Chairman’s Welcome - Mr D E Meurig James FRAgS, the newly elected Chair of CARAS Wales welcomes you to the third edition of the CARAS Wales Newsletter.

The CARAS newsletter will be produced twice a year to members (June and December), with the aim to keep members informed about all CARAS Wales activities, and is also an opportunity for members to propose/suggest any newsletter articles and information for circulation.

National Panel - In January, gratitude was expressed to the retiring Chairman and the three retiring members of the National Panel – Mr Gareth P Jones, Mr Tom Tudor, Mr Brian Rees and Mr Roy Davies for their commitment and valuable contribution to the work of the National Panel.

The National Panel meets three times a year, in early January/February, early May and in mid-September. The Panel discusses potential candidates along with considering applications for Associateship and the planning of Annual Conferences and Field Days.

At the Council meeting in January, nominations were put forward for the election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and three New Members of the National Panel and they were unanimously approved and appointed as follows:

- Chairman - Mr D E Meurig James FRAgS, Whitland, Carmarthen
- Vice Chairman - Mr Emyr W Jones FRAgS, Bala, Gwynedd
- New Panel Members - Mr Edmund S Bailey FRAgS, Llanbedr, Gwynedd
  Mr Jonathan H Davies FRAgS, Llandeilo, Carmarthen
  Mr Colin V J Pugh FRAgS, Knighton, Powys

Other National Panel Members -
Mr W I Cyril Davies FRAgS (RWAS Rep CARAS), Mr John D B Thomas FRAgS, Mrs Janet Phillips ARAgS, Mrs Falmai Roberts FRAgS, Mr Robert Stevenson FRAgS, Mr D William W Lloyd FRAgS

Panel of Fellows – The Panel of Fellows meet twice a year, in early January/February and in mid-September, to consider Fellowship (FRAgS) awards which are not automatic. Associates are considered for their continued outstanding contributions to UK agriculture and are supported by citations made to Council who determine their outcome.

Annual Conference – The 2018 Conference entitled ‘Deal or No Deal’ where members’ views were captured on BREXIT ‘One Year On’. Our key note speakers included Mr Tom Hind, Chief Strategy Officer with Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) and Mr Rhys Llywelyn, Market Development Manager for Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales. Mr Meurig Raymond FRAgS kindly facilitated the ‘Question & Answer’ Session part of the conference. The session was very productive and a paper setting out the main views will be forwarded to Welsh Government on behalf of CARAS Wales.

Following the 2017 Conference CARAS Wales forwarded their main views to Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs for Welsh Government, which has helped raise the profile of CARAS in Wales and were delighted to receive a positive response from the Minister.

2019 Conference - Members are invited to submit any ideas and topics for future conferences.

CARAS Show Reception - The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society will again be hosting a reception at the Royal Welsh Show on Tuesday 24 July 2018 in the Vice Presidents’ & Governors’ Pavilion. The reception will be a private reception confined to Fellows and Associates and their spouses/partners. It is very much hoped that all members will be able to attend and invitations will be sent out shortly.
2018 CARAS Field Day - Arrangements are being made for the Field Day to be held at Carreg Y Llech Farm, Treuddyn, Mold on Friday 21 September 2018, by very kind permission of Mr & Mrs Terrig Morgan and family. Further information will be sent to members nearer to the event.

Next Council Meeting - The next Council of Fellows and Associates in Wales meeting will be held on the same day as the CARAS field day on Friday 21 September 2018.

Potential Associate Nominations - Members are invited to identify potential candidates for Associateship – Please submit any nominations by early August to be considered at the next National Panel meeting in September. Potential candidate forms are available from the office (contact details below).

Who's who in CARAS?

CARAS Wales Chairman – Mr D E Meurig James FRAGs, a dairy farmer from Whitland, Carmarthenshire, was awarded Associateship in 2009 following his submission ‘The role of type classification in the breeding and managing of profitable, long living, dairy cows’. A noted judge of cattle at local and national shows, Meurig is Head of Breed Development at Holstein UK and Head of Type Classification for All Breeds. He is committed to supporting and contributing to the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, as Chair of RWAS Pembrokeshire Advisory Committee, Member of RWAS Council and Livestock Committee, Cattle Commentator at the Royal Welsh Show, Winter Fair and Welsh Dairy Show, and many more achievements, the list goes on.

CARAS National Chairman - Mr Terrig G Morgan FRAGS of Treuddyn, Mold, Flintshire, is the latest representative from Wales to become chairman of the organisation since it was established in 1983 by the UK’s four national agricultural societies - the Royal of England, the Royal Highland, the Royal Ulster and the Royal Welsh.

Since Mr Morgan’s award of Associateship in April 2003 for his submission on ‘Milk Production and Marketing Strategies’, he has successfully continued to work and support the dairy industry at the highest level, and progressed to Fellowship in May 2008. He has also been honoured with a MBE for his unfailing commitment to supporting his fellow farmers over many years.

Honorary Secretary for National CARAS
Professor John Wibberley steps down after his years of service since 1999 as Honorary Secretary and Part-time Coordinator of CARAS. Professor Wibberley was presented with a replica bronze maquette of the Shepherd positioned outside the RWAS International Pavilion, presented by all four countries. RWAS and CARAS Wales thanked him for his many years of support and commitment and wished him well in the future.

Subsequently, CARAS Wales looks forward to working with the newly appointed Honorary Secretary - Mr Richard D Cooksley PAgriC, CEnv, FRAGS.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
The new regulations come into force on 25 May 2018. CARAS is committed to protecting your personal data and processing it only in accordance with legal requirements. For more details you should request a copy of our GDPR policy. We process your personal data as it is necessary for the performance of our contract with you to facilitate your membership of CARAS. We will not transfer your data outside of the EEA (European Economic Area) and will not share your data with third parties, except for the legitimate purpose of processing applications for Associateship and/ or progression to Fellowship. Awards will also be circulated with members, the Press and published on our website, Society Journal and Newsletters. We retain your data in accordance with our retention schedule to simplify future applications. You have various rights in the data we hold including rectification and objecting to processing.

CARAS Website
Further information and updates available at www.royalagriculturalsocietiesawards.org