

IOSPLAN

Annual Report 2014

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President's statement

Firm foundations and the members' positivity are what strengthens the Federation, believes NFYFC's President Poul Christensen



As President of the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (NFYFC), it is an absolute privilege to represent such a fantastic organisation.

I have been so fortunate to experience all aspects of what it means to be a member of NFYFC today. From

the highly-impressive competitions to the high-profile discussions about the industry's future.

I was a member of a Young Farmers' Club (YFC) some 60 years ago and so many things have changed since then. But the one thing that has remained constant is the enthusiasm of the membership and the desire to work together to steer the Federation in the right direction.

My wife Margaret and I have enjoyed each and every one of our visits and we are so grateful to everyone who has invited us to their event. It is always a thrill to see so many members and their families at events and competitions throughout the country. Not only at national activities – but also at rallies and county shows.

There are plenty of reasons why our members love being part of a Young Farmers' Club. For many it is a sanctuary – a place to form long lasting friendships (and in some cases marriage!), develop lifelong skills and share time supporting others. Living in a rural community can be lonely – but YFCs can help to combat that isolation and NFYFC's Rural+ campaign has been a real success in showing us all how to do this.

One of the positive ways to help mental well-being is to assist others – and Young Farmers do this in bucket loads. YFC fundraising happens practically every week, but

"We face constant challenges but we have firm foundations and a dedicated network of members"



what was even more inspiring was to see the practical support our members gave during the Somerset floods in 2014. When the rain fell down and ruined livelihoods on the Somerset levels, Young Farmers were among the first to start collecting and delivering forage. They were the ones who rolled up their sleeves and helped farmers restore their businesses. They didn't wait for Government intervention. They just got on and did it themselves.

I am constantly in awe of this can-do attitude when I speak to members. At a recent consultation to discuss how to attract more young people into farming, it was YFC members who told a packed room of industry professionals that they were each responsible for their own futures.

It's this determination that should reassure everyone that the industry will be in safe hands. And so too is our Federation. We face constant challenges, but we have firm foundations and a dedicated network of members. By working together we can only grow stronger.

I would encourage all members, where possible, to share their views on the Federation's future. It is our members that run the Federation and it is their ideas and passion that will create an NFYFC that is fit for the next generation of Young Farmers.

To all members, I wish you the very best of luck for the coming year – and enjoy yourselves!

Poul Christensen

Community champions

Supporting each other and the wider community is an ethos shared by all our Young Farmers' Clubs

he year began with some of the most devastating floods that the UK had ever seen. But the response from Young Farmers to the crisis was extraordinary and one that epitomised everything that NFYFC is proud to be about.

Clubs from all over the country quickly worked together and raised more than £25,000 in forage and cash donations. They were also on hand to help with the clear-up when the water levels receded.

While Somerset was one of the counties to suffer the most from the torrential downpours, Young Farmers' Clubs (YFCs) from near and far rolled up their sleeves to help.

There were mass donations of forage – in Essex they collected more than 400 tons' worth – as well as huge fundraisers to support those whose homes and businesses were damaged. And once the water receded, Young Farmers were on hand again to clean up the



debris and restore what had been destroyed.

Thanks to the support of Young Farmers, and in particular Ed Ford of Essex YFC, Forage Aid is now well on the way to becoming a fully-fledged charity, which will provide quick relief to any farmers affected by flooding in the future.

While this benevolence was on a grand scale, involving clubs from as far north as Cumbria to as far south as Cornwall, it is this community spirit that runs throughout our 615 YFCs.

Every year they all fundraise for local and national causes as well as give up their time to support their local communities in myriad ways such as hosting events, clearing up litter or delivering food hampers at Christmas.

Our 25,000 members across England and Wales make up one of the largest rural youth organisations in the UK and are famous for their propensity to give. Aged 10-26, our members are part of an organisation that





provides a vital social connection for young people who live and work in the countryside.

Collectively, we provide friendship, training, competitions, and travel opportunities as well as the platform to voice opinions on issues affecting rural young people.

Encouraging our members to talk more was part of a major campaign in 2014 when NFYFC launched the Rural+ campaign.

The campaign aimed to raise awareness about rural isolation and to promote the signs and symptoms that might suggest someone is experiencing mental health issues and needs support.

Working closely with The Farming Community Network (FCN) and YoungMinds, the Federation produced support materials to help beat rural isolation. Thanks to support from TAMA, posters, designed by members,





2014 HIGHLIGHTS

- Young Farmers raised thousands to support those affected by the floods in Somerset
- The Rural+ campaign launched to help members beat rural isolation
- More than 5,500 Young Farmers attended Annual Convention – the most in 10 years
- The Youth Forum launched a new educational field-tofork game called Watch that Cowpat
- TAMA, Volac and NWF Agriculture, among others, joined forces with NFYFC
- NFYFC was one of four beneficiaries of a Cabinet Office grant to help deliver more social action opportunities for rural young people
- Our presence on social media grew with more than 7,500 followers on Twitter and more than 25,000 on Facebook

"The response from Young Farmers to the crisis was extraordinary and one that epitomised NFYFC"

were circulated to clubs and Rural+ cards were sent out to each member with helpline numbers for leading charities.

It was an emotive topic but one Young Farmers took to their hearts, with many raising money for the two charities. One County even released a charity single called Put that Hoedown that made it into the UK Top 60 singles chart.

Awareness of rural isolation and mental health issues has definitely improved, with clubs inviting FCN in to talk to members as well as generating coverage in national and local media. The campaign hashtag #RuralPlus has reached over 3.5 million people on Twitter – largely thanks to a tweet from the Prime Minister! Claire Worden, NFYFC's National Chairman of Council, and the inspiration behind the campaign, received a Point of Light award from the Prime Minister for recognising the importance of mental wellbeing among rural young people.

As well as all of the campaign efforts, Young Farmers have still been competing, travelling and generally enjoying themselves. Our Annual Convention managed to beat all previous attendance for the last 10 years, with more than 5,500 people visiting us in Blackpool for a fun-packed weekend.

The competition programme continues to offer our Young Farmers the opportunity to develop lifelong skills and grow in confidence. And our comprehensive training programme offers extra ways for young people to advance their careers and personal development.

NFYFC works hard to prepare our members for the future so they continue to be ambassadors for rural life and the farming industry. Working together with our clubs and counties in each of our seven Areas, we are a Federation with firm foundations and big aspirations for what lies ahead.

Board of Management



A challenging year but one filled with many YFC highs, says Frank Chester, Chairman of the Board of Management

We have certainly had an action-packed year! Your Annual Convention had the highest attendance for many years, and may I thank you all for supporting the Levy increase.

The income we have enjoyed for many years through HOPS Labour Solutions has not been available this year. Unfortunately, the massive changes the business has been forced to make this year have left HOPS unable to make its annual donation to NFYFC.

We hope HOPS has now consolidated its business and will soon be in a position to be financially supportive to NFYFC again. HOPS is an excellent labour provider to the agricultural and horticultural community and their success benefits the Federation.

NFYFC has an excellent staff team lead by James Eckley and during 2014 we recruited a new Head of Marketing and Development, Maria Burke, and a new Communications Officer, Sam Conway. We have also recruited a Membership Development Officer for the South East Area to support the development of clubs and counties in that location.

We are expecting 2015 to be a challenging year for the NFYFC Board with important decisions to make over the membership programme so that we can deliver against the budget constraints that we now face. We are indebted to our sponsors and supporters who helped us in 2014. Their generosity of both time and money helped us to provide a wide range of educational training for our members as well as key competitions and events. Huge thanks must also go to our Fundraising Officer Christina Evans who helped us to achieve so much this year.

The NFYFC Development Plan is now progressing, and is highlighting many areas that need to be addressed so that our Federation can move forward and be fit for purpose for 2015 and beyond. We listened to the membership and made our budgets and financial information more transparent and accessible for members in



2014. My thanks go to Jim Minshaw, our Financial Controller, for making the many changes so that this information could be made available and understandable. John Hardman has now served his full term as Treasurer for NFYFC and is stepping down from the post. Thank you to John for his support and advice and for helping to initiate many changes.

It is a privilege to be your Board Chair, supported by Vice Chair Julia Pointon, Our Chief Officer James and all the staff, your Area representatives and excellent officer team. Your Board was strengthened in 2014 by two new independent members whose different viewpoints have been of huge benefit. However it is you the members and county staff who make it all worthwhile! "We are indebted to our sponsors and supporters who helped NFYFC in 2014"

Chairman's statement



Helping to beat rural isolation was a challenge that captured Young Farmers' hearts and minds, says 2014 Chairman of Council **Claire Worden**

I will never forget my first Council meeting as Chairman in February 2014 when I launched the Rural+ campaign. I have experienced the impact of rural isolation but when other members revealed their emotional stories too, I realised how many people suffer in silence.

Working together with a number of organisations – especially The Farming Community Network (FCN) and YoungMinds – Rural+ has helped to raise awareness about the mental health issues that can affect rural young people. The response from members has exceeded my expectations and it's great to hear about clubs inviting FCN in to talk about mental health.

For me personally, it was wonderful when the campaign received national recognition and I was awarded a Point of light Award from the Prime Minister David Cameron.

One act of kindness that has stood out among all others was Young Farmers' reaction during the floods in Somerset. Among those speeches at my first Council meeting was a heart felt plea from Somerset for the farmers who were dealing with the damage to their homes and facing fears for their livestock.

So many Clubs pulled together to gather forage and supplies to deliver to Somerset. And when the floods had gone, we were still on hand to offer support with the clear-up. It was not only testament to the strength of NFYFC as an organisation but to the industry as a whole.

I have been honoured to represent the Federation at events throughout the year, including The Oxford Farming Conference, the NFU conference, the General Assembly (Rural Youth Europe) and the Farmers Weekly Awards. I was also invited to carry the harvest



torch and give a reading at the Great British Harvest Festival and was a judge at the national finals of the NFU Mutual Rural Crime Fighters awards.

One of my aims this year was to bring Council and the membership closer together by being more honest and transparent. I wanted the membership to have all the facts so they could make informed decisions.

We have made great efforts to achieve this and Council is now proactive in representing its members and their views. Council meetings have been fantastic – and the motivation throughout the Federation is a credit to you all.

Thank you to every single Council member, every member that I have spoken to this year and every County I have visited. Thank you also to all YFC supporters and friends. And finally to the NFYFC officers, staff, County staff and everyone who I have had the honour and privilege to work with – it has been an exceptional year and I couldn't have done it without you.



(Top) Claire Worden with the 2014 Council (above) a poster from the Rural+ campaign

"When other members revealed their emotional stories too, I realised how many people suffer in silence" Members compete in the Fence Erecting at Farm Skills Weekend

Helping others is a major activity for YFCs and their very existence can offer a lifeline for rural young people who might feel alone

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Preparing for the future

The vast range of training and development opportunities offered through our Young Farmers' Clubs equip our members with lifelong skills. Youth work is at the heart of our organisation to help our members thrive in their rural communities and give them the confidence to achieve their goals

riendship has always been at the centre of Young Farmers' Clubs and in
2014 members certainly showed how much they care. When Somerset was devastated by floods early in the year,
YFCs joined forces to raise money, collect muchneeded forage for farmers and help with the clean up.

Members were praised across the media and some were rewarded for their efforts in contributing in such a generous way to help the wider farming community.

Helping others is a major activity for YFCs and their very existence can often be a lifeline for rural young people who might otherwise feel isolated and alone. NFYFC's Rural+ campaign aimed to raise awareness in 2014 about mental health issues that can affect rural young people and special help cards and posters were issued to all members.

Our five steering groups continue to plan activities that evoke the ethos of the organisation – including Competitions, Agriculture and Rural Issues, Events and Marketing, Personal Development and our Youth Forum. It is the members who help to shape the organisation's agenda, creating a programme of activity that educates, informs and entertains.

Agriculture and Rural Issues

It was a busy year for the AGRI Steering Group, which kicked off by changing its name from ARAC. This set a precedent for improving the way that Agricultural and Rural Issues are communicated to the membership, what it means for members and how they can get involved. Many counties have followed suit with the name change and others are now creating AGRI roles and committees within their federations – a move which further enables more members to have their say on important industry issues.

A monthly newsletter was launched to provide regular updates to Steering Group members and county AGRI-links people to help disseminate information to members. Each issue gets better and we have had very positive feedback.

The latest Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) continued to unfold during 2014 and AGRI took every opportunity to have input on key decisions, both at home and in Brussels through CEJA (The Council for European Young Farmers). Although NFYFC is not a political organisation, increasing our attendance at key meetings to tell the powers that be how it is on the ground for rural young people has made a real difference to the support we will see for young people in agriculture for years to come.

Several members were invited to a consultation at St George's House on 'Attracting and Supporting New Entrants to Agriculture'. Members participated in in-depth discussions, with industry leaders and other young people, about the initiatives already in place and the barriers for progression.

Commitments were made to do more, particularly in promoting careers in agriculture to school children, plus the matching service previously investigated by NFYFC will be revisited.



AGRI also supported farmers following some of the country's worst ever floods. Members Ed Ford from Essex FYFC and Jock Muirhead from Somerset FYFC were instrumental in leading the work of Forage Aid and along with many others their support and donations were hugely valued by those in need.

Agri-technology was the topic of the 2014 AGRI-Forum held during Annual Convention and more than 100 Young Farmers attended to engage in the issues and discuss the future.

With support from NFYFC staff, YFC AGRI also organised and delivered 13 training workshops to 133 members, which included tenancy training with Savills, grassland training with the British Grassland Society, meat for the market training with Eblex, social media training with Social B and a Walk the Wool Chain event with the British Wool Marketing Board.

A study tour to Holland was also attended by 43 members, and in the latter part of the year a junior study tour took place to Scotland for under 18-year-old members.

Thanks go to AGRI sponsors – Massey Ferguson, Mole Valley Farmers, HOPS Labour



Solutions and Kuhn Farm Machinery for making much of this possible and to our supporters Defra.

Events and marketing

This year the Group had some cosmetic changes – shortening its name to Events and Marketing. Despite this, the remit has increased from overseeing communications, marketing, fundraising and events to now also helping to direct the YFC ski trip.

The ski trip has grown in popularity over the last few years, but improved promotion during 2014 resulted in nearly 500 Young Farmers signing up for the 2015 trip to Tignes. The trip was a success thanks to the hard work of the two Reps from each Area who took bookings and signed people up to the trip and to event organisers Outgoing.

The major part of the Steering Group's function is the Annual Convention, which is the highlight of the year for a lot of members. It was held in Blackpool for a consecutive year with more than 5,500 attendees – the highest number for at least 10 years. As well as the exceptionally high standard of competitions that took place, there was also excellent evening entertainment from DJs from Radio 1 including Chris Stark and Scott Mills. Some would say that they were upstaged slightly by Essex FYFC who gave a live performance of their charity single Put that Hoedown!

NFYFC now has a dedicated mobileoptimised website for Annual Convention (www.yfcconvention.org.uk) that was launched ahead of the event so members didn't miss a thing during the packed weekend.

A large part of the Group's focus is on social media activity through Facebook and Twitter. It is an effective way for the Federation to





communicate with members and more clubs, counties and Areas are now adopting their own Facebook pages and Twitter handles.

NFYFC has more than 25,000 likes on its Facebook page and over 7,500 followers on Twitter, meaning that during 2014 the Federation's press coverage has reached out to 21 million people!

YFC Buzz, the monthly e-newsletter, which tells members about all of the exciting things that go on at NFYFC, continues to be popular with more than 18,000 subscribers. The organisation also continues to send members a printed copy of the magazine Ten26 three times a year. Both of these publications help to bridge the gap between national and grassroots members.

The NFYFC website is continually updated with the most up-to-date information and news about competitions and events.

It has an average of 876 visits per day and it has helped to increase enquiries to the Federation from people who are interested in becoming a member.

Competitions

Competitions remain at the heart of the Federation and are enjoyed by virtually

every member. The programme encourages members to use competitions as a way to develop their skills, talent and expertise – while having fun at the same time. The theme for the 2013-14 competitions year was 'Serving Our Country' marking the 100-year anniversary since the start of World War 1.

At this year's Annual Convention, spectators were treated to top performances in the Entertainments finals and the Senior Member of The Year competition. The first ever Fun Darts competition was hosted at Convention and everyone also enjoyed the performances in the finals of the Disco Dancing and Choir competitions.

The annual Competitions Weekend in Staffordshire showcased the variety of skills Young Farmers have to offer. From a road safety competition – introduced in recognition of the Drive it Home campaign – to the presentation skills delivered in the Public Speaking competitions and Junior

YFC AGRI delivered 13 training workshops to 133 members in 2014

Year, members excelled. Sports Day included Mixed Badminton

Member of The

Doubles, Mixed Touch Rugby and Mixed Rush

Hockey and earlier rounds ensured maximum participation

from members and resulted in a brilliant standard at the finals.

During the summer we celebrated the NFYFC Dairy Stockjudging finals at the Great Yorkshire Show before going to the Tenbury Show for the Tug of War and Cube Exhibit finals. Action, drama and controversy reigned – and there was even a new 'just for fun' 4+4 catch weight Tug of War competition.

Harper Adams provided the venue for the Farm Skills Weekend, incorporating the Stockman and Young Stockman of The Year finals, Fence Erecting and the Side-by-Side ATV with First Aid element. Poignant and emotional reflections to the theme of 'Serving Our Country' were made in front of hundreds of spectators at the Malvern Autumn Show in the Cookery and Floral Art finals.

The English Winter Fair was a resounding success in December with members judging either Beef or Pig Live and Carcase with the YFC Stock Judge's dinner in between.

We have held 35 competition finals this year, organised by the Competitions Steering Group. Good value indeed!

Personal Development

NFYFC had an exciting opportunity to work in partnership with the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS), the RSPB and the Canal and River Trust in a project that would encourage more young people to take part in projects that supported their local communities. The project gave clubs the opportunity to access funding from the Government's Youth Social Action Fund to support them in their community endeavours. Lots of clubs have been recognised for their activities, including clearing up communal garden areas, repainting community buildings and supporting local schools.

The Source continues to develop and is

very much an essential toolkit for YFCs. This year funding was secured which meant that each County Office could receive a printed copy of the Source, which means information can be accessed easily. The Source is also available online for clubs and members to consult and it is hoped that it will be further developed to make it even easier to view online.

There is now a strong team of Trainers spread across the country who are part of the Trainers Forum. These members continue to deliver training to grassroots members, including the ten Curve course modules.

New Curve courses are also under development to offer members an even wider choice of training opportunities, such as a Cash Management course, which is supported by NatWest. Together with the AGRI Steering Group, the Federation has also been able to offer bespoke agricultural training opportunities.

The YFC Travel programme is continuing to attract new members for homestays, work scholarships and team travel opportunities. In 2014 members went to Ghana and in 2015 the USA and India are new trips to feature among the choice of locations.

At the Selection Day in 2013 there was a 58% increase in applicants for trips and 2014 continued to attract large numbers, who all impressed the interview panel.

Youth Forum

The Youth Forum is made up of Junior Member of the Year finalists and Area representatives, who meet to discuss everything from competitions, travel, agricultural issues, the Chairman's campaign, promotions and events.



Forum members are all aged under 20 years old, and share the voices of the youngest members. This year the Forum has marked momentous occasions in NFYFC's history, developed a programme of work, and injected a bit of youthful energy into the agendas of the other steering groups!

At the Forum's Residential Weekend in Herefordshire, a Chairman and Vice Chair was elected and at the following Council meeting the Youth Forum was formally recognised as a Steering Group for the first time.

In April, the Forum marked NFYFC's 80th anniversary by burying a time capsule at the site of the first Young Farmers' Club in Hemyock, Devon. It was a special day that involved current and former members of Culm Valley YFC. The capsule was buried near to the site of the United Dairies Factory, which is where the calf rearing club evolved into the first YFC. The capsule will be unearthed in 2058 to mark the 125th anniversary of the national Federation.

Forum members have attended meetings in London with the National Council for Voluntary Youth Service (NCVYS) and other youth organisations to discuss common





barriers to participation. Forum member Georgie Morris from Shropshire FYFC proposed motions for greater recognition of rural mental health issues at the British Youth Council's (BYC) Annual Council Meeting in Sheffield. The motion was passed almost unanimously, and should be integrated into the BYC's programme of work for the next year. Georgie also attended a BYC event in Birmingham to speak to children from inner city schools about our field-to-fork campaign.

An immense amount of work has been involved in producing the game 'Watch that Cowpat!' It's aimed at primary school children to educate them in a fun way about where their food comes from. Members met with a games designer and have trialled a prototype, funded by the Rural Youth Trust, at many shows and events. The Forum is now looking for sponsorship to roll the game out to counties.

The game was trialled at the CLA Game Fair at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire after a successful pitch to the show's marketing team. The stand was used to promote NFYFC and lots of families played the game and provided useful feedback.

The Forum helped to influence the choice of an under-18s sailing trip for members and some of the members from the group sailed around the Channel Islands. Plans are now underway for an under-18s ski trip.

The Forum has also been featured in national media titles – including the Farmers Guardian, Farmers Weekly and the NFU magazines.

The development of the Youth Forum was bolstered in 2014 by the support of sponsors AGCO Parts.

The increased excitement about the work of the Forum is really encouraging, as it continues to evolve and be at the forefront of innovative NFYFC initiatives.

Winners of the Entertainments competition, Radnor FYFC

STEERING GROUP FEEDBACK

DAVID HAMER, COMPETITIONS



"I have loved every minute of being Competitions Chairman and I have been able to meet so many members by being

at all levels of competition in districts, counties and areas. Competitions are emotive so making a judgement on the best course of action is tricky but each member and their opinion matters. The Steering Group have worked hard in making decisions, establishing rules and stabilising venues. We have strengthened links with outside organisations to increase exposure and worked with some great sponsors who have agriculture at their heart.

Although every competition final has been a highlight, I am most proud of the WW1 themed Floral Art displays and Parbold YFC in Lancashire for competing internationally after winning our GENSB Tug of War competition. Many thanks to the Steering Group for their work and I will continue to support them in the future."

RUSSELL CARRINGTON, AGRI



"What a great year we had and I've been very proud to chair the AGRI steering group during 2014. There have been challenges along the way with

meaty issues to discuss and conclude, as well as changes to and uncertainty about funding, but we really have excelled and managed to achieve a great deal in 12 months. I'm very grateful to everyone who has sat on the Steering Group during my time as chair. It has been a team effort and I am very humbled to have worked with such passionate young people to make a positive difference to our rural communities. A special thanks to our AGRI-officer Jo Wyles who was just starting out in her role as I was finishing as Vice Chair of the Group. She has been an invaluable support to the group and for that we are very grateful."

SIONED DAVIES, YOUTH FORUM



"I have loved being a part of the Youth Forum – they are a fantastic, forward-thinking, and fresh-faced bunch who always add a new flavour to

the discussions at national meetings. There has been a real buzz about the Forum this year, which I think has been reflected in the excitement around our field-to-fork game as well as the coverage in the media. I can't wait to see the projects that we are currently working on come to fruition."

DAVID MAIDMENT, EVENTS AND MARKETING



"The role of this steering group is so far ranging, from Annual Convention to the ski trip and from our activities on social media to what we sell in the lafters. Linesame Chairman, L

Club Shop! Before I became Chairman, I didn't have a Twitter account, but this year

I have learnt so much about Facebook and Twitter and their importance to how members communicate. Social Media is not the future, it is the present and like me, we must embrace it. This year's committee have been fantastic, with packed out meetings every time and lots of ideas flying around all the time. I'd like to thank them all and wish them all the best for 2015."

NICOLA CHEGWIDDEN, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



"Looking back at my time as Personal Development Chairman, it is incredible to see what we have achieved. We wanted to promote our activities to more

members and at the 2014 Annual Convention we showcased YFC Travel, and feedback showed we had one of the best stands there!

I've really enjoyed seeing members achieving and taking part in things that they wouldn't have done without NFYFC. Lots of clubs benefited from the Youth Social Action programme with funding for helping out with local community projects.

More members have also taken part in regional training and this has enabled them to train more members in their own counties. A highlight of the year was seeing my Club take part in a community project, clearing an overgrown area of a school playground. It brought the Club together and they gained valuable skills thanks to the encouragement and promotion from NFYFC."





Senior Stockjudge of the Year Peter James from Staffordshire FYFC

Winners of the Road Safety Drive it Home competition – Derbyshire FYFC

National Competition and trophy winners 2013/14

Road safety skills featured among the more traditional competitions in 2014 and Young Farmers from across England and Wales performed to their usual high standard

ENGLISH WINTER FAIR 2013

21 & Under Beef Live & Carcase Staffordshire A – Harriet Wilson 26 & Under Beef Live & Carcase Herefordshire B – Ian Dowlman 21 & Under Lamb Live & Carcase Herefordshire B - Thomas Bennett 26 & Under Lamb Live & Carcase Staffordshire A - Matthew Wright

ANNUAL CONVENTION -BLACKPOOL 2014

Senior Member of the Year Herefordshire, Jessica Wright

Performing Arts (Entertainments) – Radnor

Jess Barrett, Rhys Bennett, Daniel Binks, Dominic Binks, Kelly Clee, Kirsty Clee, Matthew Evans, Annie Fairclough, Katie Fairclough, Tomos Fairclough, Rhian Hammond, Ella Harris, Ewan Hughes, Owen Hughes, Rhian Hughes, Amy James, Emma Jones, Frances Jones, Gary Lewis, Georgia Lewis, Matthew Lewis, Jamie Laura Powell, Aled Price, Gemma Price, Jodie Price, Katie Price, Adam Rees, Rebecca Samuel, Kathryn Thomas, Megan Thomas, Rachel Thomas, Laura Watson, Aled Williams, Andrew Thomas, Gwyn Price, David Price, James Powell,

Eryl Lewis, Darren Ryan, Mark Williams Best Actor – Radnor, Matthew Lewis Best Actress - Radnor, Laura Watson Disco Dancing – Cumbria A Matthew Blair, Mollie Bowe, Richard Dixon, Rebecca Jefferson, Kate Lindsay, Laura Mann, Rebecca Mann, Andrew Paisley, Judith Pigg Choir – Glamorgan

Katie Bowen, Lowri Davies, Laura Elliott, Ed Folley, Hywel Griffiths, Leyshon Griffiths, Catrin Hill, Laura Howell, Coral Jones, Ruth Lewis, Kay Lewis-Thomas, David Rees. Laura Thomas. Rhidian Thomas. Matthew Tucker, Elen Williams.

COMPETITIONS DAY 2014

Handicraft – Sewing Apron and Oven Gloves Carmarthenshire, Siriol Richards Drive it Home – Derbyshire Joseph Hall and Joe Pilgrim Journey of Tweed – Warwickshire Jessica Morgan Junior Member of the Year-Somerset Sophie Winzer 14 & Under Reading – Pembrokeshire Tomos Evans, Nia Lloyd, Ffion Phillips 16 & Under Speaking – Shropshire

Goergina Clarke, Lydia Hyne and Chloe Jones Best Chairman – Wiltshire Sophie Taylor Best Speaker – Shropshire Georgina Clarke Best Vote of Thanks - Wiltshire Jack Bather 21 & Under Just A Minute – Shropshire Claud Baker, Nancy Rollings, Samuel Williams, Joe Williams Best Team Member Shropshire, Claud Baker Runner Up Team Member Cornwall, Lucy Bray 26 & Under Debating – Glamorgan Lowri Davies, Beth John, Helen Joseph, Kay Lewis-Thomas, Bethan Rees **Best Speaker** Devon, Kirsty Reed

Situation Vacant Glamorgan, Carwyn Roberts

SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP 2014

Rush Hockey – Essex

Charlie Apter, George Apter, Victoria Apter, William Dutch, Chloe Hunnable, Benjamin Reece, William Riddleston, Elliott Smith, Billy Moulton-Day, Ben Taylor

Touch Rugby – Northumberland





▲ Mixed GENSB Tug of War winners – Lancashire FYFC

 Handicraft winner for sewing an apron and oven gloves Siriol Richards from Carmarthenshire

Megan Brodie, Thomas Davison, James Grix, Daniel Lynn, Archie Singer, Mark Statton, Phoebe Turnbull, Emily Varah, Joseph White, Joshua White Badminton Doubles – Cumbria George Wilson and Mark-Lucas Winspear

DAIRY EVENT – GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW 2014

16 & Under Dairy Stockjudging Yorkshire C, Megan Beecroft 21 & Under Dairy Stockjudging – Gloucestershire, Sarah Pugh 26 & Under Dairy Stockjudging Linear Yorkshire A, Jennifer Booth

TENBURY SHOW 2014

Ladies Tug of War – Pembrokeshire Hannah Grieves, Hayley Morris, Angharad Palmer, Elen Phillips, Cathy Rodenhurst, Hannah-Mae Samson, Anona Williams, Sara Williams Men's Tug of War – Derbyshire Samuel Ainsworth, Alex Birch, Joe Birch, Samuel Bolton, Tom Brooks, James Burton, Charlie Village, John Yates

Mixed GENSB Tug of War – Lancashire Sarah Baker, Jack Eckersley, Alex Garner, James Henshaw, Janie Hodge, Sam Reeves, Mark Watkinson, Andrew Wilkinson Cube Exhibit – Cumbria Kelly-Elizabeth Armstrong and Laura Potts

FARM SKILLS WEEKEND – HARPER ADAMS 2014

Young Stockjudge of the Year Brecknock, Elin Havard Senior Stockjudge of the Year Staffordshire, Peter James Fence Erecting – Montgomery Edd Griffiths, Terry Morgan, Geraint Woosnam Side by Side ATV – Cornwall Brett Burchell and Jonathan Melhuish

MALVERN AUTUMN SHOW 2014

Cookery – Pembrokeshire Eleri George, Sara-Jane Thomas, Sara Owen 16 & Under Floral Art – Warwickshire, Lucy Jeyes 21 & Under Floral Art – Cornwall B Jessica Brookham 26 & Under Floral Art – Lancashire, Victoria Seed

NATIONAL TROPHY WINNERS

NFU Trophy – Cumbria (Championship County Federation, NFYFC – Competition Finals 2013/14) Tug Wilson Trophy – Devon (Reserve Champion County Federation YFC Competitions Finals 2013/14) The Worshipful Company of Farmers – Derbyshire (Champion small County Federation whose membership is among the top 50 per cent of Counties, NFYFC Competitions Final 2013/14) Merrick Burrell Trophy – Northumberland (County Federation with the largest percentage increase in membership over the past three years ending the 31 August, 2014) Sidney Fawcett Trophy – Rachel Goldie, Yorkshire (Member making the greatest contributions to the democratic proceedings at the AGM 2014) The Prince of Wales – Cornwall (County Federation raising the most money per member for a charitable cause) The Lionel Hill Trophy – Wareham & Purbeck YFC (Presented to the Club that has raised the greatest amount of funds per member, for charitable purposes over a 12-month period) NFYFC's Top Trainers Award 2014, Derbyshire (Awarded to the County that delivers The Curve modules to the highest percentage of their membership from September 2013 to August 2014 and to recognise excellence in delivery and continued hard work of YFC trainers) Young Farmers Ambassadors' Trophy Laura Flower, Derbyshire (Northern Ireland

Laura Flower, Derbyshire (Northern Ireland Homestay)

(To recognise the best multi media presentation produced by a participant of the YFC Travel Programme 2013/14)

Local pioneers

Celebrate the highpoints of 2014 with reviews from the Chairmen of the six areas of England and from Wales that make up the national Federation

WEST MIDLANDS AREA



Our biggest highlight was reaching over 3,000 members in the West Midlands Area (WMA), which means we can send two teams to compete in the national finals in 2015! It was also great to see the support that members gave each other when participating weath VEC is trivia clears

in competitions and events. YFC is truly a place where members are safe and can enjoy taking part in activities. Congratulations to all the WMA teams that reached the national finals, some of which came away with top prizes. Thanks to everyone in the Area for all their support. *Alex Mackellar* Cumbria

Lancashire

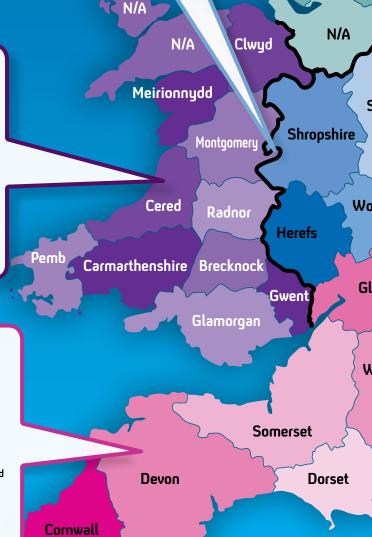
No

WALES YFC



We have enjoyed another successful and exciting year with a jam-packed programme of competitions and opportunities. Firstly members from across Wales took part in the Chairman's Challenge by giving up their time to help their local community, something which is always close to the heart of YFC Members. Meanwhile this year's 14,000-strong Young People's Village was entertained by Greg James, Scott Mills and Sive. We also launched the Skills

Bank at the Royal Welsh Show – a scheme where members can receive an AQA accreditation for the work they do in YFC. Wales YFC hosted this year's European Rally in August in Margam Park, which was a huge success. Thanks to all those who took part and helped organise this great weekend. We are extremely grateful to our members, supporters and sponsors for all their support over the past year. *Kate Miles*



SOUTH WEST AREA



We have enjoyed another successful year with high standards of competition at both our Activities Weekend in Newquay and Competitions Day at Lackham College which gave us some fantastic results in the national finals. One highlight was travelling with 50 junior members to The Brecon Beacons for their annual Activities Weekend. It was lots of fun and many faced ion new friendships All of our members

their fears whilst forging new friendships. All of our members have such passion and enthusiasm and it has been a pleasure to work with them over the past year. Thank you to everyone who has supported me – I've loved every minute of it and would do it all over again if I could! *Tess Cadman*

NORTHERN AREA

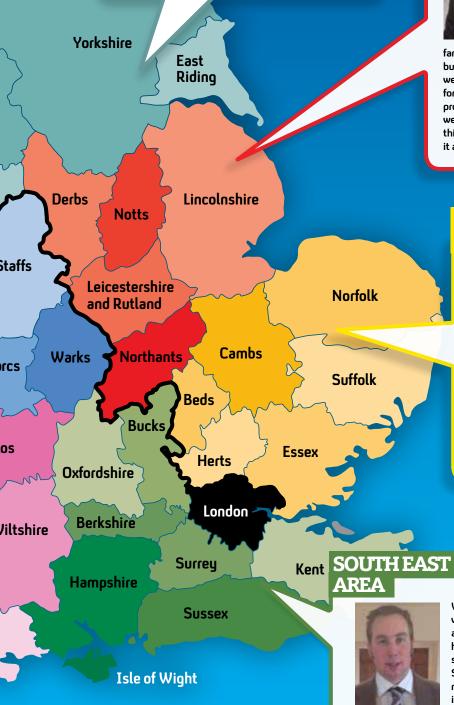


It was a busy year for the Northern Area! Lancashire was a hive of activity in March when they held the Area Weekend, East Riding hosted the Field day in June and Cumbria hosted the stockman competitions in July. It was a highly successful competitions year with many

Qualifiers finding success at the national finals. We also visited the Isle of Man Young Farmers, which was a chance to discuss everything about YFC. It was brilliant

rthumberland

visited the Isle of Man Young Farmers, which was a chance to discuss everything about YFC. It was brilliant and we are now hosting the Northern Area 2015 Stockman of the Year competition on the Island. Thank you to all counties and members for their dedication to YFC. Sarah Leach



EAST MIDLANDS



We kicked off the year with the East Midlands Area (EMA) training weekend in Northamptonshire, which focused on leadership skills, meeting management and decision-making. A massive thanks to John Beresford and his team for organising another

fantastic, fun filled, educational weekend. March was busy with the EMA Entertainments round and the EMA weekend. Lincolnshire entered the Entertainments for the first time in about five years so I was very proud when they managed to finish second. The EMA weekend in Skegness is always a great weekend and this year was no exception. The members have made it another great year for our Area. *Gareth Laking*

EASTERN AREA



It has been a great year of competitions for the Eastern Area both at National and Area level. One of the highlights for me was the Area Summer Competitions Day, which was a great opportunity for all counties to come together and for members to get to know

each other. In a smaller region it is sometimes hard to generate attendance, but this last year has been great and a brilliant team has ably assisted me. We hand over to the Committee of 2015 and I know they will continue to put on great events and competitions. Duncan Howie

We have seen a lot of change over recent months, with new members of staff beginning to find their feet and helping each County to progress and improve. We have also started using new social media accounts successfully to promote the Area. We held Spring and Summer Competitions Weekends for the first time in many years, which were both well attended by counties in the Area. It has been a privilege to be the Area Chairman for the last three years. I really hope that

we, as a committee, have moved the Area forward. Huge thanks to the Area committee members, counties, and NFYFC staff for their help, support, and enthusiasm during my tenure. *Stuart Jakeman*



TALL SHIPS

A crew of 12 set off from Portsmouth in July and sailed to Cowes on the Isle of Wight, Poole, the Channel Islands, Alderney, Sark, Guernsey and Lymington. Louise Cowdy from Market Bosworth YFC was one of the Leaders on the trip. "Everyone got on really well and had a great time. I enjoyed sailing to the shore in a dinghy – it felt like you could be anywhere! I would definitely go sailing again and recommend the trip to others."

Rural explorers

Experiencing rural and farming life around the world is a possibility for Young Farmers with our exclusive YFC Travel programme, supported by the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust. Our clubs and counties also host young farmers from European destinations to show them our way of life in England and Wales

AUSTRALIA HOMESTAY

(Australia Rural Youth) Outbound: Katie Pollock (Staffordshire) Inbound: Melinda Hyland

AUSTRIA HOMESTAY

(International Farm Youth Exchange) Outbound: Nicole Doidge (Cornwall) Richard Mottershead (Staffordshire) Inbound: Romana Gunacker

CANADA HOMESTAY

(Junior Farmers Association of Ontario) Outbound: Karl Hockenhull (Staffordshire)

CANADA U21S HOMESTAY (Canada 4H)

Outbound: Robert Hewlett (Gloucestershire) Naomi Gay (Somerset) Sian Downes (Ceredigion) Inbound: Breagh Ross, Casie de Boer, Kendra Elliot

GERMANY HOMESTAY

(International Farm Youth Exchange) Outbound: Sioned Davies (Radnorshire) Rhiannon Probert (Herefordshire) Inbound: Lisa Marie Bostel Anna-Maria Schroeder

GHANA VOLUNTEER TRIP

Outbound: Bethan Ellis (Shropshire), Joanne Nixey (Buckinghamshire), Laura Edwards (Shropshire), Victoria Apter (Essex), Siwan Davies (Ceredigion), Amy Nicholls (Staffordshire), Lydia Allcock (Staffordshire), Llinos Thomas (Carmarthenshire), Rebecca Watkins (Herefordshire), Lois-Ann O'Hara (Bedfordshire)

NEW ZEALAND WORKING EXCHANGE

(C Alma Baker Trust) Outbound: Megan Edwards (Dorset), Angharad Francis (Carmarthenshire), Ione Betka (Yorkshire), Kirsten Hoggard (Nottinghamshire)





NORTHERN IRELAND

Laura Flower from Bakewell YFC in Derbyshire enjoyed partying with Young Farmers in Northern Ireland. "I would recommend a YFC Travel trip to anyone. I stayed with two host families and my first week was on a pedigree Holstein farm in Belfast where I helped to prepare three cows for the Balmoral Show. I went to lots of Young Farmers' events, a country music night and milked some cows!"

AUSTRIA

Nicole Doidge from Cornwall FYFC visited Austria and spent two weeks with a family. "I went to lots of attractions including an annual body painting festival championship where 47 countries took part. I also went hiking and saw the world's highest wooden observation tower and many other sights. I was made to feel part of the family where I stayed. It was a great way to see another country and have an unforgettable experience."

19

NORTHERN IRELAND

(Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster) Outbound: Laura Flower (Derbyshire) and Kelly Gibbs (Cornwall) Inbound: John Wallace

NORWAY HOMESTAY

(International Farm Youth Exchange) Outbound: Richard Adams (Derbyshire) Inbound: Gunvor Guttormsen

SWEDEN HOMESTAY (International Farm Youth Exchange) Outbound: Stuart Mycock (Derbyshire)

SWITZERLAND HOMESTAY

(International Farm Youth Exchange) Outbound: Helen Brown (Cumbria) Inbound: Maria Badertscher

SCOTLAND HOMESTAY

(Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs) Outbound: Caroline Barlow (Staffordshire) and Lewis Cook (Devon)

RURAL YOUTH EUROPE (Rally, Wales)

Outbound: Chris Manley (Devon), Matthew Tomkins (Worcestershire), Rupert Shinner (Devon), Frances Wright (Staffordshire) and Sarah Thomas (Cornwall)

RURAL YOUTH EUROPE

(Spring Seminar, Budapest) Outbound: Megan Marshall (Dorset) and Mark Allard (Leicestershire)

RURAL YOUTH EUROPE (Autumn Seminar, Denmark)

Outbound: Tristan Thomas (Cornwall), Grace Munro-Henworth (Cambridge)

TALL SHIPS SAILING ADVENTURE:

Outbound: Adam Penny (Dorset), Louise Cowdy (Leicestershire), George Liddiard (Oxfordshire), Frederick Wooton (Bedfordshire), James Bowden (Oxfordshire), Alistair Bland (Derbyshire), Richard Johnson (Shropshire), Annabelle Gasson (Warwickshire), Frankie Risdale (Devon), Alice Stephens (Cornwall), Georgina Morris (Shropshire) and Lydia Griffiths (Yorkshire)

HOPS sources labour for farms

New beginnings

HOPS made a fresh start in 2014 under tough trading pressures, explains Director John Hardman

t was a year of uncertainty in 2014, for both growers and labour providers. The conclusion of the SAWS scheme created a lack of labour security, as farmers and growers were able to source their own labour from abroad. This has led to new challenges for HOPS with a sudden increase in new labour providers approaching our clients for their business.

The supermarkets' on-going battle for market share has caused a price war that impacts on their suppliers and the management of a seasonal workforce.

Farmers have been forced to review their options and have employed cost saving measures where necessary, with labour taking the biggest hit.

With no SAWS restrictions now in place, farmers can employ their own staff for fulltime and seasonal posts that were previously supplied by HOPS.

This cost-conscious shift has caused a drop in requirements from HOPS this year and especially for Polish employees, which has resulted in the closure of HOPS Polska, the company's office in Poland.

Despite these new challenges, HOPS has still managed to retain a good level of orders for labour from our long-standing clients.

A new website has been launched, which incorporates all of the new divisions of the company, including Recruitment, Education, Executive and Labour. This has given the company a fantastic online platform to grow the business. Plans are now underway to develop this site and to eventually be the first choice for agricultural and horticultural businesses to source their labour requirements and to help jobseekers find the next step in their careers.

HOPS plans to work closely with NFYFC to highlight how the business can assist



the rural industries as well as YFC members in their recruitment needs. It is a plan we are confident will return HOPS to a winning position and in turn continue to provide financial security for NFYFC. www.hopsls.com

"HOPS plans to work closely with NFYFC to highlight how the business can assist YFC members"

Membership returns

AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2014

	total Open Clubs	TOTAL SCHOOL CLUBS	total 10-26	TOTAL CLUBS	TOTAL LEADERS	total Assoc.	grand Total
ENGLAND Dedfeedebies	7	0	(05	7	0	10	() 5
Bedfordshire	7	0	405	7	0	10	415
Berkshire	5	0	99	5	1	19	124
Buckinghamshire	9	0	215	9	0	3	218
Cambridgeshire	6	0	140		1	11	152
Cornwall	20	0	756	20	12	89	857
County Durham	9	0	268	9	0	4	272
Cumbria	25	0	1480	25	0	165	1645
Derbyshire	10 38	0	423	10	7	28	458
Devon		0	1506	38	0	43	1549
Dorset	9	0	251	9	10	15	276
East Riding of Yorkshire	15	0	411	15	0	2	413
Essex	12	0	443	12	2	15	460
Gloucestershire	13	2	472	15	0	14	486
Hampshire	8	0	123	8	0	19	142
Herefordshire	16	0	652	16	0	30	682
Hertfordshire	8	0	96	8	1	11	108
Isle of Man	4	0	166	4	0	30	196
Kent	11	7	452	18	0	64	516
Lancashire	18	0	804	18	1	37	842
Leicestershire and Rutland	11	0	454	11	0	18	472
Lincolnshire	16	0	435	16	2	28	465
Norfolk	26	0	701	26	10	58	769
Northampton T & C	5	0	219	5	2	28	249
Northumberland	12	0	509	12	0	11	520
Nottinghamshire	7	0	187	7	7	7	201
Oxfordshire	10	0	266	10	0	19	285
Shropshire	18	0	867	18	29	38	934
Somerset	22	2	886	24	0	37	923
Staffordshire	9	1	605	10	29	24	658
Suffolk	11	0	241	11	2	16	259
Surrey	6	0	130	6	0	0	130
Sussex	7	3	297	10	9	9	315
Warwickshire	10	0	459	10	5	10	474
Wiltshire	8	0	421	8	4	22	447
Worcestershire	10	0	458	10	0	16	474
Yorkshire	46	0	1611	46	5	61	1677
Guernsey	1	0	26	1	0	0	26
Jersey	1	0	121	1	0	0	121
ENGLAND TOTALS	479	15	18055	494	139	1011	19210
WALES							_
Brecknock	13	0	508	13	0	7	515
Carmarthenshire	25	0	744	25	0	22	766
Ceredigion	19	0	688	19	0	27	715
Clwyd	12	0	458	12	0	8	466
Glamorgan	7	0	258	7	0	13	271
Gwent	6	0	388	6	0	8	396
Meirionnydd	8	0	221	8	0	6	227
Montgomery	19	0	781	19	0	19	800
Pembrokeshire	14	0	589	14	0	11	600
Radnor	13	0	514	13	0	13	527
WALES TOTALS	136	0	5149	136	0	134	5283
GRAND TOTALS	615	15	23204	630	139	1145	24493

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

			Restricted	Total	Total
	General	Designated	funds	2014	2013
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Donations, sponsorship and gifts	114,852	12,500	-	127,352	97,766
Grants	27,700	-	56,646	84,346	71,784
Membership levy	240,900	-	-	240,900	225,085
Investment income - HOPS	-	-	-	-	125,000
Investment income - other	30,421	-	18,294	48,715	50,453
Membership convention	265,952	-	-	265,952	259,235
Other income	52,770	-	-	52,77 0	39,768
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	732,595	12,500	74,940	820,035	869,091
Resources expended					
Direct programme expenditure					
Membership convention	146,907	-	-	146,907	148,475
Club supplies	22,207	-	-	22,207	23,655
Youthwork	44,020	356	862	45,238	55,383
Training	46,388	-	10,758	57,146	54,711
Travel	27,045	2,210	1,635	30,890	52,430
Competitions	67,532		5,295	72,827	68,005
Agriculture and rural affairs	50,658	-	47,912	98,570	82,010
2	404,757	2,566	66,462	473,785	484,669
Other expenditure					
Central	112,187	2,707	8,658	123,552	153,189
Management	54,284	3,657	-	57,941	92,774
Governance	70,977	-	-	70,977	113,263
Fundraising and marketing	161,984	-	-	161,984	184,330
Information technology	37,961	-	-	37,961	43,428
	437,393	6,364	8,658	452,415	586,984
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	842,150	8,930	75,120	926,200	1,071,653
NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES	(109,555)	3,570	(180)	(106,165)	(202,562)
Realised (loss)/gain on sale of investments	(1,075)	-	-	(1,075)	4,465
Unrealised gain on revaluation of investments	30,160	-	18,070	48,230	237,027
Transfer between funds	27,000	(27,000)	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS	(53,470)	(23,430)	17,890	(59,010)	38,930
Fund balances at 1 January 2014	1,329,694	196,544	854,404	2,380,642	2,341,712
FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2014	1,276,224	173,114	872,294	2,321,632	2,380,642

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014 FINAL AUDITED ACCOUNTS

ASSETS EMPLOYED		2014 £	2013 £
Tangible fixed assets Investments	- Listed - Unlisted	13,117 2,150,912 3	16,942 2,065,384 3
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock - Club supplies Debtors & prepaymen Cash at bank & in hand		8,000 43,050 376,142 427,192	8,000 165,944 389,451 563,395
CURRENT LIABILITIE	S		
Creditors: Amounts fal Creditors & accruals	ling due within one year	269,592	265,082
NET CURRENT ASSET	S	157,600	298,313
NET ASSETS		2,321,632	2,380,642
FUNDED BY			
Restricted funds Unrestricted funds - c - c	Jesignated general	872,294 173,114 1,276,224	854,404 196,544 1,329,694
		2,321,632	2,380,642

The information in these pages is a summary of the Federation's Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

Copies of the full Financial Statements can be obtained from the Federation's Headquarters at the YFC Centre, 10th Street, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG.



Meet our sponsors

NFYFC is proud to have built up a range of partnerships with companies over the years that build on the strengths of both parties to develop long-term, mutually beneficial relationships. The sponsors' ongoing support ensures that our members are able to develop new skills, travel abroad, take part in a varied competitions programme and reach their full potential. Specifically, NFYFC would like to extend our thanks to the following organisations



Meet our supporters

NFYFC is very grateful to the large number of companies who contribute their goods and services to the organisation.



National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (England & Wales)

YFC Centre, 10th Street, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG Telephone: 02476 857200 Fax: 02476 857229 Email: post@nfyfc.org.uk Website: www.nfyfc.org.uk

National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs is a registered Friendly Society Registration number 52 SA

Photographs courtesy of John Eveson, Peter Rowe Photography and YFC members throughout England and Wales