



Janet Finch-Saunders MS|AS
Aelod Senedd Cymru dros Aberconwy
Member of the Welsh Parliament for Aberconwy



Lesley Griffiths MS,
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural
Affairs,
Welsh Government,
By Email
5 March 2021
Re: Support for Agricultural Shows

Office of Janet Finch-Saunders MS,
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The Welsh Parliament,
Cardiff Bay,
CF99 1NA.

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Dear Lesley,

I am writing with regards to support for agricultural shows in Wales. As you know well, the Coronavirus pandemic has had a detrimental impact on local events – seeing cancellations across the country and financial uncertainty. For example, for the first time in years I was unable to participate in and enjoy Llanrwst Rural Show and Eglwysbach Show.

Whilst I am pleased that £200,000 has been provided in financial support to the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, concerns have been raised with me that at least some smaller rural shows have not yet received a penny of support. When considering that some have ongoing expenses and may have encountered costs before having to cancel last year, I do believe that there would be merit in you considering the creation of a Rural Shows Development Fund – one which would not only assist these great agricultural and community events to bridge this challenging period, but bounce back better. Indeed, grants could be made available to help with marketing, Covid-19 safety measures, and even greater diversification.

In addition to the above, I think it would be of benefit to the sector if you could work with stakeholders to develop a set of operational guidance for agricultural shows, so that when such outdoor public events can be hosted again the volunteers and committee members who selflessly dedicate so much time to organise these celebrations of Welsh produce, culture, and agriculture, have the backing to come back with confidence.

[Cont...]



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Finally, in time I believe that there is huge scope for you to work with Visit Wales to make sure that people living here and abroad are fully aware of our shows. Through careful planning and liaising with organisers across Wales, annually, Visit Wales could publish an 'Agricultural Show Trail for Wales' – encouraging people to attend these events where so much can be learnt about farming, food, and crafts.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS