

YFC AGRI Newsletter

June 2025



**Fun, Learning
and Achievement**

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Chair's welcome

Robbie Tuer, YFC AGRI Chair takes on a new position for personal and professional development – and to represent YFCs

I have set many targets in my lifetime and I'm excited about my next one that will raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease (MND). Along with members of Raughton Head YFC we have set ourselves the mammoth mission of completing all 214 Wainwrights (English peaks) in one day on our Many Mountains for MND challenge.

You might be feeling like you have your own mountain to climb right now, whether in business, study, wellbeing or just managing the YFC schedule. Always remember to share and care, others will be experiencing similar challenges.

On the topic of sharing, some great new resources from a joint NFYFC/LEAF Education project kindly supported by ADM are now ready for you to use. You can read more about the Future Farming materials and training sessions in this issue.

In addition to my professional role as an Account Manager for ruminant feed sales at Aspatria Farmers, I am part of the Cumberland and Dalston Shows

committee and the Cumbria Farmer Network management council. The network provides business support, training programmes and initiatives, promotes collaboration and supports the Cumbrian farming community. You can explore the many networks, organisations and funders when you visit NFYFC's new digital online [Agricultural Knowledge Hub](#).

A reminder that YFC AGRI Vice Chair Fergus Starkey will be leading the group's study tour at Groundswell this year.

The regenerative farming festival offers a wealth of information, seminars, food and drink, exhibition stands and farm walks. If you haven't booked your ticket yet, don't miss out on an opportunity to meet like-minded people, network and enjoy while you learn!

Collaborative work continues with industry and Defra and the new Agricultural Knowledge Hub was shared with all participants of the [Farm Tenancy Forum](#). This is a time of essential co-operation on many fronts, whether for support, business or networking.



About Robbie

YFC AGRI Chair Robbie Tuer is an Account Manager for ruminant feed sales at Aspatria Farmers and plays an active part in the Cumbria Farmer Network.

[> Read more on next page](#)

Chair's welcome continued...

We know there are challenging times ahead due to current policy and budgetary decisions and working together as an industry is important. At the April NFYFC Annual Meeting of Clubs (AMC), Young Farmers' Clubs voted by an overwhelming majority (98.9%) to pass a motion denouncing proposed changes to Inheritance Tax, signalling firm support for British farmers.

The motion was proposed by former YFC AGRI chair Luke Cox who asked members to agree that the proposed tax reforms would have a detrimental impact on the next generation of farmers and threaten the security of family farms.

I seconded the motion, highlighting how "the next generation is having to navigate more hurdles than ever before" and called for more representation in policy decisions.

I'm pleased that a meeting was arranged with Defra in May to discuss the next generation's vision for the Uplands, as future land use and road maps are considered by policy makers.

I reiterate that we need to be listened to about what kind of industry we want to build – one that's resilient, fair and sustainable. This goes for our YFCs and our rural communities.

I know that you all play an active and positive role within your area of the country and please continue to shout about the great work that you do.

Best wishes for the summer!

Robbie Tuer
YFC AGRI Chair 2025-26

Worshipful Company of Farmers Jubilee Scholarships

The Worshipful Company of Farmers' (WCoF) Jubilee Scholarship Scheme offers up to £750 towards your agri course costs and training. This is dedicated funding for YFC members, it's easy to apply and will further your career and professional development. Applications close at the end of June 2025 and you can apply [here](#).



About Fergus

YFC AGRI Vice Chair, Fergus Starkey works for the National Farmers Union (NFU) as Support Schemes Adviser and is a recently appointed Back the Future ambassador

Fergus was a successful candidate in the Back the Future collaborative project that recently advertised for six ambassadors to advocate for sustainable food and farming.

With over 50 applicants, Fergus joins Jess Radnor from Herefordshire FYFC as the two NFYFC ambassadors.

The first in-person meeting was held at the YFC Centre, Stoneleigh Park at the beginning of May and the new group comprises two representatives from Students Organising for Sustainability UK and two members of FLAME.

Topics of interest that are currently being pursued include improving possibilities for local public procurement and exploring opportunities for input to a [World Food Forum \(WFF\) National Chapter](#) - a self-organised national youth agrifood platform.

Should anyone wish to reach out to Fergus, please email fergusstarkey@hotmail.com.

Back the Future

Farming the Future continues to support our collaborative projects

Following the conclusion of the 'How Farming Can Cool the Planet' project, plans were underway to devise another project to represent young people with a fervent interest in sustainable food, farming and the environment.

After a short project determining the nature of the next collaborative work and with the addition of Sustain and the Nature Friendly Farming Network as partners, 'Back the Future' was brought to life!

The project aims to bring together, upskill, articulate, and amplify diverse youth voices to influence policy around food and farming. After a rigorous application and interview process, six ambassadors were chosen to take part in the project and have now met in person at the YFC Centre, Stoneleigh Park.

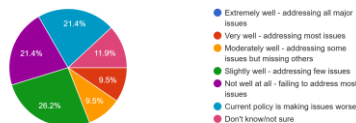
We will compare ongoing survey feedback with the ambassadors' interests to agree on a plan of action. We've registered a variety of topics to pursue and determine what's feasible to deliver.



Project ambassadors Megan, Anna, Fergus, Gloria, Fanny and Jess

Survey feedback example

How well do you think current policy is addressing food and farming issues?
42 responses



2025 project ideas

- Improve possibilities for local public procurement and leave legacy of engagement with local Councils having advocated for shortened, local supply chains
- Act as a conduit between farmers and UKRI (regarding farmer-start-up businesses with ADOPT and the UK Agri-Tech Centre)
- Engage with different audiences (young, students, public) to raise awareness of the importance of good nutrition and source of food
- Input to and understanding of relevant policy work: Land Use, Food and Road Map strategies/visions- representing the voice of farmers as well as young people (diverse voice representation)
- Input to The World Food Forum (WFF) National Chapter
- Present project work at the Oxford Farming Conference.

The World Food Forum

Understand more about how the WFF impacts agrifood systems

What's the Youth Assembly?

The World Food Forum (WFF) Youth Assembly is a youth-led platform empowering young people to engage in policy discussions on agrifood systems challenges and opportunities. It provides a structured space for youth to systematically contribute to agrifood systems policy and governance processes, ensuring their voices influence local, regional and global decision-making.

What is the WFF?

The World Food Forum (WFF), launched in 2021 as an independent network of partners hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), is a global platform dedicated to transforming agrifood systems and accelerating progress toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What are the aims?

Through youth action, science and innovation, and investment, the WFF fosters strategic partnerships and cross-sector collaborations to catalyse transformative change in agrifood systems at the local, regional and global levels, working towards a sustainable, resilient and hunger-free world, leaving no one behind.

What's the Youth Initiative?

Within this framework, the WFF's Global Youth Action Initiative (Youth Initiative) was established to harness the passion and power of youth to transform our agrifood systems. It acts as a catalytic movement and driver of youth engagement in food governance, and serves as a knowledge centre and innovation lab, fostering and inspiring youth-led solutions.

It actively contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Youth 2030 Strategy and enhances youth engagement in the follow-up of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit.

The WFF Youth Initiative is implemented through a set of thematic programmes providing young people with the tools, knowledge and networks needed to create and scale actionable and sustainable solutions.

The programmes?

To inspire and empower youth worldwide by reflecting their diverse priorities and shared interests, the WFF Youth Initiative is structured around five thematic programmes. These programmes provide multiple avenues for youth engagement, ensuring inclusive and meaningful participation on a global scale.

They include:

- [Youth Assembly](#)
- [Youth Innovation Lab](#)
- [Youth Education](#)
- [Youth Culture](#)
- Local Youth Action = local youth-driven initiatives.

Success at Cereals 2025

A dedicated programme of next generation events featured on the first day of Cereals 2025

Lincolnshire farmer and founder of Forage Aid, Andrew Ward MBE was the host for this year's Cereals event. Andrew is the Managing Director of Roy Ward Farms Ltd, an arable farmer, who has previously hosted Cereals in 2004 and 2008.

This year, Andrew was keen to ensure YFC members were supported. Working with Cereals event organisers, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire county federations and NFYFC, a next generation programme was developed, sponsored by Michelmores and supported by UK Agritech Centre, NFU and Sykes Holiday Cottages.

The sessions focused on business and careers advice, with an opportunity to network and enjoy the event with fellow YFC members and industry representatives.

NFYFC Chair of Council James Nixey chaired the proceedings, introducing the panel discussions: James said: "I was delighted to play an active part



in the dedicated day for young farmers. It was the perfect venue and programme for bringing everyone together to learn, socialise and swap good practice. It's always good to collaborate effectively with show organisers and industry."

There was positive feedback about repeating the programme at next year's event. NFYFC will continue to work with Cereals organisers to develop the topics based on YFC members' suggestions.

Growing the next generation of farmers

The Young Farmers' area included discussions on diversification, succession and innovation.

Nottinghamshire County Federation Vice Chair Jessica Spencer took part in the panel discussion on diversification (pictured left).

The range of speakers and variety of topics gave visitors at the Young Farmers' area a wealth of knowledge, information and experience from industry experts and those who have started successful enterprises and shared their journeys.

Recommendations from the experts for future diversification projects included the need for passion, research, planning permission, return on capital and to see that barriers can be opportunities.

There was wide agreement from the speakers about the benefits of YFC membership. They cited how YFC had created networks, confidence in public speaking and interviews, opportunities, support and encouragement for future careers.

Future Farming materials

An updated resource for countryside education is now available for you to download, use and share

A partnership between NFYFC, LEAF Education and ADM has resulted in training and an updated resource to support you inspiring young people about careers in food, farming and the land-based sector. Whether it's visiting a school, events at shows or career events or a club meeting.

LEAF Education works to engage, motivate, and inspire young people through active learning to equip future generations with a balanced and informed insight into food production, farming and the environment.

This work helps to connect farmers, teachers, and young people, to support future generations to make informed choices as conscious consumers to live in a world that is more sustainable, climate positive and food positive.

The new Future Farming resource, available from the **Countryside Classroom website**, is for people working in the industry to use when talking to young people about their job, career path and organisation.



This resource pack will guide you through engaging with teenagers as well as help you understand careers education in schools.

You can access plans, activities, resources and hints and tips for running:

- an exhibition stand at a careers event
- a student workshop or a school assembly.

YFC AGRI Knowledge Hub

One of the three Defra-supported projects for the 2024-25 NFYFC grant period was to create a new digital resource. This brings together a wealth of accessible information from club programming to enhancing your career path.

With this easy-to-navigate package of information you can subscribe to the latest podcasts or find suggestions for junior or senior club nights. Read about recent forward-thinking farm visits and access the demonstration farm networks available. If you're looking for funding support, helpful career networks or general information, take a look!

The new [digital hub](#) is now available and offers information, suggestions, signposting, podcasts and videos to help you with your career and YFC journeys.

Inside the AGRI Hub you'll find:

- ✓ Training + skills opportunities
- ✓ Farm visit and club programming ideas
- ✓ Podcasts and videos
- ✓ Updates on what's changing in farming
- ✓ How YOUR voice is represented in agri.

UK Agri-Tech Hub

Opportunities at the AGRI-Tech Hub at Harper Adams University's campus

Last September, a YFC AGRI farm visit weekend included a presentation from the Midlands Agri-Tech Hub, based at the Harper Adams University campus in Shropshire.

With recent innovation funding opportunities Accelerating Development of Practices and Technologies ([ADOPT](#)) and future offers in the pipeline, you might want to find out more.

The UK Agri-Tech Hub is the only full-chain agricultural innovation centre in the UK, focused on bringing together expertise and state-of-the-art capabilities across crop health and protection, livestock and agricultural precision engineering.

Established by the UK's innovation agency, @Innovateuk, the [UK Agri-Tech Hub](#) offers a complete life-cycle of support, driving agri-tech innovation and adoption through world-class facilities, expert knowledge and business support, saving you

time and accelerating your progress.

It strengthens the connections between science, business and funders to accelerate research and development, tackling the agri-industry's most critical challenges such as climate change, labour availability, disease mitigation and environmental sustainability.

As an independent, not-for-profit organisation, the UK Agri-Tech Hub is trusted to provide leadership and guidance to progress transformational change for people and the planet while stimulating economic growth by offering physical centres with cutting-edge R&D laboratories, testbeds, factories and offices.

Take advantage of opportunities to learn about the latest innovations across the sector, showcase your work, meet the team and network with other industry stakeholders.

[TIAH](#) has also collaborated with the UK Agri-Tech



Centre to create a new online course. It's everything from understanding the types of technology available to measuring the impact on farmers' businesses. You don't have to be a member with TIAH to access but if you do join as a member, you can save your progress and get a certification of completion.

In conjunction with that, the Accelerating Development of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) Fund that was launched in April 2025, supports farmer-led on-farm trials of new technologies and methods. Farmers can also use ADOPT funding to pay for membership with TIAH.

Email for further information or advice:
info@ukagritechcentre.com.

I am vital safety campaign

A new NAAC sticker campaign aims to remind everyone to stay safe

A new sticker campaign, launched by The National Association of Agricultural Contractors (NAAC), aims to remind everyone to stay safe with a simple message, *I am vital to UK Agriculture – Stay Safe*.

The NAAC is asking its contractor members and the wider farming community to join forces and remind each other that we are all vital by placing stickers in prominent places. The stickers should act as a prompt to always wear a helmet when riding a quad bike, make sure PTO guards are in place or switch off a machine before clearing a blockage.

Commenting Jill Hewitt, NAAC CEO, said, "It is all too easy when under pressure to think that health and safety is all about paperwork and hassle. However, the number of fatal and serious incidents in farming continues to remain stubbornly high and the NAAC wants to visually remind everyone to protect themselves and colleagues.

"We urge everyone to use these stickers as a heads

up to take that extra time to make sure a job is done safely and get everyone home to their families at the end of the day."

Safety tips

Contributory factors/underlying causes of accidents and injury with ATVs can include:

- lack of formal operator training and/or experience;
- incorrect/lack of appropriate head protection;
- excessive speed;
- age of the operator;
- carrying a passenger on a sit-astride ATV;
- unbalanced loads or overloading;
- tipping on a bank, ditch, rut or bump;
- loss of control on a steep slope combined with other factors, such as ground or load conditions;
- towing excessive loads with unbraked equipment;
- poor maintenance - faulty brakes, incorrect tyre pressures.

Always remember to think 'farm safety'.



Launched at Cereals 2025, this new NAAC campaign continues to urge farmers to think of farm safety at all times and help to prevent accidents.

Stickers and safety information are available by contacting admin@naac.co.uk.

Share at county shows, within your clubs or why not programme an evening to talk about farm safety?

Your 2025-26 YFC AGRI Reps

Chair: Robbie Tuer

Vice Chair: Fergus Starkey

Ex officio: Luke Cox

East Midlands

Jack Cullen

Oliver Haines

Eastern

Naomi Steadman

Alice Saunders

Northern

Nathan Greenwood

Robbie Tuer

South East

Ben Newbery

Harry Petfield

South West

Sam Wade

Tom Sellar

Wales

Iwan Parry

Angharad Thomas

West Midlands

James Henderson

Harry Watson

NFU Rep

Robbie Tuer

Deputies

Harry Petfield/Frances Roberson

CLA Reps

Jack Harvey and Sarah Palmer

Rural Issues Rep

Holly Gilbert and Harry Petfield

Farm Tenancy Forum (FTF) Rep

Sarah Palmer

LEAF

Fergus Starkey

Co-Options to YFC AGRI

Robbie Tuer

Dominic Hampson-Smith (Wales

YFC Rural Affairs Chair)

Fergus Starkey

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