

SPRING UPDATE 2020



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Foreword



Dear Readers,

When I wrote to you all a few months ago regarding the work Welsh Government are doing to respond to the potential implications of a no deal Brexit, no one could have predicted the situation we now face as a nation.

We are in unprecedented times. However, once again it is inspiring to see how people are pulling together, working around the clock as an industry to ensure the people of Wales have food on their plates.

There are many key workers critical to the health and resilience of our country, including those involved in the food supply chain. Each and every one of you is delivering an absolutely vital service. I would like to put on record my thanks to farmers, livestock markets and processors for ensuring the continuation of the food supply chain.

The closure of the foodservice sector has had an immediate and significant impact on market prices, with price volatility being experienced, something I am personally monitoring very closely. The impact of COVID-19 is being felt across all sectors.

I welcome the further temporary easing of the competition laws, which

applies across the whole of the UK. This will allow the dairy industry to adapt to these changes in the supply chain, enabling the industry to work closer to solve the problems it is facing.

The Agricultural Resilience Group (ARG) which has amongst others representation from the farming unions, CLA, TFA and levy bodies has been stood up and we are meeting weekly. Separate Dairy, Beef and Animal Health & Welfare Focus Groups have also been established.

The intelligence and outputs from these meetings are feeding into all of our thinking on how best to deal with the impact of the escalating measure to manage the Covid-19 outbreak and I am grateful to industry stakeholders for the intelligence they are sharing and the positive way they are working with Welsh Government.

It is vital we all continue to work together and I appreciate there is lots more to do.

We will get through this together and I am extremely grateful to everyone in the industry for all the work you are doing to feed the nation.

Stay safe and well.

Regards

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

KEY DATES

2020

MAY

4 May –
Farming Connect Skills and Training window open

JUNE

12 June –
Glastir Woodland Creation EOI closes

15 June –
Closing date for receipt of SAF 2020, and the Glastir Commons application form, without penalty

JULY

10 July –
Final day for receipt of SAF 2020 subject to late penalties.
All SAFs received after 10 July will be rejected

20 July –
Final day for response to the 'Preliminary Checks: Permanent Features and Duplicate Fields' letter to avoid penalties

31 July –
Government Gateway Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is introduced for RPW Online customers

Rural Payments Wales (RPW) statement on coronavirus (COVID-19)

The COVID 19 global crisis is affecting us all, and the measures being taken to deal with the situation are evolving daily. Our first priority is to maintain public health in-line with Government advice.

As a result of this advice, changes have been made to some RPW services. These changes have been made in the hope that they will alleviate the significant impact COVID-19 is having on farm businesses.

Some changes have also been made to the way we work. All of our staff are now working from home. We are doing everything we can to make sure customer service and processing is maintained, however there will inevitably be some impact on our ability to respond quickly.

The latest RPW service changes are available on the Welsh Government website. A notification will be sent to all customers if further changes are made.

Please visit the website for the latest information

www.gov.wales/rural-payments-wales-rpw-coronavirus-covid-19

Extension to SAF 2020 submission deadline

The Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs has introduced legislation to extend the SAF submission deadline to 15 June. This includes the Glastir Commons application form. Please note that applications that are received from 16 June up to and including 10 July will receive late claim penalties.

SAF 2020 supporting documents can be uploaded onto RPW Online and they must also be submitted by the new date of 15 June. If you are unable to submit any supporting documents by the deadline you should notify RPW before the 15 June. Notifying RPW will enable you to submit the documents after the deadline. Any documents submitted after the deadline that you did not notify RPW of will not be considered.

Please contact the RPW Customer Contact Centre on 03000 625004 or via your RPW Online account immediately if you are unable submit the online SAF or if you are unable to submit supporting documentation by the deadline.

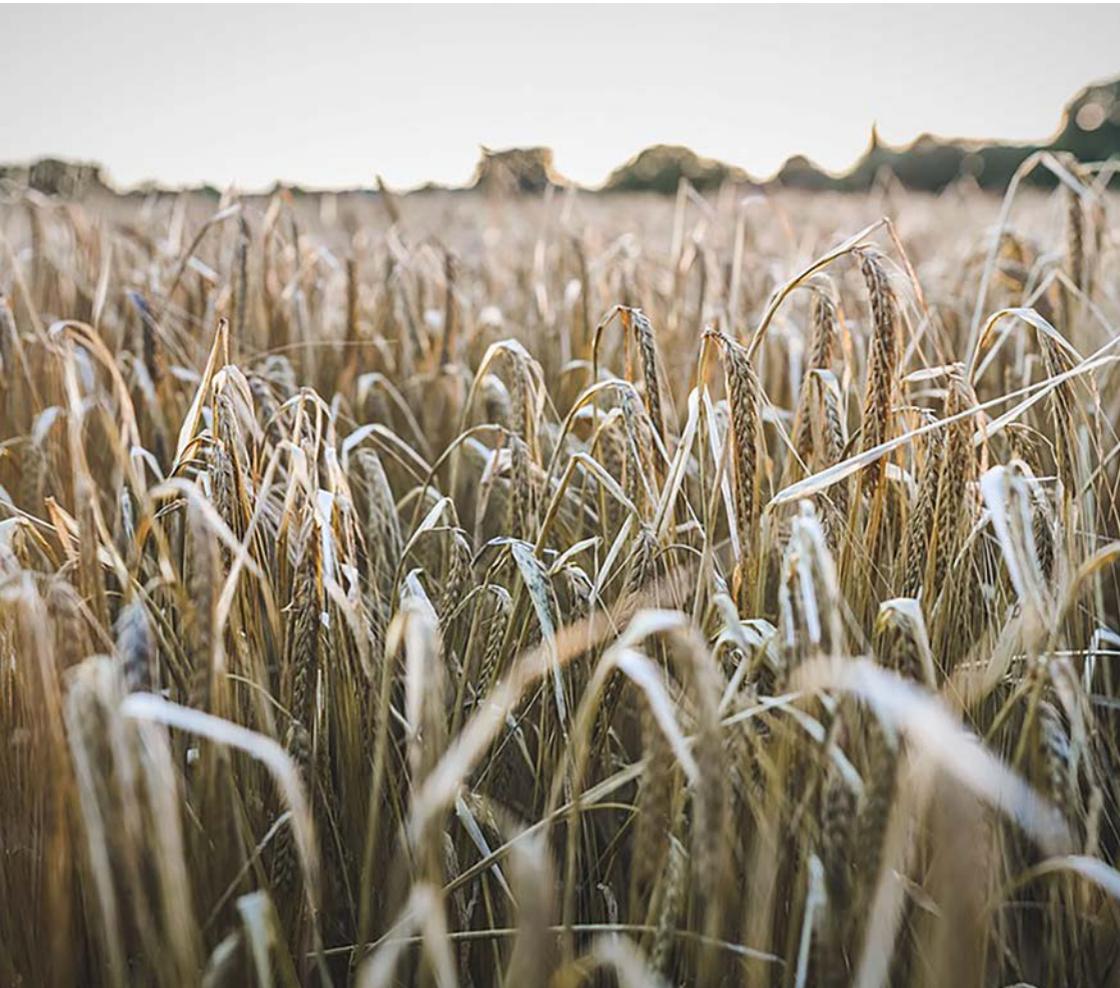
Crop Diversification

Due to the recent flooding and the COVID-19 crisis, the Minister has also BPS customers can still qualify for greening payment by permanent pasture and Ecological Focus Area (EFA) declarations.

As a result of this change, BPS customers are no longer required to comply with the two crop and three crop requirements to qualify for greening payment.

BPS customers can still qualify for greening payment by permanent pasture and Ecological Focus Area (EFA) declarations.

For further guidance on permanent pasture and EFA requirements, please visit the Welsh Government website gov.wales/basic-payment-scheme-greening-guidance



Farming Charities

There is help and support available to those in our rural communities that require it during these difficult times.



Farming Community Network (FCN)

FCN is a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers, agricultural workers and families within the farming community through difficult times.

FCN can help with a variety of issues, such as animal health and welfare issues, issues with mental and physical health such as depression, stress, isolation, long term illness and accidents as well as family matters such as retirement, succession, relationship breakups and making a will.

**Contact the helpline open every day between
7am-11am on 03000 111 999
Email: help@fcn.org.uk
for more information visit: www.fcn.org.uk**



Addington Fund

The Addington Fund is a registered farming charity that in times of emergency and when hardship prevails may be able to provide disaster relief to farmers on a national, regional and individual basis.

In recent years the Fund has diversified to become a housing charity as well focusing on farmers in England and Wales who are forced to leave their farms through no fault of their own and are at risk of becoming homeless. As well as retirement homes the Fund is now able to offer a limited amount of rented/shared equity homes and has built up a portfolio of affordable rural houses to help young families remain in their chosen rural location. The aim is to fight rural depopulation and rural poverty to keep the countryside sustainable and resilient.

**Contact the helpline on: 01926 620135
www.addingtonfund.org.uk**



DPJ Foundation

The DPJ Foundation was set up in July 2016 following the death of Daniel Picton-Jones. The foundation aims to support people in rural communities with poor mental health, especially men in the agricultural sector.

The charity provides fully funded counselling by qualified counsellors which is offered at a venue of choice (often at the farmer's home or via the internet or telephone).

Contact the call line open 24 hours a day: 0800 587 4262.

Text line: 07860 048799

www.thedpfoundation.com



Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (R.A.B.I)

R.A.B.I is the farming sector's oldest and largest charity providing financial support, practical care and guidance to farming people of all ages, including farmers, farmworkers and dependants, across Wales and England. Support is personally tailored to suit individual need.

Extreme weather, physical and mental illness, accidents, animal disease and cash flow problems are just some of the reasons why working people seek the charity's help. It's R.A.B.I's vision that no member of the farming community should ever have to face adversity alone.

Helpline: 0808 2819490

Email: help@rabi.org.uk

www.rabi.org.uk



Tir Dewi

Tir Dewi is a charity supporting farmers and their families. A network of volunteers are available to listen and offer complete confidentiality who can help untangle, prioritise and solve problems. Volunteers can put farmers in touch with partner organisations who can offer specific help with an array of complex problems.

To find out how Tir Dewi can help you, contact the

Freephone helpline: 0800 121 4722 or

email: mail@tirdewi.co.uk

Top Industry Experts Appointed to HCC Board

Lesley Griffiths, the Welsh Government Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, has announced the appointment of four new Non-Executive Directors to the board of Welsh red meat levy body Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales (HCC).

The four new board members are grocery industry expert, Melody Chapman, Chief Executive of Farmers Ltd Auctioneers, Valuers and Estate Agents, Rhys Davies, partner of a Pembrokeshire farm and communications specialist from New Zealand, Nadine Porter and Livestock Procurement Director for Kepak St Merryn, Prys Morgan.

These new board members have a wide range of experience at senior levels in the food industry and in corporate strategy and governance, and join Chairman Kevin Roberts and six re-appointed directors in providing strategic leadership and oversight to the organisation.



Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, said:

“I would like to welcome all four new Directors to the Board of Hybu Cig Cymru, and congratulate Melody, Rhys, Prys and Nadine on their appointment.

They join the board at an unprecedented time, as all produce sectors – including the red meat industry – face major challenges as supply chains and conventional sources of demand, both in domestic and export markets, are hit by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; not to mention the impact that the public health crisis has already had on day-to-day business.

The Board must be able to support and challenge the executive around the key areas of strategic planning, corporate governance and marketing, and individual Board members to be able to communicate and engage directly and effectively with levy payers.

I am also pleased that the appointments process has led to a gender-balanced Board, reflecting the diversity of talent within the sector.

I'm sure the new appointees will be able to bring their breadth of expertise during this time, as we face not only the ongoing challenge of COVID-19 but also upcoming changes to exports as the UK's trading position with the EU remains uncertain."

Wales Skills Matching Service

A new online service, which will match employers with jobseekers looking for agricultural, land and veterinary work during the COVID-19 outbreak, has been launched.

Commissioned by Welsh Government, the new pilot service is delivered by Lantra, the leading awards body for land-based industries in Wales.

The service will put potential employees, with the relevant skills and experience, in touch with businesses to ensure vacancies are filled in the coming months, addressing any potential labour shortages in the sector caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Skills matching forms are easy to complete and can be completed online at: www.wales.lantra.co.uk.

For individuals that do not have access to a computer or do not have the right IT skills, the Farming Connect Service Centre will be able to complete the forms online on their behalf.

(Farming Connect Service Centre Tel: 08456 000 813)

Animal Health and Welfare content

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Advice for Livestock and Equine Keepers

If you have responsibility for caring for livestock or equines, you should prepare a contingency plan for how to maintain essential care for your animals if you, your family or your staff become ill or are unable to perform your usual care routine. Consider reference to your business continuity plan if you have one and COVID-19 guidance for employers from the Welsh Government¹

Visits should be made no more than is necessary to safeguard the health and welfare of animals. For those whose animals are not kept at the home location, visits should be made no more than once daily.

If you are self-isolating because you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have come into contact with someone who has, you should avoid contact with animals as much as possible. Try to arrange for someone else who is not self-isolating to care for your animals. If this is not possible, take extra care to wash your hands before and after handling your animals, and their produce. You must follow the current Public Health Wales guidance² on self – and household isolation.



1. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-individuals-and-businesses-in-wales>

2. <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-advice/>

If your livestock or equine needs veterinary attention



Routine veterinary work such as foot trimming should be postponed where possible.

If your livestock or equine is injured, sick or needs to receive urgent treatment for an ongoing condition please phone the vet to arrange the best approach to meet your animal's needs. Do not visit the vet without checking with them in advance. Where possible arrange for someone else not showing symptoms to facilitate the vets visit to your farm/stables or liaise with the vet remotely avoiding close contact. Make specific arrangements before setting out to minimise any risks of possible virus transmission.

View the latest Welsh Government guidance at:
gov.wales/caring-animals-during-coronavirus-outbreak

Bovine TB

COVID-19

Our current advice is all TB tests and visits should only continue providing all involved can maintain adequate self-isolating and social distancing requirements.

This is an ever changing situation and keepers should refer to the Statutory TB testing of cattle in GB during the COVID-19 pandemic FAQ on TB Hub www.tbhub.co.uk for the most current advice and other general TB related questions.

If it is not safe to TB test on your farm you will have no financial penalties to going overdue, but you will be subject to movement restrictions. However, you may still receive an automated letter explaining you are subject to penalties, so please disregard this.

If completion of a TB test is not possible during the defined testing window then the farm in question will be placed under restriction.

This is because such herds will be considered as “of unknown TB status” and may pose additional TB risks to other herds.

Now, more than ever, it is vital to look after our well-being just as much as our health. Please refer to the Statutory TB testing of cattle in GB during the COVID-19 pandemic FAQ on TB Hub for further information on the support available.

Keepers should ensure they adhere to current Government advice regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) when conducting any of the above activities.

Fallen Stock guidance

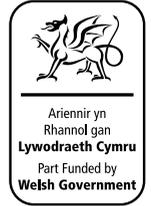
We are in regular contact with APHA to monitor the situation regarding fallen stock and any problems that may arise if delays are encountered to the existing disposal routes. We are not currently aware of any significant industry constraints on collections & disposal and will continue to monitor the issue closely. Communication between the farming industry and Welsh Government has been carried out regarding questions raised about derogation in relation to disposal of fallen stock. At this time there is no derogation and the ABP Regulations as they stand must be adhered to.





FarmWell

INFORMATION | SUPPORT | RESILIENCE
GWYBODAETH | CYMORTH | CADERNID



A one-stop resources hub

Helping you & your farm business stay strong and resilient



FarmWell is a new online resources hub full of the most useful information to help keep your farm business, and yourself, resilient through changing times and help you plan positively for the future.

FarmWell is free to use and has three clear aims:

Business

Supporting you in developing your farm business and keeping it resilient through changing times. FarmWell provides links to the most useful and user-friendly information sources across all farm business areas, where you can find the facts to help plan successfully and efficiently.

Personal

Helping you, your family and your staff to deal with change. FarmWell contains supportive links, advice and help, aimed at improving your emotional and physical resilience, whilst maintaining a safe and healthy working environment.

Support

Guidance on how you can access additional support and mentoring, both from a business and personal perspective, should the need arise.

To find out more visit farmwell.wales



STOPIO'N DDIOGEL SAFE STOP

Cyn gadael y cerbyd neu ganiatáu
i unrhyw un ddod at y peiriant
neu gwblhau gwaith:

Before leaving the vehicle cab or
allowing anyone to approach or
undertake work on the machine:

1. GOSODWCH Y
BRÛC LLAW



1. ENGAGE YOUR
HANDBRAKE

2. RHOWCH Y
RHEOLYDDION
YN NIWTRAL



2. PUT CONTROLS
IN NEUTRAL

3. DIFFODDWCH
YR INJAN



3. SWITCH OFF
YOUR ENGINE

4. TYNNWCH
EICH ALLWEDD
O'R CERBYD



4. REMOVE YOUR
KEY FROM THE
VEHICLE

MAE "STOPIO'N
DDIOGEL" YN
ARBED BYWYDAU
A BYWOLIAETH

PARTNERIAETH
DIOGELWCH
FFERM CYMRU
WALES
FARM SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP

"SAFE STOP"
SAVES LIVES AND
LIVELIHOODS

Farm Liaison Service

Supporting Welsh Farmers...
Confidential, one-to-one guidance and support

FLS

Tim Cysylltwyr Fferm
Farm Liaison Service



If you need to discuss any issues contact one of our officers below:

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USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

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Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

0300 303 8268

Badger Found Dead Survey

0808 169 5110

British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS)

0345 050 3456

DPJ Foundation

0800 587 4262

EID Cymru

01970 636 959

Farming Connect

08456 000 813

Farming Community Network (FCN)

03000 111 999

Lantra Wales

01982 552 646

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

0300 065 3000

Quality Welsh Food Certification Body

01970 636 688

Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI)

0808 281 9490

Rural Payments Wales Customer Contact Centre

0300 062 5004

TB Helpline

0800 496 1439

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