



AGRI Steering Group – Saturday 21st February at 1.30pm Quality Hotel, Birmingham
Road, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9BA

Chairman: Russell Carrington (Herefordshire)

Vice-chairman: Lynsey Martin (Kent)

Present: Russell Carrington (Chairman [WM]); Lynsey Martin (Vice-Chairman [SE]); James Hutchinson (SW); Tom Wells (EM); Sam Dilcock (N); Kate Wainwright (EM); William Wright (EM); Carys Vaughan (W); Harriet Wilson (WM); Ed Ford (E);

Part Meeting: James Eckley (NFYFC CO); Hannah Talbot (NFYFC Vice-Chairman); Claire Worden (NFYFC Chairman); Chris Manley (Co-Option [SW]); Christina Evans (Fundraising Officer)

In attendance: Julia Pointon (NFYFC Vice Chairman BoM); Joanne Wyles (Agricultural and Rural Affairs Officer); Catherine Bennett (W); Emily Davies (W); Georgina Morris (WM); George Graham (SE); John Langworth (N); Charlotte Johnston (WM); Tom Wells (EM); Charlotte Middlebrook (N); Becky Heal (SW); Roy Boreham (E); Rebecca Kirk (UK Dairy Day); Rebecca Barningham (UK Dairy Day)

1. Welcome and introductions

RC welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. RC detailed the achievements of AGRI this year and also congratulated EF on his Farming Hero award.

2. Apologies for absence

Anthony Boesen, Caroline Trude, Duncan Howie

3. To confirm Minutes of previous meeting

RC signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true and accurate record

4. Elections

Hannah Talbot chaired the elections

Lynsey Martin was proposed as Chairman by Sam Dilcock and seconded by Ed Ford

Sam Dilcock was proposed as Vice Chairman by Harriet Wilson and seconded by James Hutchinson

Tom Wells was proposed as CLA rep by Harriet Wilson and was seconded by Sam Dilcock

Becky Heal was proposed as TRIG rep by Russell Carrington and seconded by Lynsey Martin

James Hutchinson was proposed as NFU rep by Sam Dilcock and seconded by Ed Ford

Tom Wells was proposed as a co-option by James Hutchinson and seconded by William Wright

Charlotte Johnston was proposed as a co-option by Lynsey Martin and seconded by Russell Carrington

Becky Heal was proposed as a co-option by James Hutchinson and seconded by Harriet Wilson

Action:

JW to inform industry bodies of change of reps

5. Financial Information – Additional Item

Hannah Talbot presented NFYFC budget information following the board meeting earlier that day. She explained that due to the lack of profit from HOPS NFYFC was faced with a budget deficit and the board had been tasked with making the balance sheets equal zero. For AGRI the recommendation from the board was to end CEJA membership as this was no longer sponsored and amounted to the total value of loss from AGRI.

Further discussion was held on the national budget and AGRI budget.

Christina Evans explained funding.

The committee agreed to give up CEJA membership this year but would continue to investigate ways to cover the costs.

The committee agreed CEJA membership was extremely important to NFYFC.

KW stated that in Derbyshire it had been said that there was not enough farming in young farmers.

It was also proposed to continue to have European reps and to attend non-CEJA European events where possible.

Action:

JW to inform CEJA and negotiate on membership fee

JW to investigate other ways of funding CEJA.

6. Additional items for the agenda

Additional items were received from Harriet Wilson, Kuhn, JW and LM

7. UK Dairy Day

Rebecca Barningham gave details on the background of UK Dairy Day and how successful the show was in 2014. The group was asked for feedback on the show and the plans for 2015. Many suggestions for workshops and exhibitors were received from the group.

8. Feedback from Area Reps

South West – JH discussed the training that had been going on in the SW that is well received.

Northern- SD reported that we need to look at the content of tenancy training. Cumbria hadn't been getting the information through about courses, Lancashire had done the milk tash challenge and were planning to take a milk float to Torquay.

Farming issues reported in the northern area are dog hassling and Chinese lanterns. They were not sure about making farming videos and also asked if CEJA was accessible to all members.

Wales – CV – they had not had a meeting since October due to EGM taking place due to loss of funding. They are faced with potential staff loss. Their AGRI Conference in December was successful with around 100 attending and they are hoping to do another. They are also looking at re-launching their joint opportunities platform, which is similar to the Matching Service and have held discussions with FUW and NFU about this. They are also now looking to set up a beef initiative with Sainsbury's as the lamb one had been such a success with 200 members and raising 40% per sale for Wales YFC and 10% for each county.

East Midlands – KW – members are attending events. There was a dairy meeting held at Bakewell which YFC members attended. They are keen on share farming training. They would get involved in videos if it was a competition or if someone came to film them. They would like a trip to agritechnica or to see some farming in the EU. The theme at the rally for Derbyshire is milk. Would also like bookkeeping training and are doing a milk fancy dress at Skegness.

South East – LM – They would like share farming training, have been participating in events to raise awareness of dairy industry, there is some interest in the succession training.

Eastern – Business training was well received in Essex and they have also done the milk tash challenge. Suggested doing a mass milk tash at convention. Hare coursing and quad bikes are a massive problem in Eastern area.

West Midlands – HW – reported there is no agrilinks person for Worcestershire. Staffordshire would like a meat for the market training session in their area and training on VAT returns. They said timing in March was bad due to being busy time of the year. There are some concerns over BPS and TTIP. They would like to do videos especially if it was a competition. Staffordshire are looking to set up an AGRI Forum. Herefordshire would like workshops on CAP.

Action:

JW to progress suggestions.

JW to ask more counties about AGRI Links.

9. Industry Representative reports

9.1. CLA – JW handed out and read the report in Duncan Howie's absence.

9.2. LEAF – LM reported that she was unable to attend the previous meeting due to it being moved.

9.3. TRIG – BH gave an explanation of TRIG and the activities over the past 12 months. Including that she had met George Eustice.

9.4. NFU – JH gave a details report of the last meeting and stated that NFU are keen to strengthen links with NFYFC and would like to come to the AGRI meeting. Meurig would also like to meet with NFYFC members.

10. AGRI Forum Update

JW confirmed the speakers as Sir Peter Kendall, Tom Rawson and James Price. That the hog roast was being booked but there was no sponsor for this as of yet. She also requested that members help on a stand at registration to promote the forum in addition to stewarding at the forum.

Action:

SG members to help out at event.

11. CEJA

CJ gave a report on CEJA and TTIP.

11.1. The group discussed concerns over TTIP, the CEJA position paper has already been submitted. The group were worried about the implications for the UK as there seems to be less benefit to the UK than some other European countries.

12. Matching Service

RC gave an update on the matching service as some discussions had been held with Alison Rickett of Bright Crop. CV suggested working with Wales on their service.

Action

JW to contact Sarah Price regarding Wales Joint Opportunities Platform.

13. Training and Events

JW gave a report on how the Defra training events had progressed since the last meeting. She reported these to be successful but there were still problems getting the information to members.

JW also reported that the Defra funding was very much under threat and that if courses weren't filled this would not help matters.

Future events were discussed including a trip to Agritechnica in November and a standalone AGRI Conference which people were charged to attend. CJ suggested holding this in the RASE building.

Action:

JW to investigate Agritechnica trip subject to Council approval.

JW to investigate standalone AGRI Conference.

14. Terms of Reference

JW handed out the terms of reference booklets for the group to read and suggested any amendments. No amendments were received.

15. AGRI Manifesto

JW and LM discussed the contents of the manifesto and recent updates and LMs plans for chairmanship.

These are:

1. Producing a resource for use in schools to promote agricultural careers.
2. Creating case studies and using videos to promote agricultural careers.
3. Further improving communication of the work of AGRI.

Action:

JW to send out final manifesto to group members.

16. Oxford Farming Conference and Oxford Real Farming Conference

RC reported on the ORFC and the sessions that he had organised.

GM reported on the mental health session at ORFC which she had spoken in.

CM reported on the debate which himself and CJ had taken part in and urged others to come forward for next year. Also reminded everyone of other sessions NFYFC members had participated in.

17. Dairy Crisis

The group discussed what they could do to help. Suggestions were to signpost for support to rural health organisations. Watch out for the effect on other industries. Promote on social media the effect it is happening. Milk Tash challenges. Work with Holstein Young Breeders.

18. AOB

18.1. Questions for Kuhn – The SG asked 1. Can we have a list of the dealerships for using Kuhn TV? 2. Can we have a raffle prize for the panto? 3. Can we have some giveaways for the stand in registration? 4. Can we have a design a dream machine competition?

18.2. Facebook – can we add AGRI Links to the group.

18.3. Sheepdog Society. JW reported the sheepdog society would like to engage with young farmers more. Group suggested club nights using talks and demonstrations.

18.4. Health and Safety – A Herefordshire member recently killed. NFU are providing training courses for £120 with LANTRA in Yorkshire.

18.5. Young Show Stars – HW explained about the show and invited members to get involved.

18.6. Women in Agriculture – Agri Expo – LM said she was speaking at this event on 4th March at Kent showground and that LANTRA have funding for women in agriculture.

18.7. It was decided to elect European Reps to continue work in Europe and in the event of regaining CEJA membership.

Charlotte Johnston was proposed by Lynsey Martin and seconded by Russell Carrington

Ed Ford was proposed by Sam Dilcock and seconded by Kate Wainwright

Tom Wells was proposed by JH and seconded by RC

Carys Vaughan was proposed by Chris Manley and seconded by SD.

Action:

JW to submit questions to Kuhn

19. Topics for next meeting

Explanation of grant scheme for RDPE

Broadband

AGRI Housing

Invite NFU

Laws of Fracking

General election

19. Date of next meeting and close

LM thanked everyone for attending and RC was thanked for his work as Chairman. The next meeting is **Saturday 27th June 2015**

SIGNED.....

DATED.....