AGRI 2019

Defra’s agricultural tenancy consultation for England and a similar exercise by the Welsh Assembly should be of interest for next generation farmers. This is just one of the many reasons why AGRI continues to take great pride in representing your voices and ideas at industry meetings and in matters that concern your future.

You can read in more detail how to make your opinions heard at a dedicated event on 11 June which aims to help explain the rationale and detail of the consultation. Even if you can’t make the event, sending in opinions or thoughts from conversations held at club meetings, at work, on or off farm is invaluable for our response.

No need to remind everyone of the imminent change ahead and of making sure you take up every opportunity to help equip yourself and fellow YFC members. You can read more about the support we will be receiving to make sure you’re match fit for your farming future.

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

KUHN supports the AGRI steering group and its various activities, hosts YFC meetings and visits and will advertise your YFC events in local UK dealerships.
Chairman’s News

No apologies for encouraging those of you interested in shaping your farming and rural future to take part in relevant Defra consultations. If you have the chance to make your views known, please do so!

We’ve organised a dedicated ‘YFC talks to Defra’ event to help explain the main points of the current tenancy consultation and ensure that Defra hears your opinions, ideas and feedback firsthand.

We’re delighted that former NFYFC chairman and Tenancy Reform Industry Group (TRIG) chairman Julian Sayers will join our event on 11 June at Staffordshire FYFC, Staffordshire County Showground. He will be joined by Defra representatives to highlight recommendations made by government for the consultation. TRIG is one of the many industry groups where YFCs are represented.

For the arable boys and girls, a chance to visit Cereals – don’t forget to make best use of the NFYFC affinity deals and offer of 20 free exhibitor tickets – and listen to George Baxter, me and industry professionals discussing succession. Come and join us at the International Farming Superstars Theatre on 12 June at 1.00 pm and get involved with some serious debate.

With ever more political uncertainty ahead, we need to ensure more than ever that we stand together and help shape our rural and agricultural future. We can all do our bit to share positive food and farming messages. You can find resources and online guides from the NFYFC website as well as videos on our dedicated NFYFC YouTube platform.

Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable summer!

David Goodwin
NFYFC AGRI Chairman 2019-20

DIARY DATES

Summer 2019

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<tr>
<th>July</th>
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<td>1-2</td>
<td>Elveden Country Show, Elveden, Summerpit Farm, Elveden Estate, Suffolk, IP24 3TD</td>
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<td>3-4</td>
<td>UK AD &amp; Biogas, The NEC Birmingham, West Midlands, B40 1NT</td>
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<td>5-7</td>
<td>Kent County Show, Kent Showground, Detling, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3JF</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>NFYFC Competitions Day, Staffordshire County Showground, ST18 0BD</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>NFYFC Sports Day, Staffordshire Grammar School, Staffordshire, ST18 9AT</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Skelton Show, Old Park, Hutton-in-the-Forest, Nr Skelton, Cumbria, CA11 9TH</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Monmouthshire Show, Redbrook Road, Monmouth, NP15 2BX</td>
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<td>9-11</td>
<td>Great Yorkshire Show, Railway Rd, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 8NZ</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Viti-Culture, Plumpton College, Ditchling Road, Lewes, East Sussex,BN7 3AE</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Newport Show, Chetwynd Deer Park, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8AA</td>
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August

| August 18-25 | Rural Youth Europe Rally hosted by NFYFC, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS |

Useful Links

- Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust – life-changing scholarships that unlock individual potential and broaden horizons through study and travel overseas, with a view to developing farming and agricultural industries.

- Henry Plumb Foundation – awards grants and industry mentors.

- The Agri-Food Charities Partnership – AFCP’s overall aim is to promote education and research in agriculture and food production by supporting charities that are working in the discipline.

- The Worshipful Company of Farmers – grants and awards – the company supports a wide range of charitable initiatives.

- Apprenticeships – choosing a career or thinking about taking on an apprentice?

- Farming Connect’s Venture – is designed to match farmers and landowners who are looking to step back from the industry with new entrants looking for a way in to farming.

- Smart Farming Guide – a useful guide for running YFC business development competitions and advice on setting up and running a successful business.

- Guide to Showing – for YFC members who would like an introduction to showing livestock. A Defra-supported project in association with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.
Government urged to do more to tackle rural crime

Ahead of a debate on rural crime in the House of Lords, the Bishop of St Albans wrote an article on the website PoliticsHome urging the Government to do more to fight rural crime.

He referenced in particular the effect of crime on farming communities and other rural businesses and sought to ‘highlight the significant levels of frustration of those who feel that the police do not have the resources to investigate and deal with rural crime, in the same way that they do in urban areas’.

The article also argues that rural communities lack equal access to police services and criminal justice as they are not a priority for politicians or the police force.

Read the full article: The Bishop of St Albans: Government must do much more to tackle rural crime affecting farmers and businesses

Have you seen the latest AGRI video?

Launched in May to herald the forthcoming Cereals event and to continue our promotion of food and farming careers, George Baxter and Sean Sparling are our new YouTube stars who are spreading positive (and accurate) industry messages.

AGRI wants to make sure that everyone plays their part in communicating positive messages to support the countryside, food production and all things rural.

Sponsor Crop Protection Association’s chief executive Sarah Mukherjee said: “This informative video follows on from the Crop Protection Association’s Annual Conference, where there was agreement from industry that a collaborative effort is needed to send out clear messages regarding the role of science in supporting the production of safe and affordable food.

“We are delighted to be working with NFYFC on this project to help share more information about the importance of crop protection and roles in the industry.”

AGRI looks forward to further work with our industry partners and you can view the new video here.
YFC members are invited to share their views about plans to modernise and update agricultural tenancy legislation at a dedicated NFYFC event with Defra representatives.

The event, on 11 June at Staffordshire County Showground, will gather feedback from new entrants and next generation farmers to feed into AGRI’s response to Defra’s consultation.

Defra's proposals aim to remove existing barriers to productivity improvements and help bring about structural change, improving the overall competitiveness and sustainability of the tenant farming sector. The plans build on the work of the Tenancy Reform Industry Group (TRIG) – NFYFC is represented on this industry group – which has provided advice on the key policy priorities for the tenanted sector as the UK leaves the EU. TRIG Chairman and former NFYFC Chairman Julian Sayers will join Defra representatives at the event to help gain feedback from young farmers.

AGRI Chairman and tenant farmer David Goodwin urges YFC members to attend the event organised by NFYFC on 11 June at Staffordshire FYFC’s county office.

“We have a small window of time to ensure that we feedback our thoughts on Defra’s proposals for tenancy reform. As we’ve been active in working with industry and government to represent the next generation during this time of policy change, we hope to see as many YFC members as possible at the Staffordshire YFC office in June.”

*The key proposals are:

• allowing Agricultural Holdings Act (AHA) tenants who wish to retire to assign their tenancies to a third party. The landlord could prevent the assignment by buying out the tenancy themselves. An assigned tenancy would be subject to an open-market rent and terminate after 25 years.
• changing the rules on succession under AHA tenancies. There would be no minimum retirement age of 65 (i.e. tenants can retire earlier). Also, there might be a maximum retirement age of 5 years after the state pension age – after this time, the retirement provisions would no longer apply.
• updating the retirement provisions for Council farm tenants
• changing the succession provisions under AHA tenancies. This could see the removal of the ‘commercial unit test’ which prevents those already occupying a commercial farm from succeeding to an AHA tenancy. There will also be an updating of the suitability test to a ‘business competence test’
• a potential extension of the categories of family members who are eligible for succession rights
• a new dispute resolution mechanism that can vary clauses in AHA tenancies that present a barrier to business development (for example, clauses requiring the landlord’s permission to erect buildings or change the land use)
• removing barriers which currently dis-incentivise landlords from investing in their AHA holdings – specifically the risk that a return on investment will be lost through future rent reviews giving landlords incentives to let Farm Business Tenancies (FBTs) for 10 years or more. This involves shorter and more certain notice-to-quit procedures in certain circumstances.

There are also three ‘procedural’ reforms proposed on arbitration, succession and alternative dispute resolution.

*RuSource Briefing 3136: https://www.foodandfarmingfutures.co.uk/Library/home/home.aspx

Book your place via Eventbrite
YFC Update

Devon FYFC’s Junior Vice Chairman Matt Darke led an impressive event for his YFC members and supporters highlighting the way forward for next generation future farming careers.

Matt chose succession and progression as a topic for guest speakers and YFC members to consider and discuss at this year’s Devon County Show within the Devon FYFC marquee. It’s also an issue that Matt’s currently facing with his own family farm.

Former Devon FYFC chairman and Bicton College’s apprenticeship programme manager Peter Reed, chartered accountant and director of Evolution ABS Margaret Scarrott and first generation tenant farmer and Jersey milk supplier Gordon Davis joined fourth generation farmer and Devon AGRI chairman Matt Darke on the debate panel.

Matt said: “The more I talk about the topic with people, the more I see lots of others relating to this issue on their own farms and businesses. Many interesting points were highlighted, including the challenges for young people to get into farming to pushing an existing business forward.

“A lot of the comments made during the debate kept coming back to communication; whether it’s with other family members, professionals or advisers, good communication always seems to be the best way forward.

“As the topic was discussed for a fair while after the debate had finished, it shows that the succession and progression is on a lot of people’s minds.”

Henry Plumb Foundation

Ten more food and farming young entrepreneurs have received awards and industry mentors from Lord Plumb’s initiative to support the next generation.

The Henry Plumb Foundation (HPF) has now been operating for seven years and trustees held the latest round of interviews on 1 May at the Arden Hotel in Warwickshire.

“The enthusiasm of participants coupled with their desire to succeed in their chosen career path impressed and inspired trustees and supporters of the foundation,” said Henry Plumb Foundation chairman John Thorley. The HPF chairman was amongst a distinguished panel of interviewers including founder Lord Plumb and trustees David Richardson, Joe Stanley, Charles Antrobus and Philip Wynn.

The foundation’s work has attracted young farmers and new entrants from far and wide with ideas to start, expand or consolidate food and farming businesses, study or take on an industry challenge. The next interviews will take place at the Farmers Club, London in October and future applicants are encouraged to visit the HPF website and submit their ideas for consideration.
AGRI working with industry

AGRI works with key industry, government and rural organisations to develop events, resources, training and information for the YFC members we represent.

NFYFC AGRI has representation on the following industry committees/councils/groups:

- NFU Council (observer status)
- NFU Next Generation Forum
- NFU Brexit Farming Roundtable
- CLA – Agriculture and Land Use Committee
- LEAF – Advisory Board
- LEAF Education – bronze membership
- Countryside Classroom
- Defra Farming Productivity Roundtable
- Agri-Food Workforce Skills and Development Strategy work streams
- Tenancy Reform Industry Group (TRIG)
- Rural England

We also have long-standing partnership arrangements with Savills, Siân Bushell Associates, Worshipful Company of Farmers, British Wool, NatWest to name but a few of the many organisations that help support the next generation and members of YFCs.

Don’t forget that LEAF Education is launching the UK’s first Farming Fortnight for 3-14 June with an aim for primary and secondary schools across the UK to have a fortnight’s focus on British Farming and Food Production. Our NFYFC Future Farming module will be highlighted on Thursday 13 June, so check out ways to get involved! Follow #FarmingFortnight

A reminder of club programming opportunities for YFCs

AHDB is happy to provide talks for YFC clubs or offer an invitation to all of its open events and the opportunity for tailored visits for local clubs or national groups – just contact sarah.palmer@nfyfc.org.uk to register your interest or for further details.

LEAF Demonstration Farms are working, commercial farms practising Integrated Farm Management (IFM). Visit the link to pinpoint a farm in your area. This is a great option if you’re planning your new programme or want somewhere to visit when you organise a club exchange.

Countryside Classroom helps teachers to find resources, places to visit and school support relating to the themes of food, farming and the natural environment. The site contains a range of quality assured educational content from hundreds of contributors including components from the NFYFC Future Farming Curve module. This will be featured in the forthcoming Food and Farming Fortnight.

A new activity session called Are you Vision:2023 Ready? is aimed at seeking feedback about the federation from clubs. The information will be used to help the Vision: 2023 group develop the five-year plan for the organisation.

Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators

The Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators (IAgSA) is a professional organisation whose members offer a wide range of services to farming and rural businesses in the UK.

What does IAgSA do?

- Maintains a database of all IAgSA members and subscribers which include farm and rural business secretaries and administrators, bookkeepers, accountants, land agents and estate administrators amongst others.
- Provides its members with relevant information and knowledge to assist them with their ongoing Continuing Professional Development.
- Arranges training to help both new entrants coming into the sector and members of farming families who carry out their own bookkeeping and administrative work.
- Supports members to improve their technical knowledge and to meet other members and industry representatives through IAgSA Regional Training Days and a National Conference.
- Works to support local IAgSA Branches who provide local networks for IAgSA members across the UK.
- Engages with a wide audience via our industry-recognised monthly bulletin.
- Liaises and works with industry stakeholders, the government and others on farming issues that affect its members and their clients. If you’re interested in finding out more information, visit the IAgSA website for further details and FAQs.

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NFYFC’s Defra Grant

Why do we have an NFYFC Defra grant?
We can develop relevant training, events and resources for YFC members and make sure that your voice is heard by policy makers. NFYFC takes every opportunity to share our members’ agricultural and rural feedback with Defra.

What’s in the 2019-20 grant?
Support for an AGRI Forum, tenancy and business training and Defra/YFC regional engagement events for a future Environmental Land Management system.

How do I get involved?
All events, training and resources will be advertised via the various NFYFC communication channels.

Make sure you find out and share what courses, events and training are currently available from the NFYFC website.

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NFU Rep
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CLA Rep
David Goodwin
LEAF Rep
George Baxter

Co-Options to AGRI Steering Group
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NFU Next Generation Forum Chair,
Simon Gadd

NFYFC Agriculture and Rural Issues
Sarah Palmer
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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.

Seize that YFC opportunity!

Richard ‘Roo’ Beaty, 21-year-old Coleshill YFC member and farmer, has certainly made the most of his last six months in YFC and helped spread the food and farming message to a wider audience.

As well as his many club activities, Roo was one of three farmers who spoke at the January FCN plough service held at St Mark’s Church, Leamington Spa, to help highlight the part YFCs and young people play in farming. He also shared the YFC and farming message during an interview with a local radio station at his county rally.

“The showcase event for Warwickshire FYFC’s activities takes place at the Kenilworth Show on 8 June, so yet another chance to show everyone what our organisation and industry is all about. I’m all for making the most of opportunities to spread some really sound messages about YFC, food and farming.”