

My YFC



Meet Bryce Mackellar, 27, national chairman of YFC

What attracted you to join YF?

I'm from a rural area where there wasn't much opportunity to join anything else. I first went along with friends who were looking for something to do.

How do you explain YF to someone who has never heard of it?

It is a rural youth organisation that aims to provide social networking for young people in more isolated areas within a safe and organised framework. It empowers young people to make the most of their youth, gives them opportunities for personal development, friendships for life and the chance to be part of decision-making processes for things that affect them.

How would you recruit a friend?

I would take them to their local club so they could see for themselves what a great atmosphere there is. Basically, I would let YF speak for itself.

Will you pursue a career in farming?

I already work alongside my parents on a 900-acre sheep and arable farm in Staffordshire, and I am working towards becoming a partner in their business.

Sum up YFC in five words.

Fun, learning, achievement, friendship, inspiration.

What influence has YF had on your life?

It has made me far more gregarious and open to new experiences and people. I've made many friends across Great Britain and Europe who will hopefully stay with me forever and I also met my fiancée, Kate Woodcock, through YFC.



Bryce gets to grips with a tug of war competition

What YF achievement are you most proud of?

Becoming chairman of Stone YFC, which gave me that first taste of YF's democracy, and being named best club chairman that year at county level.

The most surprising thing that has happened to me in YF was...

Meeting royalty – I have now met Prince Charles, the Queen and Princess Anne – it is interesting to learn how closely they follow YFC.

Have you travelled with YF?

I had the opportunity to take part in the YFC European Rally in Scotland in 2004, I travelled to Northern Ireland in 2003 on an exchange programme visit and I looked at renewable energies in Germany with the agriculture and rural affairs committee last year.

My funniest moment in YFC was...

Being pulled over by the police in Carmarthenshire on a tractor during the 75th anniversary tractor tour for RABI. We were pulled over at 3am because they thought we had nicked the tractor! We showed them insurance, and all our paperwork, including the shipping details – they were really shocked to meet someone with such a collection of documents in the middle of the night!

What does your role as national chairman involve?

I travel to the various clubs around the country judging, stewarding, presenting prizes and public speaking. I chair the council meetings which make decisions affecting the national federation and I am an ambassador for YFC. I've learned diplomacy and the art of thinking before I speak, and how important it is to consider other people's views.



Bryce drove to the four points of England and Wales by tractor to raise money for RABI

How confident are you about the future of YFC?

The future is looking bright, we are seeing rising membership, high uptake in many of our competitions and a stronger voice from our members at many different levels throughout the farming industry.

How much time does YFC take up?

More than my fiancée would like! But it doesn't take up much time for me as it's more a pleasure than a chore.

National YFC Diary Dates



KEEP UP-TO-DATE BY CONTACTING THE NATIONAL OFFICE

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER

South West area meeting, Devon

SATURDAY 10-SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

Sports and Speaking national finals, Staffordshire showground

FRIDAY 16-SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

Leadership development, Stratford-upon-Avon

SATURDAY 24-SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

Countryside Live, Harrogate

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER

NFYFC steering group meetings, Stoneleigh Park

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER

NFYFC council meeting

SATURDAY 21-SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER

English Winter Fair, Staffordshire showground

New members are always welcome. The times and venues of some events are still to be confirmed – contact the national office on 02476 857200.

Visit the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, YFC Centre, 10th Street, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warks, CV8 2LG, call them on 02476 857200, or visit www.nfyfc.org.uk