AGRI 2018-19

A big welcome to all for this new and exciting AGRI year.

Although we’ve been preparing for Defra’s Future Farming Consultation, we’ve kick-started the AGRI year by hosting a European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) working group meeting and seminar in collaboration with the NFU Next Generation Forum.

We’re delighted that we share a very successful joint-membership of CEJA with the NFU so that we can collaborate effectively for all next generation young farmers. With some sharp planning, we invited our fellow European and our own young farmers to a ‘Brexit and Beyond’ seminar the day after a working group meeting that finalised CEJA’s Brexit position. What affects us will also affect European young farmers and we want to ensure we explore all implications and future opportunities.

We also want to make sure we repeat the success of the area discussion events last year, see lots of YFC members at the AGRI Brunch and provide great resources for club and county meetings.

Siân Pritchard is managing director of KUHN Farm Machinery and an active supporter of NFYFC AGRI. YFC members James Hutchinson and Kate Bennett are part of Siân’s UK team. Look out for news of KUHN at shows and events throughout the year.

KUHN sponsors the annual AGRI Brunch at Annual Convention, hosts YFC meetings and visits and will advertise your YFC events in local UK dealerships.
Chairman’s News

As well as my many YFC interests, I’m KUHN Farm Machinery’s southern regional feeding and bedding sales specialist. With a background of practical farming and industry experience, as well as being a YFC club, county and national office holder, I feel well-prepared to represent all YFC members who are passionate about food, farming and the countryside.

I’ve represented YFC members as an observer at NFU Council for some years now and enjoyed honorary membership of the NFU Next Generation Forum. I’m a keen runner and advocate for all things YFC and look forward to combining my sales role with my AGRI chairmanship duties.

The AGRI steering group inputs to relevant consultation responses, has representation on industry and government working groups as well as developing events, training, study tours and resources for all YFC members.

As well as on-going projects, there’s already a wealth of information available. There’s a new NFYFC website on its way, but please take a bit of time to familiarise yourself with what’s already on offer.

It’s so important for all AGRI representatives to help with the flow of communication so that everyone’s voice is heard. Working together, we’ll make sure that we have a happy but productive year!

Best wishes  James

DIARY DATES

March

7 - Agri-Expo, Kent County Showground, Maidstone, Kent
10 - UK Dairy Expo, Borderway Exhibition Centre, Rosehill, Carlisle, Cumbria
10 - NFYFC Officer Leadership Training, IBIS Hotel, Rugby
14 - World Food and Agriculture Conference, Park Inn by Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre, Bath Road, Heathrow, London
14 - PPC Live - Professional Pest Control - Three Counties Showground, Malvern, Worcestershire
24-25 - Cressing Spring Food & Home Fair, Cressing Temple Barns, Nr. Witham, Essex

Useful Links

• Blue Seal Shearing Training 2018 - YFC members can save more than 50% on training courses thanks to support from British Wool
• Henry Plumb Foundation - awards grants and industry mentors
• Prince’s Countryside Fund - provides more than £1m in grants each year to projects across the UK
• The RDPE Countryside Productivity Scheme
• Rural Services Network - to keep up-to-date with rural issues affecting your community, sign up to the Rural Services Network newsletters here.
• Smart Farming Guide - a useful guide for running YFC business development competitions and advice on setting up and running a successful business.
CEJA Update
European Council of Young Farmers

NFYFC and the NFU Next Generation Forum enjoy joint membership of CEJA, the lobbying voice for Europe’s next generation of farmers. Until Brexit, we’re making the most of our membership and collaborating to help finalise a position for CEJA whilst maintaining an on-going relationship with our European cousins.

Hosting a UK CEJA working group meeting and seminar was the first collaborative project for NFYFC and the NFU Next Generation Forum. Representatives from EU member states travelled to Stoneleigh to discuss and finalise a CEJA position on Brexit. They were joined by our own young farmers for a ‘Brexit and Beyond’ seminar. The Brexit scene was set from a British perspective and facilitated workshops encouraged all young farmers to talk about future trade, environment, productivity and risk management.

You can find further details about CEJA and European news by subscribing to the CEJA newsletter.

Don’t forget to visit the AGRI steering group webpage to find out who your office holders, CEJA and industry reps are. Keep in touch with feedback from the YFC members you represent with any ideas and suggestions.

RURAL NEWS

Rural Youth Project

An initiative designed to research and better understand rural young people aged 18-28 was launched earlier this year. The Rural Youth Project coincides with the 2018 Year of Young People and will combine an online survey, year-long in-depth video logs (vlogs) of 15-20 rural young people and a Rural Youth Ideas Festival.

The target countries for the research are: England, Scotland, Wales and, internationally, Austria, Australia and the USA. The initiative is a social enterprise venture and has the support of partners interested and engaged in the rural youth ‘space’.

The survey is open until 30 April and you can win a pair of tickets to the TRANSMT Festival in Glasgow on 8 July or a pair of tickets for ButeFest 2018 by taking part. The 2018 Project culminates in a three-day Rural Youth Ideas Festival on 20-22 July in rural Scotland and an action plan developed by the Project partners. Visit www.ruralyouthproject.com and share your views.

#AGRI News
Do you know what’s available from the NFYFC website?

Take a little time to get to know what’s available from the NFYFC website - you might be missing out on training, news, courses, travel or membership affinity deals. More importantly, you might be able to point YFC members in the right direction to help understand the many benefits available from their YFC membership.

Just spend a few minutes hovering over the website tags and investigate:

**About** - the history of your organisation, its democracy and constitution, who’s who and what they do.

**News** - there’s so much of it!

**What’s on** - loads and a dedicated Annual Convention website too.

**AGRI** - purpose, partners and newsletters.

**Competitions** - everything you need to know!

**Campaigns** - one to suit everyone.

**Join us** - we’re here to ensure that any enquiries are signposted to YFC County and Clubs.

**Training** - there’s so much on offer! The drop down explains why training and learning skills are so important for YFCs. With an ethos of fun, learning and achievement, YFC is proud to make learning new skills fun. There are also plenty of opportunities to benefit from your membership and to give back to your own YFC. From club officer training, to **Curve modules**, industry training and NFYFC Train the Trainer, there’s plenty of home-grown talent to ensure future leadership for the whole organisation.

**Members’ area** - all those great deals for YFC members, resources for club programming, policies, advice and the NFYFC Source.

**National Young Farmers’ Week 2018** - plans to be announced.
YFC Update

YFC talks to Defra regional discussion events

It was great to be given the opportunity to organise regional discussion events with the support and active participation from Defra.

These events took some organising, but everyone came up trumps with some excellent results and very clear messages for Defra.

The engagement project helped to continue the AGRI Brexit work and for the next generation to say it as it is. YFC members put forward thoughts, ideas, suggestions - what works and what doesn’t - in all regions.

This was the warm up before Defra’s current consultation launched in February. Everyone can contribute to this and help shape a future framework for a new agricultural policy.

Feedback shows these events were popular, well-attended and that you’d like to see more regional discussion events. Your AGRI reps will help make this happen and are looking forward to hearing your chosen topics.

So many issues were discussed in addition to the Defra themes of:

- **Future support** - shaping agri-environment schemes
- **Boosting farm productivity** - how to encourage new people into farming and help young farmers starting out; future delivery of business advice and knowledge exchange for new entrants and young farmers; encouraging young farmers to invest in productivity improvements; exploring key future research and development priorities for UK farming; improving farmer collaboration and greater supply chain transparency.
- **Animal Health and Welfare and Plant Health**
- **Risk management and resilience**

An extensive report was produced for Defra to ensure all captured views were shared but a summary of pertinent points included:

- create clarity between government and industry expectations
- be simplistic
- be sustainable
- be innovative
- up-skill and train the industry
- create good collaboration and understanding between industry, government and consumers

You can read more about this work and find the AGRI position paper on the [NFYFC website](http://www.nfyfc.org.uk).

More rural news…..

There are so many rural funding, lobbying, services and news opportunities.

Whether it’s community housing, transport, rural broadband or essential services, there’s plenty of advice, research and news stories provided by the [Rural Services Network](http://www.rural-services-network.org.uk) (RSN).

The government has unveiled £81m for rural services as part of its finance settlement for local authorities. The funding was announced by communities secretary Sajid Javid as he confirmed the [local government finance settlement for 2018-2019](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-government-finance-settlement-for-2018-19). It follows consultation with local government representatives and RSN which has repeatedly called for fairer funding for rural communities.

As a member of Rural England, you are represented and have access to the many opportunities offered by RSN.

To keep up-to-date with rural issues affecting your community, sign up to RSN newsletters [here](http://www.rural-services-network.org.uk).
YFC Advocates

We have so many requests to ask YFC members to help with social media campaigns and projects. Here’s a taste of some ongoing and forthcoming work.

My Name is... Campaign
The brainchild of one of our AGRI Forum speakers last year, Alexia Robinson, founder of British Food Fortnight. The campaign had a media launch on 26 February and will run from Monday 19 March - Easter Sunday, 1 April.

British Wool
British Wool is on the hunt for an individual who has started sheep farming in the last 6 - 8 months and maybe interested in working with the organisation on a potential new project. If you are interested in sharing your story, please contact British Wool’s Gareth Jones in the first instance - garethjones@britishwool.org.uk or 07590 355885.

AHDB Beef and Lamb
AHDB - various campaigns and information to help promote levy-payers’ products, in particular AHDB Beef and Lamb.

Big Ideas Brunch - 5 May at NFYFC Annual Convention

It’s excitement all round with a new name for the annual AGRI Forum - now affectionately known as AGRI Brunch - clue’s in the name, you get a free breakfast, as well as great exhibits, guest speakers and a fantastic chance to challenge, debate, listen and learn.

This year, the event will be co-chaired by James Hutchinson and NFYFC President Charlotte Smith. This intrepid duo will make sure there’s plenty of interaction between the audience, exhibitors and speakers.

This year’s theme is future opportunities - what are they, how do you find them and what do you do with them? Three industry names who have made their mark with business ventures share their career paths and aspirations for the future. This year’s line-up comprises: Sir John Campbell of Glenrath Farms in West Linton; the younger half of contractors Boole Crop Specialists Rob Boole and south west dairy farmer and NFU Tenants’ spokesman Chris Cardell.

Get ready to take on the debate about your future opportunities and don’t forget, all YFC members and guests are welcome.

Yellow Wellies Farm Safety Campaign

BVD Free England Campaign

BVDFree England is a voluntary industry-led scheme, working to eliminate Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) from all cattle in England by 2022. It is asking the next generation to take ownership of the scheme and highlight the importance of BVDFree for the cattle industry, their farm and/or their future as part of a video competition. Be it a rap, an interview, a song, as long as it’s captured in a video up to 90 seconds!

For further information and how to enter visit: https://bvdfree.org.uk/competition-information/

Food, Farming & Careers

NFYFC and YFC members are proud to champion the food, farming and careers message.

We have a long-standing relationship with FACE - Farming and Countryside Education and LEAF - Linking Environment and Farming, to ensure this vital message is shared.

There have been many YFC initiatives and events in association with both organisations over the years and 2018 will be no exception.

NFYFC Chair Lynsey Martin will promote the new British Agriculture Curve module and encourage YFC members to take up training to help deliver important industry messages.

This new training will help raise awareness of the British agricultural industry as a viable career option and highlight the important and essential work that's carried out by farmers for food production and the environment.

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Co-Options to AGRI Steering Group
Kate Wainwright (NFU/Next Generation Forum rep) and Amy Panton

NFYFC Agriculture and Rural Issues
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If you would like to raise any AGRI matters with the steering group or would like further information, please contact your Area reps or NFYFC