



# #YFCAGRI

March 2020



## YFC AGRI 2020

There will be considerable challenges ahead due to the unprecedented weather conditions during the past few months. This is a time when rural communities will continue to work together ensuring those who have been so badly affected by flooding have the support they need.

On a more positive note, YFC AGRI has a more focused purpose for 2020 and beyond. Eight regional 'YFC Talks to Defra' events were delivered between late October and mid-February, as well as three business and tenancy training events and there is a range of AGRI resources and opportunities for all YFC members.

We're looking forward to having an active part in the 2020 Cereals event this year and have joined Cambridgeshire FYFC in contributing to this year's programme.

New Agriculture and Environment Bills will no doubt provide opportunities and possibly a few challenges for us all to consider. Let's strive for a very positive 2020.

## Love British Food



We eat it, produce it, cook it and celebrate our great British food whenever and wherever we can.

It's an essential part of YFC life and YFCs know how to help spread all the positive messages about local, quality food.

If you're up for a bit more of a challenge, see what else you can do (page 3) to complement all the great YFC work of championing British food by becoming an ambassador for [Love British Food](#).

## Chairman's News

Welcome to AGRI 2020 and a quick introduction. I'm George Baxter, former Cambridgeshire County Chair, agronomist and passionate supporter of British food, farming and rural life.



**YFC AGRI** is a group of regional YFC members and a NFYFC staff member who work to represent YFC members and provide events, training and resources. There are three **AGRI Futures** meetings a year at a central location in Coventry to discuss programme planning and delivery. We then share our work and plans with the national Council meeting. We are preparing a new **AGRI Ambition** document which highlights our aims to fulfil our strapline - **Your Future Countryside**.

YFC AGRI is responsible for a diverse range of work: representation of young farmers' views nationally and regionally; a varied programme of training, events, visits and resources for **all** YFC members, supported by various funders; responses to relevant rural and agricultural industry and government consultations as well as information exchange and positive PR.

We've worked with the organisers of the Cereals event this year to make sure we have exciting and relevant young farmer content, as well as a healthy concession for YFC members' tickets. (see page 4)

AGRI work and suggestions are also represented within the [NFYFC Source](#), Curve training modules, competitions and available industry training, offers and affinity deals are all available from the NFYFC website.

The group's work is for the benefit of all YFC members. It's relevant for anyone who has an interest in agriculture and the countryside. YFC AGRI welcomes YFC members to get in touch with questions and suggestions and play an active part in forthcoming events.

**George Baxter**  
**NFYFC AGRI Chairman 2020-21**

## DIARY DATES

### March 2020

- 6-8 **South West Area Weekend, Newquay**
- 8-9 **Fine Food Show North, Harrogate**
- 14 **UK Dairy Expo, Cumbria**
- 19 **NFYFC & Savills Business and Tenancy Training, Berkshire YFC, Newbury**
- 20-22 **Shire Horse Show, Stafford**
- 30-1 April **Food and Drink Expo, NEC, Birmingham**

### 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 apprenticeship?
- [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](#).

### YFC AGRI

Keep track of news on the [AGRI Officer Facebook page](#), the [NFYFC news section of the website](#) and all NFYFC social media posts @NFYFC.

[Link representatives](#)

[Who are current members of YFC AGRI?](#)

## News from the Rural Services Network



### Rural Vulnerability Day

Rural England CIC is responsible for an [Annual Rural Vulnerability Day](#) in Parliament and a data base of information relating to specific subjects threatening rural areas, such as rural isolation, poor broadband and fuel poverty. Rural England issues Rural Vulnerability Service bulletins (in combination with the Rural Services Network).

The Rural Services Network - RSN - is working with a 'Rural Vulnerability' Group of some 50 MPs to ensure parliamentarians are fully briefed and to seek to ensure the situation is given a high profile in terms of parliamentary consideration. Rural England has already undertaken two areas of research into the rural vulnerability issues.

This year's Rural Vulnerability Day takes place on 10 March in Westminster, sponsored by the Hastoe Group and hosted by the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on behalf of Rural England CIC.

This event is particularly pertinent to young rural people. Research highlighting the challenges facing rural 16-18 year olds, such as accessing education and work-based learning, is amongst the many topics regarding rural young people, including rural housing and rural isolation, as well as future opportunities.

## Are you a potential Oxford Farming Conference scholar?

Lots of YFC members ask if they can apply for a scholarship for the two [Oxford Farming Conference](#) scholarship places sponsored by the [Worshipful Company of Farmers](#).

The answer is of course yes and there will be a call for applications later in the year. You will need to provide your CV and reasons for why you should be considered. The Worshipful Company of Farmers asks for applications from 20-30 year-old YFC members and you will be expected to write and submit a report for your sponsor, parts of which NFYFC will publicise. Telling your personal story of the conference helps to share information and important messages with your fellow YFC members and with your advocacy for the food and farming industry.

## Love British Food?

If you are interested in becoming a Love British Food ambassador, visit the Love British Food website [page](#) that already features some of our YFC members.

If you are over 18, you can provide your image and outline where and what you farm. You can also see the Q&A examples from existing ambassadors so that you can provide something similar for your feature. (Keep following the relevant links from the Farmers webpage and you can send your information to [info@lovebritishfood.co.uk](mailto:info@lovebritishfood.co.uk) or contact Jane Saward on 020 323 97032.)

Love British Food will forward any relevant interviews or event invites through the year. All they ask in return is that you tag @LoveBritishFood on any relevant social media posts, and during British Food Fortnight. Try and organise one event or support one local event, perhaps community, school, hospital, care home etc. Again support with social media throughout is appreciated.

If you would like a bit of support (or if you have interested under-18 members who need to discuss with their parents and obtain an NFYFC parental support form first), contact [sarah.palmer@nyfc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.palmer@nyfc.org.uk).

# YFC Talks to Defra

## #YFC AGRI

You might have taken part in one of the eight 'YFC Talks to Defra' regional discussion events that YFC AGRI organised with Defra. Or you might be wondering what these events were and why they took place.

## Why do these events take place?

YFC AGRI received a Defra grant to support agreed work which included regional engagement events to help hear about and to contribute to, a future Environmental Land Management scheme (ELM). The new Agriculture Bill was re-introduced to Parliament in January and new policies are emerging. Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payments will gradually be phased out and ELM is currently being designed, alongside other future schemes covering areas such as plant health and animal welfare.

These recent regional 'YFC Talks to Defra' events gave an ideal opportunity for current and future young farmers to understand what policies Defra are working on and why. As this new scheme will affect so many farmers in all regions of England, the events helped to capture the practical thoughts, concerns and ideas from those who already manage land. For this particular scheme, it's important that all local and regional considerations are talked about and taken into account.

YFC AGRI has also been working with Savills to provide regional business and tenancy training events, again supported by Defra. These events allow young farmer members and next generation farmers to spend an afternoon or early evening with Savills' business consultants to learn or hone business skills and make sure they are up to date with emerging industry policy. It's a great way to meet like-minded young farmers, discuss concerns, opportunities and challenges whilst picking up tips from the professionals in an informal atmosphere.

## Who can attend?

Any YFC member can attend events published and promoted by NFYFC and YFC AGRI. The events are either free if it's a consultation event or there's a non-refundable nominal charge for a Defra-supported training event to make sure that limited places are taken up.

## Could you summarise the feedback?

Young farmers value the importance of food production and enhanced efficiency going hand-in-hand with environmental measures. They listened to, questioned and discussed the practicalities of Defra's plans for a future tiered scheme, packages of options, a scheme devolved to local government and an innovative price discovery mechanism. They were assured that nothing is yet set in stone and that Defra aims to tailor the new scheme to fit local priorities, find innovative delivery solutions and explore new payment methodologies.

A future National Pilot, launching in late 2021, will build on the current tests and trials work and the scheme should be made easily accessible for farmers to work out what will be appropriate for their individual farms.

Defra has now launched the [Environmental Land Management \(ELM\) Policy Discussion Document](#) on the Citizen Space website. This document sets out Defra's initial thinking on the design of the new ELM scheme. There are key questions in the document which will help Defra shape the new scheme. Visit the [Defra Facebook page](#) for further information.



**The first 2020 'YFC Talks to Defra' event attracted 50 YFC members, next generation farmers and supporters.**

Supported by



# YFC Update



# Cereals

THE ARABLE EVENT

## Cereals 2020

**Make sure you have 10 June firmly in your diary to enjoy a great programme of events for young farmers. Cereals 2020 takes place on 10-11 June 2020 at Chrishall Grange, Duxford, Cambridge and some of your YFC peers will be playing a very active part in the programme.**

If you're interested in all things arable but haven't been to the Cereals event, this is the year to go. Whether it's technical or business skills, networking or innovation, the new young farmer programme has features that we know will resonate with YFC members.

Former Cambridgeshire and current YFC AGRI Chairman George Baxter is hosting a breakfast reception on 10 June to set the scene for the young farmers' programme, which includes sessions exploring future business, careers, business innovation and building your route into a tenancy. Not forgetting achieving net zero, renewables and trees, there's a host of seminars, features and discussions - and an exciting business development competition.

YFC AGRI made its debut at Cereals last year, organising a succession discussion with Savills, Siân Bushell and YFC members George Baxter and Georgina Sweeting. George highlights the journey to this year's event.

"Our succession debate at Cereals was a result of the Defra supported work for the YFC [We Really Need to Talk](#) video and subsequent [Ready and Resilient Curve training module](#). We joined up with our project collaborators to highlight succession issues at the 2019 show. Having played an active part in last year's show, Georgina and I were well-placed to meet with the organisers of this year's event to feedback our thoughts and input to a programme that really fits young farmer interests and needs.

"The programme's shaping up to contribute to a great event so I look forward to seeing you there."

## What happened at NFYFC Council.....?

- George Baxter is the new AGRI chairman and his vice chairman is Tom Pope.
- YFC AGRI supported George Baxter's motion for the annual general meeting regarding YFCs sourcing and promoting British food at their events.
- YFC AGRI reviewed the regional 'YFC Talks to Defra' events and the first three (of five) business and tenancy training events.
- The farm visit and agroecology discussion at Daylesford will be re-scheduled for later in 2020.
- NFYFC has partnership status for Cereals 2020 following input for the young farmer element of the programme. George Baxter will host a reception for young farmers on 10 June and YFC AGRI aims to launch its latest survey results. Various YFC members will input to the programme.
- David Goodwin (former YFC AGRI chairman) represented YFCs at Westminster in February appearing as a witness to a [Public Bill Committee](#) scrutinising the Agriculture Bill.
- The AGRI chairman was a signatory to a [letter](#) to the Prime Minister from a coalition of farming, environmental, animal welfare and public health organisations on trade and standards.
- The proposed NFYFC Defra grant 2020-2021 has been developed and submitted for consideration.
- A response to the Prince's Countryside Fund call for evidence regarding livestock auction marts has been submitted
- The 2020 Rally and Show Guidance note has been updated and circulated to counties.
- Nicola Palfrey attended her second Tenancy Reform Industry Group (TRIG) meeting on behalf of YFCs.
- The YFC AGRI and Competitions chairmen have agreed to the implementation of a rolling three-year agri-input to future competitions.

## Have your say

### Want a bit more input to land-based career and employment opportunities?

If you have completed or are currently completing an apprenticeship, or if you are an employer, you are invited to attend a workshop event hosted by Landex on behalf of IfATE (the Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Information) to review the Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care Occupational Route Map.

You'll find links for registration for an event in your region listed below - free to attend and lunch and refreshments will be provided.

[Devon \(South West\)](#) - Friday 6 March 2020 10.30 - 15.00

[Sparsholt \(South East\)](#) - Friday 27 March 2020 10.30 - 15.00

[Reaseheath College \(West Midlands\)](#) - Monday 23 March 2020 10.30 - 15.00

[Moulton \(East Midlands\)](#) - Monday 30 March 2020 10.30 - 15.00

[Askham Bryan \(North\)](#) - Tuesday 31 March 2020 10.30 - 15.00

## Need some programme ideas?

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

Want to have a conversation about succession? Read an [article](#) in the Farmers Club newsletter about our AGRI debate at Cereals this year and don't forget to use the new Ready and Resilient [Curve](#) module.

[RBST](#) - Rare Breeds Survival Trust has a great track record of working with YFCs. You can find an introductory guide to showing or the results of some fantastic collaboration at this year's cookery finals. 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.

[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.

## 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.

[IbTB – interactive map of bovine TB breakdowns in England and Wales](#)

[TBhub – The home of UK TB information](#)



# Flooding

The impacts of flooding have had far-reaching effects on farmers and rural communities throughout England and Wales.

Some of you have already been involved in tremendous work to help your local communities and with the impact of persistent rain this may well continue.

Many organisations, government and agencies have help available, so make sure that you and your communities are aware of this support.

## Useful contacts and website links

[Flood risk check](#)

[Farming Recovery Fund](#)

[Prince's Countryside Fund](#)

RABI helpline details – 0808 281 9490 or email [help@rabi.org.uk](mailto:help@rabi.org.uk) – to groups dealing with farming families affected by the latest flooding

[Farming Community Network](#)

## AGRI Contacts

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#### TRIG Rep

Nicola Palfrey

#### NFU Rep

Beth Duchesne & Tom Pope

#### CLA Rep

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#### LEAF Rep

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#### Co-Options to AGRI Steering Group

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#### 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