

CYMRU WALES

NEWSLETTER

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MEAT PROMOTION WALES

NEWSLETTER
PRODUCED WITH THE
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A NATIONAL SHEEP ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION

Chairman's Welcome

Kate Hovers

It has been an eventful year with our very successful Welsh Sheep event being the highlight. We have fed into numerous meetings and consultations and continue to be frustrated by lack of clarity on future funding and particularly the habitat scheme, as discussed in this newsletter.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and look forward to meeting members at our meeting on 7th November and/or the Welsh Winter Fair.

As always, if you have any opinions or questions, please contact us.

I sometimes read questions on social media about "what are the unions and other bodies doing to represent farmers?". I can assure you that NSA as a whole and NSA Cymru in Wales spend a lot of time representing sheep farmers in meetings or replying to consultations. I would like to thank Helen Roberts for the sterling work she always does for the NSA and all sheep farmers in Wales.



Kate Hovers
Chair & Trustee



Caryl Hughes
Vice Chair & Trustee



Helen Roberts
Development Officer



Tim Ward
Treasurer & Trustee



John Lloyd
UK Policy & Tech Rep



Margaret Dalton
Finance & Scrutiny Rep



your business your future



2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

NSA Cymru Wales Committee Meeting

7th November

Open Meeting & Presentation

28th & 29th November

Royal Welsh Winter Fair

Farm walks and other events will be planned and publicised via the NSA website, NSA Sheep Farmer and social media.

Events: Contact Helen Roberts
helen@nationalsheep.org.uk
or call 07976 803066

Ram Sale: Contact Jane Smith
jane@nsaramsales.co.uk
01291 673939

NSA Cymru open meeting

Helen Roberts, NSA Cymru Development Officer

NSA Cymru is delighted to invite you to an open meeting on the 7th November at 3pm in the International Pavilion on the Royal Welsh Show Ground where Andrew Bronwin MSc MRICS MICFor from Bronwin & Abbey - Foresters and Surveyors will give a presentation 'Trees on farms – what's the harm?'

Andrew would like to focus on the commercial advantages tree planting can bring to farmers. It will be Farming and Forestry not Farming or Forestry. How the two enterprises can work to mutual advantage and not a threat to each other. Please note that Bronwin & Abbey is owned by the Velcourt Group which runs one of the largest farming businesses in the UK.

This will then be followed by a talk from Arfon Williams from the RSPB Cymru who will talk about the present and future relationship between the RSPB and farmers.

Farming and Nature and the work we are doing on our own land and also directly with farmers, to help secure a future where farmers are enabled (through support and markets) to produce food and look after nature, and in doing so secure environmental benefits for all of us. I'll also take some time to talk about how farming with nature can benefit farmers directly, including economically.

If you would like to attend the above please contact Helen Roberts via email helen@nationalsheep.org.uk this will also assist with catering.



NEWS FLASH

NSA Cymru will also be at the Welsh Winter fair 27th & 28th Nov where members and friends can come for refreshments and to discuss all things sheep. There will be some prize giveaways on the stand so please come and see as the prize maybe the Christmas present you were looking for.

Free Event: 7th November 2023 at 3:00pm

INTERNATIONAL PAVILION ON THE ROYAL WELSH SHOW GROUND
PRESENTATION FROM ANDREW BRONWIN, BROWNWIN & ABBEY ON TREE'S ON FARMS - WHAT'S THE HARM?
PRESENTATION FROM ARFON WILLIAMS, RSPB ON FARMING AND NATURE



Frustration over Welsh Habitat Scheme

Katie James, NSA Communications Manager

The National Sheep Association (NSA) is frustrated as the detail of the Welsh Government's Habitat Scheme has emerged revealing worrying inequalities for farmers seeking support to further their environmental work.

The interim scheme is intended to be a bridge between the existing Glastir Land Management Scheme and the Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) planned for 2025, but NSA is concerned it will lead to disparity between farmers in Wales.

NSA Chief Executive Phil Stocker says: "Farming businesses want a level of continuity and certainty so that long term decisions can be made – livestock farms even more so - due to their long production cycles. This Habitat scheme, if it is rolled out as intended, will seriously impact incomes on many farms that have previously been involved in the Glastir scheme with very little time to mitigate the impact of income loss.

"Due to it being a competitive application process, the fact that the budget will be tight, and applications invited from all farms in Wales, some farms may not even get access to the support at all. Quite what they are expected to do in this situation is bewildering and the uncertainty doesn't provide the equality that Welsh Government is claiming. The natural reaction of many will be to turn away from the risks, ditch their environmental work, and focus on farming and production, but for many upland farmers in particular those involved in environmental schemes, this won't be an option. It looks as though Welsh Government is taking advantage of the fact that many will have little choice but to take a financial hit for one or two years before the SFS becomes available".

Welsh Government officials have accepted farmers will be expected to

continue to deliver a similar level of environmental activity but will get limited reward but are balancing this reduction in support by saying all farmers will get the chance to apply.

Mr Stocker continues: "The impact of the short-term decisions and lack of planning time is ridiculous. It is especially concerning that Welsh Government still does not appreciate the nature of farming and the business planning needed years in advance. Farm businesses have adapted over years to either work within or outside of the Glastir scheme. Most will have settled on farming activities and /or environmental schemes that give them a level of viability. To disrupt this for one year seems crazy. NSA would have far preferred to continue with the status quo for a further year to allow an easing into the new SFS in 2025."

The Habitat scheme replaces Glastir, an environmental scheme that was funded through the EU but will now be funded by Government with an unknown budget. In 2025 the SFS will be funded by the money being removed from the Basic Payment Scheme.

NSA Cymru/Wales Development Officer Helen Roberts says: "It is especially worrying that the Habitat scheme may simply get absorbed into the SFS with a complete loss of the environmental budget with everything being funded through ex BPS funds. This is undervaluing the environment, our landscape, and rural communities, and ignoring the positive impact farming and land management has for the health and wellbeing of society.

“Having met with Welsh Government, it appears the scheme has been ill thought out and will pit farmers against each other and not bring them together to work as one for the environment, especially in the uplands. Welsh Government admits there have been errors with the initial mapping and although this has been rectified, farmers will not know this when applying as Welsh Government will update the claims as they are received, this still leaves room for error and farmers in the unknown which is just a ridiculous situation to be in.”



Sell out success for NSA Welsh Sheep

Helen Roberts, NSA Cymru Development Officer

NSA Welsh Sheep 23 was a sell out success. Thousands made their way from across Wales and all corners of the UK, to see the latest innovations, to learn a little, to do business and simply to get together in the early Summer sunshine.

The opening ceremony was distinguished by a rendition from Glandon Lewis, who opened the ceremony. He sang in Welsh in honour of the late Dai Jones Llanilar.

NSA Cymru Wales Chair Kate Hovers said: "It's been a perfect day. The event has been full of exhibitors and sponsors. The farm is fantastic, the grazing and stock are exceptional. The weather has been kind to us and Glandon's singing at the opening ceremony was something to remember.

"There was something for everyone and the visitors were coming in all day. We had a large number of school parties and it was such a good opportunity to get the positive farming message across."

Kate paid tribute to the hosts, Hugh and Sioned Owen with their son Dafydd, for the work they had put in to all the preparation, 'with always a smile on their faces'. She said Red House Farm, Aberhafesp, near Newtown, had been a perfect venue. Her thanks also went to all the sponsors, exhibitors and everyone who had made the event possible.

Sioned Owen said it had been 'a fabulous day, everything had gone to plan and the weather had been a huge help. They were overwhelmed by the turnout and even a cow unexpectedly calving in the field alongside the event had gone well, producing a fine Belgian Blue x Limousin heifer calf. Organiser Helen Roberts agreed: "It's been an absolutely fantastic day, with the crowd and the weather. Everyone has enjoyed meeting and greeting after the long hard winter."

NSA national Chairman Dan Phipps praised the 'tremendous amount of work that goes into setting up the spectacular event'. Opening NSA Welsh Sheep, Glandon Lewis a partner in Welsh Livestock Sales, said he was proud to represent the Livestock Auctioneers Association, as well as his fellow partners at Morris Marshall & Poole with Norman Lloyd. Referring to the beauty of our creation, he said: "If we want to keep this beauty, will the politicians in the Senedd in Cardiff and in Westminster please respect and protect our farming industry and support with encouragement our younger generation who are entering the industry. "We do not want this beauty to be turned into a wildlife park. The NSA





has also got 250 school pupils here today and it's fantastic they can see the importance and the reality of what farming is all about.

“We are the guardians of the land, but we are also the gardeners of the land producing food of the highest quality with passion to feed our nation.” Mr Lewis stressed that the livestock market has a very important place to claim in rural life. It is a social hub as well as a trading place, similar to a public house, rugby club, chapel or church where people can gather, talk and discuss life in general. It also generated competition for stock and would protect the younger generation going forward.

The seminars attracted packed audiences. Food for Thought examined the role of lamb and mutton in a balanced diet. It explored the facts that can dispel the myths around eating meat and how predominantly grass fed lamb and mutton can fit the healthy eating message.

The session on the sustainability of sheep farming discussed how Welsh farming had the chance to influence the future by evidencing and communicating the position. Sheep farming not only produces high quality food, but fits with other interests around land management such as carbon sequestration, the need to reduce emissions, nature recovery and providing access and well being.

The Looking after the Next Generation seminar stressed that enthusiastic and bright young farmers need security and support as well as the potential for viable and rewarding businesses and careers. It considered the further steps needed to further grow a positive recognition of sheep farmers.



NSA Welshsheep 2023 COMPETITION RESULTS

Best Trade Stand Competition

Sheep Breed Society

- 1st British Texel Sheep Society
- 2nd North Country Cheviot Sheep Society
- 3rd Welsh Hill Speckled Face Sheep Society

Indoor Trade Stands

- 1st Logie Durno Sheep, Inverurie
- 2nd Innovis
- 3rd Shearwell Data Ltd

Outdoor Trade Stands

- 1st Newtown College
- 2nd Charlies Stores/Charlies AG & Turf
- 3rd Ryan Martin Ltd

Wool On The Hoof

- 1st Welsh Mule Sheep Breeders' Association
- 2nd Cheviot Sheep Society
- 3rd Valais Blacknose Society

Welsh NSA Next Generation Young Shepherd of the Year Competition

Sponsored by the British Texel Sheep Society

- 1st Mena Protheroe, Llysfasai College, North Wales
- 2nd Gethin Rhys Roberts, Tan-Yr-Allt Farm, Llanfachraeth, Holyhead
- 3rd Jamie Farmer, Groesvaen, Painscastle, Builth Wells, Powys
- 4th Caryl Davies
- 5th Ynyr Siencyn, Tanrallt, Talybont
- 6th Euan Edmunds, The Beeches, Smithfield Terrace, Llanidloes, Powys

Highest placed under 21

- Mena Protheroe, Llysfasai College, North Wales



The production and consumption of Welsh red meat is crucially important to our ecology, economy and the communities that it supports. What's more, it is a nutritionally dense, quality food that can sustainably support the health and wellbeing of the people of Wales, the UK and beyond.

However, global red meat production systems are increasingly the subject of much negative publicity and misinformation, and the Welsh red meat industry risks being unfairly represented in this regard. Join HCC at its 2023 Annual Conference to celebrate the positive

contribution that the Welsh red meat industry can make, find out what HCC is doing to promote and defend our industry and learn how we must evolve in order to maintain our hard-fought position as one of the most sustainable red meat brands on the planet.

Cynhadledd Flynyddol HCC Annual Conference

**Dyfodol Cig Coch
(a Chymru ar flaen y gad)**

**The Future of Red Meat
(with Wales leading the way)**



20 mlynedd o HCC
20 years of HCC

Pryd: 3:00pm - 7:30pm **9 Tachwedd 2023**
Ble: Canolfan yr Aelodau, Maes y Sioe Frenhinol, Llanelwedd.

When: 3:00pm - 7:30pm **9 November 2023**
Where: Members' Centre, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells.

Ymunwch â ni i ddathlu cyfraniad y diwydiant cig coch yng Nghymru a thrafod sut i gynnal ei enw da fel un o sectorau mwyaf cynaliadwy'r byd.

Yn cynnwys:

- Prif siaradwr: Yr Athro Dr Peer Ederer. Gwyddonydd bwyd a da byw uchel ei barch ac arbenigwr ar rôl cig coch mewn cymdeithas. Un o gyd-sylfaenwyr y *Dublin Declaration*.
- Kantar Worldpanel: beth sy'n gyrru'r galw am gig coch a'r cyfleoedd i'r sector
- Gian Marco Currado: Cyfarwyddwr Materion Gwledig, Llywodraeth Cymru
- Panel o gynhyrchwyr cig coch
- Fforwm Holi Bwrdd HCC
- Pryd poeth



Join us to celebrate the red meat industry's contribution in Wales and discuss how to maintain its reputation as one of the world's most sustainable sectors.

Including:

- Keynote speaker: Professor Dr Peer Ederer. Internationally recognised global food and livestock scientist and expert in the role of red meat in society. A co-initiator of the *Dublin Declaration*.
- Kantar Worldpanel: consumer demand drivers and opportunities for red meat
- Gian Marco Currado: Director of Rural Affairs, Welsh Government
- Red Meat producers panel
- HCC Board Q&A
- A hot meal



Cysylltwch â HCC i gofrestru erbyn 6 Tachwedd | Contact HCC to register before 6 November
hybucig.cymru | meatpromotion.wales | info@hybucig.cymru | 01970 625050



Welsh Lamb Meat Quality Project

The Welsh Lamb Meat Quality Project has drawn to a close after 5 years of evidence gathering and consumer trials. Over the course of the project we have gained the opinion of 2,000 consumers of Welsh Lamb and how on-farm and processing factors can influence the eating experience.

Some of most significant findings were that grass-fed Welsh Lamb has higher values of Omega 3 and 6 fatty acids and contains higher level of essential amino acids. This is a great story for grass-fed Welsh Lamb and will be fed into HCC's health and education and marketing work going forward.

Furthermore, consumers found that breed had no bearing on taste or quality.

The individual trial reports and the summary project report can be found on the HCC website. A full project report will also be

available shortly: [Click Here to view](#) HCC have shared these results with processors and meat industry contacts to allow them to inform best-practice.

HCC are happy to present an results and details from this innovative project at groups or meetings to anyone interested. Please contact HCC for more information and to arrange a suitable date and location.

The Welsh Lamb Meat Quality Project was part of HCC's Red Meat Development Programme which was funded through the Welsh Government and EU Rural Development Fund.

We require your input for the ideas below:

If as a member of NSA Cymru you would like you to comment on where we best spend some of our funds which we have built up over the years. Please get in touch with either myself at helen@nationalsheep.org.uk or Kate Hovers kate@katehovers.com for further details on the proposals below. We feel as a region we have built up funds with your help and input so would like your ideas as to where to use these funds going forward. Some of our funds have been earmarked for the NSA Building at the Royal Welsh and the proposals below are over and above this.

Royal Welsh proposal from Sheep section

To extend the current Sheep Tower at the Royal Welsh to create an extra room and balcony area, where NSA Cymru, NSA Border Ram Sale could hold and host meetings, breed societies could hold meetings and sponsors could be looked after during the Royal Welsh Show. The new room could be named the NSA Cymru suite.

Centre for Regenerative Agriculture in the Uplands

Request for support from Phoenix Farming a newly formed Community Benefit Society (currently going through the process of registration) whose aim is to address the challenges facing farming in the uplands. This project involves the purchase of a farm and there will be a number of ways in which individuals or organisations can support the development of the Centre with the initial phase based around the fundraising campaign for the purchase of the farm. Options for funding include a loan to the project, purchasing shares and possible sponsorship.

National (Welsh) Sheep Disease Screening Scheme

An opportunity for stakeholders in Wales to work together and take some control of the health and welfare, and reputation of Welsh sheep.

Proposal

Currently, it can be difficult to test for several diseases in one go to provide results quickly and efficiently. The Wales Veterinary Science Centre (WVSC) has been discussing a relatively novel test with developers (MV Diagnostics Ltd & Enfer Group) about carrying out "multiplex" testing using their system. The proposal is asking for funding of equipment to perform the test and help towards a technician.

The Test

MV Diagnostics collaborated with Enfer Scientific to develop a multiplex diagnostic test (MVD-Enferplex kits). This kit will test for:

- Maedi Visna Virus (MV) / Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis Virus (CAE)
- Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA) caused by *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*
- Johne's disease caused by *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* (MAP)
- Border Disease Virus (BDV)

Example of this test procedure (without BDV) can be found here: [Click Here to view](#)

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Free prize draw open to all UK sheep farmers.* Enter online at www.nationalsheep.org.uk/draw

A National Sheep Association free prize draw, brought to you thanks to the generous support of Wise Agriculture.

Terms & conditions apply, see website.



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