1

00:00:00,640 --> 00:00:05,200

[Music]

2

00:00:09,200 --> 00:00:13,280

Hello and welcome to another episode of

3

00:00:11,360 --> 00:00:15,200

Ear to the Ground podcast with me,

4

00:00:13,280 --> 00:00:20,160

Jim Ellis.

5

00:00:15,200 --> 00:00:22,160

Today's episode starts in Rhiwgriafol, Tal-y-wern, Machynlleth.

6

00:00:20,160 --> 00:00:24,560

It was a beautiful day up in Rhiwgriafol

7

00:00:22,160 --> 00:00:25,439

as the 2020 Business and Innovation Agri

8

00:00:24,560 --> 00:00:27,519

Academy meet

9

00:00:25,439 --> 00:00:28,560

for the first time. It's of course been a

10

00:00:27,519 --> 00:00:30,960

challenging year

11

00:00:28,560 --> 00:00:31,679

but it was as if the group were old

12

00:00:30,960 --> 00:00:33,200

friends.

13

00:00:31,679 --> 00:00:36,800

A testament to Llŷr Derwydd’s

14

00:00:33,200 --> 00:00:38,640

leadership of the Zoom meetings.

15

00:00:36,800 --> 00:00:40,399

Let's start with Wyn Owen, a business

16

00:00:38,640 --> 00:00:42,239

coach who's leading the morning

17

00:00:40,399 --> 00:00:44,559

and who will tell us a bit more about what's

18

00:00:42,239 --> 00:00:47,440

going on. Following Wyn

19

00:00:44,559 --> 00:00:49,280

is John Morgan and Amanda sharing their

20

00:00:47,440 --> 00:00:49,920

experiences of the academy with one

21

00:00:49,280 --> 00:00:53,440

another

22

00:00:49,920 --> 00:00:55,440

and the rest of the group.

23

00:00:53,440 --> 00:00:57,360

We're here today with the Business

24

00:00:55,440 --> 00:00:59,760

and Innovation Agri Academy which is

25

00:00:57,360 --> 00:01:01,600

run by Llŷr Derwydd, and the guys have

26

00:00:59,760 --> 00:01:04,239

finally managed to get together,

27

00:01:01,600 --> 00:01:05,680

in a shed, albeit not in a room.

28

00:01:04,239 --> 00:01:08,479

We're looking at

29

00:01:05,680 --> 00:01:10,159

business objectives and how

30

00:01:08,479 --> 00:01:12,240

they can reach their goals,

31

00:01:10,159 --> 00:01:14,320

the resistance to change, locus

32

00:01:12,240 --> 00:01:15,680

of control, the reasons why

33

00:01:14,320 --> 00:01:17,280

they wouldn't be able to reach their

34

00:01:15,680 --> 00:01:18,320

goals, who can help them and how can they

35

00:01:17,280 --> 00:01:20,000

achieve that

36

00:01:18,320 --> 00:01:21,360

and we send them off on a walk and

37

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:23,119

talk. They're using coaching

38

00:01:21,360 --> 00:01:24,799

principles to talk to each other

39

00:01:23,119 --> 00:01:27,040

around how they can they reach their

40

00:01:24,799 --> 00:01:29,600

goals and who can help them.

41

00:01:27,040 --> 00:01:30,479

It's definitely meeting new people,

42

00:01:29,600 --> 00:01:34,320

people with

43

00:01:30,479 --> 00:01:37,119

the ambition and the drive.

44

00:01:34,320 --> 00:01:38,640

Everybody

45

00:01:37,119 --> 00:01:41,439

has different ideas,

46

00:01:38,640 --> 00:01:42,479

advice and everything, and just take

47

00:01:41,439 --> 00:01:44,240

it and

48

00:01:42,479 --> 00:01:45,520

transfer it to what you've got at home.

49

00:01:44,240 --> 00:01:46,960

You don’t have to

50

00:01:45,520 --> 00:01:48,560

really listen to

51

00:01:46,960 --> 00:01:52,399

all the advice, just pick and choose what

52

00:01:48,560 --> 00:01:52,399

you think is going to be applicable at home.

53

00:01:52,880 --> 00:01:56,479

In terms of getting into a group of

54

00:01:55,040 --> 00:01:58,159

friends who were all actually

55

00:01:56,479 --> 00:02:00,240

sharing the same experience the first

56

00:01:58,159 --> 00:02:00,799

time around, everybody was obviously

57

00:02:00,240 --> 00:02:03,280

doing this

58

00:02:00,799 --> 00:02:04,079

through Zoom. That was quite important,

59

00:02:03,280 --> 00:02:05,520

and

60

00:02:04,079 --> 00:02:07,200

even though we didn't meet, we haven't

61

00:02:05,520 --> 00:02:08,479

all met until now, I think that actually

62

00:02:07,200 --> 00:02:10,399

created quite a bond,

63

00:02:08,479 --> 00:02:12,080

and can I just say how well the farm videos

64

00:02:10,399 --> 00:02:13,599

worked as well in terms of actually

65

00:02:12,080 --> 00:02:13,920

getting to see everybody's farm, even

66

00:02:13,599 --> 00:02:15,360

though

67

00:02:13,920 --> 00:02:17,680

at the time nobody could leave their

68

00:02:15,360 --> 00:02:17,680

farms.

69

00:02:18,160 --> 00:02:22,720

I think for me, it has been really

70

00:02:20,879 --> 00:02:24,640

great and

71

00:02:22,720 --> 00:02:26,319

I'm a farm girl. I was brought up on a farm

72

00:02:24,640 --> 00:02:29,360

but had a different career,

73

00:02:26,319 --> 00:02:31,040

and now I’m farming with my husband. It’s

74

00:02:29,360 --> 00:02:32,720

really helped me meet people that I

75

00:02:31,040 --> 00:02:34,080

wouldn't have met. I meet people who

76

00:02:32,720 --> 00:02:36,640

farm sheep

77

00:02:34,080 --> 00:02:38,720

because we farm Hereford sheep, but I've also

78

00:02:36,640 --> 00:02:41,040

met people

79

00:02:38,720 --> 00:02:41,920

that I wouldn't have got

80

00:02:41,040 --> 00:02:44,319

to meet, and

81

00:02:41,920 --> 00:02:46,000

that networking, and I felt since I was

82

00:02:44,319 --> 00:02:47,680

coming into farming later,

83

00:02:46,000 --> 00:02:50,500

I would have struggled If I didn't have that and it

84

00:02:47,680 --> 00:02:59,760

has been really lovely getting to know you all.

85

00:02:50,500 --> 00:03:01,440

[Music]

86

00:02:59,760 --> 00:03:03,599

One of the biggest challenges in

87

00:03:01,440 --> 00:03:04,879

agriculture is getting new entrants into

88

00:03:03,599 --> 00:03:06,400

the sector.

89

00:03:04,879 --> 00:03:07,920

Not many who have achieved this as

90

00:03:06,400 --> 00:03:10,720

prevalent as Rhidian Glyn

91

00:03:07,920 --> 00:03:12,640

who farms Rhiwgriafol. As it happens,

92

00:03:10,720 --> 00:03:13,360

our first ever episode was here with

93

00:03:12,640 --> 00:03:15,680

Rhidian,

94

00:03:13,360 --> 00:03:17,680

discussing rotational grazing. Don't

95

00:03:15,680 --> 00:03:21,120

forget to go back and listen to that one.

96

00:03:17,680 --> 00:03:21,120

A very popular podcast.

97

00:03:21,519 --> 00:03:25,040

Following a walk around the farm, we

98

00:03:23,040 --> 00:03:26,879

headed down towards Cemaes,

99

00:03:25,040 --> 00:03:28,319

where Heledd and Phil have started a new

100

00:03:26,879 --> 00:03:31,599

chapter in their journey

101

00:03:28,319 --> 00:03:33,519

taking over Tan y Ffordd farm. We'll hear

102

00:03:31,599 --> 00:03:36,000

more from Heledd after we catch up with

103

00:03:33,519 --> 00:03:38,239

Rhidian who will be sharing how he got started with the

104

00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:38,239

group.

105

00:03:40,480 --> 00:03:43,920

I started

106

00:03:42,400 --> 00:03:47,040

by

107

00:03:43,920 --> 00:03:47,920

taking on about 7 acres of land

108

00:03:47,040 --> 00:03:51,519

109

00:03:47,920 --> 00:03:54,560

by my home.

110

00:03:51,519 --> 00:03:58,799

I had about 15 Welsh sheep

111

00:03:54,560 --> 00:03:58,799

and that's how I started.

112

00:03:59,360 --> 00:04:06,879

Then, little bits of land came up

113

00:04:03,120 --> 00:04:10,799

here there and we took them on.

114

00:04:06,879 --> 00:04:15,760

I'm trying to think what year,

115

00:04:10,799 --> 00:04:18,799

but probably, in 2010,

116

00:04:15,760 --> 00:04:20,799

a larger block of land, 100 acres,

117

00:04:18,799 --> 00:04:23,919

came up next door to my uncle,

118

00:04:20,799 --> 00:04:24,960

but the landlord was claiming

119

00:04:23,919 --> 00:04:28,080

120

00:04:24,960 --> 00:04:31,520

the Single Farm Payment and Organic

121

00:04:28,080 --> 00:04:36,000

Payment as well, so it was just

122

00:04:31,520 --> 00:04:40,080

grazing let. So I took that on

123

00:04:36,000 --> 00:04:43,919

and I've built up my stock numbers and

124

00:04:40,080 --> 00:04:47,759

equipment, such as quad, trailer and things, and

125

00:04:43,919 --> 00:04:50,800

yes, I think it was in 2013, I

126

00:04:47,759 --> 00:04:52,560

took part in the Agri Academy and

127

00:04:50,800 --> 00:04:55,199

it was on its second year, the

128

00:04:52,560 --> 00:04:59,199

same year as Llŷr,

129

00:04:55,199 --> 00:04:59,199

and that

130

00:04:59,360 --> 00:05:03,280

gave me the confidence when this

131

00:05:02,560 --> 00:05:06,560

came up

132

00:05:03,280 --> 00:05:06,960

to try for it. Rhiwgriafol

133

00:05:06,560 --> 00:05:10,639

is

134

00:05:06,960 --> 00:05:14,479

530 acres, but the majority of it is hill.

135

00:05:10,639 --> 00:05:17,520

There’s 290 acres of hill, and it’s

136

00:05:14,479 --> 00:05:21,039

just a sheep farm.

137

00:05:17,520 --> 00:05:22,800

Elen and myself were lucky. There wasn't

138

00:05:21,039 --> 00:05:24,240

that many people trying for it

139

00:05:22,800 --> 00:05:26,320

which was strange at the time, but there we are.

140

00:05:24,240 --> 00:05:31,000

It’s even stranger now.

141

00:05:26,320 --> 00:05:34,720

We took over in October

142

00:05:31,000 --> 00:05:38,240

2014, and at the time, it was just

143

00:05:34,720 --> 00:05:39,919

800 sheep and replacements,

144

00:05:38,240 --> 00:05:42,240

but things have changed a bit since

145

00:05:39,919 --> 00:05:47,360

then.

146

00:05:42,240 --> 00:05:49,520

On the Agri Academy as well,

147

00:05:47,360 --> 00:05:50,479

somebody else that was on it was

148

00:05:49,520 --> 00:05:54,080

Elgan

149

00:05:50,479 --> 00:05:55,440

Davies, and he was share farming at Cefn

150

00:05:54,080 --> 00:05:58,720

Amlwch at the time,

151

00:05:55,440 --> 00:06:01,280

starting off with

152

00:05:58,720 --> 00:06:03,280

share farming, and he was looking for

153

00:06:01,280 --> 00:06:06,479

somewhere to keep some heifers.

154

00:06:03,280 --> 00:06:09,759

During that first winter, there was

155

00:06:06,479 --> 00:06:14,160

nothing in the buildings, so I took on 30

156

00:06:09,759 --> 00:06:16,800

heifers from him for contract rearing,

157

00:06:14,160 --> 00:06:18,840

and that's how we started with the dairy

158

00:06:16,800 --> 00:06:22,080

heifer job.

159

00:06:18,840 --> 00:06:22,720

Our numbers have just gone up since

160

00:06:22,080 --> 00:06:26,000

then,

161

00:06:22,720 --> 00:06:28,240

and we've also changed to buy my

162

00:06:26,000 --> 00:06:32,000

own as well.

163

00:06:28,240 --> 00:06:35,840

Currently, we rent here

164

00:06:32,000 --> 00:06:38,240

and 180 acres down the road as well.

165

00:06:35,840 --> 00:06:40,240

It's just short of 700 acres, I

166

00:06:38,240 --> 00:06:43,759

think.

167

00:06:40,240 --> 00:06:47,919

I've got 210

168

00:06:43,759 --> 00:06:49,599

of my own bulling heifers, 105

169

00:06:47,919 --> 00:06:51,840

bulling heifers on contact rearing

170

00:06:49,599 --> 00:06:55,520

as well,

171

00:06:51,840 --> 00:06:58,960

and then 150

172

00:06:55,520 --> 00:07:00,639

calves for next year's crop,

173

00:06:58,960 --> 00:07:02,960

and then the sheep numbers are quite

174

00:07:00,639 --> 00:07:06,479

similar. The sheep will all go down

175

00:07:02,960 --> 00:07:08,319

to the other block, and then it's

176

00:07:06,479 --> 00:07:09,759

all cattle at home here, except for the

177

00:07:08,319 --> 00:07:12,319

hill.

178

00:07:09,759 --> 00:07:13,120

It’s only the single Welsh ewes and the

179

00:07:12,319 --> 00:07:16,319

replacement

180

00:07:13,120 --> 00:07:19,120

lambs that go up there. We

181

00:07:16,319 --> 00:07:30,080

might as well walk a bit and ask

182

00:07:19,120 --> 00:07:32,000

questions.

183

00:07:30,080 --> 00:07:34,840

We're first generation

184

00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:38,080

farmers. We actually came here in

185

00:07:34,840 --> 00:07:40,639

2019. We were just starting off

186

00:07:38,080 --> 00:07:41,199

really, and now we've just built up to a

187

00:07:40,639 --> 00:07:45,199

flock

188

00:07:41,199 --> 00:07:46,800

of 550 roughly pure Texels, crossbreeds

189

00:07:45,199 --> 00:07:48,879

and Welsh ewes,

190

00:07:46,800 --> 00:07:50,560

and then we've got a small herd of

191

00:07:48,879 --> 00:07:53,599

Highland cattle here that we do

192

00:07:50,560 --> 00:07:57,280

box meat with as well, some pigs, and

193

00:07:53,599 --> 00:07:59,440

again, we box meat with the pigs as well,

194

00:07:57,280 --> 00:08:01,360

and a beehive. We've got one beehive

195

00:07:59,440 --> 00:08:03,680

currently and we are hoping to expand to

196

00:08:01,360 --> 00:08:05,039

two or three in the next few weeks.

197

00:08:03,680 --> 00:08:07,680

198

00:08:05,039 --> 00:08:08,560

We're just here in mid Wales, Machynlleth.

199

00:08:07,680 --> 00:08:10,639

200

00:08:08,560 --> 00:08:12,000

We're just on the outskirts of a small

201

00:08:10,639 --> 00:08:13,759

village,

202

00:08:12,000 --> 00:08:15,280

which is quite nice because

203

00:08:13,759 --> 00:08:16,240

we've got nice people around us. We're

204

00:08:15,280 --> 00:08:19,599

quite lucky.

205

00:08:16,240 --> 00:08:21,840

We're just looking for new

206

00:08:19,599 --> 00:08:23,360

ideas and hoping to expand really.

207

00:08:21,840 --> 00:08:26,080

So how did it all begin? Where did you

208

00:08:23,360 --> 00:08:29,440

start? Well Phil

209

00:08:26,080 --> 00:08:32,719

started with two ewes back in 2007.

210

00:08:29,440 --> 00:08:33,519

It seems so long ago now, but then we had

211

00:08:32,719 --> 00:08:35,760

a small

212

00:08:33,519 --> 00:08:36,880

flock. I think it was a flock of 100 commercial

213

00:08:35,760 --> 00:08:39,200

ewes.

214

00:08:36,880 --> 00:08:41,560

We’d been farming them

215

00:08:39,200 --> 00:08:44,800

obviously for a few years, and in

216

00:08:41,560 --> 00:08:46,959

2017,

217

00:08:44,800 --> 00:08:49,680

we were lucky to have a

218

00:08:46,959 --> 00:08:51,200

tenancy on 176 acres.

219

00:08:49,680 --> 00:08:52,959

We've still got that even

220

00:08:51,200 --> 00:08:53,360

though we're here in Tan y Ffordd, and we

221

00:08:52,959 --> 00:08:55,920

still

222

00:08:53,360 --> 00:08:57,279

rent that piece of ground as well.

223

00:08:55,920 --> 00:08:59,920

We officially went into

224

00:08:57,279 --> 00:09:03,120

business together in 2017

225

00:08:59,920 --> 00:09:04,320

where we ran basically a flock of 350

226

00:09:03,120 --> 00:09:06,480

Welsh ewes.

227

00:09:04,320 --> 00:09:08,560

It started there, and then

228

00:09:06,480 --> 00:09:10,560

obviously, Tan y Ffordd, which is literally

229

00:09:08,560 --> 00:09:11,680

a mile from the ground that we

230

00:09:10,560 --> 00:09:13,680

originally had,

231

00:09:11,680 --> 00:09:14,800

came up for rent

232

00:09:13,680 --> 00:09:17,040

with the council,

233

00:09:14,800 --> 00:09:19,120

and we just thought “Go for it”. It

234

00:09:17,040 --> 00:09:21,519

was a very rigorous process.

235

00:09:19,120 --> 00:09:23,279

We had to do a business plan and

236

00:09:21,519 --> 00:09:23,760

everything, and we were very lucky to have

237

00:09:23,279 --> 00:09:25,600

help

238

00:09:23,760 --> 00:09:26,959

with the business plan by the funding available

239

00:09:25,600 --> 00:09:28,560

through Farming Connect,

240

00:09:26,959 --> 00:09:30,240

otherwise, and without that,

241

00:09:28,560 --> 00:09:31,839

I wouldn’t have known where to start really.

242

00:09:30,240 --> 00:09:34,080

So we went down that road. We did that

243

00:09:31,839 --> 00:09:35,839

business plan and sent it to the council

244

00:09:34,080 --> 00:09:37,519

and they actually came out to visit us

245

00:09:35,839 --> 00:09:39,839

in our house

246

00:09:37,519 --> 00:09:40,880

just to meet us, to see some

247

00:09:39,839 --> 00:09:42,399

paperwork,

248

00:09:40,880 --> 00:09:44,320

and then we actually had to have

249

00:09:42,399 --> 00:09:46,000

an interview. We went through the

250

00:09:44,320 --> 00:09:48,160

interview process

251

00:09:46,000 --> 00:09:49,600

in front of, well I think there was

252

00:09:48,160 --> 00:09:52,560

three councillors

253

00:09:49,600 --> 00:09:53,920

from different areas of Powys. We

254

00:09:52,560 --> 00:09:56,720

had the

255

00:09:53,920 --> 00:09:58,160

manager or the head of County Council

256

00:09:56,720 --> 00:10:00,080

Farms as well. He was there,

257

00:09:58,160 --> 00:10:01,360

and then our local councillor as well

258

00:10:00,080 --> 00:10:03,360

was on the panel.

259

00:10:01,360 --> 00:10:05,360

I think

260

00:10:03,360 --> 00:10:08,560

they took it down in the interview to three

261

00:10:05,360 --> 00:10:11,760

couples or families.

262

00:10:08,560 --> 00:10:12,399

And yes, we came out on top somehow

263

00:10:11,760 --> 00:10:14,560

which was

264

00:10:12,399 --> 00:10:16,079

very amazing for us because we

265

00:10:14,560 --> 00:10:17,279

really didn’t

266

00:10:16,079 --> 00:10:19,360

want to move away.

267

00:10:17,279 --> 00:10:21,279

We were very lucky to be able

268

00:10:19,360 --> 00:10:22,000

to stay local and have a tenancy

269

00:10:21,279 --> 00:10:23,440

here.

270

00:10:22,000 --> 00:10:25,360

Were you looking for a long time for a

271

00:10:23,440 --> 00:10:27,839

place? We’d been

272

00:10:25,360 --> 00:10:28,720

looking at a

273

00:10:27,839 --> 00:10:31,360

council farm

274

00:10:28,720 --> 00:10:32,720

many years ago but I

275

00:10:31,360 --> 00:10:34,320

think we were both quite happy doing

276

00:10:32,720 --> 00:10:35,200

what we were doing. Both working

277

00:10:34,320 --> 00:10:37,279

full-time

278

00:10:35,200 --> 00:10:38,640

and I suppose just gaining experience

279

00:10:37,279 --> 00:10:41,040

and everything like that.

280

00:10:38,640 --> 00:10:42,560

I think we thought that right now

281

00:10:41,040 --> 00:10:43,920

is the time. If we don't do it

282

00:10:42,560 --> 00:10:46,800

now, we never will.

283

00:10:43,920 --> 00:10:48,320

We just thought “Let's just

284

00:10:46,800 --> 00:10:49,440

go for it”. We’d had been looking

285

00:10:48,320 --> 00:10:50,880

around

286

00:10:49,440 --> 00:10:53,600

and we were quite fortunate to know the

287

00:10:50,880 --> 00:10:56,079

person that was here before us.

288

00:10:53,600 --> 00:10:56,720

Being able to just go for it

289

00:10:56,079 --> 00:10:58,160

really and

290

00:10:56,720 --> 00:10:59,920

having somewhere local. Not having to

291

00:10:58,160 --> 00:11:00,240

move away from family and friends

292

00:10:59,920 --> 00:11:02,480

because

293

00:11:00,240 --> 00:11:04,320

starting out, we relied a lot on family

294

00:11:02,480 --> 00:11:06,240

and friends for help,

295

00:11:04,320 --> 00:11:08,000

and because we don't have the machinery,

296

00:11:06,240 --> 00:11:09,440

we don't have the facilities.

297

00:11:08,000 --> 00:11:11,120

Being able to ring a friend

298

00:11:09,440 --> 00:11:12,959

and ask for a bit of help with the

299

00:11:11,120 --> 00:11:14,399

tractor or something made a massive

300

00:11:12,959 --> 00:11:15,760

difference for us.

301

00:11:14,399 --> 00:11:17,680

What were some of the biggest

302

00:11:15,760 --> 00:11:19,600

challenges of starting out?

303

00:11:17,680 --> 00:11:21,519

That would be one. Yes, that would be

304

00:11:19,600 --> 00:11:23,680

one. Not having anything like that to

305

00:11:21,519 --> 00:11:25,680

do any kind of farm work and

306

00:11:23,680 --> 00:11:27,680

we did actually buy a quad. The

307

00:11:25,680 --> 00:11:29,519

quad was actually the only thing we

308

00:11:27,680 --> 00:11:32,399

had. A quad and a snacker.

309

00:11:29,519 --> 00:11:34,240

310

00:11:32,399 --> 00:11:35,680

We've had massive costs basically

311

00:11:34,240 --> 00:11:38,079

starting out, so I think that has been

312

00:11:35,680 --> 00:11:39,839

the massive thing, having to

313

00:11:38,079 --> 00:11:42,959

buy machinery and anything, but

314

00:11:39,839 --> 00:11:43,440

we obviously farmed for two years,

315

00:11:42,959 --> 00:11:44,800

well

316

00:11:43,440 --> 00:11:46,160

three years actually, because during our

317

00:11:44,800 --> 00:11:47,279

first year here, we didn't

318

00:11:46,160 --> 00:11:49,120

actually have a tractor.

319

00:11:47,279 --> 00:11:51,279

We actually borrowed or we had to

320

00:11:49,120 --> 00:11:55,120

pay people to come in and do the work.

321

00:11:51,279 --> 00:11:57,120

We've actually managed to

322

00:11:55,120 --> 00:11:58,399

have a tractor this year which has made a

323

00:11:57,120 --> 00:11:59,680

massive difference over the winter

324

00:11:58,399 --> 00:12:00,399

because we actually had to borrow a

325

00:11:59,680 --> 00:12:01,920

tractor

326

00:12:00,399 --> 00:12:04,480

the year before just for the winter

327

00:12:01,920 --> 00:12:05,680

season, and before then we were just

328

00:12:04,480 --> 00:12:06,880

asking for help.

329

00:12:05,680 --> 00:12:09,680

I think that's the biggest

330

00:12:06,880 --> 00:12:12,800

challenge, which is having the finances to

331

00:12:09,680 --> 00:12:14,480

do it, but the other

332

00:12:12,800 --> 00:12:15,839

massive challenge that we had was

333

00:12:14,480 --> 00:12:18,000

obviously

334

00:12:15,839 --> 00:12:19,440

getting to know where we’re farming, getting

335

00:12:18,000 --> 00:12:21,040

to know the land and stuff because we

336

00:12:19,440 --> 00:12:24,000

had massive issues on the first

337

00:12:21,040 --> 00:12:25,440

farm that we had. We had tickborne

338

00:12:24,000 --> 00:12:27,200

fever which we didn't know about.

339

00:12:25,440 --> 00:12:28,959

That was a major issue

340

00:12:27,200 --> 00:12:30,720

that we just never knew about, and

341

00:12:28,959 --> 00:12:32,160

obviously, that caused us a lot of issues,

342

00:12:30,720 --> 00:12:34,240

especially in the first year

343

00:12:32,160 --> 00:12:35,519

of farming. We took a massive knock

344

00:12:34,240 --> 00:12:37,519

that year,

345

00:12:35,519 --> 00:12:38,959

but we've learnt from it.

346

00:12:37,519 --> 00:12:39,200

It's just learning and getting on with

347

00:12:38,959 --> 00:12:41,440

it

348

00:12:39,200 --> 00:12:43,519

and learning from what goes wrong.

349

00:12:41,440 --> 00:12:44,959

I'm hoping that we're

350

00:12:43,519 --> 00:12:46,880

going in the right direction

351

00:12:44,959 --> 00:12:48,560

anyway. Hopefully.

352

00:12:46,880 --> 00:12:50,399

You've done a bit of mix farming in

353

00:12:48,560 --> 00:12:51,600

the sense that you have the meat boxes

354

00:12:50,399 --> 00:12:53,279

and adding value and

355

00:12:51,600 --> 00:12:54,959

selling direct to consumer. How has

356

00:12:53,279 --> 00:12:55,920

that journey been? Is that something that

357

00:12:54,959 --> 00:12:57,279

just came

358

00:12:55,920 --> 00:12:59,440

about or something that you

359

00:12:57,279 --> 00:13:00,480

planned? I think it came about really. I

360

00:12:59,440 --> 00:13:02,480

think it started with

361

00:13:00,480 --> 00:13:03,600

the Highlands. We've had the

362

00:13:02,480 --> 00:13:05,440

Highlands for years but

363

00:13:03,600 --> 00:13:07,040

it was like you said, adding value to the

364

00:13:05,440 --> 00:13:08,639

product that you've got, and I knew there

365

00:13:07,040 --> 00:13:10,399

was a market out there for

366

00:13:08,639 --> 00:13:10,959

Highland beef, and knowing that there was

367

00:13:10,399 --> 00:13:13,120

368

00:13:10,959 --> 00:13:15,040

nobody else doing the boxes in the area

369

00:13:13,120 --> 00:13:16,399

as well, I think we'd have been silly

370

00:13:15,040 --> 00:13:18,959

not to try anyway.

371

00:13:16,399 --> 00:13:21,519

Then obviously, with the pigs,

372

00:13:18,959 --> 00:13:24,480

we kind of decided on keeping

373

00:13:21,519 --> 00:13:25,360

two piglets to start with as pets just

374

00:13:24,480 --> 00:13:27,839

because we had

375

00:13:25,360 --> 00:13:30,399

pigsties in the garden, but

376

00:13:27,839 --> 00:13:32,240

that has developed into a little bit of a

377

00:13:30,399 --> 00:13:34,160

small business as well. We're doing

378

00:13:32,240 --> 00:13:36,240

boxed

379

00:13:34,160 --> 00:13:37,440

pork or sausages, gammon and all that as

380

00:13:36,240 --> 00:13:38,959

well with them, and again,

381

00:13:37,440 --> 00:13:40,399

it’s adding value to product and people know

382

00:13:38,959 --> 00:13:42,079

where their

383

00:13:40,399 --> 00:13:44,000

meat is coming from, how we

384

00:13:42,079 --> 00:13:45,519

farm our animals and the

385

00:13:44,000 --> 00:13:47,199

land.

386

00:13:45,519 --> 00:13:48,720

I'm all about adding

387

00:13:47,199 --> 00:13:51,360

value to product and trying to make the

388

00:13:48,720 --> 00:13:54,000

most of what we've got. Definitely.

389

00:13:51,360 --> 00:13:55,839

And the future? How does

390

00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:58,560

the future look like to you?

391

00:13:55,839 --> 00:13:59,120

Bright, hopefully. I think we can only go

392

00:13:58,560 --> 00:14:01,680

forward, well

393

00:13:59,120 --> 00:14:02,639

I'm hoping anyway. Onwards and

394

00:14:01,680 --> 00:14:05,279

upwards, hopefully

395

00:14:02,639 --> 00:14:07,120

in my eyes. What are the type of things

396

00:14:05,279 --> 00:14:09,600

you're looking at?

397

00:14:07,120 --> 00:14:10,800

I'm open to all kind of ideas but

398

00:14:09,600 --> 00:14:12,399

increasing

399

00:14:10,800 --> 00:14:14,160

more than anything. I'd like to

400

00:14:12,399 --> 00:14:14,720

think that one day, one of us will be

401

00:14:14,160 --> 00:14:17,199

able to

402

00:14:14,720 --> 00:14:18,880

stay at home and farm rather than

403

00:14:17,199 --> 00:14:20,720

both of us having to work full-time

404

00:14:18,880 --> 00:14:22,240

I'm hoping

405

00:14:20,720 --> 00:14:23,360

that's just the initial

406

00:14:22,240 --> 00:14:25,440

starting up

407

00:14:23,360 --> 00:14:27,600

an actual business for

408

00:14:25,440 --> 00:14:29,440

farming. It's been so hard.

409

00:14:27,600 --> 00:14:31,120

We still need the income for both of

410

00:14:29,440 --> 00:14:31,920

us at the moment,

411

00:14:31,120 --> 00:14:33,839

412

00:14:31,920 --> 00:14:35,519

but the dream

413

00:14:33,839 --> 00:14:37,680

really is not

414

00:14:35,519 --> 00:14:38,639

to have both of us bringing

415

00:14:37,680 --> 00:14:40,720

other income

416

00:14:38,639 --> 00:14:43,040

into the family just to keep us going and

417

00:14:40,720 --> 00:14:44,800

just to keep us ticking over.

418

00:14:43,040 --> 00:14:46,160

We are here today with Farming

419

00:14:44,800 --> 00:14:48,880

Connect Agri Academy.

420

00:14:46,160 --> 00:14:49,440

Obviously, you were on the Academy.

421

00:14:48,880 --> 00:14:51,199

422

00:14:49,440 --> 00:14:53,680

What experiences have you got from

423

00:14:51,199 --> 00:14:55,680

that and how has that helped you?

424

00:14:53,680 --> 00:14:57,199

It's just made me think a lot more. Being

425

00:14:55,680 --> 00:14:59,360

able to see

426

00:14:57,199 --> 00:15:00,959

other farms and what they do as well. It

427

00:14:59,360 --> 00:15:02,800

just gives you a lot of ideas and

428

00:15:00,959 --> 00:15:03,519

inspiration to be able to do these

429

00:15:02,800 --> 00:15:06,160

things.

430

00:15:03,519 --> 00:15:07,600

It's just

431

00:15:06,160 --> 00:15:08,880

given me a lot of ideas and I've got

432

00:15:07,600 --> 00:15:10,560

a lot of ideas in my mind, but

433

00:15:08,880 --> 00:15:12,480

I think it's just being able to go

434

00:15:10,560 --> 00:15:14,639

forward with some of that really.

435

00:15:12,480 --> 00:15:16,399

Being on the Agri Academy is

436

00:15:14,639 --> 00:15:18,160

just a once in a lifetime experience. You

437

00:15:16,399 --> 00:15:20,560

get to meet new friends,

438

00:15:18,160 --> 00:15:22,560

new people and get to see all

439

00:15:20,560 --> 00:15:24,240

these different kind of businesses,

440

00:15:22,560 --> 00:15:26,000

and it gives you an incentive to

441

00:15:24,240 --> 00:15:27,440

think “No, hold on. I could do something

442

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:29,440

like this”. Maybe it's not the same

443

00:15:27,440 --> 00:15:32,240

thing,

444

00:15:29,440 --> 00:15:32,880

but I found on my

445

00:15:32,240 --> 00:15:36,560

journey that

446

00:15:32,880 --> 00:15:39,600

I could apply a lot of their experiences

447

00:15:36,560 --> 00:15:40,240

to how we've seen things and experience

448

00:15:39,600 --> 00:15:42,320

things.

449

00:15:40,240 --> 00:15:43,519

Knowing that somebody else maybe

450

00:15:42,320 --> 00:15:44,240

has been through what you've been

451

00:15:43,519 --> 00:15:45,839

through,

452

00:15:44,240 --> 00:15:47,759

you kind of think “OK. I'm not the

453

00:15:45,839 --> 00:15:49,759

only one”.

454

00:15:47,759 --> 00:15:51,120

But yes, I think it's just positive all

455

00:15:49,759 --> 00:15:53,519

around really and

456

00:15:51,120 --> 00:15:56,160

it has definitely given me inspiration to

457

00:15:53,519 --> 00:15:57,759

think outside the box

458

00:15:56,160 --> 00:15:59,140

and try and do more of what we've

459

00:15:57,759 --> 00:16:02,429

got really.

460

00:15:59,140 --> 00:16:02,429

[Music]

461

00:16:05,920 --> 00:16:09,920

Isn't it great to hear

462

00:16:06,880 --> 00:16:11,920

first-generation farmers doing so well?

463

00:16:09,920 --> 00:16:13,759

Heledd and Rhidian are previous Agri

464

00:16:11,920 --> 00:16:15,360

Academy members,

465

00:16:13,759 --> 00:16:17,120

and here's Einir Davies from Farming

466

00:16:15,360 --> 00:16:19,279

Connect who joined us on the day to tell

467

00:16:17,120 --> 00:16:23,040

us a bit more about how you can apply

468

00:16:19,279 --> 00:16:25,360

for the next Academy. It's great to be

469

00:16:23,040 --> 00:16:28,639

here in Rhiwgriafol today

470

00:16:25,360 --> 00:16:31,279

for the Agri Academy 2020 class

471

00:16:28,639 --> 00:16:31,680

to get to meet finally for the first

472

00:16:31,279 --> 00:16:33,839

time

473

00:16:31,680 --> 00:16:36,160

due to COVID. It's great to see that

474

00:16:33,839 --> 00:16:38,880

they have gelled really well as a group

475

00:16:36,160 --> 00:16:40,560

despite only meeting

476

00:16:38,880 --> 00:16:43,600

digitally until now,

477

00:16:40,560 --> 00:16:44,240

so that's great. The Agri Academy

478

00:16:43,600 --> 00:16:47,759

window

479

00:16:44,240 --> 00:16:48,639

is open now. There are two elements

480

00:16:47,759 --> 00:16:50,720

to the programme -

481

00:16:48,639 --> 00:16:52,639

Business and Innovation programme and

482

00:16:50,720 --> 00:16:56,800

the Junior programme

483

00:16:52,639 --> 00:16:59,680

for young people between 16 and 19 years of age.

484

00:16:56,800 --> 00:17:00,399

The programme offers residential weekend

485

00:16:59,680 --> 00:17:02,880

sessions

486

00:17:00,399 --> 00:17:04,480

and a study visit. This year, both

487

00:17:02,880 --> 00:17:07,280

groups will be going to

488

00:17:04,480 --> 00:17:08,559

Scotland due to the pandemic

489

00:17:07,280 --> 00:17:10,319

restrictions,

490

00:17:08,559 --> 00:17:11,679

but I'm sure it'll be a brilliant

491

00:17:10,319 --> 00:17:13,600

programme.

492

00:17:11,679 --> 00:17:15,760

So get your applications in. Application

493

00:17:13,600 --> 00:17:21,439

window opens on Monday,

494

00:17:15,760 --> 00:17:21,439

7 June and closes on the 30 June.

495

00:17:22,400 --> 00:17:26,480

Thank you, Einir. And that's our episode, so

496

00:17:25,039 --> 00:17:33,750

from me and Aled,

497

00:17:26,480 --> 00:17:37,380

thank you for listening.

498

00:17:33,750 --> 00:17:37,380

[Music]

499

00:17:40,799 --> 00:17:42,880