Despite the snow, rain, rain and more rain, the weather finally picked up at the beginning of May, just in time for everyone to have a welcome break at the 2018 Annual Convention.

Following hot on the heels from hosting the UK CEJA Seminar, we were busy preparing for the Defra consultation response and the Big Ideas Brunch. It’s been a whirlwind start to my year, but with some major events ticked off, I think we can all look forward to the show season, some better weather and celebrating all that’s good about our YFCs.

NFYFC AGRI sent in a response to Defra’s Future Farming Consultation on 2 May. This is just the start of a long journey to establish a future policy and thank you to all who took part in our consultative work over the past two years.

AGRI Brunch has now sadly been and gone, but if you weren’t there, you can read all about it or watch the video online. Thanks must go to our guest speakers, sponsor and supporters and of course all YFC members who attended the Big Ideas Brunch.

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

The extended winter and very late spring caused endless difficulties for farmers and rural communities. Snow, rain, lack of fodder and delayed work added to the already challenging times in rural Britain - and now spring has properly sprung!

As always, we press on knowing that at least weather conditions will improve and hopeful that a new British agricultural policy framework might set the right path for a future food and farming policy. We have responded to the consultation and wait to see the results whilst we celebrate YFC achievements at county shows and rallies.

When the sun did finally reappear, we had a glorious time during the second half of April and at Annual Convention. I think we were all in need of some sunshine and sand! I’d like to thank our guest speakers for their great contribution to the Big Ideas Brunch, our President Charlotte Smith for joining in to really get to know Young Farmers, and to all YFC members who came along to the event with questions, ideas and challenges for the panel. I’d also like to thank our exhibitors and most importantly, KUHN Farm Machinery for kindly sponsoring the event with additional support from Defra.

Look out for the new NFYFC and Rare Breeds Survival Trust showing and value added guide this summer and a new succession video for September. With two major research projects currently taking place on rural life, your needs are high on the national radar!

Best wishes  James

May/June

The Royal Bath & West Show
30 May - 2 June
The Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

Monmouthshire Food Festival
2 June - 3 June
Caldicot Castle, Church Rd, Chepstow, Caldicot, Monmouthshire

South of England Show
7 June - 9 June
The South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex

Royal Cornwall Show
7 June - 9 June
Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge, Cornwall

Open Farm Sunday - 10 June

Cereals
13 June - 14 June
Boothby Graffoe, Lincoln, Lincolnshire

Useful Links

• [Sign up](#) for the latest CEJA newsletter

• [Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust](#)

• [Henry Plumb Foundation](#) - awards grants and industry mentors

• [Prince’s Countryside Fund](#) - is encouraging people to have their say on the challenges faced by rural residents

• [Innovative Famers](#) - A not for profit membership network, for farmers and growers running on-farm trials

• [The Worshipful Company of Farmers](#)

• [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. David Ratcliffe, a member of the NFU Next Generation Forum, lists some notable points from April’s CEJA working group meeting:

• CAP reform - similar themes were discussed to those under consideration for our own future agricultural policy. Finland has run a very successful early retirement scheme and now has the youngest farmers on average across the EU. A presentation from DG AGRI’s Tassos Haniotis showed Brexit’s impact on the CAP budget and the need for readjustment, which will be highlighted in a future impact assessment.

• The joint succession project - Farm-Success

• The Republic of Ireland’s Land Mobility Service - over 400 land sharing agreements have already been initiated.

• Discussion and reform of CEJA’s internal regulations

• Dates for diaries include:
  - 7-8 June - Italian Young Farmers (ANGA) 60th anniversary conference, Rome;
  - 11-12 June - CEJA working group on international trade/future CAP and Presidium;
  - 23-26 August - CEJA General Assembly and joint Seminar with ZSPM in Slovenia;
  - First week of October - CEJA working group meeting in Brussels;
  - 8-10 November - joint CEJA seminar with SMA CR - Czech Republic;
  - 3-4 December (Brussels/Ypres): CEJA’s 60th Anniversary

RURAL NEWS
Connectivity and rural services - what’s the latest?

Better broadband - and the lack of it - has been sharply in focus with news widely reported by the Rural Services Network.

A new government scheme is set to exempt new broadband fibre connections from business rates. The Telecommunications Infrastructure Act 2018 paves the way for full-fibre broadband and future 5G communications. By enabling 100% business rates relief for operators who install new fibre on their networks, the government says it incentivises operators to invest in the broadband network.

Secondary legislation for the scheme will see communications providers exempt from business rates on new fibre for five years, backdated to 1 April 2017.

An action plan aims to raise awareness of banking services available at Post Office branches among local communities grappling with bank branch closures. The five-point plan has been developed by the finance industry and the Post Office is working with the Treasury and government officials.
If you didn’t manage to make it to Blackpool, what were the big ideas discussed at the AGRI Brunch?

The AGRI Big Ideas Brunch has a very specific remit. It brings industry names to YFC members for debate and discussion on topical subjects. This year, our NFYFC President doubled up as guest facilitator, supporting your AGRI Chair to give YFC members a morning to remember.

Top topics
• Training and succession
• The need for up-to-date HE courses and skills
• Degrees versus work experience
• Opportunities for young people to get into business
• Boosting the British brand
• Image of farming careers

Top tips from the speakers
• If you get knocked back, don’t give up at the first hurdle
• Surround yourself with positive people
• Take chances
• Work hard
• Use your contacts - they will be useful to you
• Respond to the Government consultation paper (consultation closed 8 May)

What was the chairman’s experience?
“Nerve-wracking but exhilarating once it all got going! Preparation is key, a deep breath and of course a great panel of guest speakers, our NFYFC President but most importantly, all the YFC members in the audience and those who watched a live stream of the session on Facebook. It’s good to know that we have a voice and we can use it to highlight our concerns and needs for the future.” James Hutchinson, AGRI Chair 2018

What did the sponsor think?
“It gets better each year….best one yet.” Siân Pritchard, Managing Director of KUHN Farm Machinery

Would you like to replicate this type of event in your club or county?
Thinking of holding a future event in a similar style? Talk to your county AGRI Link rep, AGRI regional rep or get in touch with NFYFC if you would like help with ideas or organising.
YFC Update

Open Farm Sunday - 10 June

Are you getting involved with Open Farm Sunday? There’s a range of information and resources on the LEAF website to help you plan your day or just find out further information. You don’t have to hold an event, you and your fellow YFC members could help out at an event near you.

NFYFC has received funding from Defra to develop a new Curve training module to give YFC members the tools to promote food, farming and careers in schools and other public forums.

The module will be developed in collaboration with FACE/LEAF and the National Land Based College (NLBC). It will help ensure that positive and consistent messages on a modern farming industry, with the varied food and farming careers opportunities, are relayed and available for YFC members and year 9 school children. The aim is also to make the final training resources available for YFC members, Countryside Classroom and NLBC for further awareness and use.

See what NFYFC Curve modules are currently available.

Food for thought

Apart from young people, the love of food has to be the common denominator within YFC.

You feature food at your YFC rallies and county shows, YFC celebrations, harvest festivals and demonstrate your fabulous YFC skills in cookery competitions. It’s fair to say that we’re happy to promote ‘brand British’ when it comes to food!

If you’d like to do a little more to help, here’s a few things that you can do to help prepare for the Love British Food autumn campaign:

• Post a message about why British is great on social media (see Richard Bower’s)
• Place a ‘British Food is Great’ banner outside your farm or business
• Go to local stores and talk to consumers about buying British food (British Food is Great / Love British Food t-shirts will be available for the campaign)
• Visit your local school and give a talk about the food you produce
• Offer to help set up a new British food supply chain in local establishments.

Follow #BritishFoodisGreat and find out what your fellow Young Farmers are doing!

More research to improve rural Britain…..

As well as the recent Defra Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit consultation a significant research project is being undertaken that could affect your rural future.

A recent Prince’s Countryside Fund research project focused on the challenges faced by rural residents and what can make rural communities in the UK sustainable, in spite of the adversities they face. Professor Sarah Skerratt of Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC) is conducting the project. Participants were encouraged to fill in the survey regardless of their location in the countryside - whether they lived and worked somewhere traditionally seen as geographically remote, or places considered ‘within easy reach’ of towns and cities but felt remote owing to a lack of connections, such as transport, broadband, or social links.

This research project will discover what makes communities in remote rural parts of the UK sustainable, and aims to identify ways forward into 2030 and beyond. The research will be published in July, to coincide with The Prince’s Countryside Fund annual awareness campaign, National Countryside Week, 30 July - Sunday 5 August.
YFC Visits

Always delighted to find an opportunity to mix work and pleasure, your AGRI Chair is at the fore of YFC visits to KUHN Farm Machinery’s headquarters at Stafford Park, Telford.

Many clubs within Shropshire FYFC, including Rea Valley and Shrewsbury YFC, have taken up the opportunity for a guided tour of the Telford KUHN HQ with an accompanying explanation of the organisation’s work and future strategy.

There’s an interesting story to tell about the relationships we forge with our sponsors. KUHN Farm Machinery has supported the AGRI work since 2014 and has a growing number of YFC members within its workforce. Managing director Siân Pritchard spoke about this burgeoning relationship at the recent AGRI Brunch and how much she valued the skills that future employees learnt during their time as a YFC member. Work experience, common sense and public speaking are all useful transferable skills when it comes to job opportunities.

A selection of KUHN staff, including James and Kate Bennett, have trodden the YFC path and are now happily employed by Siân.

If you’d like to organise a visit to KUHN’s factory, contact James Hutchinson for further details james.hutchinson@kuhn.com

Recent YFC visits to KUHN Farm Machinery, Telford

Done the survey yet? A must if you have an interest in......

- Education & training
- Employment and work experience
- Opinions and aspirations
- Housing and local community
- Transport
- Broadband and mobile phone services
- Local services
- Social activities and volunteering

If you are aged between 18 - 28 years of age, living or working in a rural location fill in the survey - open until 31 May and you could be the lucky winner of two tickets to TRNSMT or ButeFest 2018. There will be three prizes of two tickets available subject to completion of the survey. See full terms & conditions.
Get talking.....

AGRI Link rep Tori Morgan made sure her YFC members got involved with Defra’s most recent consultation by staging a Herefordshire AGRI discussion event last month.

Joined by the AGRI Chair, Tori liaised with NFYFC to make sure the consultation process captured her county’s views.

As crops advisor for the NFU, Tori was keen to mix work and YFC in her capacity as an AGRI Link rep. She ensured Hereford FYFC members spent an evening getting to grips with the consultation questions. The timescales were tight, but in true YFC fashion, a great turnout by keen agrics from across the county.

“It was a great opportunity to continue the work from last year’s regional engagement events, but in our own county,” said Tori.

“The NFU has obviously been very involved with the recent Defra consultation and developing and delivering sector-specific development programmes, which I have been very involved with, and I wanted to ensure YFC members in my county had the opportunity to have their say.

“I did wonder if a consultation meeting would attract a good audience - but I needn’t have worried, even coinciding with some long-awaited sun, there were plenty of YFC members expressing their views!”

Chairman: James Hutchinson
jimbohutchinson@hotmail.co.uk

Vice Chairman: David Goodwin
david@costowfarms.co.uk

Ex-officio: Harriet Wilson
harrietwilson1@live.co.uk

Area Representatives:
East Midlands
Alistair Hughes
achughes22@hotmail.co.uk
Chris Sheldon
crshelly@gmail.com

Eastern
Greg Colebrook
greg.colebrook@gmail.com
Scott Rix
scottrixfarms@gmail.com

South East
Rory Loftus
roryloftus@ymail.com
Ben Robinson
Ben.robinson@kingsfarm.co.uk

South West
Jake Sayer
jakesayer@live.com
James Hutchinson
jimbohutchinson@hotmail.co.uk

Wales
Dafydd Jones
dtjonescaer@hotmail.co.uk
Caryl Hughes
carylhughes26@hotmail.co.uk

Northern
Charlotte Middlebrook
charlottemiddlebrook@yahoo.co.uk
Chris Dobinson
Chris.dobinson@live.co.uk

West Midlands
Richard Mottershead
richiemotts22@gmail.com
David Goodwin
david@costowfarms.co.uk

NFU Rep
Kate Wainwright

CLA Rep
David Goodwin

LEAF Rep
George Baxter

Fresh Start Land Enterprise Rep
Ben Robinson

CEJA
Charlotte Middlebrook, Kate Wainwright, Harriet Wilson, Greg Colebrook, David Goodwin, Richard Bower, Rory Loftus, Richard Mottershead, Caryl Hughes, Jake Sayer and James Hutchinson

Co-Options to AGRI Steering Group
Kate Wainwright, Amy Panton, NFU Next Generation Forum rep

NFYFC Agriculture and Rural Issues
Sarah Palmer
Sarah.Palmer@nfyfc.org.uk
02476 857213