

WEB RELEASE from:

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FOCUS ON FARM FUTURES

Conference's Strength was in its Speakers.

The all Wales Young Farmers Club (YFC) Field Day was held on April 26th, at the Royal Welsh agricultural showground at Builth Wells, where free entry and fine weather swelled the crowds.

The YFC annual Field Day was hosted by Radnor YFC Federation and sponsored by the Farmers Union of Wales. An integral part of Wales YFC's Spring Calendar, it was a day when members from clubs across Wales came together to test their skills with ATV bikes, fencing, stock judging and health & safety regulations.

The Field Day coincided with the Wales YFC business conference, 'Adding Strength to the Mix', which was designed to explore and expand on opportunities in farming, with representatives from different organisations available throughout the day to talk to, offering advice and support on issues surrounding potential diversification - such as adding value and joint ventures. There were also interactive discussions, workshops, and chances to meet first hand with farmers who had taken action to improve their farm businesses, increasing their farm income and becoming more sustainable.

The speakers, Barry Hutchinson, Peter Smith and Siân Bushell, talked about planning for the future.

Barry, whose specialisations are Farm Business Management, Landlord and Tenant, Compensation and Negotiation, is a Partner of Hamiltons Chartered Surveyors. Afterwards he said he was: "Delighted to assist with such a worthy and progressive cause".

Peter is a past Wales YFC Rural Affairs Committee Chairman and has recently worked with Barry, to look at business planning on his family's dairy farm in Pembrokeshire.

Siân is recognised for her work as an independent facilitator and a mediator on farm succession.

Also, on Sunday April 27th Barry Hutchinson, supported by fellow Partner James Edmonds, judged at the Gloucestershire YFC farm valuation competition at Byfords Farm, Huntley. The representatives of various local YFCs valued crops, livestock and machinery as part of the Pre-Show competitions. The winner was Pete Hewlett of Westbury-on-Severn.