AGRI 2019

It’s a new YFC year and we want to make sure we’re on the front foot to offer events and training to as many young farmers as possible.

We’ve been busy planning events over the summer to make sure all regions can benefit from winter ‘YFC talks to Defra’ events and the return of business and tenancy training. We want as many young farmers as possible to share their regional knowledge and expertise with Defra to ensure the next generation has its voice clearly heard. Business tips and training delivered by Savills professionals just adds to the many resources already available for YFC members.

Details will soon be available for a newly-formatted AGRI Forum in Gloucestershire next February following the successful pilot trial of Take Control of your Future held in Bakewell, Derbyshire, earlier this year.

There’s a lot going on, so diaries out to make sure you and your fellow young farmers don’t miss out this autumn!

Siân Pritchard is managing director of KUHN Farm Machinery and an active supporter of NFYFC AGRI. YFC members James Hutchinson, Kate Bennett and Hannah Britland 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.
For so many of us, the summer months will have been full-on, with a combination of stock, shows or holidays (for the lucky ones!).

We know what a diverse range of YFC members we have and aim to ensure that our AGRI work has something for everyone.

It was great to see young YFC members with their leaders at an AGRI farm visit in May at Crowmarsh Battle Farms in Wallingford. Philip Chamberlain was a fantastic host and spent considerable time showing and explaining his cropping, agri-environment and diversification projects and answering questions. It was good to see a range of ages, interests and counties represented.

We’ve been trialling new projects and events this year and teamed up with Savills in June to hold a succession debate at Cereals. Despite being the wettest June event, it was great to have an AGRI presence and to see Lincolnshire FYFC exhibiting and flying the YFC flag. Our presence at county, regional and national shows and events highlights the amazing talent and hard work from our membership, which bodes well for the key role young farmers play in rural communities-you’re all farming superstars!

There are changes and uncertainty ahead as the Brexit machine gathers pace. This year, more than ever, we want to offer opportunities for our next generation young farmers to talk to policy makers and industry professionals, and to learn new skills and hone existing ones. The events on offer are new, very heavily subsidised and help you to meet up with like-minded people.

Don’t forget to share any views, suggestions or concerns with your AGRI rep (find out their contact details from the NFYFC website or at the end of the newsletter) or get in touch with the AGRI contact at NFYFC.

David Goodwin
NFYFC AGRI Chairman 2019-20
All Change at Defra!

If it seems like groundhog day it could be because of the return of George Eustice to his former role as Defra farming minister.

Following his resignation in March and the appointment of Robert Goodwill, the appointment of a new prime minister led to a reshuffle of the cabinet and subsequent ministers. AGRI representatives will meet with the minister as the industry prepares for the effects of Brexit.

The department’s new secretary of state is Theresa Villiers who takes the place of Michael Gove. She previously served as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland from September 2012 until July 2016, and was Minister of State for Transport from May 2010 until September 2012.

News from the Rural Services Network

Launch of the Village Survival Guide

The Prince’s Countryside Fund has published The Village Survival Guide, a vibrant, entertaining manual featuring case histories, checklists and practical advice. The guide is intended to help those living in the countryside to utilise the talents available in their own communities to tackle some of the social and economic challenges they face.

It follows on from the Fund’s 2018 research Recharging Rural, which saw over 3000 people tell the charity about the challenges they faced living in rural areas, and how they were pulling together to overcome these.

Claire Saunders, Director of The Prince’s Countryside Fund said: “Over the past nine years, the Fund has distributed more than £10 million in grant funding, to hundreds of inspiring community groups and charities. We realised that what people had learned from these successful projects could help to inspire others to take the initiative and transform their local community; the projects run by these groups deliver essential services at a local level, often making up for shortfalls in other provisions.

You can read the online version of the guide here: https://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/research/read-vsg

In July we welcomed the SAI GLOBAL team, sponsors of the new NFYFC auctioneering competition, to the Staffordshire Showground

Agriculture manager (and former member and past president of Wormleighton YFC in Warwickshire) Robin Levin said the company was delighted to support a competition that taught key skills. He said that the skills he learnt through the competitions programme have supported his career.

SAI GLOBAL has information to share with all YFC members and you can read Robin’s latest blog on how farmers can help to build a robust, resilient and regenerative future. With adverse effects of climate change on the increase, farmers will be instrumental in making changes to food production to ensure our survival. You can keep up-to-date with information from the organisation’s newly-launched website.
In the run-up to the new NFYFC/Savills business and training events, we hear from two tenant farmers and heed their advice!

Norfolk YFC member Joe Rabiacano secured a Norfolk County Farm tenancy before he took his A levels this year. He put his university place on hold, secured a bank loan on the back of his detailed business plan and showed just what can be done if you’re a would-be tenant farmer with viable plans and the bit between your teeth.

From new entrant to a more established farming business, David Goodwin runs a tenanted mixed farm with his parents on the Northamptonshire and Warwickshire border. David joined Joe for an interview with broadcaster Gareth Barlow, who was responsible for the BBC Focus on Farming feature broadcast by the BBC in August.

David said: “Our organisation is often asked to contribute on next generation and new entrant issues, so it was a great opportunity for Gareth to hear what it’s really like for next generation farmers and for those breaking into the industry.

“Joe is a classic new entrant, not from a farming background, but someone who had a great passion for farming from an early age and who was prepared to put the work in, gain experience and start his career early. His attention to detail and understanding of the need for a robust business plan enabled him to secure finance and he’s also been awarded support and a mentor from the Henry Plumb Foundation.

“I do come from a farming family, studied, took time out to work briefly as a business consultant and then returned to the family business with a range of ideas that I’m pleased to say have been implemented.

“Understanding the business decisions you will need to make, the finance and tenancy requirements as well as your farming, environmental and trading knowledge is essential if you are to succeed.

“We’d both agree that you can’t get too much advice or training. It was very timely to be featured by the BBC this summer because despite the uncertainty we’re all facing with Brexit, farming goes on.

“It’s also timely that AGRI is offering new business and tenancy training for next generation farmers and we’d urge you to make sure you make the most of time with the professionals.”

NFYFC/Savills Business and Tenancy Training for YFCs

NFYFC and Savills, supported by Defra, have teamed up to offer five regional business and tenancy training events. The offer is open to YFC members and associate members at a subsidised price of only £10. Refreshments are included and you will see the first three events, venues and times advertised below. Come and join like-minded young farmers for an afternoon of AGRI enlightenment!

Sign up to secure your place

Mount Cook Adventure Centre, Porter Lane, Middleton, Matlock, DE4 4LS
Friday, 8 November 2019 from 15:30 to 20:00
Apply for tickets

Savills Oxford, Wytham Court, 11 West Way, Oxford, OX2 0QL
Tuesday, 12 November 2019 from 15:30 to 20:00
Apply for tickets

Hereford FYFC, Beech Business Park, Tillington Road, HR4 9QJ
Friday, 15 November 2019 from 15:30 to 18:00
Apply for tickets
YFC Update
Ready and Resilient

Nottinghamshire FYFC played host to a pilot training event for the new YFC succession training module *Ready and Resilient*.

County FYFC Chairman Callum Kendall and Felicity Rodziewicz rallied the Nottinghamshire troops for an evening of training, workshops, discussion and feedback.

Supported by Defra, the collaborative project between NFYFC, Savills and Siân Bushell continues NFYFC’s succession work to provide YFCs with helpful resources to start the succession conversation. The training complements last year’s launch of the *We Really Need to Talk* video, supported by Defra and AHDB.

Nottinghamshire FYFC Chairman Callum said: “This was a welcome opportunity in my chairman’s year to help trial some new training that’s been devised for YFC members.

“We have an assorted membership, certainly not everyone’s a farmer, so the YFC succession examples were useful and helped us all to think about our own organisation’s succession needs.

“I’m also taking a lead with our county development officer Lauren Clark to host the East Midlands AGRI ‘YFC talks to Defra’ event in November to coincide with the Newark machinery show.

“It’s a great opportunity for YFC members to get involved with future farming decisions.”

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Prince’s Countryside Fund

If you have a project that needs some funding, have you thought of applying to the Prince's Countryside Fund (PCF)?

Established by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2010, The Prince’s Countryside Fund exists to improve the prospects of family farm businesses and the quality of rural life. The British countryside is a huge natural asset and, to help ensure its future, the PCF:

• Provides more than £1m in grant and initiative funding every year to projects across the UK that help to provide a secure future for the countryside
• Leads its own initiatives, such as The Prince’s Farm Resilience Programme
• Commissions research into issues affecting farming families and rural communities
• Is an advocate for the countryside and brings together individuals and businesses to help tackle current challenges
• Helps communities in crisis through its Emergency Fund.

Projects that support the development of skills and help facilitate training for young people interested in a career in agriculture have been funded through Radnor YFC in Powys in 2019 and other YFC federations previously.
AGRI working with Defra-

Farming is changing

Farmers provide high-quality food while enhancing and protecting our countryside. Leaving the EU means we can shape English agricultural policy so it supports both endeavours.

NFYFC AGRI is encouraging all interested YFC members to come along to dedicated YFC regional events where Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs) colleagues will be joining us to talk about their proposed changes for farming once we leave the EU, including the new Environmental Land Management scheme.

This is a great opportunity to understand how these changes will affect you directly, share your regional knowledge and have your say on what the future of farming should look like.

This is just part of the NFYFC annual Defra grant work which helps to provide members with a range of opportunities for gaining information, skills and training to help with career or study opportunities.

You can find information on how farming is changing here.

News of regional events to date

YFC Area

- **Eastern** - Essex YFC, Whitbreads Farm Lane, Little Waltham, Chelmsford CM3 3LQ  
  Date: tbc

- **West Midlands** - YFC Centre, Beech Business Park, Tillington Road, Hereford HR4 9QJ.  
  Date: tbc

- **South West** - Sedgemoor Auction Centre, Bridgwater TA6 6TS  
  Date: 5 December, 7.30 pm

- **South East** - Sparsholt College, Hillside Rd, Winchester SO21 2NE  
  Date: tbc

- **East Midlands** - Newark Showground, Lincoln Road, Coddington, Newark NG24 2NY  
  Date: 21 November, time tbc

- **Cumbria**  
  Venue and date tbc

- **East Yorkshire** - Bishop Burton College, York Rd, Bishop Burton, Beverley HU17 8QG  
  Date: 29 October, 7.30 pm

- **Northumberland**  
  Venue and date tbc

Need some programme ideas?

Visit the [AGRI page](#) and see the AGRI Library

**British Food Fortnight** - All farmers and food producers are being encouraged to get involved in sharing positive messages about food and farming in the build up to British Food Fortnight from 21 September to 6 October 2019. Find suggestions and ideas on the [NFYFC website](#).

**RBST** - Rare Breeds Survival Trust. If you’re a keeper or admirer of native breeds, you’ll be pleased to read what George Eustice [said](#) in June! Contact the RBST [team](#) to ask for information or YFC talks.

**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.

**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](mailto:sarah.palmer@nfyfc.org.uk) to register your interest or for further details.

**Countrywide 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.

bTB-can you help industry by sharing messages to reduce the spread and impacts of this devastating disease?

Defra is currently analysing the effectiveness and awareness of information and tools available to help farmers protect their livestock from TB. We know bTB is an animal disease we’d all like to see eradicated due to its devastating consequences. Can we help to raise awareness and highlight the impact of this disease on farmers and their families and share information on what they can do to protect their herds?

There’s lots of relevant information available on the [biosecurity section of the TB Hub](#) and if you’re busy thinking of ideas to fill your club programme, could bTB prevention be a topic to cover? The website has a wealth of information, videos and podcasts, as well as useful advice which can also help to stimulate conversation for those affected by or working with the threat of bTB outbreaks.

You’ll find information ranging from statistics, practical guidance such as the interactive bTB map (iTb) and other useful links. Inviting an appropriate industry speaker and using the topic for speaking and debating competitions would all help the effort to raise awareness and tackle the effects of bTB.
Plant the seed to Grow Your Future

Are you considering going to university, but don’t fancy a job sitting behind a desk, staring out at the big wide world? Why not consider studying Rural Practice Chartered Surveying and look forward to a career which pays you to be out and about. Make a difference as a rural property professional.

Grow Your Future’s aim is to attract the next generation of Rural Practice Chartered Surveyors and demonstrate how rewarding, practical and varied this career really is. The typical route to qualification is via an accredited university degree; links to all of the institutions are on the website.

Discover more about the career of a Rural Practice Chartered Surveyor or places to study at: www.growyourfuture.education.

What do rural surveyors do?

The role of a rural surveyor is really varied, which is one of the reasons Grow Your Future was created; to provide pictures, videos and case studies explaining the type of work you can expect to be involved with. It also showcases the incredible properties and landscapes you could manage.

There are many more things you could end up being involved in, such as:
- Carrying out valuations of assets—land, property, machinery and livestock
- Buying and selling assets such as farms and cottages
- Communicating with land owners, tenants and occupiers on all aspects of property use, management and legal issues
- Facilitating access to farmland by utility companies
- Project management.

Take a look at #MyOfficeJob on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter and play Grow Your Future’s interactive Valuation Challenge game on their website.