

Rural spotlight

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Autumn 2024

IN THIS EDITION:

JUNIOR WEEKEND

EUROPEAN RALLY

PAST PRESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

COMPETITION ROUND UP

NEW
LIFE ON THE
FARM FEATURE
PAGES 16-17





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Editor: Rachel Armstrong
Designers: Media Design & Print
Printers: Media Design & Print

For all editorial and advertising enquiries, please contact YFCU HQ;

Email: rachel.armstrong@yfcu.org
Telephone: 028 9037 0713
Address: Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster
475 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 3BD

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YFCU HQ TEAM



DEREK LOUGH

Chief Executive Officer

E: derek.lough@yfcu.org

M: 07355094350



KIRSTY BARR

Finance Manager

E: kirsty.barr@yfcu.org

M: 07562689956



RUTH MEGAHEY

Business Services Manager

E: ruth.megahey@yfcu.org

M: 07562689957



HAYLEY SLOAN

Assistant Events Manager

E: hayley.sloan@yfcu.org

M: 07771886533



KIRSTY CHERRY

Events Executive

E: kirsty.cherry@yfcu.org

M: 07788146100



SARAH HALLIDAY

Membership & Club Development Executive

E: sarah.halliday@yfcu.org

M: 07355090923



RACHEL ARMSTRONG

Marketing & Communications Executive

E: rachel.armstrong@yfcu.org

M: 07562689959



HELEN SCOTT

Finance & Administration Assistant

E: helen.scott@yfcu.org

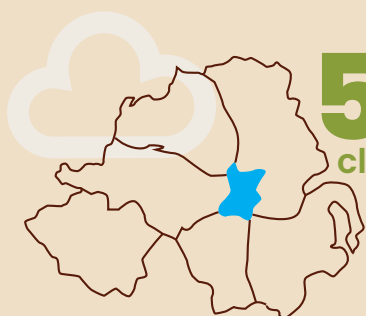
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FRONT COVER IMAGE: L-R Clara McConnell, Jack Stewart,
Richard Beattie, Callum McConnell and Julianne Moore.

ESTABLISHED in 1929



Founder: William Staveley Armour

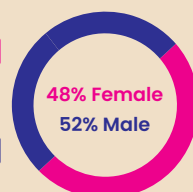


51
clubs

ACROSS NI
Spread out
across six
counties



3500+
members



YFC travel

The YFCU Exchange Programme offers members the opportunity to travel on a unique exchange trip to countries worldwide. Long term trips include the USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Austria and Norway with short term trips including England, Scotland and Wales.



Includes:
Agricultural, Sport,
Arts & Drama



Training & Education Opportunities include :

- AQA Unit Award Scheme,
- Sheep Shearing,
- First Aid Qualifications,
- Hedge Patching
- Duke of Edinburgh scheme



PARTNERSHIPS WITH:
Farm Safety Partnership
Rural Crime Partnership
Yellow Wellies

OUR FUNDERS

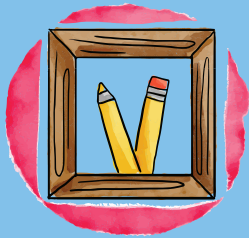


There is no requirement to be a farmer or come from a farming background to join – the only requirement for membership is an interest in rural life.

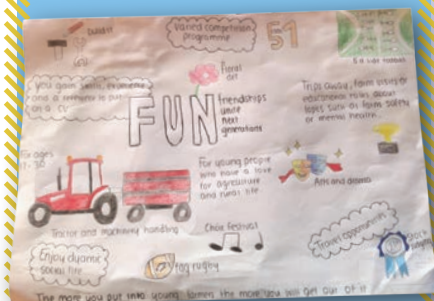


PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

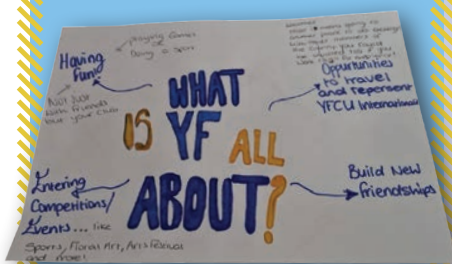
MEMBERS CREATIVITY



Artwork by:
Bethany Nutt
Moycraig YFC



Artwork by:
Olivia McKeown
Moycraig YFC



Although clubs take a break from their regular meetings during the Summer, it is still a busy season for our members. From helping and competing at local agricultural shows, taking part in YFCU competitions, and assisting and supporting club fundraisers, our members continued to be busy.

Many agricultural shows across Northern Ireland were in full swing and clubs were actively involved with stewarding and volunteering. This is certainly great to see, and always rewarding to give back to our local communities. I had the pleasure of attending the Bank of Ireland Open Farm Weekend where farmers opened up their farms to families and neighbours for the opportunity to see behind the scenes and get a greater appreciation of where our food comes from. Again, the work of clubs that volunteered to help at their local farms was greatly appreciated by organisers and hosts.

June also saw our highly anticipated exchange programme begin. There is no greater way to meet new people



"The biggest highlight for me this Summer was the Rural Youth Europe European Rally which was held in Voore, Estonia".

and experience what a country has to offer than through the YFCU exchange programme. We held the finals of our Beef, Dairy and Sheep Stock Judging and Silage Assessment at AFBI in Hillsborough in July and it was great to see hundreds of members taking part. My continued thanks went to Fane Valley and Thompson Feeds for the sponsorship of these events.

I attended the finals of our Tag Rugby competition which were held this year at Dromore RFC, it was a competitive night and it was great to have Rodney Brown from Danske Bank present the awards.

The biggest highlight for me this Summer was the Rural Youth Europe European Rally which was held in Voore, Estonia. This has definitely been one of my fondest memories of the YFCU to date. Myself and four other members went on the trip, and we experienced the cultures of many different countries and shared our passion for rural youth with other young people.

I am now looking forward to celebrating our 95th Anniversary. We have a Thanksgiving Service taking place on Friday 22nd November 2024 at Ballymena Livestock Mart and a Celebratory Dinner happening on Saturday 25th January 2025 at Corick House Hotel & Spa.

95TH ANNIVERSARY

YFCU is delighted to be celebrating its 95th Anniversary in 2025. A highly anticipated Celebratory Dinner has been planned for Saturday 25th January 2025 at Corick House Hotel & Spa in Clogher, County Tyrone.

Proudly supported by the Livestock & Meat Commission NI and Ulster Farmers' Union, this event will see both past and current members come together to celebrate 95 years of the YFCU. YFCU President Richard Beattie commented "it is going to be an evening filled with unforgettable memories as we reminisce over the many wonderful, successful years we have had, supporting and educating thousands of young people in rural areas across Northern Ireland".

The event is strictly 18+ and guests will be treated to a sparkling drinks reception, three course meal, and live music by 'The Untouchables'.



POWER NI SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE

YFCU has partnered with Platinum Sponsor Power NI for the launch of its new Sustainability competition. This new competition will see clubs across Northern Ireland create and deliver their own Sustainability Pledge.

YFCU President Richard Beattie said "clubs are already showcasing a host of brilliant examples in this area with litter picking, beach cleans, charity work and much more. This competition is aimed at promoting further sustainable practices and shouting about the impact those in the farming and rural communities are already making".

This initiative will account for stage three of the much anticipated 'Power NI Club of the Year' competition, which is held annually by YFCU. Power NI have kindly offered a £500 Club Sustainability Bursary to the club that delivers the most successful pledge.

Amy Bennington (Marketing Manager, Power NI) commented "at Power NI, and at Energia Group, we're helping to power the energy transition to a greener, cleaner future. We have proudly supported the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster for over a decade,

and as Sustainability Partner and Platinum Sponsor of the organisation, are delighted to be part of the new Sustainability Pledge, an initiative that has been created for each of the clubs to get involved in this year. It will be great to see how they showcase their efforts to protect our planet and contribute to a more sustainable future."

YFCU wishes to thank Power NI for its continued support and sponsorship of this competition, enabling young people to get involved and promote better sustainability.



Here's to our older farmers

You've been the backbone of the country's agriculture for generations. And you're still out there, night and day, in all weathers.

But remember farming gets riskier with age.
Over half of all farm deaths in NI involve farmers aged 65 or over.*

So, keep up the good work.
But know your limitations.
And get help with trickier jobs.

A message from the Farm Safety Partnership

STOP AND THINK
SAFE
SLURRY ANIMALS FALLS EQUIPMENT

hseni
CONTROLLING RISK TOGETHER



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.dae-ni.gov.uk

For more advice on farm safety, visit hseni.gov.uk/farmsafe

* Based on HSENI farm fatality data 2002-2020

PAST MEMBER SPOTLIGHT WITH **LINDA STEELE**



"I can only encourage young people to take that first step, they won't regret it"



Our Marketing and Communications Executive, Rachel, caught up with Linda Steele to learn about her time as a member and Past President.

Linda Steele has fond memories of being a member of Kilrea Young Farmers' Club and President of the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster from 1999 to 2001. Currently teaching in Kilrea Primary School, she is still very much involved with the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster and was delighted to be asked to share about her experiences,

"Have you been involved in the organisation for long?"

I joined the Young Farmers' when I was only 14 years old, I brought

a friend along with me for the first night and I can only encourage young people to take that first step, they won't regret it. It's the best way of building a network of great people.

"What competitions were you most fond of as a member?"

I always enjoyed the Arts Festival and drama competitions. I performed in the Waterfront Hall at a time and sang a solo, and it's opportunities like that which help to shape us into who we are today. The Public Speaking competition taught me lifelong skills, and have definitely come in very useful in my teaching career! I'm enjoying being a Judge for some competitions now, and it's great to see the level of commitment and talent from so many members.

"You experienced a number of travel opportunities as a member, what can you tell us about those?"

I can certainly tell you that they are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities and every member should be embarking on the adventures. Personally, travel was a highlight for me, it helped me to build communication skills and grow a network, and I was able to attend lots of meetings and events. I attended the Rural Youth Europe European Rally in 1993 where I went with a small

group of people to Norway, and five years later I led a team to Poland for the 1999 Rural Youth Europe European Rally. I also went on the International Farm Youth Exchange and numerous exchange trips which included Germany in 1994, Wales in 2000, Finland in 2001, Austria in 2002 and Norway in 2003. Young people pick up so many skills and make great friends when travelling, these were some of my greatest memories of being a member of the YFCU.

"What is your current involvement with the organisation?"

I am currently the Patron for Kilrea Young Farmers' Club, which means I offer my support to the Club and help to represent them at events, and it's an honour to hold that role. I am also the Secretary for the Young Farmers' Ambassadors, where I organise UK reunions and exchange trips. It isn't associated with the Young Farmers', however I believe it was my involvement with the organisation that got me this opportunity - I am the High Sheriff of Londonderry, which means I am the King's Representative for the area.

JUNIOR WEEKEND

YFCU Junior members embarked on an action-packed weekend at Crawfordsburn

A group of 23 enthusiastic Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster (YFCU) junior members set off on a one-night adventure from Saturday 24th to Sunday 25th August 2024 at Crawfordsburn Scout Centre, Bangor. This annual event supported by Danske Bank is a weekend filled with excitement, fostering new friendships and team-building games.

Four members of the YFCU Presidential team attended the weekend as leaders, they were, Richard Beattie, Matthew Livingstone, Natalie Burrows and Joyce Allen. The trip began with a bus departing from Cookstown and stopping at a few places on the way to Crawfordsburn Scout Centre. Members were then divided into two groups and activities began right away with a walk to the beach for raft building and making

which put everyone's knot tying skills to test when they reached the water. It was then time for some underground cave walking and tomahawk and axe throwing which proved very enjoyable. Dinner was provided on site and then members went for a walk along the waterfalls into Crawfordsburn and spent the evening watching movies. Activities continued the following morning with indoor rock-climbing and a delicious lunch before it was time to head home.

YFCU Vice President Joyce Allen commented on the weekend saying, "I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with it being in a new location at Crawfordsburn, and it was good getting to know the members better. I hadn't done some of the activities before so that was great fun and I think it is a fantastic way for members to make



"our junior members forged lasting memories and friendships while challenging themselves and pushing their limits. ..."

new friends whilst doing activities they wouldn't get the opportunity to do closer to home".

YFCU President, Richard Beattie highlighted "our junior members forged lasting memories and friendships while challenging themselves and pushing their limits. The experience undoubtedly left them with valuable life skills and unforgettable moments that will stay with them for years to come."

Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster would like to thank Danske Bank for its continued support along with the leaders who took time out of their weekend to ensure all juniors had a fantastic time and returned home safely.





Nathan McClure

PLACEMENT STUDENT

BACKGROUND

GROWING UP on a dairy farm just outside Omagh, Co. Tyrone, I realised from an early age that my future career would be in the agriculture industry. However when I finished my A-levels, I knew I wanted to branch out a bit from my agricultural roots, which led me to Queen's University Belfast to study Biochemistry. I secured a placement with Dawn Meats / Dunbia through the McDonald's Progressive Young Farmer (PYF) programme.

FROM A PLACEMENT STUDENT'S POINT of VIEW

THE McDONALD'S PROGRESSIVE YOUNG FARMER PROGRAMME

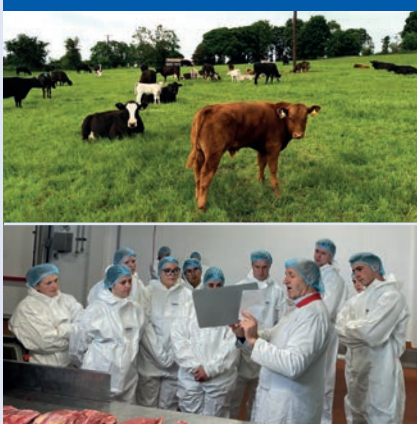
THE McDONALD'S PYF programme is designed to give placement students experience across the entire supply chain by placing them with one of McDonald's key suppliers, such as Dawn Meats / Dunbia, Moy Park or Kerry Food Group. I was based primarily in the Republic of Ireland during my placement year and spent my time working in a variety of roles both on farm and in factory.

My year began in Co. Waterford as I worked at a beef slaughter and deboning site, getting an introduction to all departments there from the boning hall to procurement. I also spent some time in a McDonald's patty production plant in Waterford, where I got to see exactly how they turn raw beef into McDonald's burgers. After a few months I started working on both the Newford Suckler and Tipperary Dairy Calf to Beef

demonstration farms. I was on farm during the busy calving and calf rearing seasons, and I was able to learn a lot from the great management of both of these farms.

Whenever I wasn't busy on farm or in factory I was often visiting some of the other PYFs for a tour of their respective suppliers, or else attending industry events such as the Oxford Farming Conference or Groundswell Regenerative Agriculture Festival. Overall, my year as a PYF with Dawn Meats / Dunbia provided me with an amazing introduction to the whole beef supply chain, and also taught me a lot about how the agriculture industry works on a wider level. I would highly recommend applying for the PYF placement programme to anyone interested in finding their place within the food and farming industry.

On 7th October McDonald's Progressive Young Farmer placements applications will go live on the McDonald's website. This is an opportunity for undergraduate students to gain experience within McDonald's Supply Chain, from farm to front counter. Applications closes on Sunday 17th November.



See you next time in the next issue of Rural Dispatch

RURAL YOUTH EUROPE EUROPEAN RALLY

Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster (YFCU) participated in the Rural Youth Europe European Rally which was held from Sunday 28th July to Sunday 4th August 2024 in Voore, Estonia. Under the theme 'Care to Stay, Dare to Change' the European Rally provided an excellent platform for YFCU members to connect with members from other rural youth organisations across Europe.

YFCU President Richard Beattie led the group which included Peter Graham (Trillick & District YFC), Lauren Vance (Trillick & District YFC), Karen Walker (Collone YFC) and Zoe Weir (Annaclone and Magherally YFC).

The Rally included a variety of workshops and seminars that focused on entrepreneurial mindsets, and how young people can develop entrepreneurial competencies to use in real life. These seminars were designed so that people from different countries collaborated and communicated their thoughts about the various circumstances presented by entrepreneurship. Members recalled that the seminars surprised them as to how they could foster entrepreneurial competencies in their own home nation.

There were 89 participants from across 15 different European countries at the Rally. Members from each country were given the opportunity to present their rich cultural heritage through an international buffet, dance

performances, and sports events. The buffet allowed participants to present their own local cuisine and offer a taste of traditional flavours and culinary artistry, as well as trying others. Some of the produce sampled included cheese, meat, chocolate, seaweed, sweets, and drinks.

The dance performances provided a vibrant glimpse into the culture of each nation represented at the Rally. They were often accompanied by the unique musical instruments that were associated with that country. Peter Graham (Trillick & District YFC) was given the opportunity to play his Scottish Highland bagpipes which proved to be a crowd favourite, especially when they did the 'Hokey Cokey'. The dancing was a highlight of the trip for the five YFCU members, as it was interesting getting to experience the historical and social significance of different traditions.

As well as international buffets and dance performances, sport was also an enjoyable part of the Rally. Estonia's national sport is Tug of War which is also a firm favourite for YFCU members. Everyone was split into groups, getting the chance to mingle and explore the different sports enjoyed by different countries.

Reflecting on the trip, members said it was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. They formed many new friendships and created unforgettable memories.



Reflecting on the trip, members said it was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

All fully registered members, aged 18+, are welcome to apply for a place on the European Rally. If it is something that interests you, please speak to a member of the YFCU Travel Committee. YFCU President Richard Beattie reflected on the trip saying, "I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Estonia, with the highlight being meeting new people from across Europe and talking with ones that share the same role in their respective organisation. It was a week of great fun and I cannot recommend it enough".

As the largest rural youth organisation in Northern Ireland, the YFCU extend its appreciation to platinum sponsor Danske Bank for making this trip possible through their continued sponsorship, enabling its young people to represent the organisation at the European Rally 2024. Rodney Brown (Head of Agribusiness at Danske Bank) explained "Danske Bank were delighted to support the members in going to the Rural Youth Europe European Rally, as part of our platinum sponsorship. It's clear to see that it was a fantastic opportunity for the members to meet people from across the World, and an experience they won't forget".

YFCU was proud to send this dedicated team to represent the organisation and contribute to the sustainable development of rural communities.



Snapshots of **EUROPEAN RALLY**



Richard Beattie
President



Karen Walker
Collone YFC



Lauren Vance
Trillick & District
YFC



Peter Graham
Trillick & District
YFC



Zoe Weir
Annaclone &
Magherally YFC



WELCOME TO OUR 2024 APPRENTICE INTAKE



ANTAIN

HLA Mechanical Manufacturing
Based in Toome Tile Plant



BEN

Apprentice Civil Engineer
Based with the Northern Division
Contracts Team



JAMES

HLA Supply Chain & Logistics
Based in Ballymena Quarry



JOE

HLA Modern Methods of Construction
Based with the Eastern Division
Contracts Team



JUDE

HLA Supply Chain & Logistics
Based in Toome Central Despatch

PLEASE KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR 2025 APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES ON OUR SOCIALS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

If you, your family or your friends are interested in a career in materials/construction, visit our careers page: www.northstonematerials.com/careers or email: hr@northstone-ni.com



EMILY CLARKE'S EXCHANGE TRIP



"This trip has now encouraged me to host exchanges that will come to Northern Ireland".

Emily Clarke (Seskinore YFC) tells of her trip of a lifetime to Estonia



The Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster (YFCU) recently had a County Tyrone member represent the organisation in Estonia on a three-week exchange trip.

Twenty-one year old Emily Clarke is an enthusiastic member of Seskinore Young Farmers' Club, and recently embarked on what she describes as a 'trip of a lifetime' to Estonia. This trip falls under the umbrella of Rural Youth Europe's European Rally. These exclusive opportunities allow YFCU members to travel to different countries, experience new cultures



and build life-long friendships. The activities highlight the importance of entrepreneurship, and provide young people with the skills they need to develop in their careers.

Emily had the fantastic opportunity to live with three different families and experience what they get up to in their daily lives. Emily was the only member from Northern Ireland, but met up with two other exchanges who were from Austria and Taiwan.

Emily explained that "the opportunities for travel within the



Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster (YFCU) should not be missed. This trip has now encouraged me to host exchanges that will come to Northern Ireland, as I found it a great way to make new friends and I would love to be able to create a memorable experience for someone, just like I had in Estonia".

YFCU members are encouraged to reach out to the organisation's travel committee to find out about the different travel opportunities.



5 NATIONS STOCK JUDGING



"There was strong competition, with England fielding a previous winner, and Wales came out the winners in the end".

'Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster members attend 5 Nations Stock Judging event'

Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster (YFCU) were invited to participate in the 5 Nations Stock Judging finals which were held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 and hosted this year by the National Federation of the Young Farmers' Clubs at Westmorland County Agricultural Show in Cumbria.

Top finalists from the YFCU stock judging competition were invited to attend and represent Northern Ireland in this prestigious event. The

team consisted of Shannen Vance (Trillick and District YFC), Adrianna Coulter (Straid YFC), James Scroggie (Collone YFC) and William Rea (Straid YFC).

The four members were tasked with judging a ring of four dairy cows, four beef cows, four breeding ewes and four fat lambs: placing them in a particular order and giving reasons for their decisions. They were then asked questions about animal husbandry by a qualified Veterinary

Surgeon. The YFCU team came third place on the day, competing against peers from across the five nations. William Rea (Straid YFC) commented on the event, "It was a privilege to be involved in the 5 Nations Stock Judging event. There was strong competition, with England fielding a previous winner, and Wales came out the winners in the end. It was great meeting fellow competitors and judges".





UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

Calendar



Competition	Heat / Final	Date	Location
Group Debating	Armagh	Tuesday 12th November 2024	Dromore High School
	Down	Tuesday 12th November 2024	Dromore High School
	Fermanagh	Wednesday 13th November 2024	Omagh Academy
	Tyrone	Wednesday 13th November 2024	Omagh Academy
	Londonderry	Wednesday 13th November 2024	Omagh Academy
	Antrim	Tuesday 19th November 2024	Ballymena Academy
	Final	Tuesday 26th November 2024	Omagh Academy
Home Management Stage 1	All Counties	Monday 25th November 2024	Club Level
Choir Festival	All Counties	Friday 6th December 2024	Whitla Hall, Methody College, Belfast
10 Pin Bowling	Antrim	Monday 13th January 2025	Dundonald Ice Bowl
	Armagh	Monday 13th January 2025	Dundonald Ice Bowl
	Down	Monday 13th January 2025	Dundonald Ice Bowl
	Tyrone	Monday 13th January 2025	Brunswick Movie Bowl
	Fermanagh	Monday 13th January 2025	Brunswick Movie Bowl
	Londonderry	Monday 13th January 2025	Brunswick Movie Bowl
Quiz	All Counties	Friday 17th January 2025	TBC
Photography	All Counties	Friday 17th January 2025	TBC
Home Management Stage 2	All Counties	Thursday 23rd January 2025	Online
Ulster Young Farmer	All Counties	Thursday 23rd January 2025	Online
Demonstration Presentation	All Counties	Tuesday 28th January 2025	Virtual
	Final	Tuesday 4th February 2025	Virtual
Silage Making	Final	Thursday 30th January 2025	Members' Own Farm
Home Management	Final	Thursday 6th February 2025	Dromore High School
Show Jumping	All Counties	Sunday 9th February 2025	TBC
Arts Festival Heats	All Counties	Week Commencing Monday 24th February 2025	Ballymoney Academy
Ulster Young Farmer	Junior	Monday 10th March 2025	CAFRE: Loughry FT5 & 6
	Senior	Tuesday 18th March 2025	CAFRE: Loughry FT5 & 6
	25-30 Age Group	Tuesday 25th March 2025	CAFRE: Loughry FT5

Life on the Farm



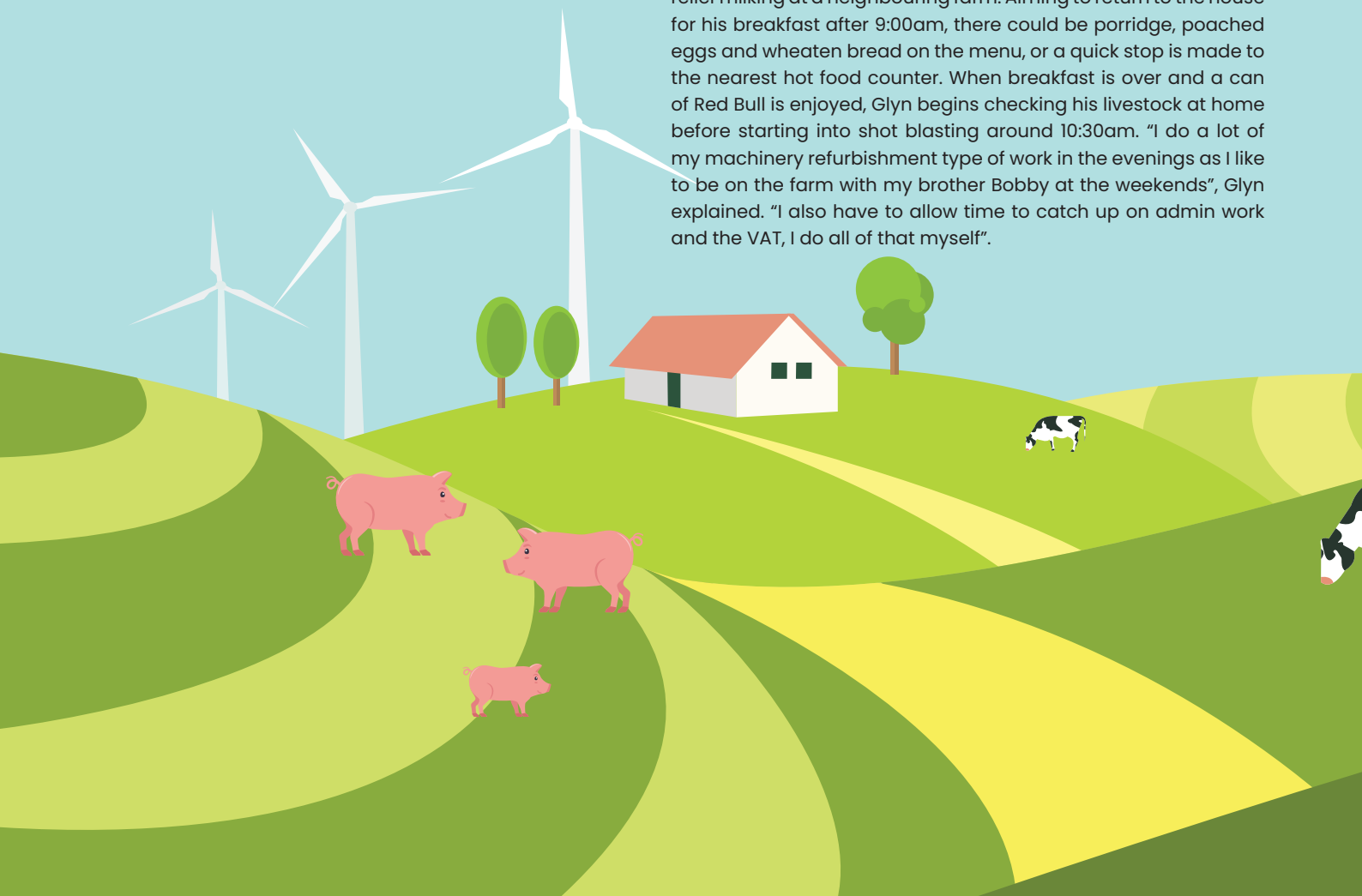
**Glyn
Surgenor**



Glyn Surgenor, a twenty-four-year-old farmer from Hillsborough and current club leader of Hillsborough YFC says that “no two days are the same” when it comes to farming.

Nestled within the green peaks of Hillsborough, County Down, Glyn lives and works on the farm he inherited from his Grandmother and has lived there from birth. “I was always involved in the farm from a young age, I enjoyed feeding the calves and being in the tractor. I guess this made me realise that it was a farmer I wanted to be when I grew up”. With a small herd of thirty-eight Pedigree Irish Moiles cattle and several pigs, Glyn spends his time looking after his livestock when he isn't refurbishing machinery out in the shed at home. Glyn explains that the family farm has gone through many changes over the years. “We stopped working with the Cattle in 2007 and moved towards growing and selling fruit and vegetables in 2010 which included tomatoes, cucumbers, corn on the cobs and pumpkins” he explained. “Following on from that, I left school after my AS Levels and started at Loughry College in 2018 studying a National Diploma in Food Technology. It was at this time that Mum and Dad retired from the Fruit and Vegetables and went into growing haylage for horses and selling it”. The farm was officially handed over to Glyn in 2020, when he started buying beef cattle, which led to him starting his own line of machinery refurbishing work in 2021 and introducing pigs to the farm in 2023.

A typical day in the life for Glyn begins when the alarm goes off at 5:30am and he travels a short distance down the road to offer relief milking at a neighbouring farm. Aiming to return to the house for his breakfast after 9:00am, there could be porridge, poached eggs and wheaten bread on the menu, or a quick stop is made to the nearest hot food counter. When breakfast is over and a can of Red Bull is enjoyed, Glyn begins checking his livestock at home before starting into shot blasting around 10:30am. “I do a lot of my machinery refurbishment type of work in the evenings as I like to be on the farm with my brother Bobby at the weekends”, Glyn explained. “I also have to allow time to catch up on admin work and the VAT, I do all of that myself”.



In May 2024, Glyn contacted the Lisburn Food Bank, expressing an interest in taking some leftover perishable items for his pigs. This includes excess bread, fruit and vegetables and Glyn identified the cost saving advantages of using this food instead of buying meal. "My Mum helps to prepare this for the pigs and it's a good to be able to make use of items that couldn't be given out to people anymore", he explained.

Over the years, Glyn has sadly been the victim of two serious farming incidents and is actively promoting farm safety within his Young Farmers' Club today. "Bobby (brother) and I were going up a hill in the field when the tractor tipped and went on its side. Thankfully Bobby was able to phone 999, and I was treated in Hospital for a split at the side of my head and concussion and Bobby, a sore back. You never forget accidents like that, they stick with you, and I was so thankful we were together because it could have been much worse if we were alone", Glyn explained. More recently in 2021, Glyn's tractor and dung spread went into flames just a short distance from his home on the road, "I was able to act quickly and when I saw a flame coming from the back of the tractor, I took the key from the ignition and stood out at the side of the road. I rang the neighbour to bring a fire extinguisher but minutes later, the tractor and spreader were in flames and the fire brigade were on their way. If I hadn't seen

that flame when I did and got out of the tractor, it would have been a totally different outcome", Glyn explained.

Having been a member of Hillsborough YFC since 2012, Glyn currently holds the role of Club Leader and enjoys sharing his passion for the organisation with his fellow members. "I would say my favourite thing about the Young Farmers' is the people, I enjoy meeting new people at different events and competitions. I have fond memories of the raft race we used to do prior to Covid, it was held at Newtownards Sailing Club and was always great craic". Glyn explained, "I was privileged to go on the Rural Youth Europe European Rally to Germany in 2022 and strongly encourage any member interested to apply for it, the experience was once in a lifetime. I also went to the 5 Nations Conference to Scotland in 2023 and recently hosted a Canadian and Scottish Exchangee, where I enjoyed showing them how to milk cows and we even went on the Belfast City Bus Tour. Hosting an Exchangee is a great way of doing things you wouldn't normally do".

Glyn's story may hopefully inspire others to consider farming as a career, get involved with their local Young Farmers' Club and promote farm safety. If you believe you have a story worth sharing, please contact our Marketing & Communications Executive Rachel, at rachel.armstrong@yfcu.org.



*"no two days
are the same"
when it comes
to farming.*

COMPETITION ROUND-UP



ARABLE

in partnership with **GOULDING NI**
FERTILISERS

This summer marked the return of the YFCU Arable Competition, now in its fourth consecutive year, with generous sponsorship and expert judgment provided by Gouldings Fertilisers NI. The competition unfolded with heats held across counties Antrim, Armagh, Down, Londonderry and Tyrone throughout the start of June. Members worked hard

to produce the best quality crop of Spring barley. The top member in each county then progressed through to the Arable Final, which was judged by Tony McIvor from Gouldings Fertilisers NI. Christopher Bell from Moneymore YFC was awarded first place in this year's competition. Tony recalled that Christopher's grower knowledge

was the best he had ever seen. Coming in at second place was Andrew McPhilimy (Newtownstewart YFC), Harry Chambers (Collone YFC) at third place, Adam Crawford (Glarryford YFC) at fourth place and Issac Moore (Newtownards YFC) at fifth place.



"Members worked hard to produce the best quality crop of Spring barley"

COMPETITION ROUND-UP



BUILD IT

The annual Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster Build It competition tested the teamwork and craftsmanship of members throughout the province. Teams competed against each other at county heat level where they had the task of building a bookcase using just one wooden pallet, a box of screws and their

own tools. They were scored on structural strength, craftsmanship, ability to fit purpose, teamwork and imagination.

The top teams from each heat which were Rathfriland YFC, Moneymore YFC, Lisnamurrican YFC and Collone YFC travelled to Armagh County Show on

Saturday the 8th June 2024 to compete in the final. All four teams were given one hour and a half to build a bookcase with just two pallets, a box of screws and a handful of tools. Rathfriland YFC won the competition with Moneymore YFC coming second place.



COMPETITION ROUND-UP



BANK OF IRELAND OPEN FARM WEEKEND




YFCU members across Northern Ireland were delighted to help out during the Bank of Ireland Open Farm Weekend which took place on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June 2024, attracting over 15,000 visitors.

The activity packed weekend opens to the public and is aimed

at bridging the gap between urban and rural communities. This event provided the opportunity for people to gain insight into the agricultural sector and witness first-hand the origins of their food. Led by the Ulster Farmers' Union, it gives a real behind the scenes snapshot of the local farm to fork story

and we are delighted that some of our clubs volunteered their time to help out. The weekend highlighted the involvement and dedication from the following YFCU clubs; Blearly YFC, Lylehill YFC, Crumlin YFC, Holestone YFC, Cappagh YFC and Straid YFC.

in partnership with  **ULSTER FARMERS' UNION**



COMPETITION ROUND-UP



STOCK JUDGING

in partnership with



Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster (YFCU) proudly hosted the highly anticipated

Sheep, Beef and Dairy Stock Judging competition finals on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) in Hillsborough.

Sponsored by Fane Valley, the event marked a significant highlight in the YFCU Calendar and delivered an exceptional experience for all participants.

The journey towards the finals began in April, with county heats held across Northern Ireland. These heats witnessed the participation of over 1,000 entries, showcasing the enthusiasm and dedication of the members. Following the rigorous selection process, over 300 members were invited to take part in the Northern Ireland finals.

On the day of the finals, a panel of expert judges arrived at the venue. Their responsibility was to meticulously select, mark, and assess a number of animals in each competition. YFCU finalists then proceeded to assess the

animals independently before engaging with judges in their respective age categories to discuss their answers and reasoning.

YFCU President, Richard Beattie, commended the participants for their exceptional performance and unwavering commitment throughout the competition. He explained, "the dedication, knowledge, and practical skills demonstrated by our members during this event was truly commendable. It is inspiring to witness the level of passion and expertise they bring to the agricultural sector".



COMPETITION ROUND-UP



SILAGE ASSESSMENT

in partnership with



YFCU successfully organised its annual Silage Assessment finals on Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) in Hillsborough. This event, kindly sponsored by Thompsons Feeding Innovation, drew an impressive turnout of finalists and proved to be a resounding success.

The journey to the finals began with heats held across

all six counties in Northern Ireland, where participants showcased their skills and expertise in assessing silage quality. The top performers from each county advanced to the much-anticipated final event. Representatives from Thompson Feeds travelled to all county heats to assess and grade the silage, as well as share their knowledge and expertise with our members. It was then down to the finalists to assess each silage sample and make their own judgment on the forage quality. The participants then presented their final assessments, showcasing their understanding of silage evaluation.

YFCU expressed their gratitude to Thompsons Feeding Innovation

for their generous sponsorship and support, without which the Silage Assessment competition would not have been possible.

A special thanks was extended to Thompsons Feeding representative, Phillip Donaldson, who is a proud member of Donaghadee YFC. His presence and expertise greatly enhanced the competition, and his contribution was highly appreciated by all involved. The Silage Assessment Finals served as a testament to the dedication and talent of the YFCU members. The organisation remains committed to providing engaging platforms for agricultural enthusiasts to hone their skills and further contribute to the industry's growth.



COMPETITION ROUND-UP



TAG RUGBY

in partnership with **Danske Bank**



The annual YFCU Tag Rugby Competition, in association with Platinum sponsor Danske Bank, was held on Wednesday 10th July 2024 at Dromore Rugby Football Club and saw seven Junior teams and eight Senior teams compete for the coveted titles, following their success from the county heats which were held in June 2024.

In the Junior competition, it was Straid YFC (A), Straid YFC (B), Glarryford YFC, Kilraughts YFC (B), Hillhall YFC, Seskinore YFC (B), Ballywalter YFC (A) and Clogher Valley YFC that progressed from the county heats to the finals. The Rosemary Patterson shield for first place went to Ballywalter YFC (A) and second place was awarded to Straid YFC (B).



In the Senior competition, it was Kilraughts YFC (A), Coleraine YFC, Moycraig YFC (B), Glarryford YFC (A), Annaclone & Magherally YFC (A), Spa YFC, Ballywalter YFC and Seskinore YFC that battled it out on the pitch to win the title. The Adrian Cooper shield for first place went to Kilraughts YFC (A) and second place was awarded to Moycraig YFC (B).

YFCU President Richard Beattie proudly announced the winners and thanked everybody for coming out on a wet and windy evening. Rodney Brown (Head of Agribusiness at Danske Bank) was honoured to present the shields and medals to the winning teams. In recognition of outstanding sportsmanship, four 'Fair Play' awards were given to Seskinore



YFC, Coleraine YFC, Glarryford YFC and Hillhall YFC. These awards were presented to the four clubs that the referees felt best demonstrated exceptional courtesy and respect towards their teammates, opponents, and referees.

Richard Beattie then went on to express sincere thanks to Rodney Brown for the continued support from Danske Bank, to Dromore RFC for the use of their grounds, and to the four stewards Helen Laird (Bleary YFC), Karen Walker (Collone YFC), Joyce Allen (Moneymore YFC) and Eirinn Braniff (Ballywalter YFC) for their help in keeping scores. Thanks also went to the four referee volunteers who were Jack Perry, Philip Lunn, Blair McDonald and Andrew Masters.



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AHOGHILL



Ahoghill YFC thoroughly enjoyed participating in different competitions at their local agricultural show in June, and members lifted rosettes for different awards in the Home Industries section, as well as the Ulster Farmers' Union cup for the most entries to win awards. The club held its annual Treasure Hunt in aid of Tiny Life with the local community coming together to support the event, and the annual BBQ was a highlight of the year. The club is looking forward to the new programme for the year, and plans are in place for the Junior Social taking place in December.

ANNACLONE & MAGHERALLY



Highlights of the 2024 Summer programme included the return of the annual A&M YFC Quiz Night, members complete a 24 hour challenge in partnership with BPositive and a trip to the Lake Killea for a fun-filled day out. Events included the Big Breakfast and the Tractor Run which attracted over fifty tractors on the day. Twelve new members joined the club in September and the first night back consisted of some games and activities to get everyone involved. The second meeting of the year saw over forty members visit Slurrykat for a tour of the factory and plans are in full swing for the Club's 80th Anniversary celebrations in November.

BALLYMISCAW



In June, Ballymiscaw YFC members travelled to Downpatrick Market for the County Down Beef and Sheep Heat, where some members qualified for the Northern Ireland final. June saw members participate in the County Heat of the Tag Rugby competition in Tandragee. Hillhall YFC hosted the return leg of the club exchange programme on Friday 28th June 2024, which Ballymiscaw YFC were delighted to attend and participate in the Slip 'N' Slide and have an evening snack from the chip van. Members enjoyed a night at Newtownards Rugby Club for the County Down YFC Rally. Lots of games were played and it was a good opportunity for members from each club to catch up. August Bank Holiday weekend saw the annual 'Club Day Out' take place at The Lake in Killea and then a bus trip to Portrush for lunch. A fundraiser for club funds took place in the hall for the first quiz night of the year, and this kick-started the 2024 / 2025 year.

BALLYWALTER



Ballywalter had a busy summer, kick-starting with its annual BBQ. Members had a good night and hope to see everyone next year. Sunday 14th July the club held its annual tractor run with an amazing turn out with over 140 tractors everyone enjoyed themselves, with The Griddle and an Ice Cream van for some refreshments after a great run. Two tag rugby teams got through to the final of the tag rugby competition where the junior team retained their first place title for a 2nd year in a row. August 30th brought the first leg of our exchange, welcoming 10 members from Lower Nithsdale. We enjoyed the nice weather in Belfast before heading for a bbq and drinks and then dancing the evening away at an ABBA tribute. Saturday morning

was an early start as we headed for two farm tours before heading back to get ready for a big night as we had a tour of the lower peninsula enroute to Spa BBQ. We finished the weekend of with some fun at Lets Go Hydro water rugby before dropping everyone off at the boat. A great weekend was had by everyone and Ballywalter cannot wait for the exchange leg. Ballywalter YFC are looking forward to welcoming new and old members back on the 6th on August for the start of the winter program.

BLEARY



In June, members headed to showcase the club at their stall at the Lurgan show. They had the opportunity to have a chat with Northern Ireland's Agricultural Minister, Andrew Muir. Matthew Cochrane who excelled in many shows across Northern Ireland with his Commercial Heifer which picked up Champion at Armagh Show! They also celebrated the marriage of members Sarah and James in August and held their first night back at the start of September, introducing plenty of new and old faces. On Friday 20th September 2024, they welcomed Chris Armstrong from DJNI to host the 'Let's get Quizzical' night with most members showing off their brainiac side. Lauren McRoberts embarked on a nine week trip to Canada for an exchange, experiencing many different tours and methods of farming.



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CAPPAGH



Cappagh had a very successful summer programme with members travelling the length & breadth of Northern Ireland to compete in competitions and support other club and county events. The highlight of the Summer was the annual Car Treasure Hunt and Knockout which saw huge support from the local community, and the Junior Trip to Splash in Moneymore. Club Leader Natalie Burrows hosted two exchange delegates from Austria in August and spent 10 days showing them what the YFCU is all about and what Northern Ireland has to offer. In aid of Marie Curie, a Twilight Walk was held on Friday 27th September 2024, with over 130 people supporting the event.

CASTLECAULFIELD



Castlecaulfield YFC members put their strength to the test in June when members participated in a team-building Tug Of War competition which proved very enjoyable for all participants. Following this, in September, the club had a fundraising tractor run with donations in aid of the Northern Ireland Air Ambulance. There was a fantastic turnout with ninety three tractors in attendance and the support from local vendors 'Puddin And Trap', 'McMoo Ice Cream' and 'Candian Dexters' was much appreciated. Meetings commenced on Wednesday 11th September 2024 after the Summer break, and a night of games and activities was enjoyed to welcome both returning and new members.

COLERAINE



Celebrations were had in June 2024 with the annual Drama Dinner taking place. Coleraine YFC were honoured to accept the prize for 3rd Place Overall and members, Ivanna Strawbridge and Callum Lamont, received awards for their acting skills. Celebrations were continued when members received different awards for Stock Judging and made it through to the finals of the Tag Rugby competition. 56 entries took part in the Home Industries section of the Coleraine County Show and the Home Industries Cup was picked up for the third consecutive year. The Lake Kilrea was the venue of choice for the first night back in September.

COLLONE



It has been a busy few months for Collone YFC, hosting and taking part in numerous events throughout the summer months. On the 11th of August 25 members cycled 80 miles for this year's charity, brainwaves NI, in line with the clubs 80th year. This was a challenging day for those cycling, especially with the warm weather, however the members still reached their goal for a charity close to the hearts of many in the club. Furthermore, on the 25th of August the club held their annual tractor run for the same charity with a tremendous 109 tractors in attendance with a very supportive crowd along the route as well. So far, the club has managed to raise over £3000 with this total to be added to, with more charitable events due

to take place in November including our 80th anniversary dinner and auction. For the second year we held our BBQ at Mullahead, featuring another successful battle of the DJs competition where Julieann Moore and Robyn McConnell from Holestone YFC were crowned the winners! A great night was had by all who attended! The club looks forward to a busy few incoming months with new members and new success!

CRUMLIN



A strong start to the Summer was had in July when 5 members showcased their knowledge whilst participating in the Stock Judging Finals. Next saw the return of the John Bradley challenge in which some of our members enjoyed a very humorous game of netball whilst dressed as the famous and well-known Mr. Worldwide! During this busy summer Secretary Emma Knox took part in the YFCU's Wellbeing and Development "Cuppa and a Catchup" scheme by visiting past members, reminiscing on old stories of the club and our hopes for the future. Crumlin YFC was delighted to have so many members out in force attending and competing at the Antrim Show to conclude July. August started with a splash as members enjoyed a visit to 'Let's Go Hydro' in Carryduff for our summer day out. Next, Senior members were put to the test at the brilliant Clay Pigeon shooting evening, hosted

by senior member Andrew Reid and his family. September brought the long-awaited return of the 'First Night Back', members new and old were welcomed as we made a start to the new club year! Crumlin YFC were proud to have so many new and returning members attending! To kickstart the year we enjoyed a 'Slip and Slide' evening hosted by the Steele Family, a great night was had by all and was a great way to start a fun filled year.



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DERG VALLEY



Derg Valley YFC began our summer season on a high. On the 6th of July, members participated in various competitions at Omagh show like the tug of war, floral art with the theme 'The Boot', photography with themes 'Sunset Skies' and 'Country Scenes', the hostess competition with the theme '95th Anniversary' and the club poster competition. To round off a successful day, we held our Omagh Show Dance in Lola's, Silverbirch Hotel with DJ Ryan Miller. The annual Matthew Gordon Memorial Tractor Run was next on the summer Calander. The club's chosen charity was Air Ambulance NI for which we raised an overwhelming £1800. We finished the evening in The Cedar Country Hotel for a barbeque. To begin the 2024/2025 year, we invited new and old faces to join us for our 'Icebreakers & Pizza' evening in the hall. The club welcomed many new and returning members for another fun filled year ahead. Members participated in the live to dead competition. Our second meeting of the year was 'inflatables' where members took part in the Goliath Attack and the Bungee Run, which many members thoroughly enjoyed. The third meeting is 'FORE' which will take place at the driving range.

DONAGHADEE



In July, Donaghadee YFC held its Friends and Family BBQ. The evening saw members and supporters of the club gather together for a catch up whilst enjoying a bite of good food, followed by a raffle full of prizes to finish the night off. In August, the club hosted its Annual Road Run at Donaghadee Rugby Club. With just under 50 vehicles, both modern and vintage in attendance, a total of £500 was raised for the Air Ambulance NI. Later in August, Donaghadee YFC held its Big BBQ for the first time in 5 years. People from all over Northern Ireland, and some YFC exchangees from Scotland all enjoyed the buzzing atmosphere of the night. In September, Donaghadee YFC welcomed back members as well as a few new faces. Sticking with tradition, the club played some ice-breaker games closely followed by a classic pizza party. Two weeks later, members gathered at Donaghadee Community Centre once again to learn all about the different events, competitions and opportunities that the YFCU has to offer. Donaghadee YFC are set to host their 90th Anniversary Dinner in February 2025 in La Mon Country Club, with more details to follow on their social media pages.

DUNGIVEN



In June, Dungiven YFC held its annual tractor run. This year's chosen charity was Cancer Research UK. The run started off at the County Londonderry showgrounds and saw over 50 tractors taking part in this year's route, before finishing off at the premises of McFarlane animal health, Dungiven, for a BBQ. The total raised from the run was £1300 in aid of Cancer Research UK. July saw the start of the summer meetings with a trip to The Lake, Kilrea. Members had a splashing fun time running around the inflatable park testing out their agility skills. Before summer came to an end, Dungiven YFC organised a games and s'mores day at Benone beach. New and current members gathered for an afternoon's fun filled agenda with games such as Bang, Eggy and classics like the wheel barrow race and rounders. September kick started the winter programme of Dungiven YFC with a night of ice breaker games to get new and returning members acquainted for the year ahead. Dungiven YFC's second meeting of September was a trip to Dukes Ice-Cream, Gortin. Members got a tour of the factory and farm as well as getting to try their delicious ice-cream made there afterwards.

FINVOY



Finvoy YFC had a busy summer; having a very successful annual BBQ, volunteering at Open Farm weekend and competing in many competitions. Members travelled to Antrim Agricultural show, massive well done to members coming joint 2nd in Farm Safety and to Richard Beattie on coming 2nd in United Dairy Farmer. Finvoy YFC would like to say thank you to Carol who organised the clues for the treasure and everyone who came along and supported. To invite new members and get an insight to what Finvoy YFC is all about, the club headed to The Lake Kilrea where new members got an insight to what Finvoy YFC is all about. We then welcomed new members and returning members to our first club meeting at the start of September.

GLARRYFORD



Glarryford YFC has been up to a lot since the start of summer. Members took part in ballymoney show with the girls football team placing 3rd and tug of war also placing 3rd. The club had its annual sports night which was a success 9 tag rugby teams attending, there was an after party to raise money for the club too. In August was the annual bbq which was enjoyed by everyone who attended. To welcome new members we had a summer club meeting which was slippery football this brought a lot of new faces to Glarryford YFC. The first official club meeting of the year was a games night for everyone to get to know each-other.



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GLENO VALLEY



It's been a busy couple of months for Gleno Valley YFC as members prepare for their upcoming 90th Anniversary Year! The club started off strong by hosting their Annual Stock judging competition at Will McMasters farm. It was great to see so many familiar faces getting involved with the judging and baking competition. To round off August, Gleno took part in the Antrim Coast Half Marathon with 3 relay teams and 2 members completing the full half marathon. Gleno Valley team 1- Ryan Erskine, Iain Wilson and Gareth Paisley placed first overall in the relay competition, what a great achievement! The chosen charity of the year is Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) which is one very close to the clubs heart in memory of much loved Vice President Jonathan Milligan. To kick off our 90th year we held our new members night with an evening of sloppy football and a junior daytrip to The Lake Kilrea. Gleno Valley recently held their very first Speed Shear in Ballymena Livestock Market. It was great to see such a fantastic turnout to support the club raise funds for CRY. Everyone enjoyed a fantastic evening of shearing, music and entertainment. As a club we look forward to celebrating our milestone anniversary of 90 years through lots of exciting events ahead!

HILLHALL



Hillhall Young Farmers Club had a brilliant first night back, playing games and getting to know each other. We welcomed 9 new members and had 32 returning members. We look forward to getting to know everyone as the club year continues. Hillhall have a busy year ahead with our annual Truck and Tractor Run and a first for Hillhall with its Big Breakfast at The Braniel.

HILLSBOROUGH



Hillsborough YFC held their Club Open Night on 23rd August where they had the opportunity to showcase some of what the club has to offer; new and returning members enjoyed battling it out on the 'gladiators' inflatable, working up an appetite for their BBQ afterwards. Hillsborough YFC members also enjoyed their summer day out in August - everyone got their wetsuits on and had a great day of fun at The Lake Kilrea. They kicked off their 2024-25 programme with their New Members Night. Plenty of games to get to know each other were followed by refreshments, it was great to welcome lots of new and returning members back for an exciting year ahead. September was a busy month which saw Hillsborough's first 'out' meeting of the year to We Are Vertigo which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. On Saturday 21st September HYFC held their annual tractor and truck run in aid

of Northern Ireland Hospice followed by a BBQ - the club committee would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support for a very worthy cause. The club are looking forward to a busy autumn with some fantastic tours and in-meetings lined up!

HOLESTONE



The summer months has been busy for Holestone Young Farmers Club, with competitions and local agricultural shows. In May Jessica McConnell placed 1st in the YFCU Wool Handling competition at the Balmoral Show. Towards the end of May Holestone Young Farmers hosted an exchange with ForFar JAC, with a range of fun activities such as farm tours, Scrapyard golf and pub crawl to Portrush ending at Straid BBQ. In June, 28 members competed in the Co. Antrim Beef and Sheep stock Judging competition. Congratulations to the following members for placing in the Beef Stock Judging, within their respective age categories: Harry Cubitt 4th, Oliver Taggart 3rd, Thomas Wilson 1st, Paul McCrea 3rd, Jacob McAuley 4th, Craig Robson 3rd, Louise Moore 1st, Jack Stewart 4th. A further congratulations must go to the following members for placing in the Sheep Stock Judging

competition, as well within their age categories: Oliver Taggart 4th, Kaitlin Andrews 3rd, Jessica McConnell 1st, Rachel McCartney 2nd. Following on, Holestones officer bearers and assistants attended local primary schools to inform potential P7's on what Holestone YFC and the Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster has to offer, hoping to welcome potential new members in September. Leading onto July, Holestone held a summer slippery football club meeting and attended their local Antrim Agricultural Show, with many members taking part in a variety of county competitions, Holestone YFC placed 3rd overall at the show. In August Holestone headed back to ForFar JAC for the return leg of the exchange with a trip to Perth Show, distilleries and farm tours, all members had a brilliant weekend. To conclude the summer programme members headed to The Lake in Kilrea for their annual day trip, followed by Curry's Amusement Park in Portrush and to finish the members headed to the Bushtown Hotel in Coleraine for a meal.

KILLINCHY



In June, Killinchy Young farmers Club organised a tractor run with over 140 vehicles in the village of Kilmood. The event had an ice cream van, a coffee cart, and a burger stall for food, as well as raffle prizes. It was a joint event with a local playgroup, and the money raised was split, resulting in a total of £1800 each. In August, it was time for our annual club day out. Members took a bus to The Lake Kilrea, where they had a wonderful time on the inflatables! Afterwards, we had a tasty meal at Balloo House, a local restaurant near our club hall. County Down Rally night is a night our members eagerly anticipate. This year, rally night was held in Newtownards, and members competed in a variety of different traditional young farmers games. A competitions night out was

organised for members who completed 3 or more competitions and Lyon's Karting in Hillsborough was chosen as the venue. We kicked off the 2024/2025 club programme on Thursday, 12th September. Members heard about YFCU competitions and engaged in traditional games such as 'bring me', the polo-mint game, and the newspaper game. biscuits. The night ended with refreshments and catching up.

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KILRAUGHTS



In June, Kilraughts YFC helped set up, steward and clear up at Ballymoney Show and worked together with Moycraig and Finvoy Young Farmer Clubs to help the show run smoothly. Congratulations to our senior team who were awarded the Adrian Cooper shield for first place at the Tug Rugby Final in July. In July, Kilraughts YFC held their big weekend event at Armoy Livestock Market. On Friday 26th July, Kilraughts YFC held their Speed Shear which was a very successful night. On behalf of Kilraughts YFC our thanks goes to Loughgiel Credit Union for supporting the Speed Shear, NISSA for supplying the judges and gear, Alex and Finoan Butler for helping in organising the event and thanks to James McCaughern for the sheep. On Saturday 27th July, Kilraughts YFC

held its annual BBQ which was a success. Junior members in Kilraughts YFC headed to the Lake in Kirea in August for a team bonding morning and getting to know new members joining Kilraughts YFC this year. In September, current and new members of Kilraughts YFC had a fun filled evening playing rounders and slippery football for new members night. On Thursday 12th September was Kilraughts YFC first club meeting, welcoming present and new members.

LISBELLAW



Lisbellaw Young Farmers have kept themselves busy during the summer months. The members had stock judging practice to prepare them for the stock judging competitions that will happen in the following weeks. The members had great success at the beef and sheep competitions. The club held their own in-house silage competition. This was great for members to show off what they have at home with 1st place going to James Morrison, 2nd Alan Kelly and 3rd Robbie Wilson. In July some of the members headed up to AFBI Hillsborough to the stock judging and silage assessment finals and the club held its first meeting back on Tuesday 10th September, meeting both new and familiar faces.

LISNAMURRICAN



Lisnamurrican enjoyed another busy and exciting summer season with plenty of activities to keep us all busy! At Ballymoney, Ballymena and Antrim Show members took part in county competitions as well as entering home industries, floral art and helping with the setup of Ballymena Show. The club was absolutely delighted to place 2nd overall in County Antrim's superclub competition as a result of their success at the shows and the superclub rounders competition. In June members completed a 24 hour charity walk covering 85 miles for our 85th year, and were proud to raise £3014.29 for TinyLife. Later in the summer we also held our charity treasure hunt, with the proceeds of £345 donated to Broughshane and District Community Association. July was a busy month with the club organising another sell out Big Night at Ballymena Market with Johnny Brady! In August the club hosted the first leg of our exchange with Biggar Young Farmers. This was a great weekend with members making new friends! In September we kicked off our winter programme with a games night, welcoming lots of new members which we hope to continue to see getting involved through the rest of the year!

LYLEHILL



Lylehill Young Farmers have had a blast this summer! June kicked off with its annual BBQ, and what a night it was! Members worked hard to pull everything together, and with clear skies, we enjoyed a night full of music and fun. The perfect start to the summer! July saw some of our members head to Hillsborough for the Stock Judging Final—Congratulations to all who attended! With sunshine in short supply, we made the most of it with a lively game of slippery-football, followed by a BBQ to warm up. August was the return of our annual Tractor Run, we had a fantastic turnout of sparkling-clean tractors. August also saw our Safe Driving Competition, alongside a talk on farm safety, helping us ensure safety on and off the fields. September launched our winter programme, starting with a hall cleanup, then

welcoming new members. The night was filled with icebreakers and games to get everyone excited for the season ahead. To show our members the buzz around competitions, we hosted a competition night, where everyone participated in games inspired by the various events they can compete in throughout the year. Lylehill is looking forward to what's to come for in 2024!

MONEYMORE



In June, a thrilling Treasure Hunt was held, inviting locals on a quest across the regional landscape. The top three cars with the most correct answers won fantastic prizes, adding a competitive edge to the fun. Following this, a Colouring Competition took place, where participants from Coagh, Cookstown, and Beragh showcased their artistic flair and received goodie bags and Toymaster vouchers. The summer continued with a lively 12th Night Disco, filled with music, laughter, and community spirit. A significant moment was sharing the club's story on RTE Radio 1, discussing farming, Moneymore village, and the club's impact on the community. The Annual Club Day Out at "Lake Kirea" was a hit, offering members a vibrant, water-filled environment to unwind and bond.

September began with a Wet Knockout Night featuring water-based challenges, bringing laughter and friendly competition. The month concluded with a much-anticipated First Night Back, warmly welcoming everyone and setting the stage for future events.



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MOYCRAIG



club meeting back. The club held its first meeting back in Mosside Church Hall with some icebreakers and refreshments. We are glad to welcome 15 new members to the club.

On Friday 14th June the club held its annual sports night at Limepark Armoy, playing a junior and senior mixed volleyball competition followed by Tug of War. To finish the night members enjoyed treats from Keith from the Dessert Bar Icecream. Furthermore on 18th June Moycraig held a treasure hunt. A successful night was had looking for clues. We ended a night of searching for clues with some light refreshments. Into July we held our annual BBQ on 6th July with the theme being 'White Lies'. Once again our BBQ was a great success. August saw the first leg of our Welsh exchange with Gelligaer Young Farmers. Members enjoyed an entertaining weekend being tour guides and finishing the weekend with some pub golf and Coleraine BBQ. Back to September meant the return of our first

NEWTOWNARDS



Newtownards had a busy summer starting with the annual tractor and road run which welcomed over 50 vehicles. Members and their families enjoyed this event held on Father's Day. In August saw the return of Treasure Hunt and Barbecue, which saw the competitors set off from the club hall making their way through Newtownards and surrounding areas to find the answers to the clues set by club President and senior leader. Thanks to everyone involved. Members kick started the new year with an opening meeting of Taskmaster games which created some friendly rivalry between teams.

NEWTOWNHAMILTON



Recently the club held its annual tractor judging and vintage night in which we held our very first Mrs Warmington cup, well done to Mountnorris for taking home first place! Overall the night was a great success raising £315 for the Children's Hospice. The night was greatly supported by the community as well as other clubs in the county. Members have attended the first 2 meetings for the new YFC year and have kicked it off with a flying start. We are ready for another action packed year of fun!

NEWTOWNSTEWART



Newtownstewart Young Farmers had a calm start to the summer months with having a "Cuppa and catch up" in June, where members of the club got together for a yarn. In July the club held an "Night at the races" in aid of sending club member, Erin Mulholland on the exchange trip to Switzerland in August! In the busy month of August, Newtownstewart Young Farmers held competitions at the annual Plum Show, Tug of War and a new competition called "Cow Pat Bingo". On the 11th August, the club held their annual Tractor and Truck run. This year the club raised money for Air Ambulance Northern Ireland. The month of September was then to follow with a first night back meeting where the night was filled with fun, food and plenty of new friends! There was an amazing turn out of new and returning members to the club. On the 21st of September, Newtownstewart held their first "Speed Shear". It was a massive success and will always go down in history. Overall, Newtownstewart had an action packed 4 months, with loads more to come!

RANDALSTOWN



Randalstown YFC have enjoyed being kept busy during the summer months! June saw the annual Randalstown Arches Civic Week, where the club successfully hosted its own Tug of War competition. One highlight of our summer was our Scottish exchange with Bathgate JAC. In early July we hosted the first leg of the exchange, before 19 of our members headed back over in August for another fun-filled weekend, where we all headed to Dumfries Show. Our annual Family Fun Night and BBQ was yet again a success, as current and past members as well as other friends and family tucked into a delicious spread, courtesy of Crosskeys Meats and Dale Farm. Members enjoyed their annual club day trip at The Lake Kilrea, where a great day of friendly competition was had. With September brought the start of our winter programme. We were delighted to gain seven new members at our first club meeting, where members took part in several entertaining ice breaker games as well as a round of bingo. Finally, four of our members formally presented a cheque to MacMillan Cancer Support for £2850, which was raised through our participation in the Belfast City Marathon in May of this year.

CLUB NEWS CLUB NEWS CLUB NEWS

RATHFRILAND



What a jam-packed Summer it has been for Rathfriland YFC! Members have continued to strive for success in competitions and activities, while finishing off the programme with a trip to The Lake, Kilrea. Throughout Summer, members completed their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The teams hiked and canoed, successfully completing their expeditions, congratulations to all! Our Club Leader, Will Cromie travelled over to Switzerland as part of the YFCU International Exchange and had a brilliant time learning about agriculture and exploring the country. Rathfriland had a successful Summer in competitions. Congratulations to our Build It team which included Will Cromie, Ross Sloane, Elliot Hutchinson, Sarah-Louise and Poppy McElroy on placing 1st in the Build It Competition! To kick off 80th Anniversary celebrations, Rathfriland YFC held their annual Treasure Hunt and BBQ in June and their main fundraiser the '24 Hour

Spinathon' in July. Donations from the events were split between our 2 chosen charities. Thank you to everyone who got involved and donated at the events! The clubs' first night back was a success, welcoming back both new and existing members!

STRAID



It's safe to say that Straid has had a non-stop summer. From winning competitions to endless fun and games, summer 2024 is one to be remembered. Open Farm Weekend kicked off June where members volunteered and got to meet UFU President William Irvine. The tug of war team made a successful comeback this year, picking up medals at various events. In June the club also celebrated World Wellbeing Week with a cuppa and a catch up. July rolled around and members were placed 2nd in both the John Bradley challenge and the tag rugby finals. The end of July brought our annual slippery football where new members can come along and see what young farmers is all about. Our farm safety evening also made a return and members learned about staying safe on the farm. Throughout the summer, our club participated in Ballymoney, Ballymena and Antrim show. We were so successful at these events that, along with the rounders competition, Straid YFC was named Superclub of the year!! We started September with an exchange trip to Crossroads where our senior members had an amazing weekend and we can't wait to welcome them back on the return leg. Finally, we had our first club meeting of the new year. We are very proud to welcome 27 new members to the Straid brigade this year.

TRILICK & DISTRICT



On Tuesday 10th of September the club had its first meeting back of the season with 50+ members in attendance, and welcomed 15+ new members. The evening started by telling our new and old members all about young farmers. We then finished the night off with ice-breakers, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. On Saturday 21st September, the club held its First ever Big Breakfast, in the hall in Trillick. We are pleased to say it was a Great Success and Very Proud on how it went. T&D members had an early morning as all the helpers had to be there for 7am for an 8am start. We had a busy morning cooking and organising.



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T 028 9261 9620
E info@fanevalley.com
W fanevalley.com