



CARAS WALES

NEWSLETTER



Issue No. 6

December 2019



Chairman's Welcome

Mr DE Meurig James FRAGS, Chair of CARAS Wales - Welcomes you to the December edition of the CARAS Wales Newsletter. The newsletter continues to keep members informed of its events including the Show Reception, Conferences, Field Days and Council meetings.

CARAS Reception at the Royal Welsh Show

The CARAS Reception was once again well attended, with around 300 members and their guests. The improved layout and structure to the event was well received, with the Presentation of Awards to 10 new Associates and 7 Fellows.

It is very much hoped to find a sponsor or sponsors for the event to help reduce the cost of hosting such a popular event, and will help promote the good work of CARAS Wales. We welcome the support of all members to achieve this.



Associates

Back Row: Mr Steve Hughson (CARAS Wales Honorary Secretary), Mr Rhys David Lougher, Mr Huw E M Thomas, Mr Christopher Lloyd, Mr Dyfrig Wyn Hughes, Mr W Meirion Owen, Mr D Lyndon Joseph, Mr David Morris, Mr Cyril Davies (RWAS Representative).

Front Row: Mr Bruce McKay, Mrs Joyce Owens, Mr Meurig James (CARAS Wales Chairman), Mr James Black (CARAS Chairman), Mr Richard Cooksley (CARAS Honorary Secretary), Mr Emyr Jones (CARAS Wales Vice Chairman), Mr David Brian Walters.



Fellows

Back Row: Mr Steve Hughson (CARAS Wales Honorary Secretary), Mr Arwyn M Owen, Mr Robert Rattray, Mr David Phillips, Mr Aled Owen, Mr Colin Gordon, Mr Cyril Davies (RWAS Representative).

Front Row: Dr Iwan Owen, Mr Meurig James (CARAS Wales Chairman), Mr James Black (CARAS Chairman), Mr Richard Cooksley (CARAS Honorary Secretary), Mr Emyr Jones (CARAS Wales Vice Chairman), Mrs Janet Phillips

Welsh Government Consultation - 'Sustainable Farming and Our Land'

The above consultation sets out revised proposals for farmers after Brexit - CARAS Wales have submitted a response and continues to raise the profile of CARAS Wales and its members, with Welsh Government.

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Officials: Mr D E Meurig James FRAGS (Chair), Mr Emyr W Jones FRAGS (Vice Chair)
Mr W I Cyril Davies FRAGS (RWAS Rep CARAS), Mr Steve Hughson ARAGS (Honorary Secretary)



CARAS Events 2020

Date

Event

Friday 24th January 2020

1.15 pm Council Meeting
2.00 pm Conference
4.15 pm Tea & Biscuits

CARAS Wales Conference & Council Meeting
will be held in the International Pavilion (Upstairs),
Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd.

For further details please refer to the circulated
Conference Booklet.

Tuesday 21 July 2020

6.45 pm for 7.00 pm

CARAS Wales Reception

The Royal Welsh Agricultural Society is delighted
to host a Reception at the Royal Welsh Show in
the Vice Presidents' & Governors' Pavilion

Invitations will be sent out prior to the event.

Friday 25 September 2020

CARAS Wales Field Day & Council Meeting
will be held at Hendy, Lon Pant, Caernarfon,
Gwynedd, LL54 5RL
by kind permission of Mr Aled Jones
(NFU Cymru Deputy President)

Further information will be circulated.

If you wish to attend any of the above events

please contact CARAS Wales on pachiefexec@rwas.co.uk or 01982 554412



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Potential Candidate Nominations

Members are invited to identify potential candidates for Associateship – Please submit any nominations by early January to be considered at the January meeting. Potential candidate forms are available from the office (contact details below). **Please remember that the potential candidate(s) must not be made aware of their name being nominated prior to consideration by the Panel.**

Website

Further information and updates available at
www.royalagriculturalsocietiesawards.org

The Fellowship of
Royal Agricultural
Societies Coordinated by:
CARAS

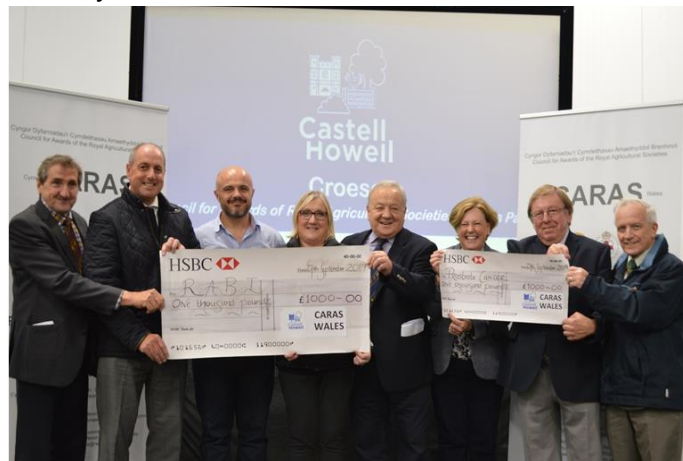


2019 Field Day – Friday 27 September 2019



On behalf of CARAS Wales members we would like to thank Mr Brian Jones MBE FRAgS, Managing Director of Castell Howell Foods and his team for a very successful and informative field day at Castell Howell Foods, Cross Hands, Carmarthenshire. The business started from small rural beginnings in 1988, Castell Howell Foods have celebrated 30 years of business and grown to become Wales' leading independent food service wholesaler, servicing the length and breadth of Wales, the Border Counties and the South West of England. The visit included a tour around the storage warehouse, refrigeration/cold store and butchery areas.

By attending the field day CARAS Members have also helped by raising money for other charities. The monies paid by members and their guests towards the field day visit was donated, as a result of Mr Brian Jones's very kind generosity. The monies were split between two charities - £1,000 to RABI and £1,000 to Prostate Cymru Charity. Members further donated on the day towards the Macmillan Coffee morning raising £570.



Next CARAS Wales Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held at the Royal Welsh showground in January 2020 - on the same day as the 2020 Conference - details overleaf.

National CARAS Council Meeting – 21 November 2019

The National CARAS Council met at the Farmers Club in London on the 21st November where Wales Panel Officials were in attendance. During a productive meeting the following key topics were agreed. A) Members who had resigned or allowed their membership to lapse would be allowed to re-join without further assessment on the understanding that all outstanding subs for the period of absence be re-paid. B) National Panels should encourage applications via option 2 that covers Nuffield Farming Scholarship route to the Award of Associateship so as to encourage younger members. C) Selection of assessors with the necessary skills was important and the training of new ones by shadowing experienced ones was recommended; D) If necessary whilst assessors would normally come from the same nation they could be from a different nation if an advantage covering knowledge or geographical area; E) It is good practice to have a Farming Assessor with an Industry based assessor to create a mix of views and lastly no member of the National Panel/ Council, or Moderators panel can act as a sponsor.

Discussion took place as to how the members would increase annual payment from £50 to £60. It was requested that members would be encouraged to make use of their online banking facilities to increase the standing orders as this was preferred to submitting new standing orders.

The process for advancement to Fellowship was discussed and a new model agreed, based on a submission by the Wales Panel. In future the process would require the associate to provide up to date information on their activities and why they felt fellowship should be awarded. This was agreed as particularly beneficial as some sponsors may have lost touch with the associate, meaning it was difficult to gain that current picture. This new process will be implemented for all applications for Fellowship not already in the system.

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 16th April 2020.

Saving lives and livelihoods on British farms – Brian Rees FRAgS

Tragically, on average, 33 fatalities occur on British farms each year – this horrific statistic needs to be addressed. In addition, many more farmers and farm workers have suffered life-changing injuries or ill-health. Last year we had a staggering figure of 39 farmers killed, showing an increase of nearly 20% over previous years.

The main activities where these fatal accidents occur are transport, handling cattle and working at height. 14 people were killed by moving vehicles, mainly telehandlers and quads. 9 people were killed by an animal and 7 people by falls from height. Sadly 2 or 3 children are also killed each year.

Over the last 20 years other industries, such as construction, have greatly improved their safety record. This cannot be said for farming. Workers are now six times more likely to be killed on a farm than on a building site.

Although farm inspections by the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) haven't been widespread over previous years, farmers have had plenty of opportunity to gain knowledge and receive practical guidance on health and safety - thus allowing them to improve their own standards. For example, HSE/Lantra SHADs (Safety and Health Awareness Days) provided the opportunity for up to 300 farmers to attend a half-day session to help them improve their knowledge. In Wales we have had smaller events organised by Farming Connect to try and achieve the same goal. Farming Connect have also provided funding for farmers in Wales to have practical training and Health and Safety advice through a farm mentoring programme. Farmers can access up to 15 hours per year farm mentoring free of charge. We have established 'Farm Safety Partnerships' in Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland. These working groups are made up of organisations involved in farming, who aim to promote health and safety in agriculture.

The above initiatives could do so much to improve health and safety on our farms but, unfortunately the uptake from farmers is very poor. 20% would be an average response to many events and very few farmers that do attend take any action when they return to their own farms.

I've been involved in health and safety and practical training for 35 years and have come to the conclusion that the majority of farmers, possibly as much as 60/70%, firstly consider health and safety to be another example of government red tape; or that health and safety doesn't apply to them; or accidents happen to someone else! I am now convinced that many people in our industry believe that killing nearly forty people per year is acceptable, and we should just put it down as an occupational hazard.

Over the last 20 years I've been involved in fatal accident investigations for the HSE. This involved visiting the scene of the accident and meeting the employers, employees or family members involved - who are all going through a huge amount of stress and trauma. For example, after a young man had been crushed and killed by a runaway tractor, I sat across a kitchen table from his 50-year-old father, who sobbed and asked, 'Why didn't we fix those brakes?' - he had buried his son three days previously. That tragic experience will stay with me for a very long time.

To conclude, all the people affected by accidents that I have met over the years, were all hardworking normal farmers and none of them thought it would ever happen them!

