

WELSH FARMING IN THE MEDIA

Every month NFU Cymru secures positive media coverage on a variety of different platforms to ensure Welsh farming and the issues that matter to members in Wales the most remain in the media spotlight. Here's the top picks of coverage this month

Responding to Michael Gove's funding announcement

NFU Cymru members and staff were across Wales' screens, airwaves and printed press providing comment on the Union's behalf following Michael Gove's comments about funding support being provided for farmers until at least 2022.

Speaking on BBC Wales Today, NFU Cymru Monmouthshire Welsh Council delegate Gary Yeomans said the Union broadly welcomed the continuity provided by Mr Gove's announcement amid the changes on the horizon brought about by Brexit.

He added: "The CAP is not perfect but it has been around for a long time and it has protected farmers, so we have a golden opportunity to rework it and have a new agricultural policy that is specific for farmers in Wales."

Among the other NFU Cymru representatives to speak on this subject were former Milk Board Chairman Aled Jones (BBC Radio Wales with Dot Davies), Stephen James (Western Mail, Taro'r Post, Radio Cymru), Clwyd County Chairman Paul Williams (Post Prynhawn, Radio Cymru), NFU Cymru Director John Mercer (Daily Post) and NFU Cymru Political Adviser Huw Thomas (BBC Radio Cymru, Good Evening Wales and Newyddion 9).



NEWS

Wales' target dates to be bovine TB-free

Chris Davies
Farmers' Guardian

The Welsh Government has set a target of having Wales free of bovine TB by 2025.

Hand Affairs Secretary Idris Jones said the target, along with others, would be reviewed in 2020.

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TB targets

NFU Cymru President Stephen James provided his view on the Welsh Government's recently released bovine TB targets as part of an article in the Western Mail.

Mr James said the Union supported the introduction of the eradication targets for Wales,

as well as the interim targets

for each TB region, calling the idea 'a sensible way to measure progress going forward'.

He said: "We recognise when tackling such a complex disease that targets and timeframes need to be realistic and that TB eradication will take many years to achieve.

"It is important that in seeking to rid this horrendous disease from both our cattle and wildlife populations that we continue to look at evidence from TB eradication programmes in the rest of the UK and across the globe and, on the basis of this evidence, we regularly review the measures we have in place to help achieve our goal of a TB free Wales in the shortest timeframe possible."



NVZ announcement

NFU Cymru welcomed news that the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths AM, planned to work with stakeholders to explore further options to safeguard water quality in Wales.

The announcement came amid fears that the areas of Wales designated as NVZs could increase from 2.4% to 8%, or even an all Wales designation. Speaking on BBC Wales Today after the announcement, Wolfscastle dairy farmer Will Prichard welcomed the Cabinet Secretary's willingness to work with the Welsh agricultural industry and help the sector play its part in improving water quality in Wales.

Welcoming the news, he said that many farmers would have considered shutting their businesses down all together had an increase in NVZs been agreed.

Fellow Wolfscastle dairy farmer and NFU Cymru County Chairman Jeff Evans provided a viewpoint for Welsh language viewers on S4C's Newyddion 9.

Speaking on both programmes, NFU Cymru President Stephen James stressed that Welsh farmers were keen to work with Welsh Government and other stakeholder groups to improve water quality in Wales. Comments from Stephen James also featured in an article in the Farmers Guardian.