numbers of farmers and therefore require greater consideration.

Sam Kurtz also heard that whilst the recent document is not consulting on the National Minimum Standards explicitly, the scheme will be underpinned by that legislative framework, and therefore consideration must be given to ensuring a raised regulatory baseline does not lead to a competitive disadvantage for Wales' farmers as they compete with imports produced to lower environmental and animal welfare standards.

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Representation and Lobbying

Your membership ensures our Presidential Team and Policy Team make your voices heard from your local council to national governments as well as public bodies.

We actively and independently campaign to advance the interests of Wales' family farms in order for them to thrive and be sustainable.

The FUW's Policy Team also produce two monthly e-bulletins; the Farmers' Monthly Bulletin which contains the latest in terms of grant deadlines and updates which directly relate to the running of the farm business, and the Agri-News Bulletin which explains the latest in terms of policy developments and the work of the Policy Team.

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

Your Policy Team



Dr. Nick Fenwick
Head of Policy



Dr. Hazel Wright
Senior Policy Officer



Gareth Parry
Senior Policy and
Communications
Officer



Bernard Griffiths
Policy Officer



Libby Davies
Senedd and
Parliamentary Affairs
Officer



Teleri Fielden
Policy Officer



Elin Jenkins
Policy Officer



Rebecca Voyle
Special Policy Advisor

Every year we fundraise money for our President's chosen charity. We have so far raised over £27,000 towards the DPJ Foundation who help to support mental health issues in agriculture

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materion nad ydynt o fewn ein rheolaeth megis cynnydd mewn costau yswiriant gwladol y cyflogwr, newidiadau sylweddol i dreth gorfforaeth ynghyd â chynnydd sylweddol mewn costau ynni sy'n allweddol os am wresogi a goleuo'r swyddfeydd.

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Os oes gennych chi unrhyw syniadau am y math o wasanaethau hoffech chi weld fel rhan o'ch aelodaeth, cysylltwch â mi ar caryl.roberts@fuw.org.uk / 01970 820820, neu eich staff lleol i ni ystyried.

Following a meeting of the FUW Grand Council on September 29, members voted in favour of an increase of 8% in the membership fee and an increase of £10 to the cost of the 'Countryside Member'. We will be contacting you through email or letter to confirm this change.

The costs facing the Union are increasing and in most cases, for reasons that are beyond our direct control such as the increased national insurance costs for employers, significant changes to our corporation tax position and a very significant increase in energy costs which are essential to ensure that our offices have heat and light.

In view of these challenges we have attempted to balance the need to ensure the financial viability of the Union whilst recommending a membership fee increase that will not place too much pressure on our members. As you can see in the advert on the left, the value members receive from their membership, the services of their county office, the policy department as well as discounts, far outweighs the cost of membership.

If you have any ideas about new services you'd like to see as part of your membership, please get in touch with me - caryl.roberts@fuw.org.uk / 01970 820820, or your local county office for us to consider

Highlighting importance of farmers to rural economy



Ben Lake MP visiting Lampeter office to meet with FUW, FUW Insurance Services Ltd and Policy staff.

THE FUW met with Ceredigion Plaid Cymru MP Ben Lake to discuss the important role farmers play in the rural economy and the Union's concerns over current trade policies.

Speaking about the role farmers play in the rural economy, FUW Ceredigion Deputy County Executive officer Mari Davies said: "Family farms in Wales do so much more than just produce food - they are the cornerstone of our rural economies and Welsh food production sustains tens of thousands of other businesses from upstream businesses such as feed merchants, agricultural contractors and engineers, to downstream businesses such as hauliers, processors and retailers."

Union officials further highlighted that despite the clear warnings of the coronavirus pandemic the UK Government has been pursuing liberal trade deals with distant countries that its own figures show will undermine UK food security, have negligible benefits for the UK's economy and open up UK markets to imports or products that do not meet our own standards.

"The Trade (Australia and New Zealand) Bill currently passing through the UK parliament would, if passed, give the UK's final seal of approval to the first agreed trade deals under this policy. We have reiterated that the UK Government must revise this policy and focus on trade

policies that place UK food security at the top of the agenda," said FUW Policy officer Elin Jenkins.

"The UK Government's Northern Ireland Protocol Bill seeks to implement policies that the overwhelming majority of commentators believe would break International Law and threatens our relationship with such countries as well as imports to and exports from the UK.

"We have therefore been clear that the UK Government must seek to restore its relationship with the EU and neighbouring countries in order to protect UK food exports and security; halt all unilateral actions in relation to the Northern Ireland Protocol, and re-enter negotiations with the European Union which has already offered numerous concessions in relation to Northern Ireland," said FUW President Glyn Roberts.

Following the discussions with the Union team Mr Lake was introduced to the Lampeter Insurance team and given an introduction to the work that they do as agricultural insurance specialists working throughout rural Wales.

"In many ways, this link between the work of the Union and the creation of businesses to support the agricultural sector in all parts of Wales proves clearly that agriculture is central to all types of economic activity within our rural communities," added Glyn Roberts.

"Family farms in Wales do so much more than just produce food - they are the cornerstone of our rural economies and Welsh food production sustains tens of thousands of other businesses."



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All good things must come to an end

by Brian Walters, past FUW Vice President and Life Member

FUW'S Facilities and Administration Manager, Peter Davies, (pictured right), retired at the end of October following over 30 years of exceptional service to the FUW.

Peter was the second son of Tom and Elen Davies, Gwarcefel, Prengwyn, Llandysul. He was educated at Tregroes Primary School and Llandysul Grammar School. After leaving school he went to work for Midland Bank. Whilst working in the Bank at Carmarthen he met his wife Barbara. They have three children Kate, Robert and Michael.

Peter has been a keen football player since his school days playing for Ffostrasol Football Club until he was 50 years old. He is also a supporter of Swansea City and Wales Football teams going regularly to games.

Peter joined the FUW on June 3 1991 as County Executive Officer at Carmarthen office. Whilst in this role he instigated a number of initiatives, these included organising Welsh Breakfasts at the National Assembly, House of Lords and at the European Parliament in Brussels, a dinner on the eve of the Welsh Dairy Show in Carmarthen and the concept of parading a Welsh Black bull around Stradey Park to promote the quality of Welsh Beef prior to Scarlets matches against French opposition in the Heineken European Cup.

He also initiated three new prizes that have quickly established themselves as prestigious events in the farming calendar. These are awarded to people who have provided outstanding service to Welsh agriculture, outstanding service to the Welsh dairy industry and outstanding service to agriculture in Carmarthenshire.

Mr Davies has organised many events in Carmarthenshire, including a protest against the import of Brazilian Beef. He led oppositions to the Army using local farmland for training purposes to demonstrate the strength of feeling against the ban on hunting with dogs.

In 2006 Peter was appointed as Facilities and General Administration Manager at FUW

head office where he has worked closely with all staff, Presidents, elected Board Members and also with the Council of the Union, while still maintaining his loyalties to members.

Outside agriculture Mr Davies has wide experience of other organisations. He spent 15 years as a non-executive director of Carmarthenshire NHS Trust, and was Chairman of the Trust Audit Committee for almost all of that time.

He has served as board member with S4C and was past chairman of both Tai Cantref Housing Association and the enterprise agency Antur Teifi. He also served on the Board of Lampeter University.

He was elected Ceredigion County Councillor in 2007 and served for 15 years until his retirement this year. He was the Chair of Council in 2019/20.

Peter Davies works hard in the community and was the main instigator in securing funding for the purchase of Tregroes School and turning it into a village hall for the community. Peter is also prominent in running the Pantydefaid Unitarian Chapel. All of his political and public service to the community has been recognised by receiving the MBE in 1995.

We wish Peter and his family a happy and healthy retirement. Many thanks for all the work you have carried out for the FUW.



First visit to Brussels breakfast week, from left, Peter Davies, past FUW Vice President Brian Walters and FUW Carmarthenshire staff members.



FUW President Glyn Roberts (left) and Peter Davies.

Glyn Roberts, Llywydd UAC

“ Braint yw cael diolch i Peter am y blynyddoedd o waith mae wedi ei gyflawni i hybu amcanion a bodolaeth yr Undeb. Faint o weithiau wrth ddiolch iddo neu ei longyfarch am drefnu rhyw ddiwyddiad byddai yn dweud “roedd yn GOOD i'r FUW” roedd yr ymateb yma yn dangos ei ymroddiad di gyfaddawd i'r Undeb.

Er i ni fel Undeb rai blynyddoedd yn ôl fedru cael Peter allan o swyddfa Caerfyrddin i'r brif swyddfa yn Aberystwyth, (yn sgil dyrchafiad), hwyrach na fuon ni ddim mor llwyddianus yn cael Caerfyrddin allan o Peter!

Pleser bob amser oedd cydweithio â gŵr mor fonheddig, hynaws a chydwybodol fel Peter. Ar lefel personol roedd bob amser yno i wrando a chynorthwyo ymhob ffordd y medrai - a

dyna'r teimlad gan y staff a phawb sydd wedi bod yn cydweithio gydag ef - cydweithiwr heb ei ail.

Rhaid cyfeirio hefyd at ddau ddiwyddiad lle byddai Peter yn ei elfen, sef y Sioe Fawr a'r Sioe Laeth yng Nghaerfyrddin (wrth gwrs!) - byddai wir wrth ei fodd!

Dwi ddim am enwi'r nifer di-rif o ddiwyddiadau mae Peter wedi ei drefnu ar hyd y blynyddoedd, ond roedd y digwyddiad yng Nghaerfyrddin mis diwethaf yn glod iddo, byddai rhaid mynd yn bell iawn i gael cynifer yn bresennol ac yn bellach fyth i ddod o hyd i'r calibr uchel o bobl oedd yno.

Peter, rydych wedi gwneud diwrnod da o waith i'r Undeb. Diolch am fod yn GOOD i FUW a mawr obeithiaf fod FUW wedi bod yn GOOD i chi. Da was da a ffyddlon - diolch o waelod calon i chi Peter Davies. ”

Ian Rickman, FUW Deputy President

“ Peter has been a constant presence for me during my time with the Union. He was the County Executive Officer in Carmarthenshire when I first started going to my local branch meetings in the early 1990s.

It was his enthusiasm and hard work on behalf of members that showed me what could be achieved by being part of a strong, active FUW.

Thank you Peter for your work back then and as part of the team in head office. I wish you all the best in your retirement. ”



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Peter Davies, third from left, with FUW Carmarthenshire staff receiving the Owen Slaymaker award.

County branches educating children about milk

Glamorgan

FUW Glamorgan teamed up with James and Caroline Morgan from Penuchadre Organic Dairy, St Brides Major with their milk vending machine 'The Milk Hut' to visit the children at Romilly School.

FUW Glamorgan Acting Vice Chair Rachel Walker said: "It really was great to see the children so excited about their own drink of milk from the vending machine. The children had so many questions which we were only too happy to answer."

Gwent and Glamorgan Deputy County Executive Officer Helen Thomas said: "It's great that the children are learning the health benefits of milk and that it can provide them with calcium and vitamin B12 as well as providing protein, energy and iodine."

Cathy King, a teacher at Romilly Primary School added: "Our topic this half term has

been 'Sow, Grow and Farm' and as the name suggests, has been about all things farming, with a particular focus on re-engaging the children with food, the land and the hardworking individuals who farm it.

"Getting involved in World School Milk Day seemed the perfect opportunity to provide our children with an engaging topic enhancing experience and this certainly proved to be true. Not only did the children get to enjoy a glass of milk (or milkshake!) but they also had the opportunity to interact and talk with local farmers from the Vale of Glamorgan. You can't get more engaging than that!

"The day also provided the children with an insight in to the history and continuing importance of School Milk Programmes. A truly wonderful day was had by all and it is sure to be an unforgettable experience for the children."



Harry Rees-Davies enjoying his milk.

Ceredigion

Fuon ni yn ymweld ag Ysgol Bro Pedr eleni i sôn am bwysigrwydd llaeth a chynnyrch llaeth. Daeth Eiliw Dafydd o Fferm Gwarffynnon i wneud cyflwyniad ardderchog gyda'r plant. Diolch yn fawr iddi!

Roedd digon o gynnyrch llaeth i'r plant gael blasu - caws, llaeth ag ysgytleath. Roedd y plant wrth ei bodd!

Roedd yn fore llwyddiannus o ddweud hanes am ba mor bwysig yw codi ymwybyddiaeth o gynhyrchiant llaeth, hyrwyddo amaethyddiaeth a'r holl fanteision o yfed llaeth.

We visited Ysgol Bro Pedr this year to talk about the importance of milk and milk products. Eiliw Dafydd from Gwarffynnon Farm gave an excellent presentation to the children. Many thanks to her! There were plenty of dairy products for the children to taste - cheese, milk and milkshakes. The children loved it! It was a successful morning of sharing the story about how important it is to raise awareness of milk production, promote agriculture and all the benefits of drinking milk.



Meirionnydd

Cafwyd cyfle ar ddiwedd mis Medi i ymweld ag Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn, Y Bala fel rhan o ddathliadau Diwrnod Llaeth Ysgol y Byd. Roedd yn gyfle i ddangos rhinweddau llaeth fel cynnyrch maethlon, naturiol ac iach, a dangos sut mae llaeth yn cael ei gynhyrchu. Roedd hyn hefyd yn cyflawni'r gwaith pwysig o bontio rhwng amaeth a'r dosbarth ysgol.

Diolch arbennig i Gwynfor a Leusa Jarman, Fferm Gwernhefin ger y Bala am eu cyflwyniadau gwych i'r plant, ac i Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn am eu croeso.

Diolch yn fawr iawn hefyd i Gwmni Llaeth y Llan am eu nawddogaeth hynod o hael yn rhoi iogwrt i bob un o blant y dosbarth.

There was an opportunity at the end of September to visit Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn, Bala as part of the World School Milk Day celebrations. It was a chance to show the qualities of milk as a nutritious, natural and healthy product, and to show how milk is produced. It was also a good opportunity to bridge between agriculture and the classroom. Thank you to Gwynfor and Leusa Jarman, Gwernhefin Farm near Bala for their wonderful presentations to the children, and to Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn for their welcome. A big thank you also to Cwmni Llaeth y Llan for their extremely generous sponsorship giving yoghurt to the children.



Pembrokeshire

We visited Pembroke Dock Community Junior School with Caroline the Cow, who was kindly loaned to us by The Oak Veterinary Group, Clarboston Road.

Caroline is a life sized model of a cow that the children were able to milk. Caroline was joined by two of our members who talked about a day in the life of a dairy farmer and how milk is produced.

We had samples of cow's cake for the children to handle, a sod of grass and a set of clusters so the members could show them how a cow is milked.

We also put together some goody bags for the children and supplied some milkshakes.



Montgomery

Many thanks to Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon for the welcome on World School Milk Day. We'd also like to thank Mrs Anwen Jones, Lallemand for giving a talk to the pupils about dairy, and a big thank you to Daisy Bank Dairies for the delicious milk.

Diolch yn fawr i Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon am y croeso a gawsom ar Ddiwrnod Llaeth Ysgol y Byd. Hefyd diolch i Mrs Anwen Jones, Lallemand, am roi sgwrs i'r disgyblion ynglŷn â llaeth, a hefyd diolch enfawr i Daisy Bank Dairies am y llaeth bendeddig.



Glamorgan team bring farming to the classroom

FARMERS from Glamorgan have come together with primary schools across the county to showcase the important work farmers do every day, from producing nutritious and sustainable food, to caring for the land, keeping the wheels of the rural economy going and sustaining the Welsh language and way of life.

Visiting St David's CIW, Pentwyn and Romilly School, Barry, as well as Llangan Primary School children enjoyed watching videos of sheep shearing and hearing about what the land produces as part of the Knowledge and Understanding of the World module on the curriculum.

FUW Glamorgan Executive committee member Charlotte Llewellyn, who farms just outside of Cardiff and whose father was a founder member of the FUW, said: "It was an absolute pleasure to speak to the children and share with them our love for the land and what it produces. To be able to tell the story of food production and animal husbandry on local farms is so important at a time when new developments encroach from all sides and city schools become more remote from rural areas.



Romilly School children patiently waiting to see the tractor.

"We also used the opportunity to explain and show that farming does so much more than just produce food and that actually by looking after the land we look after biodiverse rich habitats. If we can spark just a little interest in farming and the natural environment then it was a couple of hours well spent."

FUW Gwent and Glamorgan County Executive Officer Sharon Pritchard said: "The children are absolutely captivated! We have put together a slideshow for them to watch short videos of farming activities and also photos of different crops and plants for them to identify. It really is food for the soul to see the children so interested and asking so many questions."

Union staff and officials also take with them samples of hay, straw, calf rearing pellets and a fleece from a members farm so the children can experience the textures and the smells.

FUW County Chairman Richard Walker who joined the schools with his tractor added: "The children are mesmerised when they see the tractor, their faces really do light up. It's great to see the enthusiasm they have and I am always amazed at

the great questions they have."

Speaking after the visit, Cathy King, a teacher at Romilly primary school, said: "Working with the FUW has in short, been a complete delight. What started as a basic inquiry on whether a farmer would visit and talk to our children in support of their new topic has blossomed into an ongoing collaboration that has been truly wonderful. The FUW has not only been supportive of our topic, where they sent a tractor in for the children to ride, animal feed for them to handle and three farmers for them to quiz but they've supported us in on-going projects across the school also.



Charlotte Llewellyn talking the children through the presentation at St David's CIW School.



Llangan Primary School children with some samples.

"In addition to this, they have joined us on numerous occasions and are even providing hay bales and pumpkins for the children's very own upcoming Farmer's market. The support of the FUW has been amazing, they are a friendly, approachable and affable organisation with whom we look forward to building further links with. These sessions are an invaluable learning experience for the children and a long overdue connection with the food they eat, the land that produced it and the hardworking people who farm it."



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Sustainable Farming Scheme - Welsh Government 'FAQs'

The Welsh Government has published answers to frequently asked questions - the full list is available online on their Sustainable Farming Scheme page (www.gov.wales/sustainable-farming-scheme-guide), alongside a podcast and video exploring the proposals in more detail. Below are a selection of questions and answers.

Update
The Welsh Government Feedback Survey deadline has been extended to 21st November 2022. The FUW will also be submitting a response based on feedback received during county, committee and branch meetings by this date. Please complete the Welsh Government Survey in addition to providing feedback to the FUW Policy Team

Woodland cover questions

Do I have to have 10% tree cover before I can enter the scheme?

No, but we will agree a plan to achieve the 10% during the scheme period as part of your contract.

Will existing trees contribute to my 10%?

Yes. Existing broadleaf and conifer woodland will contribute to the 10%, but we would still need to make sure that the woodland is being appropriately managed.

From a modelling exercise based on a large number of Welsh farms, we found an average of over 6% existing woodland on farms, so support would start on managing existing then creating more from there to meet the target.

Why do we have to plant more trees?

Climate change is the biggest threat to food production over the medium to long term.

The 10% target included in the proposals is designed to spread planting across all farms, rather than have widespread land use change in localised areas.

Tree planting is not the single solution to climate change, however, planting more trees as part of a holistic approach can help us mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change.

Over the coming decades, we are likely to experience more hot dry summers and wetter winters. More trees in the landscape will help slow the flow of excess water and will provide shelter to livestock in hot weather - which will be a direct benefit to farm businesses.

Improved soil management to increase organic matter is also an important method of locking up carbon, which is why we have also included soil management actions. The scheme outline contains many other actions covering diverse swards, energy use and livestock health - all of which will contribute to lowering carbon emissions.

Where is the scientific evidence that a hectare of woodland sequesters more carbon and supports more diverse species than more productive land with rotational crops and high organic matter, using regenerative farming techniques?

There is strong scientific evidence that a hectare of woodland sequesters more carbon, however there are other opportunities within the scheme to establish diverse swards and build soil organic matter. We are not saying that trees are the only answer, they are part of the answer to integrate with other techniques in different locations depending on soil type, slope, exposure etc.

What if I can't plant trees because of habitat/peatland/historic features, or my tenancy doesn't allow me?

We are considering a list of exemptions for farmers who are not able to undertake tree planting for reasons outside of their control.



Habitat questions

What is semi-natural habitat?

Semi-natural habitat refers to those areas that haven't been heavily modified for agriculture. The definition will be based on the EIA definition.

Peatbogs, heathlands, wildflower rich haymeadows, wetlands and coastal areas like saltmarsh and sand dune all count as semi-natural.

Is the 10% target for semi-natural habitat additional to the 10% for trees?

Yes, they are two separate actions. We are considering where broadleaf woodland could contribute to both actions at the same time. We propose that newly planted trees or conifers will not contribute to the habitat action, as their contribution to overall ecosystem resilience is limited, but we will need to consider when newly planted trees mature to the point that they can be considered habitat.

I couldn't qualify for previous schemes as I don't have any semi-natural habitats. Will I be able to join the SFS?

Yes. Valuable new habitat areas can be created on any farm. Fallow margins or flower rich margins can be created around arable fields, new wetland features can be created, or pastures can be allowed to revert to flower rich meadows with the right management.

Will hedgerows count towards my semi-natural habitat target?

Yes, but we will need to consider minimum dimensions size for a hedge to count.



General questions

What about those farmers who don't want to join the SFS?

SFS will be a voluntary scheme but will be the main source of funding for farmers in future. We have proposed that BPS will be phased out over the transition period. The proposed National Minimum Standards (NMS) will still apply to those farms outside of the SFS.

Can I pick and choose which Universal Actions to undertake?

No. Our starting position is that all farmers will need to undertake all Universal Actions to receive the Baseline Payment.

How long will SFS contracts last?

We propose SFS contracts will last for five years, but will then be reviewed and renewed on a rolling five year programme which will accommodate longer term land management objectives, business changes, and other external changes that farms may need to respond to.

We recognise that some flexibility will be needed for tenant farmers where five year contracts may not be suitable.

Why are there no payment rates included?

The actions are not yet complete, so it is not possible to complete the payment modelling. We

want to explore the details with farmers through co-design. Further details on the actions and associated payments will be available in the consultation on the final scheme design in 2023.

Will payment rates be capped at income foregone and costs incurred?

Payments will incentivise and reward the farmer for the actions they undertake to deliver positive social, environmental, and economic outcomes. Payment rates will consider factors beyond a cost incurred and income foregone model, recognising the social value provided by the outcomes being delivered.

What funding will be available in the gap year between Glastir finishing and joining the scheme in 2025?

We are still developing our proposals for 2024 and a decision will be taken by the Minister later this year.

Which carbon tool kits will Welsh Government be using? There are many different tool kits being used by farmers

No individual carbon tools have been selected yet. We are working with stakeholders to develop a simple set of requirements for a carbon baseline and exploring the tools already in use.

Political Matters

by Libby Davies, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer



IT'S been a busy month once again with significant developments across agricultural policies seeming to come all at once, from the Water Resource Regulations, to the Agriculture (Wales) Bill being introduced to the Senedd, and the Trade

(Australia and New Zealand) Bill making its way through the House of Commons.

There is also, of course, the matter of the Prime Minister's resignation. In last month's *Y Tir* I outlined the new PM's cohort of Ministers. Now, at the time of writing, the former Chancellor looks likely to take over the top job by the end of the week.

Following last month's farm visit with the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, myself and FUW Senior Policy Officer Dr Hazel Wright provided oral evidence to the Committee on the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, ensuring FUW members' concerns are heard at every stage of consultation.

I also promised an update on the Water Resource (Control of Agricultural Pollution) Regulations. The debate in the Senedd was held on 12th October, with the Welsh Government accepting, at least in part, 9 of the Committee's 10 recommendations. Recommendation 1; to re-introduce the derogation which allowed qualifying grassland farms to spread up to 250 kg/ha of nitrogen was not accepted.

However, under the Co-operation Agreement, the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru have announced that the 170kg/ha annual holding nitrogen limit which was due to come into force from January 1st 2023, will be delayed until April 2023. There will also be a

consultation this autumn on a licensing scheme which would allow farm businesses to apply for a licence for a higher annual holding nitrogen limit of 250kg/ha. As a Union we have broadly welcomed this however, we are also acutely aware that further detail is needed on the scheme and what exactly it means for our members. Read more on the latest Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 announcement on pages 4 and 5.

Furthermore, we have met with Carolyn Thomas (MS for North Wales), Samuel Kurtz (MS for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire and Shadow Minister for Rural Affairs), Jane Dodds (MS for Mid and West Wales and Leader of the Liberal Democrats), Delyth Jewell (MS for South West Wales and Plaid Cymru Spokesperson for Climate Change) and Cefin Campbell (MS for Mid and West Wales and Designated Member). Once again, taking the opportunity to emphasise our key asks for the Agriculture (Wales) Bill, the Sustainable Farming Scheme and our concerns around the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) Regulations.

Whilst it seems to be pouring with policy changes, the rain did hold off while I joined the team in Pembrokeshire on a farm visit hosted by Nathan Rogers and his parents Andrew and Patricia, with Preseli Pembrokeshire MS Paul Davies. We discussed the importance of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill underlining the economic stability of our family farms, the financial cost of the Water Resources Regulations and the need for further opportunities and support for young and new entrants into the industry.

I also joined Glamorgan members and Jane Hutt, MS for the Vale of Glamorgan on a farm visit hosted by County Chairman Richard Walker, to reinforce the messages around the Sustainable Farming Scheme and Agriculture (Wales) Bill, whilst also discussing the need to balance renewable energy production with food production.

Thanks again to both Counties for the invite and to the members who joined us. It's vital we, and elected representatives, are able to hear directly about the issues that matter most to you, your families, your businesses and your communities.

From a Westminster perspective, the FUW has provided evidence to the Trade (Australia and New



From left, FUW President Glyn Roberts, Cefin Campbell MS, Mabon ap Gwynfor MS and NFU Cymru President Aled Jones at the Plaid Cymru Conference.

Zealand) Bill Committee, maintaining our long-standing concerns over the scrutiny of these trade deals and the implications they will have on agriculture. Prior to the evidence session, we also met with Angus MacNeil, Chair of the International Trade Select Committee to discuss these concerns.

We also met with Wales Office Minister David TC Davies, in which we explained the pressure of energy costs on farm businesses and welcomed the news that Welsh lamb had been exported to the US for the first time since British imports were banned in 1996.

As well as Pembrokeshire and Glamorgan, this month I visited Ceredigion too when we welcomed Ben Lake MP to the Lampeter Office to learn more about the services the FUW and FUW Insurance Services Ltd provide to his constituents and discuss matters such as the proposal to designate the Cambrian Mountains as an Area of Natural Beauty.

We held a webinar featuring Swansea East MP Carolyn Harris, to raise awareness of the Menopause and its symptoms during Agriculture Mental Health Week, working with politicians to improve a variety of issues that affect our members.

Finally, we also held our joint fringe event with NFU Cymru at the Plaid Cymru Conference. The event, which discussed the Agriculture (Wales) Bill and Sustainable Farming Scheme was well attended by MSs, MPs and Stakeholders. We will continue to engage with elected representatives and Stakeholders to ensure future policies deliver for a thriving sustainable farming sector here in Wales.

Upcoming Schemes

Scheme	Summary	Window
Growing for the Environment - Spring Sown Crops	Growing for the Environment is a grant scheme available to all eligible farmers in Wales. The scheme supports the growing and utilisation of crops, which can result in improvements in the environmental performance of a farm business. More information here: www.gov.wales/growing-for-the-environment	October 10 - November 18 2022
Agricultural Diversification Scheme	The scheme will provide capital grants to help the establishment or development of agricultural diversification projects including the growing of novel or alternative crops, adding value to non-food agricultural products or by-products and livestock enterprises that are not traditional enterprises in Wales, for example sheep or goat milking. More information here: www.gov.wales/agriculture-diversification-scheme	October 10 2022 - January 13 2023
Horticulture Development	The Horticulture Development scheme is a Capital grant scheme available to existing commercial horticultural producers across Wales. The aim of the scheme is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support existing commercial horticultural producers to develop their businesses through investment in new equipment and technology that offer clear and quantifiable benefits to the horticultural enterprise. Enable horticultural businesses to sustainably expand production, diversify into new crops, improve production efficiency and enhance product quality. Enable horticultural producers to enter new markets. Increase local employment and support the rural economy. The scheme is discretionary. The amount of grant offered would relate to individual circumstances and would always be the minimum amount necessary to allow the investments to go ahead.	December 5 2022 - March 10 2023
Woodland Creation Planning Scheme	The Woodland Creation Planning Scheme offers grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to develop plans for new woodland creation. After a plan is successfully verified by NRW it will be eligible for Welsh Government funding for tree planting. More information here: www.gov.wales/woodland-creation-plan-scheme The design of the scheme is based on the pilot which was run last year. The scheme will be open throughout the year (subject to budget) with applications selected every 6 weeks. Funding for woodland creation will be available from August 2022, with windows opening every 3 months from then onwards (subject to budget).	Open until December 31 2022

Pembrokeshire beef farmers stress importance of flexibility in agri-policies

A PEMBROKESHIRE beef farmer has highlighted the need for future agricultural policies to be as flexible as possible to allow the industry to thrive in difficult circumstances. Opening the gates to the family farm Coland Rise Farm, Hayscastle, Haverfordwest, Nathan Rogers and his parents Andrew and Patricia Rogers, discussed the most critical farming matters facing the industry with local Member of the Senedd, Paul Davies MS.

The family runs a 90 cow suckler herd of pedigree Salers and followers on a grass based system. The farm includes 170 acres which are all family owned. Andrew and Patricia Rogers own half of the land with their son Nathan renting the other half from his grandparents.

In addition to the farm, the family also run Coland Rise Farm Meats, which was established by Patricia and Andrew and allows them to supply their own grass fed beef direct to consumers. The animals are slaughtered at the abattoir in Haverfordwest and carcasses are hung for around 3 weeks in their own cold store before being butchered to their own specifications. Around 40 cows calve in the autumn each year with the remainder calving from January through to March.

"It is very rare for any assistance to be provided during calvings as the Salers breed is very maternal and they give plenty of milk. We try to calve before the stock goes out in the spring for ease of management and aim to eventually have no cows calving in March," explained Nathan Rogers as he showed Paul Davies and FUW officials around the farm business.

He further explained that because the farmland is a clay/peat soil, they generally work on the basis that the stock will be in for six months of the year.

"We want to prevent damaging the soil structure so we can't turn out the stock too early in the Spring and can't leave them out too late in the Autumn," said Nathan Rogers.

Mr Rogers also highlighted that the farm business has received funding from the



From left, FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer, Libby Davies; FUW Pembrokeshire County Vice Chair, Gerwyn Williams; FUW Deputy President Ian Rickman; Paul Davies MS; Nathan Rogers; FUW Pembrokeshire County Chair, Mike Kurtz; John Savins; FUW Policy Officer, Elin Jenkins; Andrew Rogers and Jeff Wheeler.

Sustainable Production Grant to put in a new above ground slurry store and from the Farm Business Grant Yard Covering Scheme to undertake work to help them comply with the new Water Resources Regulation. Explaining how they have made further efficiencies on the farm, he added: "Our cows were originally loose housed but we have now installed cubicles with mats. This has reduced our straw usage from over 100 tonnes a year to just 30 tonnes a year."

Visitors to the farm further heard that the new slurry store holds 257,000 gallons and provides the farm business with enough storage for six months.

"It cost around £70,000 including all the groundworks and associated equipment. Without receiving 40 per cent towards the cost it would have been a struggle for us to put everything in place without having to reduce stock numbers to help fund it and then build back up," added Mr Rogers.

Thinking ahead the family have also ensured that the slurry store has been built in such a way that an additional ring can be added to it in the future to provide additional storage capacity should it be required.

"We have only used it for one winter so far but have already seen the benefits of being able to use the slurry at the most appropriate time. Our first cut of silage of around 70 acres, has historically required 110kgs of artificial N/ha but in 2022 we used just 70kg of artificial N/ha, with similar reductions in usage of artificial fertiliser being used for second cut silage.

"We hope that over a period of time the investment will definitely pay for itself but it is vital that the Welsh Government is as flexible as possible in its future policies and that the concerns of the industry are taken on board. These are difficult times for everyone and I strongly believe that farming can play a huge part in making sure that food security is upheld and that the environment is looked after," said Mr Rogers.

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RWAS stalwarts presented with FUW Award for Outstanding Service to Welsh Agriculture



From left, FUW President Glyn Roberts, David Lewis, Helena Lewis and FUW Group Managing Director Guto Bebb.

THE FUW has presented David Lewis, past Chairman of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society's Council with the FUW's Award for Outstanding Service to Welsh Agriculture, at a special dinner held in Carmarthen.

Mr Lewis is the only person to have held all of the most senior positions at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society. He was Show President during 2005, Chairman of the Board of Management between 2006 and 2012 and Chairman of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society's Council between 2012 and 2021.

Some of Mr Lewis's many other important contributions to Welsh agriculture include holding the posts of President of the British Charolais Cattle Society and President of Charolais International and Chairman of Charolais World Convention. He was also a founder Chairman of the Welsh Council of the National Beef Association.

Speaking after the dinner, FUW President Glyn Roberts said: "David

Lewis has given so much to agriculture in Wales and for this we thanked him here in Carmarthen. The award could not have gone to a more deserving person, he is a true stalwart of our industry."

Also attending the function were John Davies and Steve Hughson, who recently stood down from their roles with the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society. Both were also honoured by the FUW for their outstanding services to agriculture on the night.

"John Davies and Steve Hughson have also served the agricultural industry in Wales with distinction and purpose. It was a pleasure and an honour to present them each with their awards, which recognise the outstanding work they have done on behalf of the agricultural community here in Wales."

The profit from the dinner will be donated to the Dai Jones Memorial Fund.



From left, Guto Bebb, Glyn Roberts, Cllr John Davies and Mrs Bethan Davies.



From left, Guto Bebb, Glyn Roberts, Steve Hughson and Chief Executive of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Aled Jones.

Glamorgan farmers discuss renewable energy with local MS

FARMERS from Glamorgan have met with their local Member of the Senedd Jane Hutt to discuss the potential of on-farm renewable energy sources without compromising on sustainable food production.

Hosting the visit was FUW Glamorgan County Chairman Richard Walker, who farms in partnership with his wife Rachel Edwards-Walker at Flaxland farm, a 120 acre beef and sheep holding just outside of Barry, Glamorgan.

Speaking after the visit Richard Walker said: "We had a really good meeting with Jane Hutt and discussed the most critical farming matters. Top of our agenda was renewable energy and we have some concerns about the amount of solar panels in the area.

"The solar panels need to be in the right place of course, however the project needs to look at the wider area to see if there are any areas of unproductive land which could be utilised instead, or indeed the rooftops of industrial buildings, farm sheds or every new building development."

FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies said: "The production of renewable energy must be balanced with sustainable food production. This is especially important when considered alongside the Welsh Government's proposals that suggest every farm in Wales should have 10 per cent of tree cover.

"We'd like to see a holistic approach taken towards both renewable energy and tree planting that allows agriculture to become part of the solution to Climate change, without threatening our ability to produce food here in Wales."

Jane Hutt further heard how farmers in the area are engaging with local



From left, FUW Glamorgan County Chairman Richard Walker, Jane Hutt MS, FUW member Charlotte Llewellyn, FUW Deputy County Executive officer Gwent and Glamorgan Helen Thomas and FUW Senedd and Parliamentary Affairs Officer Libby Davies.

school children, promoting sustainable and nutritious food production in the county and across Wales.

FUW member Charlotte Llewellyn added: "We have already met with a few schools locally to highlight the benefits of a varied diet and showcasing how our food is produced in a sustainable manner that works with the environment in mind.

"We are now looking to build on this engagement programme and look forward to working with local producers to show the children what is grown in their area and how the different seasons affect what is available."

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Keeping children safe on farms

THE Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Great Britain's workplace regulator, says for some farmers the family home and the working farm are often side by side, though they should be regarded as separate.

Agriculture has one of the highest fatal injury rates of any industry in Great Britain but is the only high-risk industry that also sees children often present.

Children and young people up to the age of 18 are regularly killed and injured on farms. Eight children were killed on farms in the five years up to March.

HSE is reminding all adults working on farms that children and young people must be kept safe.

HSE's Acting Principal Inspector (Agriculture Sector) Wayne Owen said:

"The best way to ensure the safety of children is simply to keep them away from the working farm. Working farms are no place for children.

"But if children are

visiting the farm workplace, they must be kept away from higher risk areas such as operating machinery, slurry pits and bale stacks, and most importantly they should be with an adult who understands the risks on the farm and is not engaged in any work activity. Their sole focus should be on supervising the child.

"If older children are starting to help out on the farm, anything but the very simplest of tasks is likely to expose them to risk of injury or death and is unacceptable. In addition, all children should be under full supervision by an adult not engaged in any work activity. Children under 13 should not under any circumstances operate or ride on agricultural machinery - it is illegal - and children under 16 should not operate adult sized ATVs in the farm workplace.

"Where children over 13 are allowed to operate some machinery, this should only be allowed after careful risk assessment, while under close supervision, and crucially after the child has received appropriate and structured training."

The ways in which children and adults are killed on farms varies little from year to year. The most common causes of death and major injury in the last decade include being killed by moving vehicles, coming into contact with machinery while it is operating, falling from height, being killed by animals, and being struck by falling objects.



Agriculture is the only high-risk industry that also sees children often present

DNA project as another tool to combat livestock attacks welcomed

THE FUW has welcomed a pioneering project between North Wales police and a forensic research team at John Moores University which will aid in identifying best practice when collecting DNA samples from dog attacks on livestock.

The project began in 2021, when Rural Crime Team officers investigating dog attacks gathered samples from injured and deceased animals at crime scenes and sent these to researchers to isolate the DNA.

It is hoped that the results will enable police forces and forensic scientists to employ best DNA practice when dealing with livestock attacks under the new powers contained within the Kept Animals Bill.

Alongside other organisations, the FUW has long-campaigned for a strengthening of current legislation in order to improve both sheep and dog welfare. The Union therefore welcomed the new UK Kept Animals Bill which replaces the outdated and unfit 1953 Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act. The Bill is currently working its way through Parliament.

Dr Hazel Wright, FUW Senior Policy Officer, (pictured above right) said: "Devastating dog attacks on livestock continue despite numerous industry campaigns on this issue. This new Bill

represents years of work from numerous stakeholders including the NPCC Livestock Offences Group and the FUW.

"We have consistently called for legislation which is fit-for-purpose and we are pleased that the new Bill includes improved enforcement powers to allow police to enter suspect premises, seize and detain a dog and take samples for the purpose of collecting DNA evidence of an offence. This project provides the mechanism by which the regulatory powers may be realised at the ground level," she added.

RCT Officer and NPCC Secretary for Livestock Offences, Dave Allen said: "On average in North Wales there are around 120 dog attacks on livestock per year. Most of these are committed by dogs that have escaped from their homes and many of these incidents involve attacks on sheep.

"It's hoped that the new DNA powers and forensic techniques being researched in the project will allow for a direct comparison with a crime scene and a dog that may have been for example witnessed leaving the scene.

"Currently, under the 1953 Act, identifying the dog involved can be difficult in those circumstances so, over the last 12 months, RCT officers have collected a number of swab samples from livestock that have been attacked by dogs. However, these swabs are not currently admissible as evidence in court, as there is no such law in place yet.

"But by submitting them to the forensic research team they can hone techniques to isolate the canine DNA, which ultimately improves our chances of tracing the owners responsible. This could then provide the platform for science and police guidance to be in place when the new Act becomes law.

"This is an exciting project and one that hasn't been done anywhere else in the UK previously."

The second phase of the project aims to establish the best means for DNA extraction from livestock.



Warning over Acorn poisoning risk

THE FUW is warning its membership to be aware of acorn poisoning in sheep and cattle following several reports of recent stock losses.

According to NADIS, acorn poisoning is one of the most common causes of plant poisoning amongst cattle and sheep. The problem can be exacerbated as the poorer autumn weather continues and stronger winds and gales are forecast.

Clinical signs include depression, rapid weight loss, tiredness, vomiting and diarrhoea. If eaten in sufficient quantities, acorns can cause birth defects in pregnant cattle. The tannins in acorns are known to damage the kidneys, and the majority of deaths associated with acorn poisoning are due to kidney failure.

Prognosis for acorn poisoning is generally poor and treatment costs are generally prohibitive. Anticipating outbreaks by fencing off oak trees and removing cattle from pasture with acorns following heavy storms or heavy acorn falls remain the best course of action to avoid losses caused by poisoning.

Where poisoning is suspected, animals should be removed from the source as soon as possible and veterinary advice sought.

Prognosis for acorn poisoning is generally poor and treatment costs are generally prohibitive



Rural Crime Team officers attending a recent workshop led by molecular forensics specialists, Dr Nick Dawnay and Dr Suzanne McColl from LJMU.

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Setting boundaries to prevent burnout

by Elen Gwen Williams, Charity Marketing & Engagement Assistant, The DPJ Foundation

AS we head into the busy months of Winter, we need to make sure that we are setting boundaries in our lives to maintain our mental well-being and prevent burnout. So, let's talk about taking breaks, not the easiest thing to do when you live and work on a farm, but it's so important.

Feeling like you haven't got enough energy to get through the day no matter how much sleep you get? Getting angry and snappy easily with others? Feeling overwhelmed at small inconveniences? Don't want to get out of bed and face the day? Having little or no motivation to get things done? These can be a sign of burnout, where you feel like you just can't carry on. When you feel like this, a day off is so important for our mental health.

Try and avoid unhealthy tools like comfort eating or alcohol, instead take a break, if this isn't possible talk to someone, ask for help. Here are some tips for you during busy times of year that will help.

- **Get enough sleep** - We all need good quality sleep, but it can sometimes be hard to get. Not getting enough sleep can have a massive affect on our daily life and work. Ensure that your body and mind can recharge, take a nap, go to bed earlier, switch off the tech and avoid high adrenaline viewing before bed. Visit www.thesleepcharity.org.uk/ for more tips.



- **Build in Breaks** - Make sure you take breaks... A day off when you're heading for burnout is really important, time to switch off and rest. Even if you can only start work later or finish earlier, just make sure you take a break. If you have a day where work on the farm can wait, go from the farm, do something you enjoy doing, something as simple as visiting a friend can make a huge difference.

- **Evaluate options** - Think of something that can be changed/adjusted in your life or on the farm. Can you ask someone to help you out? If you are finding it hard to cope with the pressure of farm work, there is help out there. If you give us a call we can help and we can refer you onto other charities such as Tir Dewi, FCN and RABI.

DPJ Foundation Winter Ball

We are really excited to bring you not one but two Balls this Winter. We would love you to join us and celebrate the DPJ Foundation marking the end of another year working with Welsh Farmers to improve mental health and wellbeing. This is a chance to come together over good food whilst raising awareness and funds and to help us continue our work.

The South Wales Winter Ball will be held at Wolfscastle Country Hotel, Haverfordwest on November 19. Join us for a delicious 3 course dinner and entertainment which will be provided by the excellent Connections band. Tickets are £40.

The North Wales Winter Ball will be held on December 10 at Woodlands Hall Hotel in Edern, Pwllheli. Enjoy a lovely Christmas 3 course dinner and entertainment from the 'Magee Brothers'. Tickets are £35.

To book tickets for either or both events, head over to www.thedpjfoundation.co.uk/support-us/

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Grand Summer Raffle winner

This year we had an amazing grand summer raffle prize, a Fordson Super Dexta Tractor. The raffle was drawn on October 14 in Carmarthen Market and the lucky winner is Mark Doughty with ticket number 01529 that he bought at the Gower Show. Huge congratulations to Mark!

Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket online or in shows and events, the money will go towards helping us continue to support mental health in agriculture in our rural communities in Wales. Diolch o galon.

NEWYDDION O'R SIR / FUW COUNTY NEWS

ANGLESEY

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Ymweliad â fferm Hendre

Yn ddiweddar, cafodd Ysgol y Graig gyfle i ymweld â fferm Hendre, Tregaian. Roedd yn gyfle i'r plant ddyysgu sut mae llaeth yn cael ei gynhyrchu, a'r holl gynnyrch maethlon, naturiol ac iach sydd yn dod o lefrith. Diolch arbennig i Eurig Jones a'r teulu am eu cefnogaeth a'i hamser ac i staff yr Ysgol am roi cyfle i'r disgyblion ymweld â'r fferm. Diolch yn fawr iawn hefyd i gwmni Llaeth y Llan am gyfrannu'r potiau iogwrt i'r plant. Roedd yn brofiad gwych iddynt.

Recently Ysgol y Graig had the opportunity to visit Hendre farm, Tregaian. It was an opportunity for the children to learn how milk is produced, and about the nutritious, natural and healthy products that come from milk. Thank you to Eurig Jones and the family for their support and time and to the staff of the school for giving the pupils the opportunity to visit the farm. A big thank you also to Llaeth y Llan for donating pots of yoghurt to the children. It was a great experience for them.



Rhai o ddisgyblion yr Ysgol gyda Eurig y ffermwr a Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol Heledd Williams.

CAERNARFON

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Mis prysur o gyfarfodydd

Cafwyd mis prysur yn Sir Gaernarfon gyda chyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Gwaith yn cael ei gynnal yng nghwmni John Richards o Hybu Cig Cymru. Hefyd cynhaliwyd cyfarfodydd o ddwy gangen sef Cangen Dyffryn Conwy ac Uwch Aled a Changen Sarn.

Mynychodd Uwch Swyddog Polisi a Chyfathrebu UAC Gareth Parry cyfarfod Cangen Dyffryn Conwy ac Uwch Aled a bu Swyddog Polisi UAC Teleri Fielden yng nghyfarfod Sarn i roi cyflwyniad ar y ddogfen drafod Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy. Cafwyd trafodaeth fywiog ym mhob un o'r cyfarfodydd gyda nifer yn mynegi pryder am rai o amodau'r Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy.

Erbyn i chi ddarllen yr erthygl yma byddwn wedi cynnal dau gyfarfod cangen arall sef Prenteg ac Y Ffor, ac atgoffwn chi y byddwn yn cynnal cyfarfod o Gangen Dyffryn Ogwen ar nos Fercher y 9fed o Dachwedd, a changen Glynllifon ar nos Fercher yr 16eg o Dachwedd.

Byddwn wedyn ar ddiwrnod ola'r mis yn cynnal ein Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynnyddol yng Nghlwb Golf Caernarfon, a bydd croeso i holl aelodau'r sir.



Cyfarfod cangen Dyffryn Conwy ac Uwch Aled.

It's been a busy month in Caernarfonshire with a meeting of the Executive Committee held in the company of John Richards from Hybu Cig Cymru. There were also meetings of two branches, Dyffryn Conwy and Uwch Aled Branch and Sarn Branch. FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer Gareth Parry attended the Dyffryn Conwy and Uwch Aled branch meeting and FUW Policy

Officer Teleri Fielden attended the Sarn branch meeting to give a presentation on the Sustainable Farming Scheme consultation document. There was lively discussion at each of the meetings with many expressing concern about some of the conditions of the Sustainable Farming Scheme. By the time you read this article we will have held two other branch meetings namely Prenteg and Y Ffor, and we remind you that we will be holding a meeting of the Dyffryn Ogwen Branch on Wednesday November 9, and Glynllifon Branch on Wednesday November 16. On the last day of the month we will be holding our AGM at Caernarfon Golf Club, all members of the county are welcome.

BRECON & RADNOR

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Farm visit with local MP

Members recently enjoyed a farm visit with Fay Jones MP, hosted by FUW Farmer Director Darren Williams and his wife Rachel.

We discussed issues including tax benefits to enable young farmers to begin farming, bovine TB, trade deals, tree planting and biodiversity. We also highlighted various local issues including the designation of the Cambrian Mountains AONB, the Sustainable Farming Scheme Proposals and the disposal of County Council farms by Powys.

Thank you very much to Darren and Rachel for hosting and to the members who ensured we had a lively debate with our MP.



Fay Jones MP with Union staff and Brecon and Radnor members.

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GLAMORGAN & GWENT

gwent@fuw.org.uk / 01873 853280

Donation to Choir

After a successful fundraising evening in July, FUW Glamorgan have donated £140 to Ebbw Vale Male Voice Choir who performed on the evening of the event.

The evening was enjoyed by members and non members alike, with a BBQ and refreshments. FUW Gwent and Glamorgan County Executive Officer Sharon Pritchard said: "What an amazing night, to be able to have these 'get togethers' again is fantastic. We are so thankful to the choir for such a brilliant performance and making our evening complete."

MEIRIONNYDD

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Ymweliadau ffermydd Meirionnydd

Treuliodd prynhawn diddorol dros ben ynghanol mis Hydref yn ymweld â rhai aelodau yn ardal y Bala gyda Llywydd yr Undeb Glyn Roberts, ynghyd a staff a swyddogion Meirionnydd.

Cafwyd croeso cynnes iawn ymhobman, a thrafodaeth dda iawn ar bwysigrwydd sicrhau dyfodol cynaliadwy yn economaidd i'n ffermydd teuluol yn sgil y costau cynyddol, a'r newidiadau sydd ar y gweill i gymhorthdal fferm. Rhoddwyd pwysigrwydd ar weld cyfleoedd i'n pobl ifanc, ac olyniaeth ar ein ffermydd, a pharhau i bwysleisio cyfraniad amaeth i'r economi wledig, yr iaith a diwylliant.

Diolch yn fawr iawn i'r teuluoedd yn Maesgadfa a Pentre, Cwmtirmynach; a Brynbedwog Rhosygwaliau.

During mid October, a very interesting afternoon was spent visiting some members in the Bala area with Union President Glyn Roberts, together with Meirionnydd staff and officials. We received a very warm welcome everywhere, and there were some very good discussions on the importance of ensuring that we have an economically sustainable future for our family farms due to the increasing costs, and the planned changes to farm support. Opportunities for our young people are vitally important, as well as succession on our farms and the need to continue to emphasise the contribution of agriculture to the rural economy, the language and culture. Many thanks to the families in Maesgadfa and Pentre, Cwmtirmynach; and Brynbedwog Rhosygwaliau.



Iwan Williams yn croesawu rhai o'r criw i Maesgadfa.



Arfon Williams yn croesawu Llywydd UAC Glyn Roberts i Pentre, Cwmtirmynach.



O'r chwith, Glyn Roberts; Mark a Manon Jones; Llywydd Sirol Meirionnydd, Euros Puw a rhes flaen Llew, Noa a Miri Brynbedwog.

Cyfarfodydd Ardal

Dechreuwyd ar y gwaith o fynd oddi amgylch Meirionnydd yn cynnal cyfarfodydd ardal yn ystod yr wythnosau diwethaf. Daeth nifer dda i Llys Ednowain, Trawsfynydd i drafod y ddogfen ar y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy. Diolch arbennig i Gareth Parry, Uwch Swyddog Polisi a Chyfathrebu UAC am fod yn bresennol, ac i Rhys Williams, Gors, am gadeirio a gwneud llawer o'r gwaith trefnu ymlaen llaw.

Diolch yn fawr hefyd i Llinos Owen o elusen Tir Dewi a ddaeth atom i sôn am y syniad 'Ffrind Fferm', a threialu'r gwasanaeth yma gyda'r Undeb.

Hefyd trefnwyd cyfarfod i aelodau cylch Ardudwy, gyda nifer yn galw mewn i'r Caffi Cymunedol yn Nyffryn Ardudwy am sgwrs a phaned. Bu yn gyfle eto i drafod y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy newydd, a chyflwyno Heledd Williams, Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol sydd yn gweithio yn rhan amser ym Meirionnydd ar hyn o bryd.

Recently, we've started on the work of going around Meirionnydd holding district meetings. A good number of members came to Llys Ednowain, Trawsfynydd to discuss the Sustainable Farming Scheme document. Thank you to Gareth Parry, FUW Senior Policy and Communications Officer for attending, and to Rhys Williams, Gors, for chairing and undertaking a lot of preparation work beforehand. Thank you also to Llinos Owen from the Tir Dewi charity who attended to present the 'Farm Friend' idea, and to trial this service with the Union. A meeting was also organised for the members of the Ardudwy district, with many calling into the Community Cafe in Dyffryn Ardudwy for a chat and a cup of tea. It was another opportunity to discuss the new Sustainable Farming Scheme, and to introduce Heledd Williams, County Executive Officer who currently works part time in Meirionnydd.



Uwch Swyddog Polisi a Chyfathrebu UAC Gareth Parry (chwith), a Rhys Williams yng nghyfarfod Trawsfynydd.



Cyfarfod Ardudwy: O'r chwith, Swyddog Gweithredol Sirol Heledd Williams, Cadeirydd y Cylch Robert Wyn Evans a Gweithredwr Yswiriant Eirian Ll Hughes.

Cyfarfod Cylch Ffestiniog

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod i aelodau cylch Ffestiniog yn y Pengwern, Ffestiniog yng nghanol Hydref i drafod y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy newydd. Bu'n gyfarfod da iawn, a diolch arbennig i Teleri Fielden, Swyddog Polisi'r Undeb am sgwrs ddiddorol, ac i Bini Jones Tyisaf, Ffestiniog am Gadeirio.

Mid October, a meeting was held for members of the Ffestiniog district in Pengwern, Ffestiniog to discuss the new Sustainable Farming Scheme. It was a very good meeting, and many thanks to Teleri Fielden, the Union's Policy Officer for an interesting conversation, and to Bini Jones Tyisaf, Ffestiniog for Chairing.

MEIRIONNYDD

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Croeso cynnes yn Rhydyfen



Y teulu yn Rhydyfen, o'r chwith, Huw, Sioned, Osian a Geraint.

Diolch yn fawr iawn i deulu Rhydyfen, Arenig ger y Bala am y croeso cynnes gafwyd yno i'r ymweliad dechrau mis Hydref, ac am agor eu fferm i'r nifer fawr o wahoddedigion, cynrychiolwyr mudiadau a ffermwyr fu'n bresennol.

Roedd yn braf cydweithio efo FWAG Cymru unwaith eto yn trefnu'r achlysur, a oedd yn llwyddiant mawr. Diolch arbennig i Mabon ap Gwynfor AS Cymru a Liz Saville Roberts AS am ymuno gyda ni, i James Owen o Lywodraeth Cymru, a Glyn Roberts ein Llywydd Cenedlaethol.

Cafwyd trafodaeth wych ar y Cynllun Ffermio Cynaliadwy newydd, a nifer o faterion eraill. Roedd yn braf gweld nifer o ddisgyblion cwrs amaeth Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn yn bresennol, ac rydym yn diolch yn fawr iawn iddynt am ddod.

Diolch yn fawr hefyd i Edwin Jones ein Cadeirydd Sirol am arwain y diwrnod mor wych, hefyd Alun Cae Coch am ei gyflwyniad ar ddiogelwch fferm, a phawb fu'n cynorthwyo ymhob ffordd.



James Owen Llywodraeth Cymru yn annerch y gynulleidfa.

Many thanks to the Rhydyfen family, Arenig near Bala for the warm welcome received during a visit at the beginning of October, and for opening their farm to the large number of invitees, organisation representatives and farmers who attended. It was nice to collaborate with FWAG Cymru once again to organise the event, which was a great success. Thank you to Mabon ap Gwynfor MS and Liz Saville Roberts MP for joining us, James Owen from Welsh Government, and Glyn Roberts our President. There was an excellent discussion on the new Sustainable Farming Scheme, and a number of other issues. It was nice to see a number of pupils from Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn's agriculture course present. Many thanks also to Edwin Jones our County Chairman for chairing the day, and also Alun Cae Coch for his presentation on farm safety, and everyone who helped in any way.

Ymweld â chanolfan y Bwrdd Gwlân

Bu Huw Jones, Swyddog Sirol yn rhan o ymweliad â chanolfan y Bwrdd Gwlân yn Bradford yn ystod mis Medi, ac wedyn gyda'r 'Scouring Plant' gerllaw yn y ddinas. Hwn yw'r unig ganolfan 'glanhau' gwllân yn y Deyrnas Unedig, gyda llawer o wllân o gyfandir Ewrop yn dod yno.

Cafwyd diwrnod diddorol dros ben, a thrafodaethau buddiol iawn. Yn anffodus yr un yw'r stori gyda gwllân, sef fod deunyddiau synthetig yn tansilio ein cynnyrch, ond oleia mae yna ymdrechion gwych i geisio cynyddu'r pris i gynhyrchwyr, a chafwyd trafodaeth ar Ymchwil a Datblygu, Marchnata a Chyhoeddusrwydd a materion eraill.

Diolch arbennig i Gareth Jones a'i staff yn y Bwrdd Gwlân am y croeso, a Menter Môn a'r prosiect 'Gwnaed â Gwllân' am y trefniadau.

Huw Jones, County Executive Officer was part of a visit to the Wool Board centre in Bradford during September, which then went on to see the 'Scouring Plant' in the city nearby. This is the only wool 'cleaning' centre in the United Kingdom, with large amounts of wool coming there from Europe. It was an extremely interesting day with very beneficial discussions. Unfortunately it's the same old story with wool - that synthetic materials are undermining our products, but there are great efforts to try to increase the price for producers, and there was a discussion on Research and Development, Marketing and Publicity and other issues. Many thanks to Gareth Jones and his staff at the Wool Board for the welcome, and Menter Môn and the 'Made with Wool' project for the arrangements.



Cynrychiolwyr yr ymweliad.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE

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Montgomery YFC Field Day

The YFC Field Day ran over 2 days, firstly with the Stockjudging Competition on Sunday October 2 with the Dairy held at Pied House, Garthmyl by kind permission of the Jones Family and the Beef, Lambs & Breeding Ewes at Upper Bolbro, Abermule by kind permission of the Williams Family.

We had a jam packed schedule with an impressive turnout of members of all ages having a go and competing.

We then held our Field Day on Saturday October 8 at Llwynmadoc, Abermule by kind permission of the Humphreys family. The sun was shining and the clubs were out in force, with a range of competitions that included Pumpkin Carving, Auctioneering, Fencing, Metalwork, Farm Machinery Skills and that was just to name a few! It was a great day and enjoyed by all.

A massive congratulations to Tregynon YFC and Dyffryn Tanat YFC who came joint winners!



Joint Winners of the Field Day 2022: From left, Chairman Dyffryn Tanat YFC, Dyfan Breeze; Field Day Chairman Tregynon YFC Elin Orrells and Chairman Tregynon YFC Mabl Johnson.

PEMBROKESHIRE

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01437 762913

'Food Story' welcomes 1,000 school children



Pembrokeshire FUW Chairman, Mike Kurtz, spent an enjoyable two days during October demonstrating the milling of wheat to over 1,000 children from primary and secondary schools across Pembrokeshire at the first ever 'Food Story' event organised by Pembrokeshire Agricultural Society President Mansel Raymond, his wife Ros and Kath Wilson.

The event aimed to teach local children more about where their food comes from, the benefits of a strong and vibrant agricultural industry and potential future career opportunities. The event was run by farmer volunteers, with support from agricultural organisations including FUW.

Stalls showcased the nutritional benefits of local produce, from honey to

vegetables, agricultural machinery, animal husbandry, and followed the story of food from seed to harvest.

The event provided a fantastic opportunity to welcome the farmers and consumers of the future, who took a keen interest in how their food was produced. The more young people learn about where their food comes from, the impact that climate and weather have on production, then the more likely they are to support the Welsh agricultural industry and buy local produce.

Mike is now looking forward to helping the event grow in the future so more young people can have the opportunity to discover the story behind their food.

200+ Club winners

The winners of our latest 200+ Club quarterly draw are:

£60 - Belton, Headlands

£30 - Griffiths, Penlan

£20 - Thomas, Llannoy

If you're interested in joining the 200+ Club or would like an extra number for only £5 per year contact us in the county office

Landowners and occupiers responsibilities for trees bordering the access network

UNDER Section 154(1) of the Highways Act 1980, landowners and occupiers of land are required to cut back vegetation on trees, shrubs, or hedges that overhang the access network so that they do not endanger the passage of vehicles, pedestrians or horse riders. This applies to roads, footpaths but also to paths within areas to which the public has access to.

Similarly, under section (2) of the Highways Act 1980, a landowner or land manager may be served notice to remove any hedge, tree or shrub which is dead, diseased, damaged or insecurely rooted.

If the work to remove hedges, trees or shrubs is not carried out and it is likely to obstruct or cause danger by falling on users of the network, then local authorities may serve notice for the work to be completed within 14 days. Failure to comply with the notice within the 14 day period can lead to the local authority completing the work and seeking to recover reasonable costs from the land owner/manager.

Farmers are also required to adhere to other rules and regulations regarding the maintenance of tree, hedge and shrubs. These include the maintenance of landscape features found under cross compliance rules (GAEC7) which state no trees can be cut or trimmed during the bird rearing and nesting season; March 1 to August 31. However, this is not the case if:

- The hedgerow or tree overhangs a highway, road, track or footpath to which the public have access, and the work is necessary because the overhanging vegetation
- Obstructs the passage of vehicles or pedestrians
- Obstructs the view of drivers, or the light from a public lamp
- Is a danger to horse-riders
- The hedgerow or tree needs to be cut or trimmed because it is dead, diseased or damaged or insecurely rooted, and is therefore likely to cause danger by falling onto a highway, road or footpath.

A landowner or land manager may be served notice to remove any hedge, tree or shrub which is dead, diseased, damaged or insecurely rooted

Felling infected ash and other diseased trees

Chalara dieback of ash, which is caused by the pathogen *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, is a serious disease of ash which frequently kills young ash trees and can seriously weaken older ash trees over time.

If trees on your land or managed by you become infected then you will need to consider public safety and monitor your trees, particularly in areas with high levels of public access.

Whilst managing diseased ash dieback trees there is the potential for death or injury as a result of accidents, both to professionals working on trees and to the general public, with increased liabilities in cases of death or injury.

An exemption to the felling licence may be applied to felling a diseased tree but only if the danger is real rather than perceived. Evidence may be required to support this level of danger if an exemption is claimed.

Should a tree felling licence be required, you can apply for a felling licence from Natural Resources Wales.



Welsh National Hedging society

by Carwyn Jones



HEDGEROWS in Wales are in serious need of regeneration. The best method to create new growth, although time consuming, is to lay and plant any gaps, and then to double fence and protect from livestock. This creates a strong, dense hedge where small birds can escape predators, build nests and rare their young, and small mammals can thrive in the undergrowth.

We are hoping to start a Welsh National Hedging society where free tuition will be offered to enthusiastic students.

Please contact Carwyn Jones 01691 648224 or Cyril Gethin 01686 430671 for more information - company of Hafren Hedging Society.

Farmers Marts looking for new CEO

HAVING served Farmers Marts over the last 8 years, the Board of Directors are now starting a process of finding a replacement to the current CEO, Rhys Davies, who is moving onto a new opportunity as Estate and General Manager for Lord Newborough at Rhug Estate, Corwen.

He leaves the company in a strong financial position, with the last two financial years being amongst the best ever for Farmers Marts.

Farmers Marts Dolgellau have over the last 2 years become to be the world leaders in the sale of sheepdogs online. From not having sold a sheepdog at an auction for 40 years, the establishment of the online sales during the covid restrictions in 2020 has seen Farmers Marts having the largest throughput of sheepdogs in the UK.

This has been a huge benefit to the business, with new buyers of store stock also secured on the back of the success of the online sales. Under the leadership of Rhys Davies they have diversified their income streams with an increase in targeted professional Valuation, Land and Estate Agency work undertaken as well as having secured framework agreements to undertake work for various public and third sector organisations.

The Board stated, Rhys has contributed so much to the development of the company over the last 8 years. Like every business, we had to make a number of changes during that period, but with his proactive management as now evidenced, the platform is set for us to continue with the progress made and this is a great opportunity for a new CEO to take up the reins for the next period for the Company.

For further details contact Rhys Davies on: rhys@farmersmarts.co.uk or 07773 484190.



Gweminar Ymwybyddiaeth Menopos Menopause Awareness Webinar

Os wnaethoch chi gollir'r weminar gallwch wyllo eto - dolenni isod
If you missed the webinar you can watch again - links below



Caroline Harris ASJMP
Aelod Seneddol Dwyreiniol Abertawe
Member of Parliament for Swansea East



Kay Helyar
Rheolwr Hyfforddiant Sefydliad DP3
DP3 Foundation Training Manager



Corrina Oakham
Rheolwr Marchnata Digidol Wynnstay
Agricultural Supplies Ltd
Digital Marketing Manager



Rachel Hubbard
Athrawes ymarfer corff
Exercise teacher

YouTube - <http://ow.ly/2oLi50LcYES>
FUW website - <http://ow.ly/yqh950LcYER>

MEAT MATTERS

Growing our red meat brands in key markets

by Laura Pickup, Head of Strategic Marketing and Connections, Hybu Cig Cymru/Meat Promotion Wales

INTERNATIONAL trade has long been vitally important to the Welsh red meat industry. It helps us to achieve carcase balance, and gain the best returns through seasonal peaks and troughs of production.

Now, as the cost of living puts pressure on our domestic retail and foodservice markets, we can see the crucial role that exports play. In 2022 so far, we have already seen a 22% increase of exports of Welsh Lamb to Europe compared to last year, with a major increase in the beef trade too.

Our European neighbours are our longest-standing partners. During the Brexit transition we maintained close links with our European customers, and now as we move into a new trading landscape, we are seeing positive results.

The recent SIAL fair in October - one of the world's biggest food trade events - was an excellent opportunity to see many customers face to face for the first time since before the Covid pandemic.

During a very busy week a large number of



meetings were held on the HCC stand between processors and customers, Welsh meat featured in a dinner at the British Embassy, and HCC's Chair Catherine Smith hosted a reception for trade leaders and journalists at which she emphasised the strong sustainability story behind our farming methods.

Alongside our European trade, we're delighted that trade figures for the first half of this year show an incredible 227% increase in exports to new markets.

Work is being intensified to grow our brand in promising regions such as the Middle East. The FIFA World Cup of course offers a golden opportunity; HCC and the Welsh Government are working together on a programme of promotion, including a trade event in Qatar in October which had Welsh Lamb as its centrepiece, and new marketing initiatives in Dubai later in the year.

Also, this autumn has seen the resumption of lamb exports to the USA after twenty years when UK lamb was excluded from that market.

It was HCC and Welsh processors who started knocking on the door of the US Government to try to lift these restrictions over a decade ago. It's only fitting, therefore, that the first shipment from these shores in 2022 came from Wales.

Roedd y ffair SIAL ym mis Hydref - un o ddigwyddiadau masnach bwyd mwyaf y byd - yn gyfle gwych i weld llawer o gwsmeriaid wyneb yn wyneb am y tro cyntaf ers cyn y pandemig Covid. Yn ystod wythnos brysur iawn cynhaliwyd nifer fawr o gyfarfodydd ar stondin HCC rhwng proseswyr a chwsmeriaid ac roedd cig o Gymru yn rhan o ginio Llysgenhadaeth Prydain.

PROPERTY MATTERS

Hedgerow removal

by Kathryn Williams, Director, Davis Meade Property Consultants

A COUNTRYSIDE hedgerow is a boundary line of bushes which can include trees. A hedgerow is protected, meaning you cannot remove it, if it meets the following criteria for:

- length
- location
- 'importance'

Length

A hedgerow is protected if it's:

- more than 20m long with gaps of 20m or less in its length
- less than 20m long, but meets another hedge at each end

Location

A hedgerow is protected if it's on or next to:

- land used for agriculture or forestry
- land used for breeding or keeping horses, ponies or donkeys
- common land
- a village green
- a site of special scientific interest
- a protected European site such as a special area of conservation or special protection area
- a local or national nature reserve
- land belonging to the state

A hedgerow is not protected if it's in, or marks the boundary of, a private garden.

'Importance'

A hedgerow is important, and is protected, if it's at least 30 years old and meets at least one of these criteria:

- marks all or part of a parish boundary that existed before 1850
- contains an archaeological feature such as a scheduled monument
- is completely or partly in or next to an archaeological site listed on a Historic Environment Record (HER), (formerly a Sites and Monuments Record)
- marks the boundary of an estate or manor or looks to be related to any building or other feature that's part of the estate or manor that existed before 1600
- is part of a field system or looks to be related to any building or other feature associated with the field system that existed before 1845 - you can check the County Records Office for this information
- contains protected species listed in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- contains species that are endangered, vulnerable and rare and identified in the British Red Data books
- includes woody species and associated features as specified in Schedule 1, Part II Criteria, paragraph 7(1) of the Hedgerow Regulations - the number of woody species needed to meet the criteria is one less in northern counties

You can only remove the hedgerow if:

- it's less than 30 years old
- you're the owner, tenant or manager of the hedgerow
- you're a utility company that's eligible to remove it

You should discuss your proposal to remove a hedgerow with the local planning authority (LPA) first to make sure it's legal to do so.

For further information or for assistance with a hedgerow removal application please contact Kathryn Williams - kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com / 07971 583638.

Llinell ffin o lwyni a all gynnwys coed yw gwrych cefn gwlad. Mae gwrych wedi'i warchod, sy'n golygu na allwch ei dynnu, os yw'n bodloni meini prawf penodol. Am ragor o wybodaeth neu am gymorth gyda chais i gael gwared â gwrych, cysylltwch â Kathryn Williams - kathrynwilliams@dmpcuk.com / 07971 583638.

MERCHED MEWN AMAETH

Edrych ymlaen i'r Ffair Aeaf

gan Tegwen Morris, Cyfarwyddwraig Cenedlaethol, Merched y Wawr

MAE lliwiau'r Hydref yn ogoneddus ar draws Cymru a'r tymor o gyfeillgarwch a diolchgarwch ar eu gorau. Mae rhoddion o afalau a ffrwythau a llysiau yn cael eu trosglwyddo o un i'r llall a'r dudalen Curo'r Corona'n Coginio yn llawn syniadau gwych.

Diolchwn i Elin Angharad am ei gwaith gyda chylchgrawn Y Wawr dros y blynyddoedd ac os nad ydych wedi darllen y cylchgrawn mynnwch gopi o'ch siop lyfrau lleol.

Rydym yn annog pawb i rannu syniadau am arbed arian, arbed ynni a rhannu arferion da trwy ein cyfryngau cymdeithasol ac ar ein gwefan.

Rydym yn gyffrous iawn y bydd ein cwis cenedlaethol yn dychwelyd ar 11 Tachwedd mewn 14 o leoliadau ar draws Cymru.

Mae ymateb arbennig wedi bod i gystadlaethau'r Ffair Aeaf ac edrychwn ymlaen yn fawr i gael croesawu pawb ddiwedd y mis i weld ein sêr, cwningod ac ysgyfarnogod, eitemau Nadoligaidd a chacennau i unigolyn wedi eu haddurno.

Edrychwn ymlaen felly i groesawu a sgwrsio a mwynhau cwmni ein gilydd yn y Ffair Aeaf yn Llanelwedd. Cofiwch fod yna groeso i bawb alw draw am sgwrs a chael cyfle i roi'r byd yn ei le.

Merched y Wawr warmly invites everyone to their stand at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair at the end of the month for a catch-up and a chance to socialise.





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uk@econergytech.com ○ **07717 531378** ○ **www.econergytech.com**



Travel the world with Wales YFC

by Ella Jones, Wales YFC Marketing and Communications officer



Members on the European Interailing Trip.

THE 2021-2022 International Calendar was jam-packed, with a wide range of trips on offer, from interailing and sailing to safaris and European Rally's, there's something for everyone in our international programme!

European Interailing

Nine members from our Organisation went on an Interailing trip around Europe for two weeks, travelling by train from city to city. Sioned Davies, Ceredigion YFC, has said: "We saw many landmarks, tasted different foods, and enjoyed the culture. It was an unforgettable trip, and the crew encourages members of the organisation to apply for the international opportunities that the movement offers."



Sioned Davies, Brecknock YFC, on her travels in Colorado.

Ohio & Colorado

Three members headed to USA, with Alaw Rees, Ceredigion YFC, and Martha Morse, Ceredigion YFC, heading to Ohio, where they stayed with different host families across the state, each providing completely different experiences. Alaw, said in a review of the Ohio trip: "I learned a lot about

American and Venezuelan culture, food, and history, and I will forever cherish the friendships and memories I made."

Meanwhile, Sioned Davies, Brecknock YFC, has just concluded her three month trip in Colorado, she told Wales YFC: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience and can't believe the trip has come to an end!"

Sailing Challenge

The 5 day voyage started in Penarth Marina Cardiff and the 6 teenagers from Wales YFC aged 16-19 years old undertook all tasks from cooking, cleaning, sailing and navigating in pairs. It was a character building experience, whereby you were expected to work as a team and follow instructions from the skipper and the professional sailing team. It really was a great start for young people who are beginning their travelling voyages.

Safari Trip, South Africa

This summer, 20 of our members embarked on a 'once in a lifetime' safari in South Africa. The members climbed mountains, ate local cuisine, went on a helicopter ride and woke up to some zebras! Elin Lewis, Montgomery YFC, told Wales YFC: "Never have I had a more jam-packed 12 days, but never before has a series of 12 days been so unforgettable! South Africa, Cape Town, Kruger National Park, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Victoria Falls, Chobe, Botswana - just a few of the sights I was lucky enough to see on 12 days of travelling to South Africa with Wales YFC."

The Wales YFC International Programme offers unforgettable experiences for members to travel the world and learn about different cultures and life in other countries. You can travel as an individual, as a pair or even as a group! It is a fantastic opportunity to learn about cultures, explore new experiences, gain confidence and make friends for life!

To read more of our International Blogs, visit our website. To keep up-to-date with news and developments within Wales YFC, follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.



Wales YFC members on their travels in South Africa.

Silicates and carbon dioxide capture: Just add water

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

SILICATE rocks make up most of the earth's crust and are made of silicate groups containing silica (Si). Naturally, these rocks play an important role in the inorganic carbon cycle where they undergo reactions along with water (H₂O) and atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) to form basic (positively charged particles) cations.

These reactions draw down CO₂ from the atmosphere and can act to store it in both soils and oceans which are the two major carbon sinks. A relatively new strategy under discussion with regards to hitting net-zero carbon targets and mitigating agricultural environmental emissions is focusing on using this pathway.

Silicate minerals ground finely and applied to agricultural soils may help to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere. If strategies lead to silicate weathering products reaching the ocean, the suggested storage timescale for that carbon is thousands if not hundreds of thousands of years. Combined with this, silicate weathering can also act as a liming agent reducing the acidity of soils which can be an issue for soil health and ecosystems on intensive production lands.

The chemical elements within silicate minerals also include plant productive nutrients such as phosphorous (P), potassium (K), Si and calcium (Ca). All of this suggests that applying silicate minerals, such as basalt, onto agricultural lands should reduce carbon footprints, reduce acidification, thus reducing the need for lime and reducing fertiliser requirements, emissions and input costs associated with these.

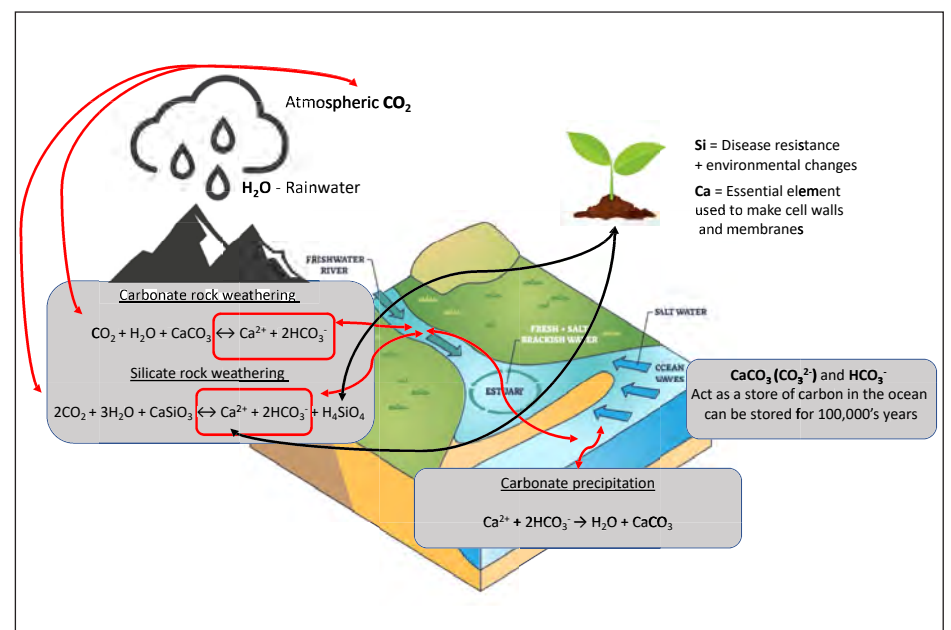
This offers promising potential for debate of use within agriculture but also currently requires some consideration surrounding unknowns and uncertainties. Similar to lime, silicates could play downstream roles in long-term watercourse eutrophication and air, water and soil pollution impacts, all of which might skew ecosystem functionality and biodiversity.

Furthermore, to apply silicates at suggested functional levels, 40 tonnes per hectare, over 240 million tonnes would be required to cover the available croppable land in the UK. This would have environmental and economic costs associated with mining, processing/grinding and transporting across the food supply chain in the UK.

Some of these might be eased by utilising waste materials from construction and

demolition which are often silicate rich in nature and would work well with the increasing focus on sustainable circular supply system use across all sectors.

Recent research from the University of Sheffield has suggested both environmental and economic potential of this strategy both globally and within the UK.



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