

Agriculture Newsletter 2025

List of Courses

FDS*c*

Agriculture

B*Sc*

Agriculture; Agriculture with Animal Science;
Agriculture with Business Management;
Plant Biology

M*Ag*

Agriculture; Agriculture with Animal Science

Interested?

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An Aberystwyth University graduate from Carmarthenshire has won the Farmers Weekly award for the best agriculture student in Britain



Logan Williams, winner

The Farmers Weekly Awards are the most prestigious in the agriculture industry, recognising farmers' achievements across the country. Logan Williams, who has graduated with a first-class degree in agriculture with animal science from Aberystwyth University, beat other students to the coveted award for best agriculture student. He studied much of his course through the medium of Welsh and helped run a farm alongside his parents in Tirmynydd, Carmarthenshire while he studied. Since graduating he has recently joined food company Dunbia.

The judges said: "Logan is a dedicated, high-achieving student with an obvious passion for agriculture in his local community. What he has achieved already is nothing short of remarkable."

Reacting to his win, Logan said: "I'm just really delighted to have won – it's amazing. I'm so grateful for all the support I have had from my lecturers and my family. Agriculture is one of those industries – and subjects – that just keeps on giving, with regular developments in science and technology ensuring the provision of food for the ever-growing population. So that I could be on the farm as much as possible I used some creative studying techniques, such as listening back to lectures via Bluetooth in the pickup while hauling sheep from farm to farm."



Caryl Davies, runner-up

Caryl Davies, another graduate from Aberystwyth University, also succeeded in reaching the final three on the shortlist for the award. Hailing from Eglwysrwrw in Pembrokeshire, she graduated this year from Aberystwyth University with a first-class degree in agriculture with animal science. She grew up on a beef and sheep farm and is active in National Sheep Association competitions representing the UK at an international level in sheep handling.

An 18-year-old from Dyffryn Ogwen has become the first Agriculture student to win a major Welsh-medium scholarship worth £3,000 at Aberystwyth University

Gwion Pritchard, who was a pupil at Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen, Bethesda and completed a level 3 Agriculture course at Coleg Meirion Dwyfor, Glynllifon, has won the scholarship to study Agriculture at Aberystwyth University. The Coleg's Main Scholarship is given annually to applicants that choose to study at least 66% of their degree scheme in any subject field through the medium of Welsh. Students at Aberystwyth University can now study at least two thirds of their Agriculture degree in Welsh. The news of the award by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol comes as Aberystwyth University gets set to celebrate 20 years of Welsh medium Agriculture teaching. Aberystwyth University has been offering Welsh medium provision in Agriculture since 2006, and the provision has been building over the last decade thanks to funding and support from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

Gwion said: "It is an honour to have been awarded this scholarship and I am also delighted to be able to study for a degree in Agriculture predominantly through the medium of Welsh, my first language. Being able to study through the medium of Welsh was the primary factor in making my choice to study at Aberystwyth University".



Key performance Indicators Can Boost Profitability for Suckler Beef and Sheep Farmers in England and Wales

Recently a significant proportion of the lowest recorded annual farm profits have been attributed to lowland and LFA beef and sheep enterprises. Researchers from Aberystwyth University measured costs, mortality, productivity and stocking across four different enterprise types; Lowland ewe, LFA ewe, Lowland suckler beef and LFA suckler beef. Measures of livestock productivity such as lambs per breeding stock and calves per cow, had a significantly positive association with gross margin per head.



Although input costs were high during the study period (2018/19 – 2021/22), concentrates per head had a significantly negative association in all enterprise types, apart from LFA suckler beef where cow mortality effected gross margin per head the most. This study has demonstrated the importance of routine data collection and benchmarking, particularly during times of market instability and high input prices.

Grassland Resilience for Net Zero: Sustainable practices for shaping the future of UK land use



Students touring an organic hill sheep and beef farm where they were talking with the farmer about the benefits of hedgerow and tree planting to achieve some of the business and sustainability goals of this farm.

Temporary and permanent grasslands cover over 70% of UK agricultural land. They provide a vital natural asset for achieving national and international climate, nature, and biodiversity targets, whilst providing feed for ruminants that convert human-inedible forage into nutrient-dense food. Optimising grassland use could help the UK realise its mitigation potential whilst saving more than £1.6billion/year. This may be done through various means like upland grazing, methane-mitigating forages, agroforestry, low-carbon forages, multispecies legume-rich pastures, silvo-pasture, biomass production, woodland establishment. Dr Pip Nicholas-Davies is co-leading work with industry stakeholders, the University of the West of England, and others, to co-create adoption pathways for innovative net-zero farming practices and to develop policy recommendations that protect natural and cultural heritage and support the Net-Zero Growth Plan.

Stock judging success for Lewis

Huge congratulations to our 2nd-year Agriculture student, Lewis Beavan, on his outstanding success in the Wales, NFYFC and the Five Nations Stock Judging Competition! Lewis is a very active member of Knighton Young Farmers Club (YFC) in Radnor where he continues to compete and attend club socials alongside his studies at Aberystwyth.



Photo credit: Cffil Cymru

Towards the end of August, Lewis competed against top young stock judges from across England and Wales in the National Finals, securing first place as Young Stockman of the Year. The competition included an Animal Health and Meat Identification questionnaire, followed by stock judging, where Lewis assessed breeding ewes, dairy cows, butcher's pigs, and beef cows. Competitors were allowed 20 minutes per pen to judge and write their accompanying reasons for their selection. His strong performances secured him the overall title by just two points! Lewis then represented Wales in the Five Nations Stock Judging Competition at the Westmorland Show. Competing against England, he judged breeding ewes, butchers' lambs, beef cattle, and dairy cows, before completing a veterinary task. Lewis won the individual title, while the Welsh team secured victory as a group. We are incredibly proud of Lewis's achievements and his dedication to stock judging and YFC related activities.