

WALES FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS CLUBS



**RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUNDAY, 3 JULY 2022
WALES YFC CENTRE
10AM**

MINUTES

CHAIRMAN: Mr William Jones

VICE CHAIRMAN: Mr Dewi Davies

RA/28/2022

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The chair welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting.

RA/29/2022

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Hedd Pugh, Lewis Davies (Brecknock YFC), Rhodri Griffiths, Lolo Evans and Mark Nixon

RA/30/2022

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were circulated and agreed proposed as a true and accurate record.

Proposer : Clare James

Seconder : Sian Davies

RA/3/2022

ACTION POINTS AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The committee were informed that Elizabeth Swinney had left the Rural Affairs officer's post. The post has gone out to advertisement. In the interim Nia Haf will be responsible for monitoring the emails and sending all correspondence on to Caryl Haf, William Jones and Dewi Davies.

RA/32/2022

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

RA/33/2022

REVIEW OF EVENTS

1) Agri Eye Trip

The members present gave feedback in relation to the first Agri Eye Trip weekend to Scotland in May 2022. There were positive feedback and members on the trip will take responsibility for arranging the next trip in the absence of a Rural Affairs Officer.

RA/34/2022

RURAL AFFAIRS TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

1) **Study Tour** – The annual Rural Affairs trip was discussed, and the members were all eager to arrange a trip for October. It was suggested the trip should go to the Cumbria/Carlisle area and suggestions of farms and organisations to visit were:

- Lake view free range Egg Company
- Sion Morgan
- Tom Pemberton
- Roan Dairies
- Carlisle market
- Renewable energy
- HJ Lea oaks (Cheshire on the way up)
- Bodens
- Jenkinson Sawmill

The date suggested and agreed was 14th October until 16th of October. Leaving early on the 14th, and departing location tbc

RA/35/2022

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1) **Royal Welsh Show** - Menter Moch wish to announce the winner of the Menter Moch competition at the Royal Welsh during an Award Ceremony. It was discussed and agreed that the finalists in the 2022 Menter Moch initiative should be announced during the Tuesdays' award ceremony.

The Lamb from the Lamb initiative will be served at the Presidents lunch during the RWAS on Tuesday 19 July. A table has been reserved for the dinner and will include a mixture of lamb scheme members, representation from Dunbia and Sainsburys, Wales YFC CEO and Rural Affairs Committee Chairman and Vice-chairman as specified by Dunbia.

The FUW will hold a reception at 12noon on Monday 18th July for YFC members at the YFC Centre, invites will be circulated by Wales YFC on behalf of FUW.

It was questioned whether there would be an opportunity for a ministerial visit. It was noted that Lesley Griffiths would be present on the Monday and Victoria Jones (which has replaced Mark Alexander) on the Wednesday. It was agreed that a meeting should be had during show week. It was noted that Brecknock YFC was meeting with Mark Spencer (Fay Jones) at 11am on Monday.

RA/36/2022

WALES YFC PROJECTS

1) **Lamb Initiative** - The lamb scheme in partnership with Dunbia is approaching its 15th anniversary. To celebrate, Dunbia will be launching the 'Wales Innovation competition' later this year with more details and

a date to still be confirmed. The competition will run similarly to the one launched for the 10th year anniversary.

In the coming months, Dunbia will be launching its beef line, there is no plans currently to run any initiative with the YFC in the production of beef, though to celebrate Dunbia's beef launch and as a thank you to the YFC lamb producers, Dunbia will be providing a site tour which will be exclusive to active YFC lamb producers signed up to the lamb initiative. Dunbia will provide more details of this in the coming months once the beef line has been implemented.

Dunbia and Sainsbury's have partnered with MSD Animal health Vaccine to run a project on core vaccination. MSD are offering 4 YFC lamb suppliers the opportunity to be part of this project by providing the vaccination to the supplier's sheep flocks. This is an opportunity for the YFC suppliers to improve the health, welfare and efficiency of their flock with the support from the three partners.

Current YFC lamb initiative members have been contacted via the member's WhatsApp, group to inform them of the project and how to register for the Webinar which took place on Monday 27th June 2022.

The committee was also informed that the lamb initiative form was updated on the website.

2) **Meter Moch Cymru**

This is the final year in which Wales YFC members have had the opportunity to take part in the pig rearing competition due to government funding. The application deadline was extended by one week due to a very low number of applicants in the hope of gaining interest from more YFC members.

The competition was promoted on Wales YFC social media pages, YFC newsletter and information and material shared with counties and clubs.

It was noted in the last Winter Fair, there wasn't any buyers for the pigs and that the feedback should be taken back to Menter Moch. The prices of feed and situation of the pig industry may also have influenced the number of applicants. It was discussed the possibility of continuing with the initiative, and discussion was had regarding finding funding and running the competition from Wales YFC and looking into the opportunity to work with feed merchants and slaughterhouses. It was also noted the need to simplify the first stage of the application process to encourage more members to apply for the initiative. The members agreed that this should be looked into and discussed with Menter Moch Cymru. There might be an opportunity to discuss with Victoria Jones, Welsh Government.

Caryl Haf gave an update on the current meetings happening in conjunction with FUW and NFU Cymru with Lesley Griffiths' top table and the Welsh Government on financial support on carbon calculator trials etc, it was explained that a positive answer was received. It was also welcomed for Wales YFC members to be part of the initial trial.

There was a discussion regarding the Annual Conference which was suggested for September. It was proposed to postpone the event until the 2nd weekend in January as has happened in previous years. The locations suggested were Glynllifon or Llysfasi College or Rhug Estate. With the following speakers suggested:

- Emily Norton
- Llyr Derwydd
- Will Evans
- The Farmer where Glastonbury is hosted
- Tom Pemberton
- Nick Davies – 2 Sisters
- Theo – World Farmers’ Organisation
- Kenyan Pig Farmer.

There was also discussion regarding hosting an evening event following the conference. The event could include an evening meal and an opportunity for members to get together, and tickets to be sold and possibly sponsorship for the meal.

RA/37/2022

MEMBERS WELL-BEING

Caryl Haf gave an update on whats happening within Wales YFC and the upcoming projects in August. It was noted the importance of ensuring that there were plenty of information and posters regarding mental health charities eg The DPJ Foundation was available around the place.

There was also a discussion regarding the members in Radnor which produce a podcast, and the committee suggested asking whether there could be an episode with Wales YFC members.

RA/38/2022

AGENDA ITEMS & DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Sunday 18th September, Saturday 21st January and Sunday 11th June. The trip, lamb initiative and RA conference should be discussed in the next meeting.

RA/39/2022

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was mention of the Agricultural Bill which is meant to be announced on 6th of July. This could be a discussion with ministers at the Show and a zoom meeting prior to understand what is needed to discuss.

Welsh Waters’ project with Wales YFC has been re-launched and requires 2 individuals to go on work experience.

It was also questioned whether there had been any update on the stockjudging book which was discussed to be re-designed and produced.

