



# #YFCAGRI

September 2020



## YFC AGRI 2020

2020 will be etched in everyone's memory for many years to come, but resilience and innovation have been at the forefront of the pandemic recovery and preparing for the future.

Despite the extreme weather conditions, restrictions and the impact on health, business and the economy, farming and key work continued and rural communities rallied round for those in need.

We're still not sure exactly what the future will bring, but we do know that mutual support and resilience will help build a much brighter future. There will be adjustments to our activities but with common sense and sharing new guidelines and advice, we can continue to plan our new YFC year, whether online or at actual events as restrictions lift.

Adaptability will be the key word for activities that used to be taken for granted, but also as we use the online reach for contacting those who haven't yet heard all the great food and farming messages from young farmers.

## Achieving net zero!

Could young farmers and the next generation help achieve the NFU aims of reaching net zero by 2040? That was the challenge posed within the YFC At Home Climate Change Video Challenge launched in July.

The answer was a resounding 'yes' as the entries showed just how much work was already taking place and how much entrants understood about greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and on farm carbon sequestration.

This important work continues and our project partnership with the [NFU](#) allows future opportunities for those interested in finding out more about climate change and the work of [Championing the Farmed Environment](#).



## Chairman's News



We've all been through many experiences during the last few months including lockdown restrictions, health and wellbeing concerns and many plans put on hold. Some of us have continued our work or studies in very changed conditions, but the most important lessons learnt this year is that we have had to adapt and innovate to carry on. This puts us in a good place for re-building and strengthening what we already have but finding ways to grow stronger.

We've all found different way of doing things and, in some cases, the online technology has brought more people together – all be it virtual rather than physical meetings or events. With 14 YFC AGRI Zoom online meetings under our belt, there's been a healthy turnout of YFC members from across England and Wales discussing a wide range of all things farming, food and rural including our research projects, consultation responses, current and future events, health and wellbeing, trees, campaigns and alternative use of wool!

YFC AGRI submits a wide range of consultation responses from a next generation perspective and this year topics have included bTB, the future Environmental Land Management scheme (ELMs) and a new England Tree Strategy. The first part of a new National Food Strategy has been launched and we're pleased that we highlighted our part in food production and putting nutrition and cooking skills into practice within our YFC activities in last year's consultation.

The climate change video challenge was a real eye-opener for the judges who have been tasked with choosing a winner from some excellent and informative entries: I think it's safe to say that reaching net zero emissions by 2040 is an achievable target if the examples shared are anything to go by!

There'll be further news of a YFC AGRI online debate during the rural day of the forthcoming National Young Farmers' Week and the launch of our research findings.

Looking forward to a positive and resilient future YFC year.

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



# DIARY DATES

## Planned online activity for Autumn

### September 2020

- 1-7 **Love Lamb Week**
- 3 **[Business Zoom Q&A with Savills](#)**
- 7 **Launch of part 2 of the climate change video challenge**
- 9 **[Back British Farming Day](#)**
- 14-18 **The Rural Services Network's National Rural Conference 2020 [Revitalising Rural](#)**
- 19-4 Oct **[British Food Fortnight](#)**
- 28-2 Oct **National Young Farmers' Week**

### November 2020

- 7 **YFC AGRI event, G&WCT's Allerton Project**

### USEFUL LINKS

[Apprenticeships](#) – choosing a career or thinking about taking on an apprenticeship?

- [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.

- [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](#).

- [Ready and Resilient](#) – start your succession conversation!

### 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  
[2020 Regional YFC AGRI representatives](#)

## YFC AGRI Profiles

YFC AGRI members have been busy creating online blogs to highlight their career choices and what they involve. George Baxter, Nicola Palfrey, Oliver Mackintosh, Ernie Richards, Luke Cox and Tom Pope all shared details and views about their day job and agriculture.

Ernie has proved that his technical skills don't just stop at shepherding as his video production and social media presence was a big hit during the first online LEAF Open Farm Sunday and the recent #Farm24 when he took over the NFYFC Instagram account. Ernie is part of the YFC AGRI group who spread positive messages about food, farming, careers and YFC – let's have more of the same!

If you would like to feature your farming profile contact [sarah.palmer@nfyfc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.palmer@nfyfc.org.uk).

## Need some informal, free business advice from a professional?

If you couldn't make the first three business and tenancy training events in 2019, you haven't missed out. As the last two planned events couldn't be held due to Covid-19 restrictions, the training has been transposed to a [podcast](#) so that you can listen to countryside broadcaster and former YFC member Ben Eagle in discussion with Savills' business consultants Ashley Lilley and Georgina Sweeting. They talk about many of the topics covered in the events and the training presentation is also available online to help with any business or tenancy issues you might be considering.

You can also join a Savills consultant online on Thursday 3 September at 7.30-8.00 pm for the first in a series of YFC online business Q&A sessions – your chance to ask the experts any business or tenancy training questions. Register your interest with [sarah.palmer@nfyfc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.palmer@nfyfc.org.uk) and a Zoom link will be forwarded. (You must be 18 or over to take part.) You can expect a follow-up email after the Zoom event with suggestions for your query and don't forget to visit the NFYFC and Savills [Smart Farming Guide website](#).

## The National Rural Conference 2020 Sponsor



The Rural Services Network is holding its online National Rural Conference 2020 on 14-18 September.

With sessions spread out over the course of the week, the format may be different but delegates will still be able to benefit from the usual wide range of expert speakers, with 'plenary' session and 'workshop style seminar' sessions and a range of other material and podcasts which will be made available during the week.

The event will take place throughout the week with each day focusing on a different topic relevant to rural areas. Wednesday 16 September is Rural Housing Day – sponsored by [English Rural](#), the day will feature sessions that all members of the Rural Services Network can access for free and you can book your place [here](#).

YFC AGRI has enjoyed a close alliance with English Rural for many years and we know affordable housing is an important issue for so many young people living and working in rural communities. Chief Executive Martin Collett provided input and guidance for the rural housing questions within the recent NFYFC Your Post-Brexit Rural Future survey and we are currently working with English Rural to complete an updated rural housing guide which will be available online.

# Support for a skilled workforce



Plans for a new professional body that will support a skilled workforce in agriculture and horticulture are underway and NFYFC has contributed to its development.

The aim of the professional body is to be the go-to place for key information that encourages lifelong learning. It would make the best use of information to achieve skills for on-farm improvements and demonstrate the career opportunities in the sector.

The concept has been developed by the Agri-Hort Skills Leadership Group (SLG), which was set up in 2018 and has involved NFYFC. The SLG, which is sponsored by Lord Donald Curry, considered how to best inspire and support those currently farming and growing to acquire new skills, and also to attract new talent.

It has advanced its work through industry-led groups on professional framework, including continuing professional development and careers and recruitment.

NFYFC is an advocate of the acquisition of skills and training for its YFC members and has been involved in the Agri-Skills Forum, Agri-Skills Forum Management group and latterly the Agri-Skills Development Strategy for many years.

Chairman of the NFYFC Board of Management Delme Harries has attended recent meetings. He said: "The aims of the strategy group are a commitment to the long-term vision of gaining external recognition of the professionalism within the industry and building on this through continuous professional development and lifelong learning."

The SLG has also held consultation events ahead of the Covid-19 lockdown, including one with the NFU Next Generation Forum at the Oxford Farming Conference Fringe in January. The 200 attendees at this event gave 97% support for the work and concept of a professional body.

There was also broad agreement for the professional body at a roundtable event at the House of Lords in early March and subsequent meetings with individual institutions have also been constructive.

All the work has been undertaken with the support of AHDB, NFU and also Defra officials.

Following a Ministerial proposal to Defra in June, the SLG is now working with Defra to establish the next steps to develop the proposal. Over the next few months, a consultation group for the professional body, which is in the process of being established, will meet to inform further developments.

To find out more about the development of the professional body [visit here](#). You can also [register for updates here](#) and tick the subscription option for 'Future of Skills'.

# YFC Update

## Research surveys

With an abundance of changes happening, we've taken the opportunity with our Defra-funded work to make sure there's representation for all our YFC members. Perspectives have been considered from all ages and regions on rural, farming, study and future career and YFC topics.

*Your Post-Brexit Rural Future* survey posed a lot of questions, but we hope you agree that it covered every aspect of what rural life is about and what's needed to ensure that young people can enjoy their rural future.

Topics included affordable rural housing, transport, available services as well as future skills and careers in farming, food, allied and rural industries. With big policy changes ahead and many new challenges, the findings of our surveys couldn't come at a better time.

A big thank you to everyone who took part in these two survey projects, which also included a telephone survey that examined future YFC interests and impacts from Covid-19, YFC activities and farming businesses.

Our research findings will help provide more input, statistics and real experience of farming and rural needs for our post-Brexit and Covid future for policy makers.

Rose Regeneration is our research partner for the two projects and Dr Jessica Sellick and Ivan Annibal have joined our YFC AGRI Zoom meetings to discuss the project work and chat with YFC members about the rural, farming and YFC issues that impact on day-to-day life. Ivan Annibal said: "We have worked on many different aspects of the life of farming and rural communities more widely during the 15 years of our business development. I have found this piece of work to be a bright point across the whole of that landscape. The narratives from the young people we have been working with reveal a depth of knowledge and insight which is really profound.

"I am sure it comes from the fact that farming is an enterprise like no other because of its family context. The young people we are talking to have grown up in farming. Some of them already have 20 years or more experience of the industry in a way that you would never find in other professions. It is clear that the triple whammy of poor weather, the pandemic and the Brexit change on the horizon make this one of the toughest years to be a farmer for generations.

"Thank goodness we have young people of this quality to navigate the industry through it into the future. We hope to have our report completed in the next few weeks and we're really looking forward to sharing it with NFYFC and more widely."



The [Pick for Britain website](#) is a joint public sector and industry initiative to bring together those who are looking for work on UK farms over the harvest period with recruiters who have roles to fill.

The website signposts people to the jobs available and provides information about this type of work.

Enquiries about the hub can be sent to: [accesstolabourfoodchain@defra.gov.uk](mailto:accesstolabourfoodchain@defra.gov.uk) and don't forget the [Find a Job](#) site.

## Are you ready for a new YFC year?

There are so many reasons to get excited about a new YFC year and how to make things happen online and safely whilst following the latest government guidelines! Here are some handy tips.

- Most importantly, make sure you follow all [the guidelines](#) circulated by government and NFYFC to ensure that you and your YFC members are safe. We're all having to be flexible and get used to changing news, advice and conditions, but keep checking updates, news and social media from NFYFC 's comms platforms.

- Use the many online tools, resources, information and contacts available from the [NFYFC website](#) to start planning events.

- Have a look at the [AGRI page](#) and visit the online AGRI library of organisations that you could contact for information, videos or podcasts. So many now have virtual farm tours or webinars that you might be spoilt for choice.

If you are looking for industry training and events, visit [AHDB sector-specific events](#).

- [Kuhn Farm Machinery](#) offers YFCs the opportunity to make factory visits to their UK headquarters at Stafford Park 7, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 3BQ on weekday evenings. If you would like to organise a virtual meeting or future tour for your YFC, contact [kate.hughes@kuhn.com](mailto:kate.hughes@kuhn.com).

- NFYFC videos include [We Really Need to Talk](#) and [Understanding Crop Protection](#). If you want to discuss starting the succession conversation further, the [Ready and Resilient Curve module](#) could be just what you're looking for.

- The [Smart Farming Guide](#) provides advice on business development from YFC competitions to running and growing your business.

- The Source has some fantastic advice about how clubs can incorporate agriculture and rural issues in their club programme. Click [here](#) for more information.

- [LEAF Education](#) (formerly FACE – Farming and Countryside Education) has produced a special pack for YFCs with all the information you need to go into schools and create a buzz about farming! (download from [AGRI page](#))

- Ensure your voice is heard and help shape the future of agriculture with this handy "[How To Make A Difference](#)" guide, in association with the NFU.

As you know, social media is a great way to promote your club and what your club is doing to champion British agriculture and the future of farming. YFC AGRI also has a very handy [AGRI Help/AGRI Library](#) document to help plan your YFC programme.

## Bovine TB Update

A reminder that a new version of [www.ibTB.co.uk](http://www.ibTB.co.uk) has now gone live. 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.



# Oxford Farming Conference 2021 #OFCBitesize

#OFCBitesize is a series of one-hour events hosted virtually via the Oxford Farming Conference (OFC) website from 12.00 to 13.00 on the first Thursday of every month between June and December 2020, leading up to the 2021 virtual conference in January. [View the full #OFCBitesize programme here.](#)

The 2021 OFC, hosted as a digital one-day conference on 7 January 2021, will celebrate its 75th anniversary since the first conference was held in 1936. To commemorate the occasion, each webinar will focus on a conference title from the last seven decades and be chaired by one of the OFC Directors.

You can join the conversation on [twitter](#) with #OFCBitesize and CPD points are available for joining #OFCBitesize. Just email [secretariat@ofc.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@ofc.org.uk) to verify your attendance.

## Climate Change Video Challenge

Many thanks and congratulations to all who submitted videos for the YFC at Home Climate Change Video Challenge. An esteemed panel of judges is currently considering the entries!

We received a very high standard of videos from both under and over 18-year olds, many of whom demonstrated the practical measures that were already being undertaken on their own family farms. This all bodes well for the [NFU ambition](#) of achieving net zero emissions by 2040.

We will now be extending the Defra-funded project's video challenge to include other UK countries. The next stage of the project competition will be for over-18 entries and current over-18 entries can also be included. Further information will be shared by the NFYFC and our project partner the NFU. This is just the start of demonstrating the positive action and views from young farmers.

## AGRI Contacts

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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 [regional reps](#) or NFYFC.