



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Resilience Review of Agricultural Shows in Wales
Welsh Government response to recommendations

	RECOMMENDATION	Outcome	Progress
1.	Consider whether financial aid should be offered to the RWAS to help the Society through this unprecedented period of difficulty.	Increased financial resilience. Ability to continue to prepare for the future, helping others to deal with the present situation (i.e. virtual shows)	COMPLETE In November 2020 Welsh Government awarded funding to the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society (RWAS) . The funding will improve the environmental impact of Society activities and support the resilience of the Society by covering some of the costs incurred as well as helping with the reinstatement future events.
2.	Explore financial support to ensure the survival of county shows (particularly those with permanent showgrounds).	Increased financial resilience Ability to prepare for the future	COMPLETE In March 2021 Welsh Government awarded funding to Pembrokeshire, Anglesey and Denbighshire & Flintshire Agricultural Societies . The funding supported the future resilience of the Societies beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.
3.	Prepare and circulate guidance to show organisers over the arrangements for staging events in 2021 in line with any public health restrictions in place.	To increase the ability of the Societies to plan and host compliant shows the future.	COMPLETE The Welsh Government published COVID-19 guidance for event organisers of regulated gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic, in June 2021. This information has been circulated to all Wales based shows by the Welsh representative of the Association of Show and Agricultural Organisations (ASAO)

4.	Consider establishing an 'innovative fund' whereby shows of all sizes could pitch ideas for support. Now is an opportunity to innovate and a fund could help Societies experiment with new ideas, hold virtual competitions or seek ways to improve the carbon footprint of shows for example.	Increased efficiency, resilience and interest in Show Societies	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>Awarded in March 2021, £25,000 has been made available to the new Agricultural Shows Innovation Fund which is being administered by the RWAS. The application window for the fund opened on Friday 18 June and closed on 16 July 2021. The fund will enable shows of all sizes to provide a better experience for competitors as well as help preparations to reinstate shows.</p>
5.	Encourage greater collaboration between shows and work with the Association of Show and Agricultural Organisations (ASAO) to support this ambition, urging them to hold events (virtual or otherwise) to support the industry as we come out of restrictions.	Improved communication and to share best practice leading to greater resilience and efficiency and improved experience.	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>Ongoing regular communication is in place between the Association of Show and Agricultural Organisations (ASAO), agricultural shows and Welsh Government.</p> <p>The Head of Operations at the RWAS was recently appointed as an ASAO Council Member for Wales which has strengthened the link between the RWAS and the ASAO.</p>
6.	Work alongside Visit Wales to establish how the return of agricultural shows in 2021 can be promoted. This could be done within the theme for 2021 – “Year of Outdoors”.	Encourage attendance at future agricultural shows	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>The ASAO is working with Visit Wales to promote agricultural shows in Wales through its social media channels and other communication methods. This will continue into 2022 when agricultural shows will fully return (subject to Covid-19 restrictions permitting).</p>
7.	Explore the possibility of introducing structured training, offering individuals who work in the show industry with accredited CPD or formal qualification. Furthermore, explore if volunteering with a show committee could count towards some form of recognition within existing or future agricultural support schemes.	Consistency of approach within Show Societies and to provide formal recognition of the skills of show organisers.	<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>A new training package is being developed by Lantra which is aimed at staff and volunteers working within the event sector. The course, available from September 2021, will include a range of applicable modules including site management, marketing, biosecurity, finance and health and safety. Funding will be made available for 100 individuals working in the agricultural events sector to complete the course free of charge.</p> <p>In the recently published Agriculture White Paper, Welsh Government proposed that future support would provide advice, training and continuing professional development opportunities. CPD conveys to the wider community that this is a profession committed to providing quality products, food security, animal health and welfare and the sustainable use of natural resources.</p>