

YR AMAETHWR

September 2014

# Farming Wales



NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS



[www.nfu-cymru.org.uk](http://www.nfu-cymru.org.uk)

## Brecon and Radnor County Chairman

Re-thinking the way  
the system works

## Dairy Stockperson Award

£300 prize money up for grabs  
Applications now open

## Boston to New York

Group Secretary takes on cycling  
challenge for cancer campaign



# Valuing the Natural Wealth of Wales

**N**RW Conservation Officers and Wardens are working together with farmers and landowners to address matters relevant to their individual holding to try and establish ways of working together to improve the state of some of Wales' most important natural assets.

The Eryri/ Snowdonia Special Area of Conservation (SAC) straddles Wales' mightiest mountain range. At nearly 20,000ha it is the fifth largest Natura 2000 terrestrial site in Wales. Natura 2000 is a network of European protected areas for vulnerable and threatened species and natural habitats. They are the bedrock of nature conservation across Europe.

Eryri has highly diverse habitats including lakes, alpine heath, blanket bog, grassland and plant communities on scree, crevices and rock ledges with globe-flower and Welsh poppy, as well as rare plants such as the slender green feather-moss.

Large parts of Eryri are working farms so working with farmers is vitally important to help manage our upland habitats.

The LIFE Natura 2000 programme for Eryri, has an action plan which has identified a range of pressures including air pollution, feral goats, access erosion, invasive alien species, grazing issues including the need for shepherding. Likely future risks include climate change and possible effects from hydropower developments are also identified.

Working with landowners, and



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using NRW and Glastir management agreements, many improvements such as restoring cattle grazing, hefting and shepherding and controlling sheep grazing pressure have already helped protect this area. Others include more direct management of the land through gorse, heather and bracken management as well as footpath maintenance to prevent erosion from walkers and control of unwanted species.

Eryri contributes to the local economy in many ways, underpinning the leisure industry and attracting many thousands of tourists and providing health-giving exercise and relaxation to visitors and locals alike. Well managed upland habitats also hold back rainwater, reducing flood risk in the lowlands, and help purify drinking water extracted downstream.

The LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales is funded by Natural Resources Wales and the European Union's LIFE+ Nature scheme. Work is still in progress, and NRW needs the help of all interested parties to conserve our precious natural Welsh assets.

For more information on the LIFE Natura 2000 Programme for Wales visit the website: [www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](http://www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) or call: 01248 385797.



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## Latest Rural Development Plan News – Glastir

The current reform of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) brings with it a new Rural Development Plan (RDP) for Wales. We understand that the RDP (2014-2020) has now been submitted by Welsh Government to the Commission and we will start to see implementation of schemes from 1 January 2015 onwards.

Land-based measures will form a key component of the next RDP attracting a proposed 60% of the £953m budget.

Glastir remains the main mechanism for the delivery of land-based action under the RDP and the scheme continues to evolve. Going forward, it will be possible to access all elements of the scheme directly without having to sign up to a Glastir Entry Level contract first. There are also plans to introduce a part-farm scheme and a small grants scheme to fund beneficial activity outside of wider farming agreements.

In line with the Welsh Government's aim to move to an entirely online environment for the delivery of Government services for farmers by 2016, an online application system will be the only way to access some of the Glastir Schemes in future.

The transition starts this autumn with online application processes for Glastir Advanced and Glastir Organics. As with the Single Application Form, farmers will be able to use a third party to assist with the online application process if they wish.

Farmers wishing to be considered for a Glastir Advanced Contract starting from 1 January 2016 will need to complete the online Expression of Interest process via their Rural Payments Wales Online account. You will no longer need to be participating in Glastir Entry to access Glastir Advanced.

Information on the new Glastir Organic scheme was published in the May/June issue of Gwlad. There will be a four week application process starting on 29 September.

Farming Connect are arranging a series of three workshops to provide information to organic producers on the new Glastir Organic scheme. Details of these workshops are in the events section of the NFU Cymru website: [www.nfu-cymru.org.uk](http://www.nfu-cymru.org.uk). For further information please contact Menter a Busnes on: 01970 636565. The Rural Payments Wales Online helpdesk can be contacted on: 0300 0625004.

