

MUDIAD FFERMWYR IFANC CYMRU
WALES FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

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Dear Rural Affairs Minister,

Introduction

The Wales Federation of Young Farmers Clubs' (YFC) is the largest voluntary youth organisation operating throughout rural Wales and has been providing services and support to young people and their communities for nearly 90 years.

It is governed as a charitable company limited by guarantee, with the YFC priding itself on being a truly democratic organisation, that is run by young people for the benefit of young people.

A bilingual organisation, the membership of the YFC in Wales at the end of the last membership year stood at over 5,500 young people from 157 clubs and twelve counties throughout Wales, all aged between 10 and 28 years of age.

Operating through a climate of equality the aims and objectives of the YFC are to seek to meet the needs of rural young people through a variety of educational, training and social programmes that encourage community involvement, personal development, understanding of rural life and concern for the environment.

As is outlined in the Wales YFC Impact Report 2023 the YFC membership values the organisation for "*giving members skills to support their communities and using local services and keeping money in the rural economy*". In addition, over 70% of the members have told Wales YFC that being a member of Wales YFC supports Rural Sustainability by bringing skills and opportunities to young people in rural communities as well as bringing events to the local community. All of which are fundamental for a thriving rural community and we urge the Welsh Government to talk to us as present and future farmers to ensure that rural sustainability or food production is lost.

As the **PRESENT AND FUTURE OF WELSH AGRICULTURE**, we are unanimous that something needs to be done to ensure that we have a thriving future, however the proposal in its current form is **NOT** fit for purpose. Before being able to commit to the scheme **we need more information and payment rates to be able to further consider and fully analyse** as we believe that there remains to be a lot of unknowns regarding the proposal.

We urge the government to review every response in order to create the most sustainable and efficient policy to allow us as present young farmers and future young farmers to be able to feed the nation and also to keep our rural communities thriving. Wales YFC is the present and future generations of Welsh farmers'; we want to ensure and are willing to co-work to achieve a fully prosperous industry!



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As Wales YFC, we strongly request the following two scenarios to ensure fairness and longevity of our industry.

- a. We urge the Government to release economic analysis models, as in its current form it is unrealistic to ask the industry to agree to a scheme without financial evidence! This will allow the industry to have all resources required to conduct a true and fair response.
- b. We urge the Government to launch a further consultation following the inclusion of the industry's views. Not only does the scheme in its current format show lack of industry knowledge but also a lack of respect toward individuals, organisations and rural businesses that answered the previous consultation. We as a movement have reviewed our previous response and can clearly see that **none** of our suggestions have been implemented! As the current and next generation of farmers, this is a very daunting feeling that our views aren't being respected by policy makers and our Welsh Government!

As the proposal currently stands, Wales YFC can only see a harmful effect on rural Wales, including the loss of communities and the loss of our language which will have a detrimental effect on the Welsh Governments' target of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The regulations show strong connections to environmental elements, can the Welsh Government assure us that the policy makers have no direct connection to environmental bodies which would drive the scheme in a specific direction by not taking into consideration the recommendations made by the farmers of Wales. The scheme in its current configuration, if not refined will have a detrimental effect on farm businesses, livelihoods and our rural communities.

With the comments made by key politicians during the consultation period, we are highly concerned that the future of Welsh Agriculture is in jeopardy and Wales YFC officials wish to meet with Welsh Government officials to discover a way to combine our needs as people who feed the nation and on whom the public rely to provide three meals a day, 365 days a year, whatever their dietary needs and the Governments' environmental requirements. We wish to be informed on the level of practical experience of the policy makers within the agricultural sector? The requirements of the hedge dimensions alone show a lack of practical knowledge and understanding. Furthermore, we believe that many of the UA's aspects are not fit for purpose to be used as a 'blanket' approach over Wales. As mentioned, Wales YFC have members from all over Wales, and from discussions with the membership, it is evident that most UAs are fully unpractical.

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Wales YFC propose and wish to have further discussions with the Minister and policy makers to discuss and ask the following:

- Wales will be in direct competition with England and Scotland, which will not have as extreme environmental regulations as Wales and therefore will have competitive advantage in open markets.
- If the tree plantation **must** be introduced, we suggest that it should be introduced within the collaborating actions. **Wales YFC members strongly believe that it is easier to add trees as needed but impossible to remove and still use the land as a productive area.**
- When considering the 10% tree plantation and 10% natural habitat on each farm, we request to be **provided with scientific evidence which shows the relevance of 10%**
- Members are concerned that if the Welsh Government does not listen to the industry, and reconsider the tree plantation, the farms which will opt into the SFS in its current structure will all be purchasing trees at the same time, which will result in the following:
 - Increase in the price of trees
 - Decrease in the price of stock, as our members strongly believe that they will have to reduce stock numbers to allow trees to be planted
 - We are concerned that planting trees may lead to the introduction of diseases.
- The UAs should be achievable to all farms without being detrimental to their futures and we wish to discuss alternative UAs that we consider to be more achievable.
- From the 17 UAs, we suggest that farmers should be allowed to choose which ones they opt for. Instead of forcing the 17 UAs as a blanket approach, Each farm needs to have the ability to tailor the UAs in order to address the ability of each farm. **A blanket approach will not work.**
- Wales YFC members consider most UAs as **extreme** measures - we wish to have further discussions and understand the policymakers background and level of practical agriculture knowledge.
- We are highly concerned that all our suggestions from the last consultation have not been implemented and we feel that our Welsh Government is not concerned about our future.
- In its current shape, the SFS will massacre rural communities which will have a negative effect on the Welsh language and the Governments' aim of achieving a million Welsh speakers.
- The SFS in its current structure contradicts what is said within the Wellbeing of the Futures Generation Act and will decimate the future of rural Wales and we strongly believe that current proposals do not support the main goals within the Act.
 - Prosperous Wales - the current SFS proposals do not encourage wealth and success as the 5,500-job loss clearly demonstrates. It will create greater poverty within a climate that is living through the cost-of-living crisis.
 - Resilient Wales - with less people working within the industry and considerably less livestock, there will be increased pressures on individuals as there won't be an economy of scale.

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- A healthier Wales - the nation will need to import produce from countries that do not produce to the same standards of animal welfare as we have in Wales nor to the same farm assurance and food production standard. Wales will be far poorer and we strongly believe the Welsh Government should supply more resources into ensuring Wales becomes more self-sufficient to guarantee nutritional health to the nation.
- More equal Wales - the current SFS proposals will result in rural Wales residents having less opportunities than younger residents living in urban areas in terms of employment, social interaction and Welsh language development.
- More cohesive communities - With 5,500 less jobs within the sector alone without considering the job losses within all other sectors associated with agriculture, the number of residents within rural communities will decrease community activity.
- Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language - Welsh Governments' own research shows that the agriculture industry has the largest percentage of Welsh speakers in Wales and within the YFC over 60% of members speak Welsh. Therefore, without vibrant rural communities; the one million Welsh speakers will become an impossibility.
- Globally responsible Wales - If more resources are inputted into Welsh Agriculture there will be a possibility to become more Globally responsible by lowering the carbon footprint of imported produce - however without this effort, this is the seventh goal which will become truly unachievable.

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Response to the Official Consultation Questions

Q1. The Scheme will provide a long-term approach to support for our agricultural sector to respond to evolving challenges and changing needs, contributing to the Sustainable Land Management objectives. In your view, what may strengthen this support?

As young farmers, we are concerned about the five-year outlook on the current scheme, as this does not allow time to viably apply changes sustainably and ensure business continuity. Many of the changes required within the Universal Actions (UA) will result in adjustment to farm business models and will only be able to change over a vast period of time.

Wales YFC feel tremendously demoralised and extremely concerned that within the title it mentions “keep farmers farming”, however, there is no reference to agricultural practices until UA15, 16 & 17. Our members feel very alarmed that food production is forgotten within the scheme considering that every human needs farmers three times a day, every day of the year. We propose that food production must be a priority, as without health there is no life.

We question;

1. Following planting trees, will the industry as a whole be required to re-plant any area of land following the falling of trees?
2. What variety of trees will be advised to plant? And from where should the industry source the trees from?
3. We have seen during the last 12 months an increase in the number of forestry related diseases which have resulted in falling of trees - surely the Welsh Government must be able to see that there are ways to be far more “sustainable” to sequester carbon.

The lack of reference to the optional and collaborative aspects of the scheme is also an area of concern. Asking for a true and honest response without key details is supremely concerning.



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Q2 There will be Universal requirements in the SFS to have woodland cover at least 10% of suitable land, and to manage a minimum of 10% of your farm for biodiversity.

- a) What are your views on these requirements?**
b) What support might you need to achieve them?

Before being able to fully and comprehensively answer this question we require clear and lucid definitions:

1. *What identifies as suitable land?*
 - i. Within the Wales YFC membership questions and queries have been raised in terms of the new Habitat Wales scheme, as what is deemed as suitable land by the practical farmers and the policymakers are nothing very different. Therefore, farmers must have the ability to identify their suitable land.
2. *What does the Welsh Government mean by 'habitat'?*
 - ii. Our Welsh countryside is full of habitat and is very biodiverse at present, therefore we require further information on the definition. Evidently from the past Glastir and Tir Comin schemes, when farmers did not have a say on the grazing periods and as a result many rare flowers never grew again. **Balance is the key.**
3. Density of trees - there is no indication of density information within the proposals.
4. Do they need to be evenly spaced or can it be planted close together?
5. In terms of establishment rate, if trees do not grow, will you be punishing farmers?
6. Does the Welsh Government understand that it will take longer than five years to see tree grow successfully and with the varying climate, dependant on the area this may have a severe effect on growth
 - iii. Planting trees on a floodplain - there will be flooding likely at several times during the year
 - iv. Planting trees on hills and mountain - they will be exposed to wind that can cause destruction by falling trees etc

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v. AS CAN BE SEEN A BLANKET APPROACH ACROSS EVERY FARM IN VARIOUS LOCATION WILL NEVER WORK

We strongly feel that there is too much fundamental information missed off the consultation in order to make a fully comprehensive decision.

Wales YFC strongly disagrees with the concept of planting 10% of farmland with trees. To be able to sacrifice 10% of land, will the Welsh Government demand that the Welsh population eat 10% less food, or consequently will the Welsh Government be willing for more food to be imported and increase the carbon footprint of the produce eaten in Wales? Surely, the Welsh Government can see that they will cause more environmental harm in importing produce.

Wales YFC fully believes in the concept of the right tree, in the right place, for the right reason which can be utilised as shade for our livestock. However, by this bizarre blanket approach, does the Welsh Government accept that they will be responsible for the increase of certain diseases in livestock, such as Bluetongue and Schmallenberg due to the increase in midges and gnats close to woodland and the changing climate underneath tree canopies.

We, as Wales YFC, are highly concerned about the approach taken by the Welsh Government as it will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on animal health and also on land value. This needs to be taken into consideration!



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Q.3 Aside from the 10% woodland and habitat requirements, will the Universal Actions:

a) Provide benefit for your farm business?

b) Provide an achievable set of actions paid for through the Universal Baseline Payment?

Wales YFC Rural Affairs Committee welcomes the recognition of good animal welfare as part of the scheme; however, we are highly concerned that it is not recognised earlier in the proposal!

However, the need to pay consultants and advisors to deliver several aspects of the scheme is an area of concern. Again, we highlight that without any financial figure, it is near impractical for us to be able to give honest feedback on the benefits questioned.

To some extent, we also welcome the inclusion of the CPD - however strongly believe that any individual from within the business should be allowed to undertake the training to develop future farm business owners as well as farmers. Farming Connect delivers various training courses, and we question whether this will be sufficient for the CPD aspect. The details are insufficient for us to be able to comment further.

Wales YFC are highly worried that with increased paperwork there will be a greater need for farmers to be away from the farmyard to complete several aspects of the proposals. As a result, will the Welsh Government ensure that the food that will need to be imported from other unregulated countries will have the same animal welfare standards - we believe not!

The Welsh Government are regularly introducing more restrictions and red tape, and as a result the industry is witnessing greater mental health implications, meaning greater financial support needed from the Welsh Government to fund the lifesaving charity services. As of February 2024, the DPJ Foundation has witnessed a 73% increase in the number of phone calls which have been referred to a counselling service. Surely this is not a figure that can be sustainable within the industry! The only people with the ability to change this is the Welsh Government, and the only way is to fully listen to the industry and science!

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Q4. On-farm data reporting allows the Welsh Government to confirm actions are being undertaken and help you to make decisions about your farm. In your view, is the reporting requirement for the Universal Actions appropriate?

No, we strongly disagree with the data reporting.

Within every other industry there is business confidentiality. Therefore, why should we be required to share details (as business people, who feed the population three times a day, every day of their lives)?

Wales YFC question, if we must share our data with the Welsh Government, how will the data be used and for what purpose? This is yet another grey area within the proposals.



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Q5. The Stability Payment will provide additional support during the Transition Period. In your view, is this appropriate whilst the Optional and Collaborative Actions are being introduced?

This question again shows the grey areas included within the scheme.

As of yet, we have not been made aware of what the optional and collaborative actions are and what will be the requirements.

Therefore, to make a reasonable response without evidence is not only unethical but also impractical.

As no financial information has been made available, how are we to know that we would be rewarded for the work undertaken and ensure that we are not undercut?

This would not only make a large proportion of businesses un-viable but also make the Welsh and British markets highly unsustainable and volatile. It is clearly understood within the industry that the proposals fully support an income for loss?

We demand that in order to make a fair and reasonable judgement, financial modelling and analysis must be made available!

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Scheme Operation

Q6. We have proposed that applicants should have sole management responsibility for the land for 10 months and ensure completion of the Universal Actions for the full scheme year (12 months). In your view, is the 10-month period sufficient?

Regarding the management of land, we have more questions that need to be answered before we can formulate a realistic answer:

1. What happens if the let of land changes within that period of time?
2. Many farmers have either summer grazing or winter grazing contracts that are less than 10 months, who has the management responsibility for this?
3. On rented ground, who has the sole responsibility and the control?

Again, there is key information missing from the proposal that is required to deliver a true and fully reflective answer.



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Q7. We are proposing the use of a single carbon calculator for everyone in the Scheme. Do you agree and how might we best support you to complete this?

Wales YFC will only agree to a single carbon calculator if the industry is involved with the creation of the calculator, to ensure a fair and reliable calculator which considers specific aspects of agriculture, i.e. the creation of green energy, hedgerow, grassland etc.

We worry that if a single carbon calculator is used and selected through a tendered process, how can the Welsh Government ensure continuity?

If the carbon calculator changes, how can the Welsh Government guarantee that the data collected can be used in following years and that the information collected is fair and reliable.

Wales YFC question who will gain the carbon credits and who can use it?

Again, clarity is required to make informed decisions.

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Q8. To ensure continued high standards on our farms, we have outlined a proportionate approach to controls and sanctions, including compliance with additional legislation as a condition of Scheme payment. Do you have any views on this approach?

Wales YFC strongly feel this is a leading question!

Again, we question what additional requirements are to be involved?

We are highly concerned about the risk associated with food security by importing food from countries that have lower standards than Welsh Farmers.



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Q9. Adopting the Welsh Government appeals process will provide an effective and efficient mechanism. Is there any reason we should deviate from this?

Wales YFC are greatly against the idea of the loss of an independent appeals panel.

Hearing that the Welsh Government deems the independent panel as “*too expensive*” when no budget is announced is ludicrous. Yet, there will be a need for us, as an industry, to use external consultants and advisors to achieve various UAs is farcical.

If anyone would go to appeal it needs to be an unbiased process and we do not deem a panel made specifically out of Welsh Government officials the most effective nor fair process. The panel should demonstrate a fair cross section of industry representatives.



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Q10. We would like to know your views on the proposed approach to:

- a) the SFS universal baseline payment
- b) the SFS stability payment

As no figures are available there is no way to do any realistic response.

We again call for all details to be made available and for financial modelling and analysis to be done. This fundamental information needs to be made available!



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Q.11. Farmers outside the Scheme may wish to access support for actions similar to those offered in the Optional and Collaborative Layers. In your view, should farmers within the Scheme receive priority support to undertake these actions?

This question has resulted in more questions requiring answers than being able to comprehensively answer.

1. Will farmers be required to do all the UAs to be eligible for the Optional and Collaborative actions?
2. How should farmers prioritise the UAs in order to be eligible for the Optional and Collaborative actions?
 - a. As growing a hedgerow and growing a tree will take much longer than the 5 year life of this scheme!
3. Can farmers opt to join the SFS at a later date?
 - a. If so, how will the initial UAs be regulated due to the facts above?
4. In terms of planning permission
 - a. Have all local authorities got the capacity to be able to deal with an increased demand for planning permissions to create ponds for example?
 - b. Will all authorities be able to process increased requests in a timely manner?
5. What will the optional and collaborative actions include?

As Wales YFC, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with policy makers and the Minister to understand the full vision of these actions.

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Q12. What actions and support within the Optional and Collaborative layers do you believe should be prioritised?

As mentioned, several times within this response, there is no relevant information available for us to make an informative decision or response regarding the Optional and Collaborative actions.

We again call for all details to be made available and for another consultation to be done to enable the industry to have all the resources required to be able to make fully reliable and well-informed feedback.

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BPS

Q13. Do you agree with the proposed changes to BPS from 2025? This includes:

- a) **The rate at which BPS payments are reduced.**
- b) **Closing the National Reserve to new entrants.**
- c) **Thresholds for capping.**
- d) **Restricting the transfer and lease of entitlements.**

An area of major concern is that this consultation is called 'Keep Farmers Farming' however the proposed scheme shows no respect or emphasis on farming practices only environmental practices.

As a **YOUNG FARMER** movement, Wales YFC are majorly disheartened that there is no support available for new entrants. The Welsh Government, if the SFS in its current form is not amended, will make it impossible to get new blood into the industry. Within the previous consultation response, Wales YFC highlighted and called for changes to be done to introduce greater support mechanisms, this once again has been fully ignored from the proposed scheme. We request again for support mechanisms to be made a part of the proposals to ensure the continuity and longevity of our industry.

Because of the lack of encouragement to get young people involved within the industry, Wales YFC worries that this scheme will demolish family farms which have been a backbone to rural communities, rural schools, rural places of worship and rural villages for centuries. Not only will the rural communities suffer detrimental effects but our movement will also be affected - and this is something we do not wish to happen. As outlined in the Impact Report 2023, the movement creates leaders within Wales and Rural Wales which brings wealth to areas.

With this scheme only being planned for 5 years, Wales YFC have major concerns that it will be near impossible for farm businesses, farming families and new entrants to create a long-term plan which includes introducing new blood into the industry and the continuity of creating sustainable and highly nutritious food.



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Q14. We would like to know your views on our proposed approach to secondary legislation, which will support BPS and the introduction of support schemes under the powers in the Agriculture (Wales) Act 2023.

Wales YFC as younger farmers are highly concerned about the increased legislation being introduced yearly to the industry and demand that no aspect of the scheme should become regulatory. As can be seen with the continuously rising temperatures within the industry; the NVZ and TB policies are causing endless mental health and affecting businesses, and we urge the Welsh Government to reconsider the proposals within the SFS in order to support farmers and not to be the burden of increased red tape and instability.

Wales YFC questions, if any farmers do not opt into the SFS scheme in its current format, can the Welsh Government confirm that there will be no consequences on those farms?



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Q15. Economic analysis and modelling will conclude in 2024 and will provide evidence to inform the final decision on Scheme implementation by Welsh Ministers. We would like to know your views on the existing analysis and evidence required.

Wales YFC cannot possibly comment on economic modelling without the foundations of payment values.

As is a clear theme throughout our response that lack of evidence, information and plans makes it nearly impossible to fully understand the effects that the SFS will have and respond in a practical manner to the questions asked.

However, the evidence that is published under the ADAS research clearly demonstrates that 5500 jobs will be lost within the primary sector, with clear evidence that this will have a greater impact on the economy as a whole. The reduction in 11% is astronomical, and will reduce the value of businesses as well as resulting in the need to import more meat from countries which do not have the same level of animal standards nor the same rules and regulations as Wales has to follow. As the Welsh Government's own modelling shows such a detrimental effect on the industry and wider industry, we **demand** that the content of the scheme is re-looked at. The Minister for Rural Affairs and Trefnydd; Lesley Griffiths has noted on several occasions within the press that the ADAS statistics are based on previous plans; therefor as Wales YFC we recommend that the research is re-done as a matter of urgency as if the research shows greater losses than the 5,500 primary roles outlined then that should be seriously considered as the failure of the scheme.

Wales YFC members are the present and the future of Welsh agriculture, **we demand that the Minister releases a full analysis including payment values as well as the guarantee that any extreme changes we do to our land will be rewarded beyond the five years. Planting fully productive land with trees will SEVERELY lower the value of land as well as making it UNWORKABLE for decades to come!**

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Monitoring & Evaluation

Q16. We would like to know your views on which information and evidence should be used to monitor and evaluate the Scheme.

As clearly stated by ADAS the loss of jobs and stock reductions is a **key area** that needs addressing. We urge the Welsh Government to listen to the industry and use the Farm Business Survey as evidence and to fully understand the current situation of the industry.

Wales YFC **urges the Welsh Government to not only monitor the environment BUT MUST take farm business needs into consideration when launching this scheme.**

As the scheme stands, Wales YFC are highly concerned that the main outcome will be a large decrease in the number of family farms which will have a detrimental effect on rural communities.



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Other

Q17. What, in your opinion, would be the likely effects of the SFS on the Welsh language? We are particularly interested in any likely effects on opportunities to use the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English.

Do you think that there are opportunities to promote any positive effects?

Do you think that there are opportunities to mitigate any adverse effects?

Due to the nature of the current scheme and the potential loss of jobs within the industry, it will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on the Welsh language. Considering that the agricultural sector is considered as one of the sectors with the highest proportion of Welsh speakers. The last census showed that the areas with the highest percentage of Welsh speakers were predominantly the rural areas. The Welsh Government's own research also highlights that the agricultural industry has the largest percentage of Welsh speakers and this must be protected and encouraged.

Wales YFC are highly concerned that the loss of jobs will be the perfect storm to demolish rural communities as it will undoubtedly result in closure of local schools, YFC Clubs, local agricultural shows and many other establishments associated within rural Wales. These aspects make the rural communities unique and create both financial and social wealth and as our Welsh Government, this should be considered as a priority when considering future steps.

Wales YFC highly doubt that with the implementation of the scheme in the current format, the Welsh Government will never achieve their desired million Welsh speakers by 2050. Considering only from within the Wales YFC membership, over 60% are Welsh speakers with jobs primarily linked to the agricultural and rural communities. This will threaten and challenge our organisation! Which would lead to social poverty!



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Q18. In your opinion, could the SFS be formulated or changed so as to:

- **have positive effects or more positive effects on using the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English; or**
- **mitigate any negative effects on using the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English?**

As it stands, the scheme has a huge threat and demonstrates no known positive effects on the Welsh language. Wales YFC can clearly see that it will result in less work within rural communities which will result in the Welsh language being eradicated out of communities.

Wales YFC urges the Welsh Government to **change the current SFS proposals to encourage more people to enter the industry which will encourage greater use of the Welsh language.**

Wales YFC urges the Welsh Government to work with the sector in a collaborative way and listen to the concerns and implement the concerns into the current proposals.



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Q19. Do you have any additional comments on any aspect of the consultation document?

Following the negative effects of this scheme, we believe as Wales YFC this will certainly have a detrimental effect on us as an organisation. If the scheme is to go through in its current form and we are to see the predicted 5,500 job losses. This is sure to force families of our rural communities to move to towns and cities or other countries in search of work and financial security. This would be the first falling domino in a devastating series of events that would lead to a decrease in membership and uptake within clubs and counties, therefore inevitably reducing the numbers of members becoming involved in the running of our organisation.

Wales YFC prides itself on producing influential citizens within rural Wales. Many past and present members of Wales YFC are involved with local councils, show committees and other important pillars of any rural area. With a reduction in members this will then have an impact on the numbers of people within the communities gaining the vital skills and confidence that YFC instils into every member associated.

The Welsh language is another important part of Wales YFC with over 60% of our members speaking it as a first language. We feel that the Welsh language is at the heart of who we are and is something that will work tirelessly to promote and share.

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Response analysis

Following the response form published by Wales YFC, over 350 young farmers and friends of the movement responded.

Shown below in **figure 1** is the age range of the respondents ages.

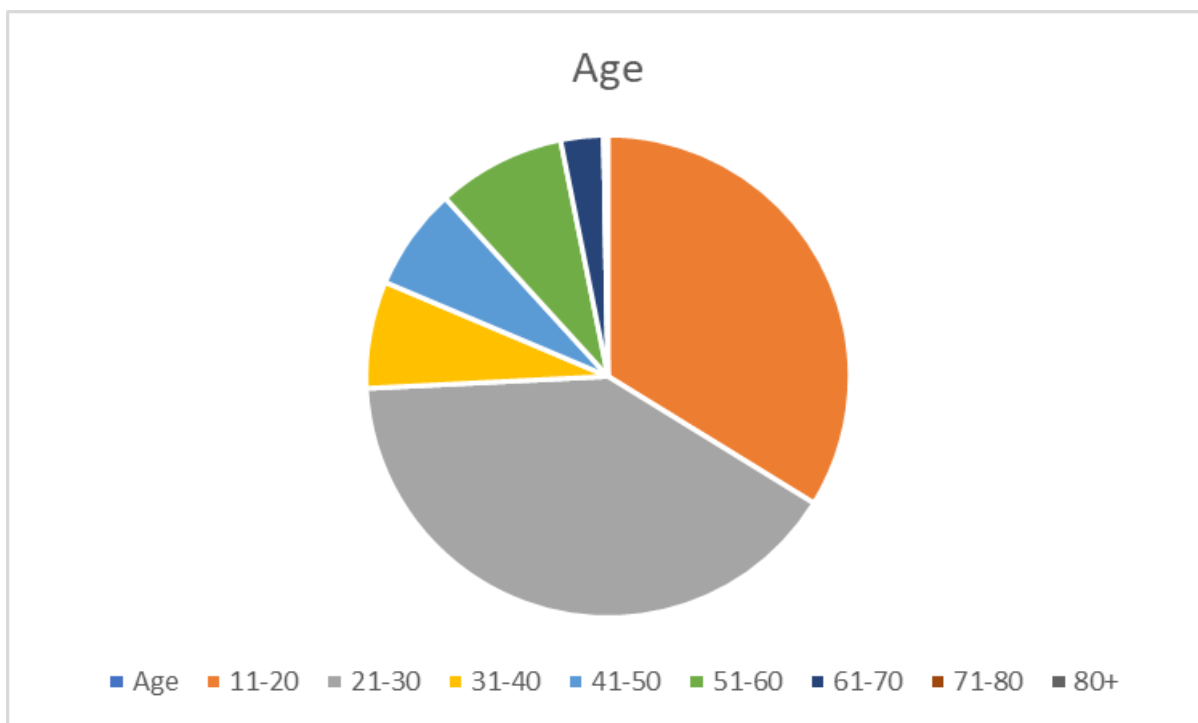


Figure 1 - Age of respondents

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The respondents within the Wales YFC responses represent 110 clubs through Wales, and have the following county density as can be seen in **figure 2**.

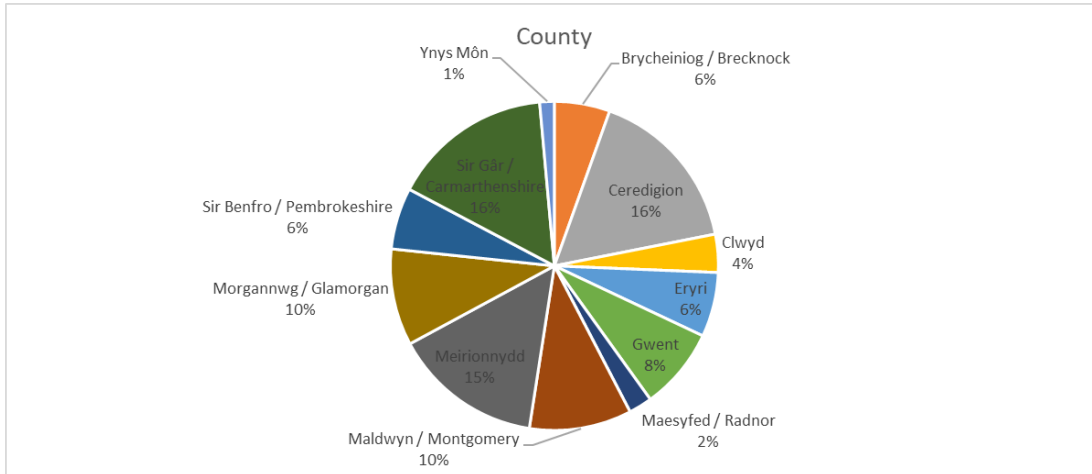


Figure 2 - Counties responded

Figure 3 shows that 70% of attendees are fluent Welsh speakers and 12% are learning which strengthens the argument that the rural community that rural communities are key in ensuring the continuation of the Welsh language and to achieve the Welsh Government's target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

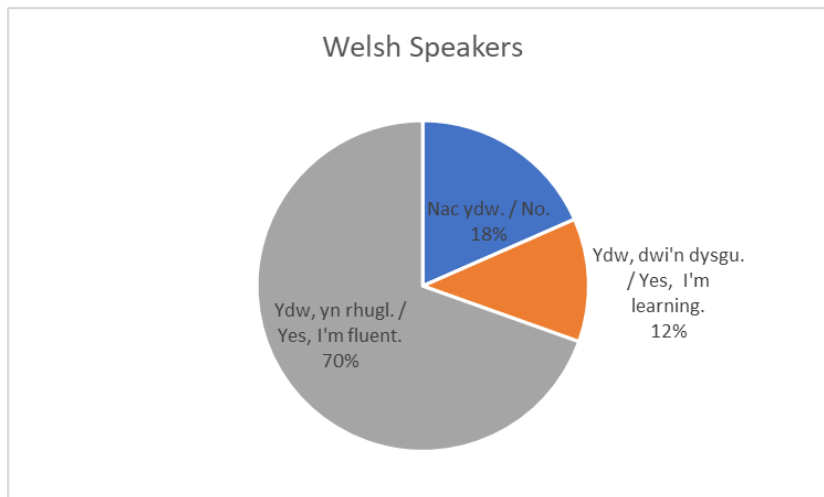


Figure 3 - Welsh speakers



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206 respondents noted that they primarily work within the agriculture sector alone, and the other respondents' work can be seen in the responses which includes tourism, public and private sector, vets etc.

68% of the respondents are present members of Wales YFC as can be seen in **figure 4**, considering that the vast majority of respondents work primarily within the agriculture sector this is the voice of present and future generations of Welsh agriculture.

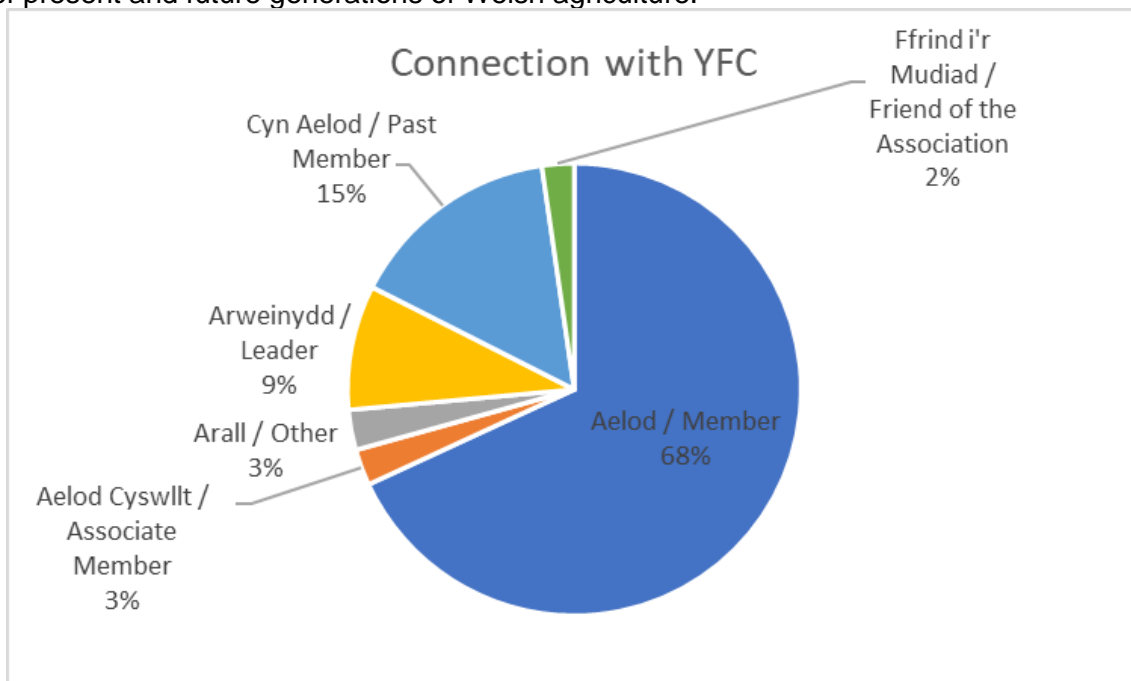


Figure 4 - Connection to YFC



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Considering the projection of 5500 jobs losses within the sector, **figure 5** demonstrates that the 74% of respondents are responding from smaller farms which only have between 1-3 people working on the farm. This would account for 2750 farms losing their workforce from our research alone.

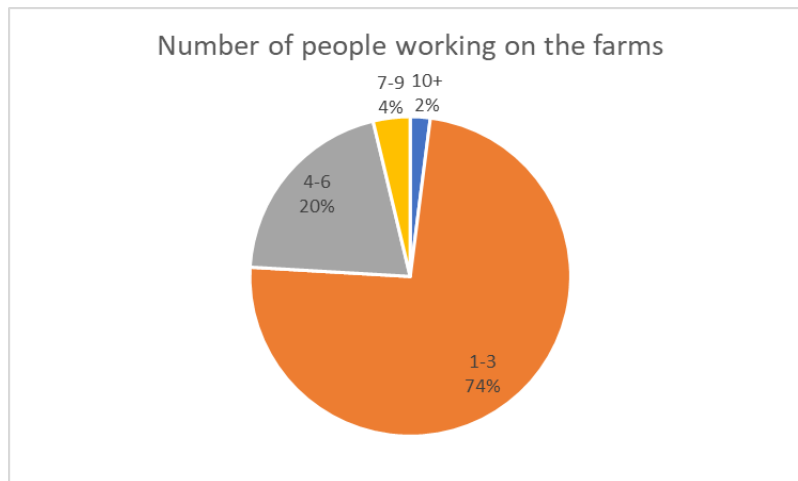


Figure 5 - Number of people working on the farms

Figure 6 shows that from all respondents, over 50% supported over 10 local businesses, this shows that the money invested into agriculture is used within the local area and therefore benefits local communities, ensuring jobs and an opportunity for more families to work and live within rural areas.

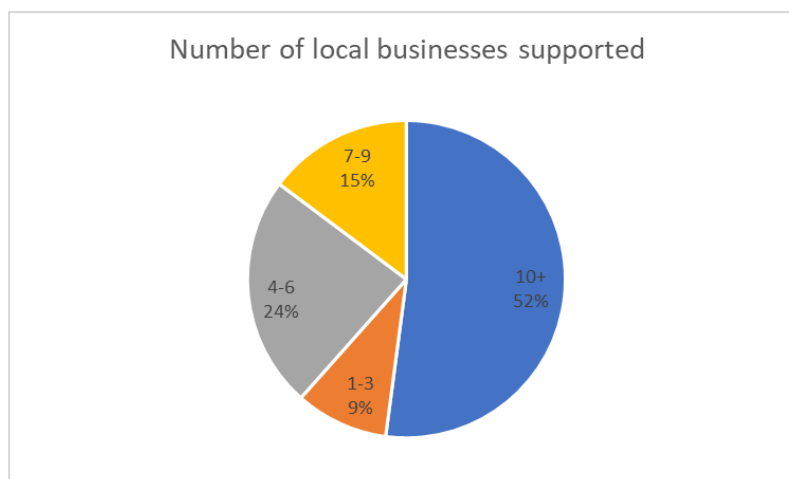


Figure 6 - Number of local businesses supported



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Figure 7 shows that an astounding 95% of respondents believe that the SFS will have a negative impact on their farm businesses.

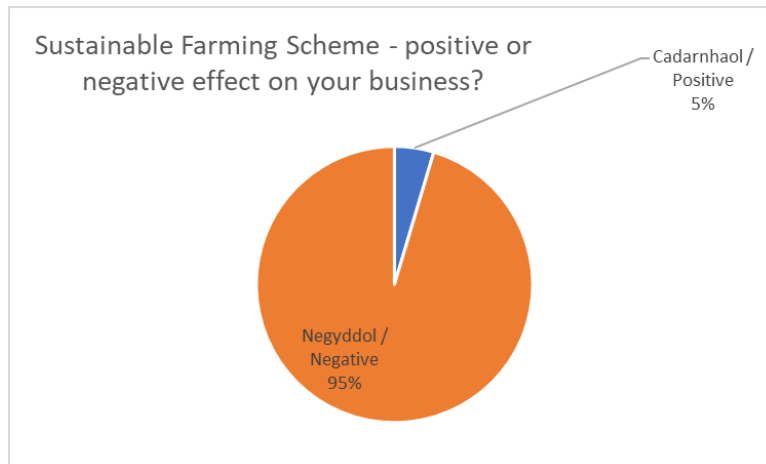


Figure 7 - Positive or negative effect on businesses

Wales YFC urges the Welsh Government to reconsider the proposals made and we as a movement are more than willing to have further conversations with the Government to ensure a prosperous future for us as the present and future generations of Welsh farmers.

