

R·A·B·I news

THE MAGAZINE OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION
WINTER 2020

New services launched
Pages 4-6





Eva hits the roads on her electric bike

Page 10

We provide financial, practical and emotional support to farming people of all ages. We always work in confidence, with compassion and discretion.

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General enquiries: 01865 724931

Email: info@rabi.org.uk (general queries) or help@rabi.org.uk

Website: www.rabi.org.uk

Registered charity number: 208858

COVER IMAGE: A new promotional shot taken for RABI by agricultural photographer Tim Scrivener



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www.facebook.com/rabicharity1



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www.linkedin.com/company/rabicharity

From the Chair

As we approach Christmas and the onset of a new calendar year it is usual to reflect on the year past. This year is no exception, however daunting the prospect.

Whilst the tragedy and trauma which have inevitably followed the Covid-19 pandemic have been, and still are, truly horrible, there is still comfort to be found. One aspect of this is to recognise how, even through these torrid times, RABI has continued to work hard to offer support to farming families facing many types of adversity. Our staff have had to adapt and innovate in order to work in the different ways the impact of the pandemic has required, and it makes me incredibly proud to see how they have achieved this.

Volunteer supporters around the country have also innovated in quite astounding ways and have done so in a spirit of fun and positivity. This has been inspirational throughout, and I thank you all for these wonderful efforts.

However, no year – even 2020 – goes by without challenges to agriculture and our farming roots. Even in this last month of 2020 the media is full of new challenges around farming subsidies, and also the ongoing challenge of enabling the wider public to appreciate the key roles that farms and farming communities fulfil for the environment, for food security and for the nation's health and welfare.

We remain the nation's oldest and largest farming charity and here at RABI we are all facing both the 'knowns' and the 'unknowns' of 2021 in a positive spirit and with revised strength and capability.

Finally, I wish you all a safe and healthy Christmas, with as much goodwill and merriment as you can possibly have.



Jeanette Dawson OBE

The Big Farming Survey to deliver fresh insights

On January 11, RABI launches the largest ever research project relating to the wellbeing of farming people. This wide-ranging survey will consider for the first time the relationship between physical health, mental wellbeing and the health of farm businesses. With mounting external pressures and growing uncertainty, this vital research will provide the most comprehensive overview of the farming community throughout England and Wales. It will identify the specific challenges that a generation of farming people face, as well as highlighting their adverse impacts on daily life. This important project is an exciting element of RABI's ambitious five-year strategy that will enable us to reach a far wider audience. It's a step towards achieving our vision that no farmer should ever face adversity alone. Developed in partnership with the University of Exeter, the questionnaire takes just 15 minutes to complete and covers key aspects of life 'on farm'. The data collected will enable us and our partners to develop tools and strategies to enhance the support available to farming people in the coming years. We are working with key stakeholders throughout the agricultural sector to promote the research project far and wide through their farming networks. It's so important that we all share this exciting development, encouraging others to participate and letting them know why it matters.

Build a bigger picture in just 15 minutes

Who can take part: Farmers, farmworkers, their spouses and adult-aged children

When: January 11 - March 31, 2021

Online: Go to www.rabi.org.uk

Print: The questionnaire will also be circulated in key agricultural weekly titles

Share on social media: #BigFarmingSurvey

GOALS OF THE SURVEY

- To understand the wellbeing of a farming generation
- To understand the health of our farmers and their businesses
- To gain insights into impacts and pressures
- To shape future support

The survey will gather the most comprehensive, reliable information

directly from farming people. By raising awareness of the wellbeing issues identified in the data analysis, it's hoped frank and honest conversations can be initiated across the farming industry.

THE TARGET IS 26,000 RESPONSES

We want to achieve 26,000 responses to the survey across England and Wales and partners across the sector will be engaged to help promote the survey.

"We know the farming community is facing changing and increasingly complex challenges," said Alicia Chivers, RABI Chief Executive. "This research is fundamental to ensuring we really understand how these pressures impact on our people, allowing us to continue to develop effective tools and support to enhance their wellbeing." The research will be led by Professor of Rural Resource Management, Matt Lobley, who has over 30 years' experience of conducting research with farming families. His colleague Dr Rebecca Wheeler, who is also part of the research team said: "As well as establishing the health status of members of the agricultural community, for the first time this research will explore the relationship between mental health and wellbeing, physical health and the health of the business."



Accessible online wellbeing support is available 24/7



Online wellbeing support and counselling for farming people

RABI
helping farming people

kooth

Visit rabi.org.uk/kooth

In October, RABI successfully launched new online wellbeing platforms offering free and confidential access to numerous resources and counselling support. Featuring two distinct, age appropriate websites – Qwell for adults and Kooth for young people aged 11-18 – these can be reached via www.rabi.org.uk/kooth. In the short time that the sites have been live, we've received overwhelmingly positive feedback from users – many having highlighted the tangible benefits that this online service delivers.

We hope you'll show your ongoing support by actively promoting this new initiative. It's important that farming people know there is a dedicated site where they can anonymously access useful information and practical tools to support their wellbeing. Katie Davies, Wales YFC Chair, welcomed the service, saying: "Having trialled the platform with YFC members we all agreed that it was easy to use, whilst also having a wealth of resources and blogs. "Mental health has come to the fore as a concern in our industry over the past few years. By providing support 24/7 and 365 days a year, this platform is a vital tool to help. "As an industry we are aware that



As an industry we are aware that isolation and mental health issues have increased during Covid-19.

This platform will be a way for those isolated to be connected and access support whenever they need it and whoever they may be.

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Users can anonymously access farmer-specific and more generic

content on these sites, as well as a wealth of discussion boards, case studies and messaging functions. There are many tools, tips and articles which are free to all, and users can also access one-to-one counselling support from the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy.

Qwell

- For adults (18+)
- Drop-in and pre-booked 'chat' sessions with qualified counsellors
- Information and advice from professionals
- Personal stories
- Community forums
- Self-care tips
- An online magazine

Kooth

- For children and young people (11-17)
- All the same features as Qwell
- Online mini activities hub
- Articles aimed at and written by young people
- Age restrictions on content
- Safeguarding

Stay connected, there is anonymous support available around the clock

www.rabi.org.uk/kooth

Remember, you are your farm's best asset



"Mental health shouldn't just be a statistic, it's something that can affect every one of us, it's completely individual and personal. "Just like in farming if there was a physical problem you may need to ask for help, when it comes to your own mental health it's exactly the same. "I've heard it said that as farmers we're the farm's greatest asset, so it pays to keep things in check rather than let things get

on top of us. I'm the first to admit I've been through times in my life where I have struggled to find a path forward, but I've always kept putting one foot forward and moving on which is never easy. "This is why I feel mental health services are so important even if it's just someone at the end of the phone to listen. "It could change someone's life."

Matt Styles (pictured left)

Confidential, free, and for all

Over the coming months, as use of the Qwell / Kooth sites grow, content will develop to add a greater range and depth to articles and forums.

Roger Kerr, Chair of Organic Farmers and Growers, said: "The challenges and anxieties that Covid-19 and Brexit have brought on the farming sector will undoubtedly impact on people even more.

"Speaking from personal experience there's a lot to be gained from seeking help from professionals who understand the way you feel.

"Having suffered from depression in the past, I know how hard it is to break the cycle when you are in a bad place

but people do care and there is help out there."

"Our aim is to make a real difference to the farming community that RABI has been dedicated to for the past 160 years," added Alicia Chivers, RABI Chief Executive (pictured). "We believe early intervention and one-to-one support are essential to ensuring good mental health and tackling the root causes of poor wellbeing. Providing confidential, easily accessible, free online support can make a real difference to a wide audience. For RABI, this is a significant step towards achieving our vision that no farmer should face adversity alone."



Rev Simon Bowkett @WelshRev · 18h
Nice one, RABI!
LOVE the emphasis on 'mental wellbeing' too ... we need to look after mental health long before it can all slide into mental illness.
Thanks.

RABI @RABicharity · Oct 19

It's here! Our online mental wellbeing platform is now live. Check it out here: rabi.org.uk/kooth #MondayMotivation #mentalhealth

Online wellbeing
support and counselling
for farming people



Visit rabi.org.uk/kooth

IAgSA @IAgSA_UK · 16h
Farming is challenging & generally isolated. Add to this #COVID19 crazy weather & ongoing uncertainty & it increases the pressure. @RABicharity @kooth_plc have launched online mental wellbeing platform. Click here: bit.ly/34fiuMI #ItsOkNotToBeOk #Helpingfarmingpeople

Online wellbeing support
and counselling for
farming people



Speaking from personal experience there's a lot to be gained from seeking help from professionals who understand the way you feel.

Roger Kerr, Chief Executive, OF&G



Farming can be quite isolating, so knowing there's support available from people who are understanding of those specific pressures is reassuring.

Rebecca Horsington, County Organiser, Somerset YFC



What people are saying about our new platforms



Mental health issues are of increasing concern and have a direct effect on farm safety, we need to start a conversation and this is a fantastic way to begin.

Kate Beavan, NFU Monmouthshire County Chair



CLA North @CLANorth · 9h

Replying to @OpinionYP @yorkshirepost and 7 others

The RABI is a crucial cog, without which the rural community would be at a loss in times of need. Essential, and most certainly appreciated by all in the rural community.



Dr Jude Capper @Bovidiva · 11h

Between #COVID19 and #Brexit, we're in the midst of possibly the strangest times many of us will have ever known. If you have problems and need to talk, make sure you check out the new @RABicharity #MentalWellbeing platform for help, advice and info. Stay well. #MentalHealth

RABI @RABicharity · Oct 19

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Online wellbeing
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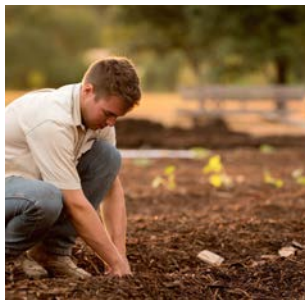


Online wellbeing support and
counselling for farming people

Visit rabi.org.uk/kooth



"Please thank everyone involved with your charity for their generosity, not only in regards to funds, but also with their time."



"Being stable financially means more than you can imagine. I will always be grateful to the person who told me to call you."



"My family and I would like to thank you for our local RWOs kind and gentle manner in which they dealt with our situation."



"Without your contribution towards my mother's care home costs I would be unable to continue in part-time work."

'Thank you.' Messages from those who were glad they contacted us

Regional Welfare Officers

Find out what we can do for you by calling 0808 281 9490

TOM ARMSTRONG
NORTH

Northumberland, Durham, Scotland



CATHY DENSLOW
SOUTH

South Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight



JOHN BASNETT
NORTH EAST

North, South & West Yorkshire, Derbyshire



LINDSEY CHURCHILL
SOUTH CENTRAL

Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire



JACKIE CLEGG
NORTH WEST

Cheshire, Lancashire, Cumbria, Merseyside



SALLY HUBBARD
EAST

Suffolk, Norfolk



LOUISE WILKINSON
LINCOLNSHIRE +

Lincolnshire, East Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire



CHLOE RIGLER
SOUTH WEST

Cornwall, Devon



CAROLINE HARRISON
HEART OF ENGLAND

Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, West Midlands



JENNY TYLER
EAST CENTRAL

Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire



MEL JONES
NORTH WALES & SHROPSHIRE

Anglesey, Conwy, Caernarfon, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Merionethshire, Shropshire, North Powys



DEANA CURTIS
SOUTH EAST

Berkshire, West and East Sussex, Kent, Essex, Surrey, London



ELONWY WILLIAMS
SOUTH WEST WALES

Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire



CLAIRE CRICHARD
SOUTH EAST WALES & BORDERS

Brecon & Radnor, Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, Worcestershire, North Gloucestershire, Herefordshire



All enquiries to our welfare department will be handled in confidence

R·A·B·I 
Supporting Farming Families

Our priority: Ensuring we are here when you need us

We are constantly reviewing Government advice and guidance to ensure our service users, staff, county committees, volunteers and supporters, care home residents and their relatives, stay as safe as possible. Please be assured we are taking the appropriate measures to ensure that no one involved with RABI is put at any unnecessary risk. If you have a question about our response to Covid-19, please email info@rabi.org.uk

SERVICES TO FARMING PEOPLE

We continue to ensure that the farming people we support can access any assistance they need from us during these difficult times. If you are involved in farming and require support, including being affected by Covid-19, please contact our Freephone Helpline 0808 281 9490 or email help@rabi.org.uk

Our welfare officers are keeping in touch with existing and new service users via phone and email. During periods of increased national or local restrictions, no home visits can take place and all appointments will

be via phone or virtual meetings. Outside of periods of increased national or local restrictions, and as Government guidance allows, our welfare officers can undertake a home visit. Any request for such a visit must be supported by compliance with Covid-19 risk assessment including all parties undertaking appropriate precautions (using face masks, hand sanitisers and socially distancing).

CARE HOMES

RABI operates two care homes, Beaufort House in Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset and Manson House in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. We are applying best practice in all of our Covid-19 measures at the homes including the use of PPE equipment to help safeguard both residents and staff. RABI is working to allow controlled 'Covid-Secure' indoor access for visitors as per Government guidance. The teams at both homes are doing all they can to ensure visits are able to continue within the gardens on a controlled one-to-one basis. Please continue to contact the Home Manager if you would like to arrange a garden visit.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

During periods of increased national or local restrictions, all county committee meetings are held remotely via phone or video conferencing. Outside of these periods, we advise our committees and other groups of supporters to only meet face-to-face if it is considered essential. Any meeting must be in accordance with all national and local restrictions in place at the time of the meeting. No face-to-face fundraising event should be undertaken at this time. Our Regional Managers are keeping in touch via email, phone and video conferencing and are unable to undertake any face-to-face meetings during times of increased restrictions. In exceptional circumstances, and as Government guidance allows, our Regional Managers can attend a meeting at other times but any request for a Regional Manager to attend a meeting must be supported by compliance with Covid-19 risk assessment including all parties undertaking appropriate precautions (e.g. limited number of attendees, face masks, hand sanitising and social distancing during the meeting).

Real people, real stories

RABI supported the Samaritans' Real People, Real Stories campaign from August 11 to September 27. The campaign targeted men struggling to cope to prevent them reaching crisis point.

* Recent research found that 45% of men aged 20-59 in rural communities agreed that they experienced feelings of anxiety during lockdown. Almost two thirds (59%) said they felt worried about the future and 32% said that talking to others helped with concerns and worries they had during lockdown. Over half (54%) said that they were feeling worried or anxious as restrictions continued to ease. Morgan, from Port Talbot, a Chartered Surveyor and Agricultural Valuer, shared his story as part of the campaign.



He said: "One of the biggest issues in the agricultural and allied industries is the stigma around talking about mental

health. With farming historically being male dominated, people tend to keep quiet and try to get on with it.

"How can we tackle the stigma if we aren't prepared to openly and honestly talk about it?"

It is hoped that the launch of RABI's online counselling service will contribute to giving farmers, male and female, an opportunity to talk more openly about their feelings.

* Figures are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 1,943 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between July 3-8, 2020. The survey was carried out online.

The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB men (aged 20-59).

Growing Cereals partnership

Cereals LIVE 2020 Q&A Edition

In the summer, the Cereals team brought the UK's leading technical event for the arable industry online due to Covid-19.

To date, the Cereals LIVE content has been accessed by 19,564 attendees from 114 countries.

Cereals LIVE was an overwhelming success, with the top seminar attended by over 800 people. Because the schedule was fully packed, the 90+ moderators, speakers and panellists did not have

time to answer the 568 questions asked by attendees over the two days. A follow-up event was therefore arranged on November 5: Cereals LIVE, The Q&A Edition.

This was a day of webinars 'by farmers for farmers'.

The live webinar focused on questions around what impact Coronavirus, Brexit and new Government incentives for public goods might have on UK arable farming businesses. Arable farmers

were able to address how they are adjusting their businesses to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead on an increasingly competitive, and environmentally focused, global market.

Cereals LIVE: Q&A Edition, kick-started Cereals Support, a free service that offers advice and assistance for arable farmers via a monthly webinar series, focusing on one specific theme around farming.

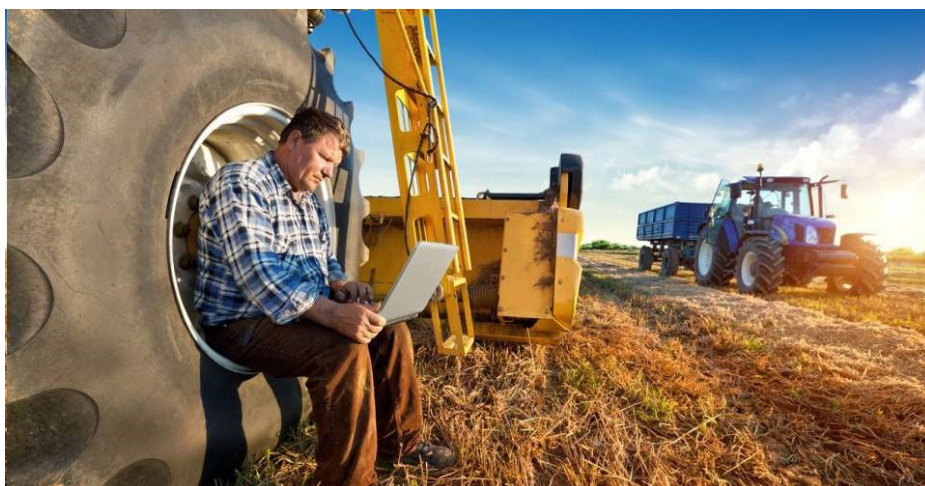
The Cereals team is working with RABI – the longstanding official charity partner of the Cereals event – on the first project of Cereals Support, which is associated with mental health.

"We are very excited to have launched our new online wellbeing platform which we hope will prove a valuable new support service for the farming community, who are facing such challenging and uncertain times," says Suzy Deeley, Corporate Partnership Manager at RABI.

"Thank you to Comexposium and Cereals for your continued and much valued support."

Cereals is organised by Comexposium, global events organiser whose agricultural events also include Fruit Focus (UK), SIMA (France), SIPSA SIMA (Algeria), SIMA Asean (Thailand), Sitevi (France), Sitevinetech (China) and Sitevinetech (Argentina).

Over 360 leading suppliers exhibit at Cereals with the very latest products, advice and information; providing visitors with a complete one-stop service from seeds to sprayers, crop varieties to cultivation equipment.



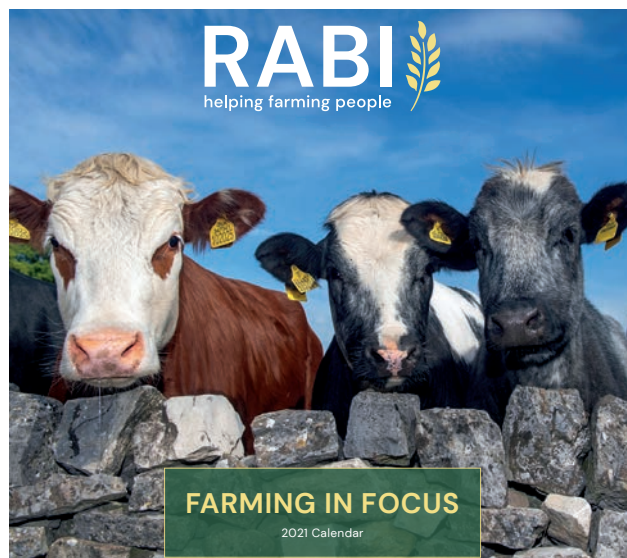
Farming in Focus calendars sell out quickly

Thank you to everyone who bought our annual 'Farming in Focus' calendar for 2021. Copies were in high demand and have completely sold out.

Thanks also to the professional agricultural photographers who donated such incredible



images for free. The calendar is supported by the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust and helps to raise awareness of our work as well as funds.



Regional News

Marion's personal quest gets her out on her bike



Supporter Marion Jackson rode 50 miles on her electric bike to raise funds for RABI and Eden Carers in memory of her late husband. Here, she describes why she opted to set herself the challenge.

When I retired around six years ago I bought an electric bike, but last year I was unable to ride much. My husband had been unwell for a number of years and I was his full-time carer until last November, when he went into a home. Sadly, my husband died in March just before lockdown. I needed to build myself up again, so when the weather got warmer I started getting out and about on my bike. One day I managed 30 miles

and thought I may be able to do 50 in a day so I suggested to my family that I would give myself a challenge. They were encouraging and said 'go for it', so I carried on getting out as often as possible.

Over the last few years we have had so many unforeseen major problems on our rented farm and RABI has supported our son. Eden Carers have supported me in my role as a carer for my husband, so I decided to do something to say a big 'thank you' to both charities.

I worked out a lovely route, mainly on quiet, scenic roads. Many neighbours and friends encouraged me and I am sure that I would have struggled to achieve my goal three months earlier. The ride went really well and the

weather couldn't have been better. My son-in-law, Andy, did the whole route with me on his road bike. My support worker from Eden Carers did about 35 miles and a friend joined in for the last 12 miles.

Andy made sure that I didn't cheat (as if I would)! At the end of the day we were all ready for something to eat at the pub in the village where I was brought up.

Electric bikes are brilliant and mine has been my saviour this year following the death of my husband. Throughout lockdown I have been able to get out and about, build up my strength and social distance plus raise money for two deserving charities who were there for us in our hour of need.

Eating breakfast with the Kings

- Devon committee member John Yeoman collected a cheque for £685 from Kingsbridge YFC. They raised the money at a breakfast prior to the lockdown.

- Many prize winners of the Beltex Sheep Society's virtual shows donated their winnings to RABI. In total, this raised £1,012, which the society rounded up to £1,100.

Gwilym's stunning stud photograph

RIGHT: Alwyn Jenkins, son of Ceredigion committee member Gwilym Jenkins, sent us this picture that his father took whilst at the Doylan Stud of Fiona Livermore. We're pleased we can share it.



High recognition for Alan

The Essex committee organised the harvest thanksgiving at St Peter's Church, Goldhanger for the county's farming community. Led by Rev Canon Janet Nicholls, the Chelmsford Diocesan Agricultural Chaplain, a socially-distanced congregation of 30 enjoyed a service of readings and prayers, and traditional hymns sung by the church choir.

The Essex Agricultural Society, Essex YFC, NFU, FCN and RABI were all represented. Rt Rev Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester and the High Sheriff of Essex, Mrs Julie Fosh also attended.

The High Sheriff presented Alan Wreathall, the recently retired Chairman of RABI's Essex committee with a High Sheriff's certificate in appreciation of his work with RABI and the farming community in Essex.

A retiring collection raised £300 which was shared between FCN and RABI.

- The church of St Mary the Virgin, Hatfield Broad Oak, in West Essex, made a donation of £100 following their harvest festival in September.



LEFT: Bishop Roger, Alan Wreathall, High Sheriff Julie Fosh and Canon Janet Nicholls.

BELOW: Outside the church, Peter Hickling, George Bunting, Canon Janet Nicholls, Rob Stacey and Alan Wreathall.





ABOVE: Dan's dog playing ball in the sea and detectors on the beach.



LEFT: A delighted Dan with his wedding ring back on his finger.

Beach detectors strike platinum

A donation of £500 was received from Dan O'Connor in appreciation of the Newton Abbot District Metal Detecting Club.

Dan lost his platinum wedding ring on Dawlish Warren beach and contacted the club to see if they could arrange a search. They found the ring within 10 minutes of looking. He'd lost the ring whilst throwing a ball for his dog to fetch. Dan said: "I thought all hope was lost. I searched for metal detectors online, to buy one, and came across the club. Richard Holladay and John Mussell dropped everything to help me the next day after the ring had spent a night underwater. They found it buried 15cm deep. Heroes don't wear capes, they carry metal detectors!

"When they arrived they asked my wife when the divorce was! I was devastated that I had lost it but she was far more understanding than I would've imagined. I am incredibly lucky and very grateful."

Wacky cheese idea is a reality

- The first Virtual Cheese Awards took place in July. Nigel Pooley and Sarah de Wit decided to turn 'a wacky' idea into a reality to support specialist cheese makers affected by the lockdown. By holding the awards they hoped to raise awareness and increase sales, with profits donated to charities supporting dairies, cheesemakers and farmers. RABI was grateful to receive a donation of £2,200. The judging was open for all to view online, along with other items and features related to the 'cheese world'. Consumers were encouraged to get involved and learn more about the industry, getting a visual taster of many different cheeses that they could go out and buy. Feltham Farm's Renegade Monk Cheese was named Best British Cheese, ahead of joint runners-up Cornish Gouda and their Fenugreek Cornish Gouda and the Rutland Red from Long Clawson Dairy.

- AHDB's Bill Quan, Tom Price of Russell Farm Services and Frontier Regional Agronomy Manager Jon Allard all took part in a head shave for charity and in memory of Russell Price. Bill Quan said: "My sincere thanks go to all friends of Herefordshire farming who have generously donated around £6,000. I got together with Tom (Russell's son) and Jon and we decided the funds would go to RABI and the My Name5 Doddie Foundation, for MND, so it's much appreciated."

- The Highland Cattle Society hosted their first online show to raise funds for RABI and RSABI. Society member and judge Stuart Campbell said: "In some classes we had over 20 entries, far more than for a normal show. We were so pleased with the standard of cattle, many of whom we would not normally see."

- Congratulations to the winners of the Leicestershire Online Produce Show. Best in show went to Lucie King for her flower arrangement, with Emma Richardson runner-up for a fabulous scarecrow. The show was organised by members of RABI's Leicestershire committee, who sought photos of produce in various categories.

Muriel was the driving force in Clwyd

Muriel Morris, a driving force of the Clwyd committee, has sadly passed away. Muriel was elected as the first secretary of the Clwyd committee, which was set-up in the late 1990s and originally met at Llysfas Agricultural College. Muriel remained a committee member throughout, from that initial launch. She is pictured receiving a long service certificate from RABI Regional Manager Linda Jones and her former colleague Becky Davies.



Garden visits, one household at a time

Fundraisers in Essex enjoyed afternoon tea at Whitesbridge Farm, home of supporter Angela Smith, and raised £1,100. Putting safety first, as per guidelines, Angela welcomed guests one household at a time into her stunning garden to maintain social distancing. Around 60 supporters stopped by over two days to enjoy tea, coffee, and cake. People could also take part in a game of bowls to win a prize.

Pictured are Peter Hickling, Angela Smith and Tom Howie.



Choir takes lead on thanksgiving

A harvest thanksgiving was held at Quarr Abbey in Ryde on the Isle of Wight in September. It was overseen by Father Gregory, in a rope enclosed area, as per restrictions at the time. No singing was allowed except by the choir. Around 30 people attended and Chair of the Isle of Wight committee, Anne Kennerley, represented RABI at the event. Proceeds from a collection were donated to RABI.



The greatest online harvest festival

After the success of the Greatest Online Ag Show earlier this year, event organiser David Hill arranged a virtual harvest festival to bring the farming community together in the autumn.

Held on May 2, The Greatest Online Ag Show raised over £16,000 for RABI, RSABI, FCN, the DPJ Foundation and YANA. More than 5,000 people visited the show website, which featured video displays, trade stands, livestock shows and a virtual beer

tent. To follow up, David took the celebrations of harvest into people's homes while restrictions were still in place. The event took place on October 3, opening with a cook-along via Zoom. There was also a harvest debate chaired by Farming Today presenter Anna Hill and a communal harvest supper. Bishop of Ripon Helen-Ann Hartley led a multi-faith service and the festival ended with drinks in the virtual beer tent and music from Disco Jackers.



Oh brother! Hamper goes to a good home

The annual harvest festival service at St Mary the Virgin Church in Burpham, near Arundel, took place in September. The service was conducted by Reverend Celia Woodruff with the congregation limited to 30 people. No singing was permitted, but the choir performed beautifully and RABI Regional Manager Sally Field was asked to give a talk on farming and the work of RABI. Residents of the village,

Glen and Sandra Tomkins, had been proactive during previous weeks selling raffle tickets via the village newsletter and social media to raise money for RABI. The prize was a beautiful hamper they had put together. The winning ticket was drawn after the service and won coincidentally by farmer Nick Field, Sally's brother. The hamper raffle, along with donations, generated over £1,000.

The very best of Derbyshire

The Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy teamed up with the Derbyshire committee to hold an online harvest celebration showcasing 'the best that Derbyshire has to offer from beautiful views to readings, prayers, poems and hymns'.

Organisers usually gather for their harvest festival in the main store ring at Bakewell Livestock Market (supported by Bagshaw's LLP and the High Peak Livestock Society). However, because they could not sing, or bring 300 people together in a safe, socially distanced way this year, items for the service were pre-recorded from farms and fields right across the county.

Derbyshire poet Philip Holland gave a recital and Bel Canto and St Anne's Church Choir from Baslow sang hymns and harvest anthems.

There were also readings from various farmers and rural chaplains.

Reverend Jeremy Dare shared a harvest reflection all the way from the wild moors of the Shetland Islands, the UK's most northerly location. Jeremy was Chair of the Shetland District of the Methodist Church.

The service supported the work of RABI and was first shown on October 25. It's still available to view via You Tube.

Series of events held by Madron YFC



Madron Young Farmers have been fundraising for RABI. Pre-Covid restrictions, and when restrictions were lifted, they held a charity carol night, a quiz night, a tractor run, a cream tea event and a barbecue. Overall, they raised £1, 629.30.

Benevolent Fund

- A generous donation of £5,000 was gratefully received from the Devon Farmers Benevolent Fund.
- The sum of £166.15 was raised via the collecting tin at Mole Valley's Newton Abbot store.
- The collection at St George's Church Harvest Service raised £82. The Marlborough Church will add £118 from its emergency fund, and the Marlborough Anglican team has decided to send £100 to both Water Aid and RABI.
- Farm24, an online agricultural event organised by Farmers Guardian and Morrisons, returned in August for its sixth year. The campaign aims to highlight the effort and care farmers put into producing food. On August 7, people involved in the UK farming industry were urged to get involved by sharing posts, photos and videos of their work over a 24 hour period using the hashtag #Farm24.
- Selling cakes, teas and coffees at the Home Farm Horse Shows in Devon raised £665, in a socially distanced, safe, risk-assessed way.
- Dorrington YFC in Shropshire donated £500. The money was raised through various events held in 2019 including a bonfire night and carol singing.

Powys farmer plans major cattle sale in wife's memory

Emyr Wigley is planning a major sale of cattle from his British Blues herd to raise money for two causes close to his heart, RABl and Ovarian Cancer Action.

Emyr is looking to sell 12-14 animals in total over the coming eight months, preferably through private sales, which should generate well over £20,000 for the two charities. The sale is likely to include five breeding bulls and several cows with calves, as well as maiden heifers.

It was in 2016 that Emyr first established his Old Stackyard British Blues herd in memory of his late wife Evelyn. The couple had sold their farm and built a house for their retirement, but sadly Evelyn's untimely death from cancer changed everything.

Emyr said: "Our plans for travel, our caravan holidays and walking in the beautiful British countryside, loved by us both, were put on hold until our retirement. It was a devastating blow to learn in the first few years of our retirement that Evelyn had ovarian cancer. She was a very special lady, kind, caring and multi-talented and after a lifetime of work the majority of her retirement years were stolen from her. Whilst tragically too late

to help my dear Evelyn, I had to do something to help combat this evil disease, and be a tribute to my wife." Emyr launched his Blues herd from scratch, for the sole purpose of raising funds for his two favoured causes. Four years on, he has raised over £50,000 so far – and is now planning his biggest sale to date. Having already sold four bulls and 17 maiden heifers, Emyr explained: "The

herd has done incredibly well and grown to 28 with 11 more calves due next year."

Emyr started the herd with three cows and five maiden heifers from naturally calving blood lines. The original animals are still in the herd with the oldest cow – Stonebyers Erica – now expecting her ninth calf. All calves are reared on silage, good grass and hay, and calf rearing nuts.

"I'm looking for private sales, but I've also got the option of going to market in Carlisle in January and May, or Shrewsbury next March," he added. Now 75, Emyr says he 'lives on his memories' but that didn't stop him recently climbing to the top of Snowdon.

He calls himself 'the caretaker' as he has lovingly maintained the spectacular gardens developed by his wife; which is an extravaganza of hundreds of plants in three-quarters of an acre, including 70 roses, 35 hydrangeas, dozens of penstemons and hundreds of geraniums, petunias and fuchsias.

"I split most of my time between the garden and the herd" he said.

For more details of the animals for sale visit www.oldstackyardblues.com or telephone Emyr on 079719 49882.



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Got a fundraising idea? We'd love to hear it



We can do virtually anything!

RABI has continued to work hard to support the needs of the farming community throughout the pandemic. Our enthusiastic and inspirational committees are looking for innovative ways to raise both funds and awareness for RABI.

Combined with this we also want to bring some fun, laughter and much needed contact to those who are feeling isolated, vulnerable and anxious as a result of the Covid situation.

Therefore we are asking for ideas for events that we can host and take part in across England and Wales, both during the pandemic restrictions but also when we are able to get out and about and meet in person again.

If you are a member of a committee who has put on a successful virtual event, or an in-person event within restricted guidelines, please let us know so that others may benefit from your experience and know-how.

But also, if you have great ideas for events that you feel would work for us, please share them.

Get in touch with your local Regional Manager, listed right, and help us to stay at the heart of farming life. We'd love to hear from you.

Donations can be made via justgiving.com/rabi

We are extremely grateful for all donations, large or small, as we continue to do our absolute best to support farming people of all ages through these difficult and uncertain times



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Please note, Georgina is currently
on maternity leave

