



#YFCAGRI

January 2021



YFC AGRI 2021

All to play for in 2021

Happy New Year and welcome to YFC AGRI 2021!

It is with trepidation but continued optimism that we start the new year knowing that our resilience has been well and truly tested. The triple whammy of Covid-19, extreme weather and Brexit - with the subsequent emerging policy change ideas thrown in - made for a very sobering 2020.

The positives are the continued rural and farming community work and support, local food supply opportunities, widely-shared [research findings](#) and every action that showed the resourcefulness and innovation of those who live and work in the countryside. The year of 2021 will prompt a time of change and there will be challenges and opportunities ahead.

It was noted at a YFC AGRI event in October last year that young people are the future but also the present, so it is essential that your opinions, experience and concerns are heard. Lead by example and take every opportunity to learn new skills, train and share good practice.

YFC AGRI encourages all interested YFC members to join its regular online conversations – your voice matters.

Let's start the year as we mean to go on with a determination to make the most of every opportunity. With the promise of continuing consultations and co-design workshops for emerging [agricultural and rural plans](#), it's so important for as many of you as possible to share your views of farming, land management and rural life.

YFC AGRI is extending its reach by supporting two more events in 2021 in addition to Cereals. [The Low Carbon in Agriculture Show](#) and the [International Cheese and Dairy Awards](#) will help to showcase young farmers' views and examples of business achievements and aspirations.

After the challenges of 2020, resilience, knowledge and skills will stand everyone in good stead for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Chairman's News



I'm hesitant to say that 2021 couldn't be worse.....but without tempting fate, let's be optimistic and embrace this year and make the most of new opportunities whilst facing down challenges. We will certainly continue to work together to help support both our YFC community and the rural and farming communities.

I said at the November NFYFC Council meeting that I was one very proud AGRI Chairman. Proud because of the industry I work in, the membership organisation that I belong to and the continued opportunities the YFC AGRI group can bring to young farmers. Whether its research findings, concessions for future shows, representing our membership at industry or government meetings, conferences and shows, or highlighting your amazing rural community spirit.

For this reason, I want more YFC members to feel free to join the regular YFC AGRI Zoom meetings, one of the few happy upsides of the pandemic. With over 20 meetings held in 2020 to discuss and plan future events, projects, share opinions and ideas, the path of progress for wider inclusion has been set! We were delighted to welcome newly appointed county AGRI link reps to the last December meeting and welcome everyone who has a love of all things farming and rural to meetings this year.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our research surveys last year and I'm pleased to say that the results have been shared far and wide. We've also provided a new [rural housing guide](#), produced in association with English Rural, to help you find good advice and information. This is in addition to the range of resources already available from the NFYFC website for YFC members of all ages.

Your future matters and sustaining both YFC and the food and farming industries for all who live and work in the countryside matters. I look forward to connecting with you all in 2021 and we will continue to share news, views and make our case for the next generation.

George Baxter
NFYFC AGRI Chairman 2020-21



DIARY DATES

Planned 2021 online events

January 2021

- 5 **YFC AGRI Zoom meeting**
- 7 **[Oxford Farming Conference](#) - online**
- 12 **[YFC Farm Finance Workshop](#) - online**

March

- 9-10 **[Low Carbon Agriculture 2021](#) - online**

USEFUL LINKS

- [NFYFC Rural Housing Guide](#) – why affordable homes are important in the countryside and how you qualify and apply for affordable housing.
- [Henry Plumb Foundation](#) – awards grants and industry mentors for your rural business.
- [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](#).
- [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.
- [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.
- [Apprenticeships](#) – choosing a career or thinking about taking on an apprenticeship?
- [Nuffield Farming Scholarships](#) – life-changing scholarships that unlock individual potential and broaden horizons through study and travel overseas, with a view to developing farming and agricultural industries.
- [Ready and Resilient](#) – start your succession conversation with the NFYFC Curve module. You can download and use the farming or YFC case studies to help broach the topic and plan ahead.

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](#) – job role description
[2020 -21Regional YFC AGRI representatives](#)

YFC Farm Finance Workshop

If you're making business plans for 2021, we have just the workshop you need.

Carter Jonas is hosting a virtual farm finance workshop for next generation farmers that gives information, covers common queries, and shares examples of successful funding applications for a range of purposes. This includes:

- The information banks look for
- The difference between fixed and variable rates
- Annuity and interest only loans
- What can be used as security
- The difference between base rate and bank rates.

The workshop will end with a short Q&A session and you are invited to submit questions either when you register or during the webinar.

[Further details and registration here.](#)

OFC Scholars

Seven days after leaving the EU, three YFC members will represent NFYFC at the first-ever digital [Oxford Farming Conference \(OFC\)](#) on 7 January 2021.

Jack Seigneury from Lincolnshire FYFC, Jessica Spencer from Nottinghamshire FYFC and NFYFC's Vice Chairman Ed Dungait from Northumberland FYFC will take part in the one-day virtual conference after being awarded an NFYFC scholarship by the Worshipful Company of Farmers (WCF).

The trio also joined other scholars on 10 December for a half-day online scholars' event in conjunction with McDonald's. They had a McDonald's virtual franchise tour; attended an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion workshop and a conference overview and networking session. Scholars are being encouraged to communicate with each other during the build-up to the conference in January.

The OFC Scholar programme aims to provide the next generation with an opportunity to experience the UK's leading agricultural conference and to share their views and ideas.

This year's OFC has a theme of *Business as Unusual* to reflect the fact we will have just left the EU and how our lives have changed since the start of the pandemic. It is also the 75th anniversary of the conference, since the first one was held in 1936. If you would like to request a talk on their experience for your club, please contact sarah.palmer@nfyfc.org.uk.

Make the most of your MP



We often discuss the importance of contacting your MP to highlight the issues that affect your daily life. Here's a good example of why it's important and why it's necessary to build up a relationship to share both the things that need fixing and the things that are going well.

Danny Kruger MP (Con) spoke in a digital infrastructure, connectivity and accessibility debate in Parliament in December on how best to address areas of poor connection across what he calls the 'wastelands of Wiltshire'.

He argued that the internet is the 'saviour' of the countryside, as in order to help rural towns and villages prosper, it is necessary to have more remote working, more start-ups and more young people staying in the countryside, all facilitated by better internet.

Mr Kruger said: 'We know that 30 percent of rural firms experience unreliable broadband, which is twice the rate of firms in urban areas.'

During this time of policy change - and with recent [NFYFC research results](#) at your fingertips - you can start a dialogue with your MP at any time and make your views, requests, concerns and ideas known.

You can find your local MP's details [here](#) and maybe drop him or her a line this year to share your views.

Low Carbon in Agriculture 2021



#LowCarbonAgri

Low Carbon Agriculture show online: Register for free

[Low Carbon Agriculture show](#), the new event showcasing opportunities in renewable energy, technological advances and Environmental Land Management (ELM), for a profitable and sustainable future in farming, has announced it will certainly go ahead in March 2021 - online.

Supported by the NFYFC and held in association with the National Farmers Union (NFU), the show will move to a fully interactive digital format on 9 and 10 March 2021, to support farmers during not only the challenging Covid-19 pandemic, but through a rapidly evolving industry.

Maintaining its renowned multi-streamed conference, exhibition, networking benefits, and four key areas of focus - Energy Now Expo, Environmental Business Expo, Low Emission Vehicles Expo and Farm Technology Expo, Low Carbon Agriculture Show has extensively analysed different formats, gaining feedback from farmers who have attended online conferences, to create a digital event which delivers.

The highly-anticipated multi-streamed conference will have expert speakers presenting on each type of renewable energy, as well as sessions on energy storage, low emission vehicles and finance. New topics for 2021 including natural capital, carbon management, soil health, reaching net zero in agriculture, policy compliance and much more.

Low Carbon Agriculture show has had a fantastic response from its [Digital Insights webinars](#), which take place each month on the run up to the event.

Spring boarding off the success of 'Energy and Rural Business Show' in 2019 and 2020, the event continues to be ahead of the curve, evolving from its roots as 'Energy Now Expo', and celebrates 12 years of success next March.

Visit the new Low Carbon Agriculture Show website to find out more: www.lowcarbonagricultureshow.co.uk or follow on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) @lowcarbonagri

YFC Update

Tom James and Elliot Cole

Two great stories to demonstrate what dipping your toes into the YFC AGRI experience can do!

Tom James joined the regular online YFC AGRI meetings and became a valued contributor. With extensive knowledge of all things carbon, Tom's experience was ideal for a discussion with Students for Sustainability's (SoS) Jamie Agombar who spoke about the organisation's Carbon & Nature pilot proposal for land owned by universities and future environmental and tenant farmer benefits. Whilst the outcome of the project proposal is still being considered, Tom will also present his views on carbon capture and farming at the March [Low Carbon in Agriculture 2021](#) online show.

"I offered to sit on the SOS steering group to give a practical farmer perspective should the funding application be successful. It's good to collaborate with another organisation that has such far-reaching goals to help both the net zero ambitions that government and industry have set and to meet a different group of people. This work has stimulated my interest in agriculture and I'm looking forward to sharing my views at the Low Carbon in Agriculture show in March."

Elliot Cole wasn't a member of YFC when he filmed his winning entry for the first part of the [NFYFC Climate Change Video Challenge](#).

An active member of his family farm in Devon, Elliot spoke about the many on-farm measures that are helping to reduce carbon emissions and store carbon. Not only did Elliot win the first part of the challenge's 18 and over category, he also joined the NFU Net Zero group meeting in September, has shared his story with the organiser of the Low Carbon in Agriculture show for their online publication [Energy Now](#), and joined Devon FYFC.

"I think this is a great example of taking up a challenge and seeing just where it goes. In my case, the passion and interest that I have for sustainable farming paid dividends. A three-minute video on my mobile highlighting what we do, what benefits these bring to our enterprise and the environment was all it took to open the door for further opportunities.

"Entering and winning the competition has helped spread a positive message about farming and our concern and actions for achieving net zero ambitions as well as showing that we can all play our part in sharing good news stories.

"As NFU Deputy President Stuart Roberts, who chairs the NFU's net zero steering group said, we're the generation who'll face the greatest climate challenge. I hope that young farmer voices will be represented at this year's [26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties \(COP26\)](#) in Glasgow this November to show just what can be done."



[Love British Food](#) campaigns for our great British food. Its aim is simple... to encourage people to discover the diverse and delicious food made in Britain and to actively seek it out on menus and in shopping aisles. In doing so Love British Food hopes to secure a robust market for British food that makes it viable for farmers and producers to continue to invest in farming and domestic food production because they will feel confident in consumer demand for their product.

You can check out young farmers who already support this work in the [young farmer section](#) of the website and you might be interested in a campaign to help the government procure more British food.

British farmers and producers are of some of the highest quality in the world and have continued their fine work in the most challenging circumstances. The public sector should be taking full advantage of the fantastic produce grown on our shores, whilst at the same time pumping money into the local economy and also getting great value for money. It's a win-win. If you agree, you can take a look at [the letter written to the Prime Minister](#) and sign your support.

Have you watched the events and seen what's on offer for YFCs?

2020 will be remembered for the digital transformation in the way we all operated, and what a year for showing just how much can take place virtually.

There's always a range of material available from the NFYFC website, but here's just a few ideas if you want to catch up and start making plans for 2021.

If you didn't make the online event [Produce, Protect, Profit](#) in November, you can watch online as well as the AGRI debate [Different Ways of Doing the Same Thing](#) featuring Nigel Owens, Ivan Annibal, George Baxter, Tom Pope and Beth Duchesne.

If you are thinking of future partnerships, why not visit [The Association of Show and Agricultural Organisations](#) (ASAO)? ASAO represents the UK's many agricultural, horticultural, equine and countryside events. Run by 'show' people, with years of experience in the field, its members benefit from unrivalled advice on everything from legislation, health and safety, operations, marketing and best practice.

You can find links to a [show society](#) within your county and if you haven't already, get involved and find out the many ways you could form a new partnership or contribute for mutual benefit.

LEAF Education Farmer Time

What is it, what impact does it have?

The Farmer Time Impact Report 2020 revealed that:

- 524 schools and farms have been paired up to date
- 15,720 children of school age have been reached
- 100% of farmers have enjoyed the experience
- 71% of farmers have spoken to children about careers in farming
- 96% of farmers who participated will be continuing with Farmer Time next year
- 100% of teachers have enjoyed the experience, would recommend it to others and are continuing with it next year
- 96% of teachers believe the children gained a better understanding of the food supply chain.

Talking to schools

Visit the [NFYFC AGRI page](#) and click on the link to download a handy guide that was produced in association with LEAF Education and Countryside Classroom.

[LEAF Education](#) worked with NFYFC to produce a special [pack](#) for YFCs with all the information you need to go into schools and create a buzz about farming. Imagine the great work you and your fellow YFC members could do by striking up a relationship with a local school.

Bovine TB

A reminder that a new version of www.ibTB.co.uk is available. Improvements include 10 years of breakdown data, a links page and improvements to the 'help' pages and you can view the [new video](#) showing you how to make the most of the system.

There's lots of information and practical advice on all aspects of bTB available on the [TB hub website](#) – from biosecurity and responsible cattle movements, to TB testing and what happens during a TB breakdown.

The TB hub has factsheets, case studies, videos, and FAQs which can help those affected by or working with the threat of bTB. The latest version of [ibTB](#), is an online interactive mapping tool that displays the location of TB breakdowns in England and Wales. You can use the tool to raise awareness of how farmers can check the bTB risk of cattle that they are buying and make informed, responsible choices.

We look forward to Defra representatives joining future NFYFC events for discussion with YFC members when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.



Nuffield Farming Scholarships

The [Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust](#) awards approximately 20 individuals each year with the opportunity to research topics of interest in either farming, food, horticulture or rural industries.

A bursary of approximately £7,000 is given towards travel and subsistence expenses. In addition, the Trust and an individual award sponsor will meet travel and expenses in relation to the pre-study briefing and contemporary scholars' conference. The total value of an award is in excess of £12,000.

Scholars can travel anywhere in the world for a period of no less than eight weeks to further their knowledge and understanding of their chosen study topic. A written report is required for submission and publication. Findings, conclusions, and the recommendations to industry are presented at the Annual Nuffield Farming Conference. Online presentations were made in 2020.

Henry Plumb Foundation

Now more than ever, you may need a little help with a new enterprise.

You don't have to wait for new schemes as there's a tried and tested group of industry experts and mentors that can help you with your ideas to start or expand your business.

Started by Lord Henry Plumb, the [Henry Plumb Foundation](#) provides financial backing and support for those with ideas, enthusiasm and a wish to get ahead.

As part of the programme, candidates are matched with an experienced industry mentor, who will help you make the most of business opportunities.

Applications for the next round of awards close on **5 March 2021** and interview dates will be confirmed.

Chairman: George Baxter
georgebaxter989@gmail.com

Vice Chairman: Tom Pope
t.r.pope92@gmail.com

Ex-officio: David Goodwin
david@costowfarms.co.uk

Area Representatives:

East Midlands

Jack Marlow
Jack.marlow96@outlook.com
Samantha Allen
sammyla27@googlemail.com

Eastern

George Baxter
georgebaxter989@gmail.com
Beth Duchesne
beth_duchesne@hotmail.co.uk

Northern

Oliver Macintosh
oliver_mackintosh@hotmail.co.uk
Neil Curr
neil_curr@hotmail.co.uk

South East

Lawry Taylor
lawrytaylor5678@gmail.com
Henry Graham
henrygraham212@gmail.com

South West

Tom Pope
t.r.pope92@gmail.com
Gareth Hutchings
gareth.hutchings@hotmail.com

Wales

Nia Borseley
Nia_b@live.co.uk
Caryl Hughes
carylhughes26@hotmail.co.uk

West Midlands

Steve Rogers
steve.ar94@hotmail.co.uk
Ernie Richards
tomas.Richards@hotmail.co.uk

TRIG Rep

Nicola Palfrey

NFU Rep

Beth Duchesne & Tom Pope

CLA Rep

Greg Colebrook & Tom Pope

LEAF Rep

George Baxter & Ed Turner

Co-Options to AGRI Steering Group

Sam Smith
Luke Cox
Steve Rogers

NFYFC Agriculture and Rural Issues

Sarah Palmer
sarah.palmer@nfyfc.org.uk
02476 857213

AGRI Contacts

If you would like to raise any AGRI matters with the steering group or would like further information, please contact your [regional reps](#) or NFYFC.