



#YFCAGRI NEWS

News from the Agricultural & Rural Issues Steering Group

September 2018



**You are better
connected
with YFC**

***AGRI welcome from James
Hutchinson and KUHN***



Fun, Learning
and Achievement

AGRI 2018-19

What a difference a few months make.....!

Drought conditions were a considerable worry for so many of us this summer and you were represented at the NFU's Drought Summit in London on 1 August.

The NFU hosted an emergency meeting at its London office inviting representatives from Defra, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the RPA and other farming organisations to thrash out short - and medium-term - solutions to the challenges faced by farmers and growers.

Secretary of State for Food and the Environment Michael Gove heard first-hand about the serious impacts on each of the farming sectors and it was reassuring to see so many organisations represent so many who were struggling with extreme weather conditions. Only a few days later the weather broke and we had some much-needed rain, but it's not a summer we'll forget for a long time and its long-term implications.

You can read [CEJA's recent request](#) regarding support for young farmers affected by weather conditions and [NFU](#) news.



**Proud sponsors of the
AGRI steering group**

Siân Pritchard is managing director of [KUHN Farm Machinery](#) and an active supporter of NFYFC AGRI. YFC members James Hutchinson, Kate Bennett and Anna Jones are part of Siân's UK team. Look out for news of KUHN at shows and events throughout the year.

KUHN supports the AGRI steering group and its various activities, hosts YFC meetings and visits and will advertise your YFC events in local UK dealerships.



Chairman's News

2018 has been memorable to date for extremes in weather, behaviour and decisions.

World leaders and politicians seem to be as unpredictable and extreme as the weather and we now have sight of a new [Agriculture Bill](#) and the task ahead.

It's encouraging to see that there have been plenty of research projects to capture the needs and concerns of young people living and working in rural environments and I'm so pleased that we had representatives at the Rural Youth Project Ideas Festival and the Rural Youth Europe rally, both held in Scotland this summer.

Following our 2018 AGRI Brunch, we're busy planning new events and venues. AGRI wants to ensure that all YFCs have the opportunity to take part in new opportunities, access industry training and continue to have their voice heard.

With the help of Defra funding and working in conjunction with LEAF Education NFYFC is developing a new Curve training module and will be exhibiting at this year's [AgCareersLive](#) event on 15 November at Villa Park, Birmingham. As a partner of the event, we'll be hosting a get-together for YFC members to discuss, plan and help feed into [NFYFC's Vision 2023](#).

Finally, you can read news on how to support British food by backing both #TrueYFC and #BackBritishFood.

Have a great new YFC year!

Best wishes *James*



DIARY DATES

Autumn 2018

[NFYFC Cookery and Floral Art Final](#)

29 September – Cookery; 30 September – Floral Art
Three Counties Showground, Malvern

[British Food Fortnight](#)

22 September to 7 October

[The Dairy Show](#)

3 October
Bath & West Showground, Somerset

[South of England Autumn Show & Game Fair](#)

6-7 October
The South of England Showground, Ardingly, Sussex

[National Young Farmers' Week](#)

8-12 October #NYFW18

[Monmouthshire Food Festival](#)

13-14 October
Caldicot Castle, Caldicot, Monmouthshire

[British National Ploughing Championships](#)

13-14 October
Austrey House, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 3EA

[AgCareersLive](#)

15 November
Villa Park, Birmingham

Useful Links

- [Sign up](#) for the latest CEJA newsletter
- [Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust](#)
- [Henry Plumb Foundation](#) - awards grants and industry mentors
- [Fresh Start Land Enterprise Centre](#) – land and business matching opportunities
- [Innovative Famers](#)
A not for profit membership network, for farmers and growers running on-farm trials
- [The Worshipful Company of Farmers](#)
- [Smart Farming Guide](#) - a useful guide for running YFC business development competitions and advice on setting up and running a successful business.

CEJA General Assembly - what happens?

All member countries' representatives gather periodically for working group meetings. These comprise discussions on position statements for relevant policy topics, presentations from guest speakers and workshops. The General Assembly meeting held annually includes the election of the Presidency team, decisions on membership conditions and the adoption of specific rules.

Member countries take it in turns to host meetings and hold additional seminars. This could coincide with an event such as a trade show. The Slovenian [AGRA](#) International Agricultural-Food Fair was part of the recent August CEJA seminar.

You can find further details about CEJA and European news by subscribing to the CEJA [newsletter](#).



CEJA Update

European Council of Young Farmers



NFYFC and the [NFU Next Generation Forum](#) enjoy joint membership of CEJA, the lobbying voice for Europe's next generation of farmers. AGRI NFU and CEJA rep Kate Wainwright and NFU Next Generation Forum's Olivia Richardson travelled to Slovenia for the CEJA General Assembly meeting and joint seminar with ZSPM in Slovenia on 23 August.

Kate and Olivia also attended an International Ministerial Conference where young farmers were encouraged to acknowledge diversity and share good business practice from their own farms. EU Ministers presented reports supporting their respective agricultural industries and delegates discussed future lobbying topics at the CEJA working group meeting. CEJA issued a [press release](#) urging the European Commission and national governments to put in place additional measures to help young farmers deal with the losses caused by drought.

Your CEJA reps will discuss international trade, risk management tools and insurance, as well as receiving a presentation of November's CEJA/SMA CR Seminar in the Czech Republic at the October working group meeting.

Forthcoming events:

1-2 October – CEJA working group meeting in Brussels

8-10 November – joint CEJA seminar with SMA CR, Czech Republic

3-4 December – CEJA's 60th anniversary, Brussels/Ypres

Love British Food

Held in the autumn at the same time as harvest festivals, British Food Fortnight is the biggest annual national celebration of British food and drink. It takes place between 22 September and 7 October and it's something that everyone can get involved in.



The [British Food Fortnight](#) page has plenty of information about the campaign and the many resources available for the week – for helping with promotion, education, procurement or recipes.

A subject that's very dear to YFC members, [Bring Home the Harvest](#) sits alongside British Food Fortnight and aims to reinvigorate the tradition of celebrating the harvest.

If you want to find out more about procurement of British produce and help support James Hutchinson's aim to help highlight this subject, visit the [public procurement plan page](#) and the [NFU's public procurement toolkit](#).

Whether you produce, procure, cook or just enjoy eating, there are so many ways to help celebrate our great British food!

Amy Panton's Festival Experience!



RuralYouthProject

Motivating speakers, live music and a chance to network with 80 rural young people from all over the world has inspired one YFC member to be more open to new opportunities.

Amy Panton from Cumbria FYFC was one of two YFC members who attended the Rural Youth Ideas Festival in Scotland at the start of August, which was organised by Jane Craigie Marketing and supported by NFYFC.

Amy listened to speeches made by Paralympian Kendra Lancaster, Christy Macfarlane, who works for Bruichladdich distillery in Islay, and Matt Naylor who runs a successful flower business in Lincolnshire.

“A thought from Kendra that still resonates with me is, 'say yes to every opportunity' because you don't know where it will lead and you may end up finding your passion,” said Amy who was chosen to attend the event after responding to a call out on social media inviting YFC members to the Festival. “Listening to the speakers made me realise that rural communities have helped so many people become who they are today but, whether we are in Europe or the wider world, rural communities face many of the same challenges – from connectivity to isolation. We cannot make change on our own but together we can, and our connections across Europe and the world are important now more than ever.”

The three-day festival also included workshops and live music. Amy attended a sausage making session as well as a mixology group and said both workshops were “great fun and had us all

laughing and smiling”.

On the final day, attendees learnt more about the power of networking and the strength of your personal story.

“Having attended the networking session, I have a new-found knowledge in how to approach someone I want to talk to at a conference. Making the first step is always nerve-racking but the other person is probably feeling the same! Your story is what makes you who you are and your key values. Everyone is unique and we all have a story to tell,” added Amy.

The Rural Youth Ideas festival was part of the Rural Youth Project – an international research study looking into the challenges and opportunities for rural youth.



Sausage-making in Kinross!

Key research findings from the Rural Youth Project are available on page 4 of the newsletter.

YFC Update

New YFC year, new AGRI opportunities

You may have noticed a new [video](#) that highlights just some of the opportunities available to you in your role as an AGRI or county AGRI Link rep.

It goes without saying, these opportunities are there for all YFC members, but we all need to make sure that everyone helps play their part in communicating about existing resources and information.

If you're unsure of the AGRI role and the part it plays in YFC communication, have a quick [view](#) and then read the role's spec on the website. It's a great way of meeting like-minded people, whilst sharing important news of making the most of your YFC experience.

If you become a nominated county AGRI Link rep, you receive regular updates, minutes and agendas of NFYFC AGRI steering group meetings and can make sure your county issues and concerns are represented nationally.

You can find out more about the work of the NFYFC Agricultural and Rural Issues (AGRI) department by visiting the NFYFC website's [AGRI page](#).

Keep up with all AGRI news and make sure you get involved!

Food for thought

The Love British Food campaign is working with young farmers to promote British food to consumers in the build-up to British Food Fortnight, which this year runs from 22 September to 7 October, and our own [National Young Farmers' Week](#) that begins on 8 October.

What can YFC members do?

Contact info@lovebritishfood.co.uk and request your #BritishFoodisGreat foam publicity tool and of course visit the [LoveBritishFood website](#) for further information. Then start planning any of the following activities:

- **Post a tweet** – including hashtags #BritishFoodisGreat and #TrueYFC
- **Display a banner** (YFCs supporting British Food)
- **Visit** your local school to give a talk about YFCs and your role in producing British food
- **Talk** to your local pub or local school caterers about sourcing British produce

Don't forget to **post your success stories** on social media using **#BritishFoodisGreat #TrueYFC or #TrueYFC #BritishFoodisGreat.**

This is another way of supporting the #TrueYFC campaign and NFYFC Chair Lynsey Martin's challenge for YFC members to show their true colours.

Rural Youth Project Research Findings

A survey of young people living in rural locations shows that 72% feel optimistic about their future despite the challenges of transport, access to services, employment and connectivity. [The Rural Youth Project survey report](#) looks at the opinions of over 750 young people living or working in rural areas in the UK, Australia, Canada, Sweden and the United States.

Key findings included:

- over 80% of young people live in rural areas because of their emotional and family ties, for example they live with their partner or are involved in the family business
- the inter-related issues of limited job opportunities, poor transport links and insufficient or expensive housing make living in rural places challenging for young people
- 94% of young people believe digital connectivity is essential for their future in rural places, yet currently slow speeds and poor mobile phone coverage deleteriously impact their lives.

YFC Visits

What could your club or county be planning for this new YFC year?

Here's a taster.....

We have collaborative relationships with many organisations and there are plenty of opportunities to organise group visits to demonstration farms.

LEAF Demonstration Farms

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.

AGRI is planning to hold a visit in the autumn for anyone who wants to find out more about the AGRI Link role or just has an interest in integrated farming, conservation agriculture or just looking at someone else's farm!

Look out for further details and how to book your place when a venue and time has been confirmed.

What can AHDB do for YFCs?

AHDB Agronomists' Induction Days

We're working closer with AHDB so if you're arable-minded, make sure you take advantage of attending the [AHDB Agronomists' Induction Days](#) on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 October at the Holiday Inn Peterborough West.

Formerly the Agronomists' Intake Day, this event has been developed with the support of [AIC](#) and [AICC](#) to help meet the training needs of new entrants to the agronomy industry by introducing them to AHDB Arable and Horticulture staff, services and information.

If you are a new entrant to the agronomy industry and would like to find out how to register for the 2018 event, please call 024 7647 8928.

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 to register your interest or for further details.

AgCareersLive



[Ag Careers Live](#) provides visitors with inspiration on what direction to take and the opportunities to begin or develop their future. We hope to see lots of YFC members and potential members on our exhibition stand 39 that we're sharing with [LEAF Education](#).

NFYFC is proud to be a partner in this year's event at Villa Park, Birmingham on 15 November. We'll have plenty of opportunities to share the YFC message, talk to current and potential members and for YFC representatives to take an active part in the event's Mentors' Corner. YFC members will be part of a panel discussion on what working in the industry actually means on a day-to-day basis and the Mentors' Corner will help to explain opportunities in the industry. You can apply for a free ticket [here](#).

NFYFC has been developing a new Defra-funded Curve module on future farming with [LEAF Education](#). Our exhibition stand will highlight components of the new training resource, show the benefits of collaboration and provide a great platform to talk to young people who are making important career or subject decisions about their future.

Get talking.....

Are you ready, resilient and communicating?

Whether you're still at school, in further education, thinking about your career or your plans within YFC -- be prepared, resilient and communicate!

That's the message that will be developed and delivered through a new training module from AGRI in conjunction with Savills and Siân Bushell Associates. Another Defra-funded project, the new resource will be available for YFC members next year. This will complement some of NFYFC's existing work on starting the succession conversation and business development advice



already available from the [SmartFarmingGuide](#).

The new succession video, 'We Really Need to Talk' will be launched in October and is a thought-provoking example of what happens when we don't say the things we should – and what happens when we do – and gives advice on how to start tackling tricky subjects like succession conversations. It's not just in farming, it's also important to have good succession plans for any organisation, club or business – and to talk about it!

This will provide another resource for future club programming, rallies and shows and one to share with all the family.

See what [NFYFC Curve modules](#) are currently available.



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AGRI Contacts

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