1

00:00:00,620 --> 00:00:03,980

[Music]

2

00:00:01,950 --> 00:00:10,980

[Applause]

3

00:00:03,980 --> 00:00:10,980

[Music]

4

00:00:12,320 --> 00:00:17,199

Hello, and welcome. This is Ear to the

5

00:00:14,799 --> 00:00:20,080

Ground, a podcast brought to you by

6

00:00:17,199 --> 00:00:22,720

Farming Connect, supporting Welsh farmers

7

00:00:20,080 --> 00:00:24,800

to adapt and thrive.

8

00:00:22,720 --> 00:00:27,519

Have you ever considered spending some

9

00:00:24,800 --> 00:00:29,359

time away from the farm?

10

00:00:27,519 --> 00:00:31,679

Could you leave your farm for, say, three

11

00:00:29,359 --> 00:00:34,480

months, leaving your family and those

12

00:00:31,679 --> 00:00:37,120

around you to hold the reins?

13

00:00:34,480 --> 00:00:39,920

Would you be as bold as to travel to one

14

00:00:37,120 --> 00:00:42,160

of the harshest environments on earth,

15

00:00:39,920 --> 00:00:43,120

with limited contact with the outside

16

00:00:42,160 --> 00:00:45,520

world?

17

00:00:43,120 --> 00:00:47,920

Well, that's exactly what Deian Evans, a

18

00:00:45,520 --> 00:00:50,160

dairy farmer from west Wales did,

19

00:00:47,920 --> 00:00:53,120

spending three months working at the

20

00:00:50,160 --> 00:00:55,360

Halley Research Station on Antarctica.

21

00:00:53,120 --> 00:00:57,520

He's only just returned, and in this

22

00:00:55,360 --> 00:01:00,320

episode, we’ll hear more about his

23

00:00:57,520 --> 00:01:03,039

experiences and how his partner, Jamie,

24

00:01:00,320 --> 00:01:06,320

managed in his absence.

25

00:01:03,039 --> 00:01:08,479

Jamie and Deian, welcome to the Ear to the

26

00:01:06,320 --> 00:01:11,920

Ground podcast. It’s great to have you

27

00:01:08,479 --> 00:01:14,720

both joining us on episode 59. We’re

28

00:01:11,920 --> 00:01:16,159

recording this in the middle of March.

29

00:01:14,720 --> 00:01:18,320

What's keeping you busy on the

30

00:01:16,159 --> 00:01:20,000

farm these days, Deian, if I can come to

31

00:01:18,320 --> 00:01:21,759

you first? What's the main thing

32

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:22,799

occupying you on the farm at Gorwel

33

00:01:21,759 --> 00:01:24,640

today?

34

00:01:22,799 --> 00:01:26,799

35

00:01:24,640 --> 00:01:27,600

The weather's not too bad at the minute,

36

00:01:26,799 --> 00:01:30,720

so

37

00:01:27,600 --> 00:01:32,400

the milking cows are out.

38

00:01:30,720 --> 00:01:34,000

We haven't got too many calves on milk

39

00:01:32,400 --> 00:01:36,079

or anything like that at the moment.

40

00:01:34,000 --> 00:01:37,840

We're autumn calving, so

41

00:01:36,079 --> 00:01:40,320

we're just looking forward to turning

42

00:01:37,840 --> 00:01:42,640

everything out now to be honest, and

43

00:01:40,320 --> 00:01:44,799

starting to get on with some field work,

44

00:01:42,640 --> 00:01:47,119

taking slurry out and

45

00:01:44,799 --> 00:01:49,040

a bit of expensive fertiliser to put out

46

00:01:47,119 --> 00:01:51,200

and stuff like that, to be honest.

47

00:01:49,040 --> 00:01:53,040

Fertiliser prices are something

48

00:01:51,200 --> 00:01:55,600

that's been talked about a lot

49

00:01:53,040 --> 00:01:58,640

recently, but Jamie, it's good to see

50

00:01:55,600 --> 00:02:01,759

signs of spring? It is, yes. The daffodils

51

00:01:58,640 --> 00:02:03,360

are out. We're on the cusp of starting

52

00:02:01,759 --> 00:02:06,079

lambing, which is one of my favourite

53

00:02:03,360 --> 00:02:07,759

times of year, so yes, it's a nice time

54

00:02:06,079 --> 00:02:09,360

of year, now.

55

00:02:07,759 --> 00:02:11,599

Tell us a bit more about the farm

56

00:02:09,360 --> 00:02:14,400

itself. I mentioned it's Gorwel

57

00:02:11,599 --> 00:02:16,560

farm, located just outside Bryngwyn in

58

00:02:14,400 --> 00:02:18,720

Ceredigion, and you've already

59

00:02:16,560 --> 00:02:20,720

mentioned about the dairying and the

60

00:02:18,720 --> 00:02:23,760

sheep, so it's a very

61

00:02:20,720 --> 00:02:26,640

traditional mixed farm, Jamie? Yes, it is.

62

00:02:23,760 --> 00:02:28,640

We milk 200 cows on an autumn

63

00:02:26,640 --> 00:02:31,840

block-calving system.

64

00:02:28,640 --> 00:02:33,360

We've got a flock of about 250

65

00:02:31,840 --> 00:02:36,000

commercial ewes,

66

00:02:33,360 --> 00:02:38,720

and a couple of diversifications, as well.

67

00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:41,840

We actually pasteurise our own

68

00:02:38,720 --> 00:02:44,239

milk and sell direct to customers through

69

00:02:41,840 --> 00:02:46,239

some vending machines under the

70

00:02:44,239 --> 00:02:47,760

brand of Llaeth Gorwel.

71

00:02:46,239 --> 00:02:49,519

Where are those vending machines

72

00:02:47,760 --> 00:02:51,920

located? Are they actually on the farm, or

73

00:02:49,519 --> 00:02:54,959

have you gone to other locations?

74

00:02:51,920 --> 00:02:57,920

We've gone elsewhere, actually. As

75

00:02:54,959 --> 00:03:00,800

lovely as our farm is, we don't really

76

00:02:57,920 --> 00:03:03,280

have the space for visitors stopping

77

00:03:00,800 --> 00:03:06,000

sort of unannounced every day, so we've

78

00:03:03,280 --> 00:03:08,480

got one in Newcastle Emlyn, which is in

79

00:03:06,000 --> 00:03:11,200

the Premier shop, and one in the post

80

00:03:08,480 --> 00:03:13,120

office in Cilgerran, so we deliver milk

81

00:03:11,200 --> 00:03:14,319

out to those and customers go direct to

82

00:03:13,120 --> 00:03:16,640

them.

83

00:03:14,319 --> 00:03:18,480

Deian, is it nice

84

00:03:16,640 --> 00:03:20,239

meeting some of your customers, or

85

00:03:18,480 --> 00:03:21,680

getting feedback from those who buy your

86

00:03:20,239 --> 00:03:23,519

milk and say “we've really enjoyed

87

00:03:21,680 --> 00:03:25,200

Llaeth Gorwel”? - is that something that

88

00:03:23,519 --> 00:03:27,440

gives you that little extra boost when

89

00:03:25,200 --> 00:03:31,360

you're out there milking the cows?

90

00:03:27,440 --> 00:03:32,560

Yes, it definitely does.

91

00:03:31,360 --> 00:03:34,879

92

00:03:32,560 --> 00:03:36,879

My side of the job is milking the cows,

93

00:03:34,879 --> 00:03:38,480

really, and I leave the

94

00:03:36,879 --> 00:03:40,480

bottling of the milk and the selling of

95

00:03:38,480 --> 00:03:42,480

everything to Jamie - she's the

96

00:03:40,480 --> 00:03:44,720

main force behind that, to be honest.

97

00:03:42,480 --> 00:03:46,959

The majority of the milk goes on a

98

00:03:44,720 --> 00:03:49,040

processing contract. How much do you then

99

00:03:46,959 --> 00:03:52,480

sell through the vending machines?

100

00:03:49,040 --> 00:03:54,799

We sell most of our milk to

101

00:03:52,480 --> 00:03:57,120

Glanbia.

102

00:03:54,799 --> 00:03:59,360

With the vending machines, it depends a little

103

00:03:57,120 --> 00:04:00,400

bit, but

104

00:03:59,360 --> 00:04:03,599

I'd say

105

00:04:00,400 --> 00:04:06,159

roughly about 100 litres a day, possibly,

106

00:04:03,599 --> 00:04:07,840

thereabouts. It depends on

107

00:04:06,159 --> 00:04:09,360

on the time of the year, and when

108

00:04:07,840 --> 00:04:11,200

there are tourists about, I think we do

109

00:04:09,360 --> 00:04:12,799

sell a little bit more,

110

00:04:11,200 --> 00:04:14,560

but

111

00:04:12,799 --> 00:04:16,959

it's around there somewhere.

112

00:04:14,560 --> 00:04:19,840

We've seen increases in milk

113

00:04:16,959 --> 00:04:21,600

prices over the past few months, and

114

00:04:19,840 --> 00:04:23,919

clearly, as you alluded to earlier,

115

00:04:21,600 --> 00:04:25,680

there’s increase in production costs as

116

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

well, and it's going be interesting to

117

00:04:25,680 --> 00:04:29,919

see with everything that's happening

118

00:04:28,080 --> 00:04:31,919

geopolitically over the next few weeks and

119

00:04:29,919 --> 00:04:33,520

months with regards to the supply of

120

00:04:31,919 --> 00:04:35,280

milk, because there is some talk about some

121

00:04:33,520 --> 00:04:36,960

shortage of milk, and that'll have an

122

00:04:35,280 --> 00:04:39,280

impact both on the processing price, but

123

00:04:36,960 --> 00:04:41,440

also Jamie, possibly, on the

124

00:04:39,280 --> 00:04:42,800

demand for your vending machine

125

00:04:41,440 --> 00:04:45,440

milk?

126

00:04:42,800 --> 00:04:47,919

I suppose the vending machine

127

00:04:45,440 --> 00:04:50,320

supply is very local. We rely

128

00:04:47,919 --> 00:04:53,280

specifically on local customers for that,

129

00:04:50,320 --> 00:04:55,600

but obviously, any price increase in milk

130

00:04:53,280 --> 00:04:57,680

is hugely welcome.

131

00:04:55,600 --> 00:05:00,080

We're looking at the margins and

132

00:04:57,680 --> 00:05:02,160

getting increasingly worried, as I’m sure

133

00:05:00,080 --> 00:05:04,400

all dairy farmers are.

134

00:05:02,160 --> 00:05:06,560

Obviously, when we sell direct to the

135

00:05:04,400 --> 00:05:09,199

customers, yes, we do get a bit more for

136

00:05:06,560 --> 00:05:11,360

that milk, but it would be naive to

137

00:05:09,199 --> 00:05:12,479

suggest that there's not quite a lot

138

00:05:11,360 --> 00:05:14,160

more cost

139

00:05:12,479 --> 00:05:15,600

in getting it out there to the

140

00:05:14,160 --> 00:05:17,280

vending machine, pasteurised and

141

00:05:15,600 --> 00:05:20,160

transported -

142

00:05:17,280 --> 00:05:21,840

it's not without its cost.

143

00:05:20,160 --> 00:05:24,080

Where do you see that growing? You've

144

00:05:21,840 --> 00:05:25,680

got a local footprint at the moment, but do

145

00:05:24,080 --> 00:05:27,360

you want to expand

146

00:05:25,680 --> 00:05:30,320

the locations you have for vending

147

00:05:27,360 --> 00:05:31,759

machines? Are there more added value

148

00:05:30,320 --> 00:05:33,199

opportunities,

149

00:05:31,759 --> 00:05:35,360

you think, over the next few

150

00:05:33,199 --> 00:05:37,280

weeks, months or years?

151

00:05:35,360 --> 00:05:39,120

We're quite new to the vending machines

152

00:05:37,280 --> 00:05:41,039

ourselves, to be honest, and we do want to

153

00:05:39,120 --> 00:05:43,600

make sure that we can walk before we try

154

00:05:41,039 --> 00:05:45,520

to run with them, but yes, I think

155

00:05:43,600 --> 00:05:47,840

there is quite a lot more opportunity

156

00:05:45,520 --> 00:05:49,680

out there for selling direct.

157

00:05:47,840 --> 00:05:50,960

Specifically with milk vending machines,

158

00:05:49,680 --> 00:05:53,600

it's been a really popular

159

00:05:50,960 --> 00:05:54,639

diversification over the last year or two,

160

00:05:53,600 --> 00:05:56,479

161

00:05:54,639 --> 00:05:59,840

and I do think we are reaching our

162

00:05:56,479 --> 00:06:02,319

capacity in the local area in terms of

163

00:05:59,840 --> 00:06:05,440

how many vending machines local

164

00:06:02,319 --> 00:06:07,680

customers can support, so it will be my job

165

00:06:05,440 --> 00:06:09,840

now to hopefully convince them to buy

166

00:06:07,680 --> 00:06:11,440

Llaeth Gorwel.

167

00:06:09,840 --> 00:06:13,919

Deian, has there been anything that's

168

00:06:11,440 --> 00:06:16,000

surprised you about the vending

169

00:06:13,919 --> 00:06:17,840

machine business? Most of them

170

00:06:16,000 --> 00:06:19,919

are open 24/7.

171

00:06:17,840 --> 00:06:21,360

Are you taken aback sometimes by the

172

00:06:19,919 --> 00:06:22,720

time of day people go there? Are they

173

00:06:21,360 --> 00:06:23,840

buying milk in the early hours of the

174

00:06:22,720 --> 00:06:26,160

morning, or

175

00:06:23,840 --> 00:06:28,960

is there anything that's caught you

176

00:06:26,160 --> 00:06:31,120

by surprise, almost, by being

177

00:06:28,960 --> 00:06:32,400

involved in that business?

178

00:06:31,120 --> 00:06:34,720

179

00:06:32,400 --> 00:06:37,600

No, not really. I don't think.

180

00:06:34,720 --> 00:06:39,520

As you said, people buy it

181

00:06:37,600 --> 00:06:41,039

24 hours a day; there's no depends when

182

00:06:39,520 --> 00:06:44,160

they're there,

183

00:06:41,039 --> 00:06:46,240

but I think that's the kind of

184

00:06:44,160 --> 00:06:47,600

freedom people like.

185

00:06:46,240 --> 00:06:49,440

They'll just

186

00:06:47,600 --> 00:06:51,520

go and do what they want to do whenever

187

00:06:49,440 --> 00:06:53,919

they want to do it, and

188

00:06:51,520 --> 00:06:55,759

that's great, really.

189

00:06:53,919 --> 00:06:57,120

Talking about freedoms and doing

190

00:06:55,759 --> 00:06:58,560

what you want to do, one of the main

191

00:06:57,120 --> 00:06:59,680

things we want to talk about in this

192

00:06:58,560 --> 00:07:02,800

episode

193

00:06:59,680 --> 00:07:05,039

is your experiences, Deian, in spending

194

00:07:02,800 --> 00:07:06,400

three months away from the farm,

195

00:07:05,039 --> 00:07:10,160

volunteering and working in the

196

00:07:06,400 --> 00:07:10,960

Antarctic at the Halley Research Station.

197

00:07:10,160 --> 00:07:13,680

198

00:07:10,960 --> 00:07:15,120

Where did the whole idea come from? Is

199

00:07:13,680 --> 00:07:16,639

this something you've wanted to do for a

200

00:07:15,120 --> 00:07:19,520

very long time?

201

00:07:16,639 --> 00:07:21,039

What made you apply for that position

202

00:07:19,520 --> 00:07:22,000

and do it?

203

00:07:21,039 --> 00:07:23,680

204

00:07:22,000 --> 00:07:25,599

It was something I wanted to do for a

205

00:07:23,680 --> 00:07:26,479

long time.

206

00:07:25,599 --> 00:07:29,120

207

00:07:26,479 --> 00:07:31,120

It all happened to me,

208

00:07:29,120 --> 00:07:33,280

it was on a Sunday afternoon, I think it was, when I

209

00:07:31,120 --> 00:07:34,800

was in the house having a

210

00:07:33,280 --> 00:07:36,880

couple of hours off,

211

00:07:34,800 --> 00:07:39,919

and I think it was BBC Two, there was a

212

00:07:36,880 --> 00:07:41,759

documentary called Moving Halley, or

213

00:07:39,919 --> 00:07:43,599

something like that, and

214

00:07:41,759 --> 00:07:46,800

I thought “what is this all about,

215

00:07:43,599 --> 00:07:47,759

then?”, and I just watched it and it was

216

00:07:46,800 --> 00:07:49,039

217

00:07:47,759 --> 00:07:50,720

moving the research station in

218

00:07:49,039 --> 00:07:52,560

Antarctica, and there was a lot of

219

00:07:50,720 --> 00:07:53,599

machines involved, a lot of people,

220

00:07:52,560 --> 00:07:55,520

and it

221

00:07:53,599 --> 00:07:57,520

looked like something I would want to

222

00:07:55,520 --> 00:07:58,960

do, and I thought, “that'd be

223

00:07:57,520 --> 00:08:02,400

quite good. I wouldn't mind

224

00:07:58,960 --> 00:08:04,479

doing that type of thing”.

225

00:08:02,400 --> 00:08:05,840

Then it happened to be

226

00:08:04,479 --> 00:08:07,520

a couple of months after, there was

227

00:08:05,840 --> 00:08:08,960

an advert in the Farmers

228

00:08:07,520 --> 00:08:10,960

Guardian.

229

00:08:08,960 --> 00:08:13,360

They were looking for people to work, and

230

00:08:10,960 --> 00:08:14,960

at the time,

231

00:08:13,360 --> 00:08:16,800

the timing wasn't right for us - we had just

232

00:08:14,960 --> 00:08:18,960

moved back to Gorwel, we had spent a lot of

233

00:08:16,800 --> 00:08:20,319

money, and we were changing things

234

00:08:18,960 --> 00:08:21,520

around here. There were a lot of projects

235

00:08:20,319 --> 00:08:24,639

going on,

236

00:08:21,520 --> 00:08:27,520

and it just didn't happen.

237

00:08:24,639 --> 00:08:30,240

Then probably 10 years went by,

238

00:08:27,520 --> 00:08:32,880

and then I saw the advert again

239

00:08:30,240 --> 00:08:36,959

in January last year, or the year before, I think

240

00:08:32,880 --> 00:08:39,360

it was, and I decided to apply,

241

00:08:36,959 --> 00:08:42,320

and that was that. So the seed was

242

00:08:39,360 --> 00:08:44,880

planted many years ago, and clearly,

243

00:08:42,320 --> 00:08:47,279

you were very open to the idea

244

00:08:44,880 --> 00:08:48,880

and wanted to do it, and wanted to make

245

00:08:47,279 --> 00:08:50,480

sure the timing was right. But tell us a

246

00:08:48,880 --> 00:08:53,440

bit more. What exactly does the Halley

247

00:08:50,480 --> 00:08:57,200

Research Station do? What's its purpose?

248

00:08:53,440 --> 00:09:00,480

Halley Research Station is run by

249

00:08:57,200 --> 00:09:02,800

British Antarctic Survey.

250

00:09:00,480 --> 00:09:06,000

They do

251

00:09:02,800 --> 00:09:06,000

all sorts of things. They

252

00:09:06,080 --> 00:09:11,279

found the hole in the ozone layer

253

00:09:08,080 --> 00:09:12,399

from Halley. They do space weather, and they

254

00:09:11,279 --> 00:09:14,080

do

255

00:09:12,399 --> 00:09:15,920

256

00:09:14,080 --> 00:09:18,560

all sorts of measurements on different

257

00:09:15,920 --> 00:09:21,839

things like

258

00:09:18,560 --> 00:09:24,800

on the ice shelf itself and

259

00:09:21,839 --> 00:09:26,880

all sorts of stuff,

260

00:09:24,800 --> 00:09:29,120

things that I cannot really

261

00:09:26,880 --> 00:09:31,760

explain to you because it wasn’t

262

00:09:29,120 --> 00:09:34,640

really my department.

263

00:09:31,760 --> 00:09:36,800

I think

264

00:09:34,640 --> 00:09:40,000

the overarching research that's going on

265

00:09:36,800 --> 00:09:41,519

at Halley is atmospheric and climate-

266

00:09:40,000 --> 00:09:44,480

related

267

00:09:41,519 --> 00:09:45,200

scientific research, and the station

268

00:09:44,480 --> 00:09:47,519

is

269

00:09:45,200 --> 00:09:48,399

unmanned for part of the year,

270

00:09:47,519 --> 00:09:50,560

so

271

00:09:48,399 --> 00:09:52,720

annually they go out to make sure that

272

00:09:50,560 --> 00:09:53,920

all of the machines and the data

273

00:09:52,720 --> 00:09:56,160

loggers

274

00:09:53,920 --> 00:09:58,880

can run smoothly

275

00:09:56,160 --> 00:10:00,240

unmanned during winter. Deian went as

276

00:09:58,880 --> 00:10:03,839

part of the team

277

00:10:00,240 --> 00:10:06,240

to help with that effort.

278

00:10:03,839 --> 00:10:08,240

To apply, what steps do you need to

279

00:10:06,240 --> 00:10:10,399

take, Deian? Is there an application

280

00:10:08,240 --> 00:10:12,959

process? Is it quite rigorous?

281

00:10:10,399 --> 00:10:14,880

Do they get

282

00:10:12,959 --> 00:10:16,480

loads of interest, and then only a very

283

00:10:14,880 --> 00:10:17,519

few number actually get to go to the

284

00:10:16,480 --> 00:10:21,519

station?

285

00:10:17,519 --> 00:10:24,160

Yes. They tend to

286

00:10:21,519 --> 00:10:26,560

advertise every year

287

00:10:24,160 --> 00:10:28,720

for the pool team jobs, so that was

288

00:10:26,560 --> 00:10:30,399

my job - I was part of the pool.

289

00:10:28,720 --> 00:10:33,279

They look for

290

00:10:30,399 --> 00:10:36,000

machine operators, plumbers, mechanics,

291

00:10:33,279 --> 00:10:38,959

electricians, carpenters,

292

00:10:36,000 --> 00:10:42,240

all sorts of tradespeople.

293

00:10:38,959 --> 00:10:44,480

You have to apply.

294

00:10:42,240 --> 00:10:48,399

It is fairly rigorous.

295

00:10:44,480 --> 00:10:51,360

You'll get an interview, and I'd imagine a

296

00:10:48,399 --> 00:10:55,120

lot of people apply, but

297

00:10:51,360 --> 00:10:57,519

you’ll get an interview. Mine

298

00:10:55,120 --> 00:10:59,440

happened to be on Zoom

299

00:10:57,519 --> 00:11:00,959

because of COVID.

300

00:10:59,440 --> 00:11:02,640

It was the first time for that, as well.

301

00:11:00,959 --> 00:11:05,040

302

00:11:02,640 --> 00:11:07,040

If you're successful,

303

00:11:05,040 --> 00:11:09,600

you'll have to go for a medical, and

304

00:11:07,040 --> 00:11:11,600

yes, it's quite rigorous.

305

00:11:09,600 --> 00:11:14,160

A lot of people probably

306

00:11:11,600 --> 00:11:15,440

don't make it all the way.

307

00:11:14,160 --> 00:11:17,279

I think

308

00:11:15,440 --> 00:11:19,760

it's quite interesting that they

309

00:11:17,279 --> 00:11:22,399

advertise specifically in the farming

310

00:11:19,760 --> 00:11:23,920

press; there must be something about

311

00:11:22,399 --> 00:11:26,160

farmers’

312

00:11:23,920 --> 00:11:29,680

characteristics or skillsets that make

313

00:11:26,160 --> 00:11:31,760

them quite adaptable and able to cope in

314

00:11:29,680 --> 00:11:34,720

an environment where

315

00:11:31,760 --> 00:11:37,440

it's quite isolated, but equally

316

00:11:34,720 --> 00:11:38,959

you're in a small team of people, so it

317

00:11:37,440 --> 00:11:41,200

was quite clear that they were looking

318

00:11:38,959 --> 00:11:42,640

for people who were

319

00:11:41,200 --> 00:11:44,160

very able to

320

00:11:42,640 --> 00:11:46,959

get on

321

00:11:44,160 --> 00:11:48,399

with each other, and could turn

322

00:11:46,959 --> 00:11:50,079

their hands to anything, and I think

323

00:11:48,399 --> 00:11:52,160

quite often that's the very definition

324

00:11:50,079 --> 00:11:53,920

of a farmer, isn't it? It’s very

325

00:11:52,160 --> 00:11:55,279

telling that they were advertising in

326

00:11:53,920 --> 00:11:57,040

the farming press; that's a really good

327

00:11:55,279 --> 00:11:59,120

point to make.

328

00:11:57,040 --> 00:12:00,880

Jamie, when Deian was going

329

00:11:59,120 --> 00:12:02,959

through that application process and was

330

00:12:00,880 --> 00:12:05,200

talking about applying, what was your

331

00:12:02,959 --> 00:12:06,320

response to that?

332

00:12:05,200 --> 00:12:07,760

333

00:12:06,320 --> 00:12:11,120

I’ve

334

00:12:07,760 --> 00:12:14,320

pursued things myself that Deian sort of

335

00:12:11,120 --> 00:12:16,880

stayed at home in order to support me to do,

336

00:12:14,320 --> 00:12:18,480

such as the Nuffield Farming Scholarship.

337

00:12:16,880 --> 00:12:22,720

338

00:12:18,480 --> 00:12:25,279

I was 100% supportive. I really

339

00:12:22,720 --> 00:12:26,560

want us both to be able to kind of chase

340

00:12:25,279 --> 00:12:28,800

dreams,

341

00:12:26,560 --> 00:12:30,240

broaden our horizons and go on

342

00:12:28,800 --> 00:12:32,079

adventures.

343

00:12:30,240 --> 00:12:33,920

Of course, I was nervous about what that

344

00:12:32,079 --> 00:12:36,000

would mean, in terms of running the farm, and

345

00:12:33,920 --> 00:12:38,480

being left here to keep the

346

00:12:36,000 --> 00:12:40,320

ship sailing, as it were.

347

00:12:38,480 --> 00:12:42,000

If you really want to do

348

00:12:40,320 --> 00:12:44,240

something, then you just have to find a

349

00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:46,480

way to make it happen. We were both

350

00:12:44,240 --> 00:12:48,399

involved in the application process, and

351

00:12:46,480 --> 00:12:51,200

I'd like to hope that I supported him

352

00:12:48,399 --> 00:12:53,440

from the outset.

353

00:12:51,200 --> 00:12:55,120

Deian, it was a three-month commitment.

354

00:12:53,440 --> 00:12:56,720

Remind us again what three

355

00:12:55,120 --> 00:12:57,600

months were they? What time of year was

356

00:12:56,720 --> 00:12:58,399

this?

357

00:12:57,600 --> 00:13:01,040

358

00:12:58,399 --> 00:13:03,839

359

00:13:01,040 --> 00:13:06,480

It was actually like a six-month contract.

360

00:13:03,839 --> 00:13:09,040

You'll be employed from September

361

00:13:06,480 --> 00:13:10,160

through until the end of February,

362

00:13:09,040 --> 00:13:12,480

363

00:13:10,160 --> 00:13:14,560

but they don't actually give you like a

364

00:13:12,480 --> 00:13:17,440

specific date exactly of when you're going to

365

00:13:14,560 --> 00:13:19,519

go south;

366

00:13:17,440 --> 00:13:21,360

it’s usually about the beginning to the

367

00:13:19,519 --> 00:13:23,040

middle of November sometime.

368

00:13:21,360 --> 00:13:24,720

Did that

369

00:13:23,040 --> 00:13:26,560

impact on any busy periods within the

370

00:13:24,720 --> 00:13:28,000

farming calendar for you?

371

00:13:26,560 --> 00:13:29,440

372

00:13:28,000 --> 00:13:32,399

When I applied for the job, we were

373

00:13:29,440 --> 00:13:35,440

gearing up for a full six months

374

00:13:32,399 --> 00:13:36,399

of me not being here, to be honest, and

375

00:13:35,440 --> 00:13:38,240

376

00:13:36,399 --> 00:13:40,079

for it to actually only be

377

00:13:38,240 --> 00:13:41,440

three months or just over three months,

378

00:13:40,079 --> 00:13:44,320

379

00:13:41,440 --> 00:13:46,320

that was much better in a way, because

380

00:13:44,320 --> 00:13:48,240

being autumn calving, I nearly

381

00:13:46,320 --> 00:13:50,320

did all the calving, etc., before I left.

382

00:13:48,240 --> 00:13:54,000

383

00:13:50,320 --> 00:13:56,079

It worked out pretty well.

384

00:13:54,000 --> 00:13:58,639

There was training

385

00:13:56,079 --> 00:14:01,279

throughout September, which meant that

386

00:13:58,639 --> 00:14:03,519

he was away during the week, but home on

387

00:14:01,279 --> 00:14:06,639

the weekends, and that was actually

388

00:14:03,519 --> 00:14:07,440

fantastic for me, because it gave me

389

00:14:06,639 --> 00:14:09,120

390

00:14:07,440 --> 00:14:11,920

some practice runs at being here by

391

00:14:09,120 --> 00:14:14,000

myself and managing things, but he

392

00:14:11,920 --> 00:14:16,240

was on the end of the phone and

393

00:14:14,000 --> 00:14:17,920

available to be contacted if I needed

394

00:14:16,240 --> 00:14:19,600

him, and I knew that he would be home at

395

00:14:17,920 --> 00:14:21,279

the weekend to sort out any problems

396

00:14:19,600 --> 00:14:23,519

that we might have had. It was a

397

00:14:21,279 --> 00:14:25,519

little bit like

398

00:14:23,519 --> 00:14:28,160

a learning journey for me so that by the

399

00:14:25,519 --> 00:14:29,519

time he actually was deployed on 1

400

00:14:28,160 --> 00:14:31,680

November,

401

00:14:29,519 --> 00:14:33,680

I'd had a practice run at a few

402

00:14:31,680 --> 00:14:35,920

things. That was very

403

00:14:33,680 --> 00:14:37,279

useful. What did the training involve, Deian?

404

00:14:35,920 --> 00:14:38,720

What type of things did you

405

00:14:37,279 --> 00:14:40,079

have to do before

406

00:14:38,720 --> 00:14:42,160

going south?

407

00:14:40,079 --> 00:14:45,440

408

00:14:42,160 --> 00:14:48,079

We all met in Cambridge.

409

00:14:45,440 --> 00:14:50,399

BAS (British Antarctic Survey) is based

410

00:14:48,079 --> 00:14:52,639

in Cambridge. We had just over a week

411

00:14:50,399 --> 00:14:54,320

there,

412

00:14:52,639 --> 00:14:56,000

basically, just getting to know everyone,

413

00:14:54,320 --> 00:14:57,600

and

414

00:14:56,000 --> 00:14:58,780

training wise, it was

415

00:14:57,600 --> 00:15:00,880

first aid,

416

00:14:58,780 --> 00:15:02,399

417

00:15:00,880 --> 00:15:04,399

and what to do and what not

418

00:15:02,399 --> 00:15:05,760

to do,

419

00:15:04,399 --> 00:15:08,160

and then there was another week of

420

00:15:05,760 --> 00:15:10,000

actual training on machines, passing

421

00:15:08,160 --> 00:15:11,440

tests and stuff like that, and that was

422

00:15:10,000 --> 00:15:13,199

in Coventry.

423

00:15:11,440 --> 00:15:14,959

424

00:15:13,199 --> 00:15:16,079

425

00:15:14,959 --> 00:15:18,880

426

00:15:16,079 --> 00:15:20,480

It was good preparation for what

427

00:15:18,880 --> 00:15:22,079

lay ahead.

428

00:15:20,480 --> 00:15:23,519

How did you actually get to the

429

00:15:22,079 --> 00:15:26,000

Antarctic? How did you get there

430

00:15:23,519 --> 00:15:28,160

physically? What

431

00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:30,720

are the transport arrangements?

432

00:15:28,160 --> 00:15:32,720

It was

433

00:15:30,720 --> 00:15:35,199

a couple of flights; it was a flight to

434

00:15:32,720 --> 00:15:37,279

South Africa, to Cape Town,

435

00:15:35,199 --> 00:15:38,480

and then we had a another five-hour

436

00:15:37,279 --> 00:15:40,639

flight from

437

00:15:38,480 --> 00:15:42,000

Cape Town to the mainland

438

00:15:40,639 --> 00:15:44,480

Antarctica

439

00:15:42,000 --> 00:15:46,720

to, like the edge, and then we had

440

00:15:44,480 --> 00:15:49,519

another five hours on a smaller plane

441

00:15:46,720 --> 00:15:49,519

then to Halley.

442

00:15:49,920 --> 00:15:56,079

You’ve missed out the two weeks

443

00:15:52,839 --> 00:15:58,639

isolation in Africa because of COVID,

444

00:15:56,079 --> 00:16:01,440

locked in a hotel room. We were

445

00:15:58,639 --> 00:16:04,240

locked in a hotel room for two weeks;

446

00:16:01,440 --> 00:16:06,320

that was

447

00:16:04,240 --> 00:16:08,639

well-planned. We went through

448

00:16:06,320 --> 00:16:09,920

airports and stuff, and we hardly saw anyone -

449

00:16:08,639 --> 00:16:12,079

450

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

it was really well thought out.

451

00:16:12,079 --> 00:16:15,920

They

452

00:16:13,759 --> 00:16:17,360

took COVID very seriously,

453

00:16:15,920 --> 00:16:18,959

because if anybody had a

454

00:16:17,360 --> 00:16:20,959

serious case of COVID out there,

455

00:16:18,959 --> 00:16:22,959

the chances of getting them back

456

00:16:20,959 --> 00:16:24,240

were very slim.

457

00:16:22,959 --> 00:16:26,399

458

00:16:24,240 --> 00:16:28,399

Were you nervous, Deian, during that

459

00:16:26,399 --> 00:16:30,160

time traveling out there, because

460

00:16:28,399 --> 00:16:31,680

the reality was setting in, then?

461

00:16:30,160 --> 00:16:33,120

You can go to the training, you can do

462

00:16:31,680 --> 00:16:36,320

all the research and preparation

463

00:16:33,120 --> 00:16:39,040

beforehand, but nothing actually prepares

464

00:16:36,320 --> 00:16:41,759

you more than actually being there.

465

00:16:39,040 --> 00:16:43,920

Surely there must have been some nerves?

466

00:16:41,759 --> 00:16:46,240

I was quite nervous.

467

00:16:43,920 --> 00:16:47,839

468

00:16:46,240 --> 00:16:49,600

When I applied, I didn't know anyone that was

469

00:16:47,839 --> 00:16:50,399

going; I didn't know anyone before I went

470

00:16:49,600 --> 00:16:52,560

to

471

00:16:50,399 --> 00:16:54,880

Cambridge. It happened to be that

472

00:16:52,560 --> 00:16:58,079

there was another Welshman going with

473

00:16:54,880 --> 00:17:00,720

me, as well - there was Elgan from

474

00:16:58,079 --> 00:17:03,360

Blaenau Ffestiniog in north Wales.

475

00:17:00,720 --> 00:17:05,439

It was quite nice to have somebody else

476

00:17:03,360 --> 00:17:07,039

with me that spoke Welsh. It was

477

00:17:05,439 --> 00:17:08,160

quite nice to have a few words in Welsh

478

00:17:07,039 --> 00:17:09,679

now and again.

479

00:17:08,160 --> 00:17:11,520

480

00:17:09,679 --> 00:17:13,439

Yes, I was nervous, but I was more

481

00:17:11,520 --> 00:17:15,039

nervous of COVID.

482

00:17:13,439 --> 00:17:16,880

We were tested for COVID all the

483

00:17:15,039 --> 00:17:19,120

time,

484

00:17:16,880 --> 00:17:20,880

but it would have been

485

00:17:19,120 --> 00:17:23,199

really disappointing to fail the test

486

00:17:20,880 --> 00:17:25,679

and then having to come home -

487

00:17:23,199 --> 00:17:27,199

that would have been quite tough.

488

00:17:25,679 --> 00:17:28,640

489

00:17:27,199 --> 00:17:31,280

Apart from that, I wasn't too worried

490

00:17:28,640 --> 00:17:33,840

about anything else, to be honest.

491

00:17:31,280 --> 00:17:36,960

Once you got there, what

492

00:17:33,840 --> 00:17:38,880

would an ordinary day on Halley look like?

493

00:17:36,960 --> 00:17:40,799

What were the routine you would

494

00:17:38,880 --> 00:17:42,960

go through? What sort of facilities

495

00:17:40,799 --> 00:17:44,320

were there? What is life like at

496

00:17:42,960 --> 00:17:45,120

Halley?

497

00:17:44,320 --> 00:17:46,799

498

00:17:45,120 --> 00:17:49,039

499

00:17:46,799 --> 00:17:50,720

500

00:17:49,039 --> 00:17:53,360

I suppose

501

00:17:50,720 --> 00:17:56,880

the best way to describe it would be,

502

00:17:53,360 --> 00:17:58,559

it is a big farm, in a way -

503

00:17:56,880 --> 00:17:59,840

you live on the farm and

504

00:17:58,559 --> 00:18:01,840

you work there.

505

00:17:59,840 --> 00:18:04,080

It's everything you do,

506

00:18:01,840 --> 00:18:07,039

really.

507

00:18:04,080 --> 00:18:10,080

A typical day would be, I'd

508

00:18:07,039 --> 00:18:12,559

get up about 6:30, have a cup of tea

509

00:18:10,080 --> 00:18:15,520

and something to eat, and we'd start work

510

00:18:12,559 --> 00:18:15,520

about 7.30.

511

00:18:15,840 --> 00:18:20,100

We could be doing anything from

512

00:18:18,640 --> 00:18:21,360

raising buildings,

513

00:18:20,100 --> 00:18:25,679

514

00:18:21,360 --> 00:18:29,200

refuelling gensets and

515

00:18:25,679 --> 00:18:31,840

pushing snow about, to taking cargo from

516

00:18:29,200 --> 00:18:33,600

a plane or anything like that, and

517

00:18:31,840 --> 00:18:34,960

then you'd have another tea break at

518

00:18:33,600 --> 00:18:36,400

10:30,

519

00:18:34,960 --> 00:18:37,280

and you'd have lunch at

520

00:18:36,400 --> 00:18:39,200

13:00, and then

521

00:18:37,280 --> 00:18:41,280

there'd be an evening meal at 18:30.

522

00:18:39,200 --> 00:18:44,240

Some of the work did involve

523

00:18:41,280 --> 00:18:46,000

leaving the station building itself

524

00:18:44,240 --> 00:18:47,760

and working actually on the Antarctic, on

525

00:18:46,000 --> 00:18:49,120

the ice and on the snow.

526

00:18:47,760 --> 00:18:51,440

What is the temperature like, and

527

00:18:49,120 --> 00:18:54,640

what sort of kit and clothing

528

00:18:51,440 --> 00:18:58,400

did you have to wear?

529

00:18:54,640 --> 00:19:01,840

I was outside every day. I wasn't in

530

00:18:58,400 --> 00:19:04,640

at all - my role was outside.

531

00:19:01,840 --> 00:19:06,799

There is like a flag line - you don't

532

00:19:04,640 --> 00:19:09,360

leave

533

00:19:06,799 --> 00:19:11,760

the perimeter

534

00:19:09,360 --> 00:19:12,799

of the base itself.

535

00:19:11,760 --> 00:19:14,320

536

00:19:12,799 --> 00:19:16,240

That's because it's too

537

00:19:14,320 --> 00:19:18,080

dangerous; there are lots of cracks and

538

00:19:16,240 --> 00:19:21,280

stuff about, and you could fall down and

539

00:19:18,080 --> 00:19:22,240

nobody will never see you again.

540

00:19:21,280 --> 00:19:24,400

541

00:19:22,240 --> 00:19:27,280

They took safety very

542

00:19:24,400 --> 00:19:31,120

seriously.

543

00:19:27,280 --> 00:19:32,799

Temperature-wise,

544

00:19:31,120 --> 00:19:34,799

545

00:19:32,799 --> 00:19:36,880

if it was a nice sunny day with no wind,

546

00:19:34,799 --> 00:19:39,200

it was quite pleasant,

547

00:19:36,880 --> 00:19:41,200

but if the clouds came over and

548

00:19:39,200 --> 00:19:44,160

the wind picked up, it soon got really

549

00:19:41,200 --> 00:19:46,240

cold.

550

00:19:44,160 --> 00:19:48,559

Jamie, how easy was it to communicate

551

00:19:46,240 --> 00:19:49,679

with Deian whilst he was away?

552

00:19:48,559 --> 00:19:51,520

553

00:19:49,679 --> 00:19:53,360

Presumably there was some sort of

554

00:19:51,520 --> 00:19:56,400

wi-fi on the station, or

555

00:19:53,360 --> 00:19:58,240

ways and means of getting in touch?

556

00:19:56,400 --> 00:20:00,320

557

00:19:58,240 --> 00:20:03,280

WhatsApp was our only form of

558

00:20:00,320 --> 00:20:05,520

communication whilst he was away. It

559

00:20:03,280 --> 00:20:07,679

would have been possible to

560

00:20:05,520 --> 00:20:10,480

make an arrangement to have a telephone

561

00:20:07,679 --> 00:20:13,679

call, if we needed to.

562

00:20:10,480 --> 00:20:15,600

The contact was sporadic, but the

563

00:20:13,679 --> 00:20:17,760

thing about WhatsApp is you can see if

564

00:20:15,600 --> 00:20:19,760

somebody's seen a message. I found

565

00:20:17,760 --> 00:20:21,280

that quite useful, and there'd be times

566

00:20:19,760 --> 00:20:22,960

when I might send a message, and he may

567

00:20:21,280 --> 00:20:25,120

not have seen it for a week, but at least

568

00:20:22,960 --> 00:20:28,640

I knew I wasn't waiting for a

569

00:20:25,120 --> 00:20:30,559

response. We also had an agreement

570

00:20:28,640 --> 00:20:33,600

that if there was something that I

571

00:20:30,559 --> 00:20:36,400

really, really needed a response to

572

00:20:33,600 --> 00:20:38,000

that I would send an email

573

00:20:36,400 --> 00:20:40,559

and say ‘urgent’,

574

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:43,600

and that I would keep my

575

00:20:40,559 --> 00:20:45,440

general chit-chat gossip completely

576

00:20:43,600 --> 00:20:47,360

separate from that, because it

577

00:20:45,440 --> 00:20:49,679

wasn't critical that I got a response on

578

00:20:47,360 --> 00:20:51,840

my general chit-chat ‘how are you?’ kind of

579

00:20:49,679 --> 00:20:54,240

conversations, whereas if I needed to

580

00:20:51,840 --> 00:20:56,400

know something about a cow or if I was in a

581

00:20:54,240 --> 00:20:57,919

panic about something, then I felt that I

582

00:20:56,400 --> 00:20:59,200

really wanted him to know that he had to

583

00:20:57,919 --> 00:21:00,559

respond to me.

584

00:20:59,200 --> 00:21:03,440

585

00:21:00,559 --> 00:21:06,640

I certainly had no

586

00:21:03,440 --> 00:21:09,679

understanding at the time about what he

587

00:21:06,640 --> 00:21:11,039

was doing, and really, I

588

00:21:09,679 --> 00:21:12,960

suppose I still don't. I’ve seen some

589

00:21:11,039 --> 00:21:15,520

photographs now, but understanding what

590

00:21:12,960 --> 00:21:18,720

it must be like to live in 24-hour

591

00:21:15,520 --> 00:21:21,760

daylight or no contrast in a

592

00:21:18,720 --> 00:21:24,400

completely white featureless environment -

593

00:21:21,760 --> 00:21:26,000

I can't get my head around that at all!

594

00:21:24,400 --> 00:21:28,000

Tell us more about that,

595

00:21:26,000 --> 00:21:30,159

Deian.

596

00:21:28,000 --> 00:21:33,200

I assume on the station, they have to be

597

00:21:30,159 --> 00:21:34,880

very well-equipped for any eventuality

598

00:21:33,200 --> 00:21:36,799

or circumstances arising, such as

599

00:21:34,880 --> 00:21:38,960

illness; I suppose

600

00:21:36,799 --> 00:21:41,200

there's sort of a mini surgery on

601

00:21:38,960 --> 00:21:43,600

the station? Also, in terms of

602

00:21:41,200 --> 00:21:45,919

food supplies, was there a lot of dry food?

603

00:21:43,600 --> 00:21:47,600

What were the type of things you could eat

604

00:21:45,919 --> 00:21:50,559

at the time?

605

00:21:47,600 --> 00:21:53,280

What was it like?

606

00:21:50,559 --> 00:21:56,080

There was a

607

00:21:53,280 --> 00:22:00,320

surgery; we had

608

00:21:56,080 --> 00:22:01,840

a navy medic with us.

609

00:22:00,320 --> 00:22:04,400

610

00:22:01,840 --> 00:22:07,280

Anything small could be

611

00:22:04,400 --> 00:22:10,640

dealt with, or any serious accidents

612

00:22:07,280 --> 00:22:13,120

would need a medevac or a flight

613

00:22:10,640 --> 00:22:15,280

out of there.

614

00:22:13,120 --> 00:22:16,559

615

00:22:15,280 --> 00:22:18,720

Back to the weather a little bit,

616

00:22:16,559 --> 00:22:20,720

there could be days where you could see

617

00:22:18,720 --> 00:22:23,039

for miles, and then the next day, you couldn’t

618

00:22:20,720 --> 00:22:24,960

see anything -

619

00:22:23,039 --> 00:22:28,240

you couldn’t see

620

00:22:24,960 --> 00:22:30,640

five feet in front of you.

621

00:22:28,240 --> 00:22:32,960

We had

622

00:22:30,640 --> 00:22:34,640

ten days of really bad weather just

623

00:22:32,960 --> 00:22:36,720

before Christmas.

624

00:22:34,640 --> 00:22:38,799

We weren't allowed outside or

625

00:22:36,720 --> 00:22:40,400

anything, then; that was quite bad -

626

00:22:38,799 --> 00:22:41,679

complete white out. You couldn't

627

00:22:40,400 --> 00:22:43,840

see anything -

628

00:22:41,679 --> 00:22:45,200

everything got buried straight away, and

629

00:22:43,840 --> 00:22:47,280

630

00:22:45,200 --> 00:22:49,039

we just had to sit it out and

631

00:22:47,280 --> 00:22:50,159

wait for the weather to improve.

632

00:22:49,039 --> 00:22:52,880

633

00:22:50,159 --> 00:22:55,360

What was Christmas Day like on Halley?

634

00:22:52,880 --> 00:22:56,720

Christmas Day was

635

00:22:55,360 --> 00:22:58,240

brought forward because of the weather.

636

00:22:56,720 --> 00:22:59,760

637

00:22:58,240 --> 00:23:00,880

The weather was due to change on

638

00:22:59,760 --> 00:23:03,360

Christmas Day; the weather was supposed

639

00:23:00,880 --> 00:23:06,480

to get better, much better. On

640

00:23:03,360 --> 00:23:09,120

the 25th, we were actually working flat out.

641

00:23:06,480 --> 00:23:10,880

We celebrated Christmas on the

642

00:23:09,120 --> 00:23:12,720

23rd,

643

00:23:10,880 --> 00:23:14,159

and it was good. The

644

00:23:12,720 --> 00:23:16,000

chefs and the people in the kitchen did

645

00:23:14,159 --> 00:23:17,679

a fantastic job; we had a proper

646

00:23:16,000 --> 00:23:19,679

Christmas lunch,

647

00:23:17,679 --> 00:23:20,880

Christmas cake and everything; it

648

00:23:19,679 --> 00:23:22,880

was good.

649

00:23:20,880 --> 00:23:25,039

What did the work actually involve?

650

00:23:22,880 --> 00:23:26,880

You say a lot of it was outdoors, but

651

00:23:25,039 --> 00:23:28,799

652

00:23:26,880 --> 00:23:31,280

was it a lot of maintenance of the

653

00:23:28,799 --> 00:23:32,799

station, predominantly?

654

00:23:31,280 --> 00:23:35,200

Yes, you could say it was

655

00:23:32,799 --> 00:23:36,640

the maintenance of the place.

656

00:23:35,200 --> 00:23:37,840

657

00:23:36,640 --> 00:23:39,520

Everything

658

00:23:37,840 --> 00:23:40,320

at Halley gets buried.

659

00:23:39,520 --> 00:23:42,080

660

00:23:40,320 --> 00:23:45,120

The level of the snow and ice raises

661

00:23:42,080 --> 00:23:46,480

1.5 metres every year -

662

00:23:45,120 --> 00:23:48,720

663

00:23:46,480 --> 00:23:50,240

Mother

664

00:23:48,720 --> 00:23:52,480

Nature tries to bury everything, so we

665

00:23:50,240 --> 00:23:54,240

have to dig it out, basically;

666

00:23:52,480 --> 00:23:55,590

that was a biggest part of the job,

667

00:23:54,240 --> 00:23:57,279

probably.

668

00:23:55,590 --> 00:23:58,880

669

00:23:57,279 --> 00:24:02,320

Also, there was a bit more to be

670

00:23:58,880 --> 00:24:02,320

done because

671

00:24:02,640 --> 00:24:05,919

672

00:24:04,400 --> 00:24:08,000

not many people went the year before

673

00:24:05,919 --> 00:24:09,440

because of COVID, so the amount of

674

00:24:08,000 --> 00:24:11,440

work they

675

00:24:09,440 --> 00:24:14,000

weren’t able to do was much,

676

00:24:11,440 --> 00:24:16,480

so we had a bit more to do this year.

677

00:24:14,000 --> 00:24:20,480

It's a very harsh environment

678

00:24:16,480 --> 00:24:22,799

to be in, and it can be isolating, and

679

00:24:20,480 --> 00:24:24,960

it's a real test of character in your

680

00:24:22,799 --> 00:24:27,039

ability

681

00:24:24,960 --> 00:24:28,240

to spend a prolonged time away from

682

00:24:27,039 --> 00:24:29,679

friends and family, away from your

683

00:24:28,240 --> 00:24:32,080

business, and

684

00:24:29,679 --> 00:24:34,159

you clearly did it - you enjoyed it, Deian, but

685

00:24:32,080 --> 00:24:35,840

were there people out there at the same

686

00:24:34,159 --> 00:24:37,279

time as you, or possibly there's been

687

00:24:35,840 --> 00:24:39,360

people in the past that have just said

688

00:24:37,279 --> 00:24:40,880

“I can't deal with this”, and they

689

00:24:39,360 --> 00:24:42,640

have to be sent home? Have there

690

00:24:40,880 --> 00:24:44,400

been occasions where

691

00:24:42,640 --> 00:24:46,080

the enormity of spending so much time in

692

00:24:44,400 --> 00:24:48,480

a very harsh environment was just too

693

00:24:46,080 --> 00:24:53,120

much for somebody?

694

00:24:48,480 --> 00:24:53,120

Yes. I think it has happened,

695

00:24:53,679 --> 00:24:57,200

but three

696

00:24:56,159 --> 00:24:58,880

months

697

00:24:57,200 --> 00:25:02,080

flew;

698

00:24:58,880 --> 00:25:03,760

three months went really fast.

699

00:25:02,080 --> 00:25:05,360

700

00:25:03,760 --> 00:25:06,960

There are other people who

701

00:25:05,360 --> 00:25:08,640

have been to the other bases that they

702

00:25:06,960 --> 00:25:11,120

have the winter there as well,

703

00:25:08,640 --> 00:25:14,720

so they actually spend

704

00:25:11,120 --> 00:25:17,039

about 16 months down there;

705

00:25:14,720 --> 00:25:18,960

that's a completely different

706

00:25:17,039 --> 00:25:20,960

kettle of fish again - that

707

00:25:18,960 --> 00:25:23,760

would be much tougher, I think.

708

00:25:20,960 --> 00:25:25,279

I think their recruitment

709

00:25:23,760 --> 00:25:28,080

process

710

00:25:25,279 --> 00:25:31,520

worked very, very hard to make sure that

711

00:25:28,080 --> 00:25:32,320

you understood what you were agreeing to,

712

00:25:31,520 --> 00:25:34,640

and

713

00:25:32,320 --> 00:25:37,360

avoid at all costs taking somebody

714

00:25:34,640 --> 00:25:39,760

in the first place that wasn't suited to

715

00:25:37,360 --> 00:25:42,480

that environment.

716

00:25:39,760 --> 00:25:45,440

Yes, definitely.

717

00:25:42,480 --> 00:25:48,320

Jamie, the time flew for Deian, but did

718

00:25:45,440 --> 00:25:50,000

the time fly for you?

719

00:25:48,320 --> 00:25:52,559

720

00:25:50,000 --> 00:25:55,360

At the beginning, yes. I don't know where

721

00:25:52,559 --> 00:25:58,320

the weeks went. He left on 1

722

00:25:55,360 --> 00:26:01,039

November, and the time between November

723

00:25:58,320 --> 00:26:03,679

and Christmas was a complete blur.

724

00:26:01,039 --> 00:26:06,000

We were still calving a few cows, we

725

00:26:03,679 --> 00:26:09,120

were calf rearing,

726

00:26:06,000 --> 00:26:10,559

I'd got Gethin with me, and so

727

00:26:09,120 --> 00:26:13,279

we were sort of muddling along

728

00:26:10,559 --> 00:26:15,120

together, and Deian's dad was being an

729

00:26:13,279 --> 00:26:17,919

absolute hero, to be honest, doing all of

730

00:26:15,120 --> 00:26:20,240

the feeding and all of the bedding,

731

00:26:17,919 --> 00:26:22,080

and it was really busy.

732

00:26:20,240 --> 00:26:24,960

Then

733

00:26:22,080 --> 00:26:28,320

I also have a day job. I work for

734

00:26:24,960 --> 00:26:30,080

AHDB Dairy, which I was doing

735

00:26:28,320 --> 00:26:31,760

sort of everything, and then once

736

00:26:30,080 --> 00:26:33,279

Christmas came and I had some time off

737

00:26:31,760 --> 00:26:37,440

work,

738

00:26:33,279 --> 00:26:39,440

I don't know if I relaxed or what, but

739

00:26:37,440 --> 00:26:41,919

I think time definitely seemed to slow

740

00:26:39,440 --> 00:26:43,760

down as I got more time and as we

741

00:26:41,919 --> 00:26:46,320

weaned calves,

742

00:26:43,760 --> 00:26:49,840

and at Christmas, I remember thinking

743

00:26:46,320 --> 00:26:53,440

“only a bit longer”, and from

744

00:26:49,840 --> 00:26:55,840

then on, it did start to drag. I think

745

00:26:53,440 --> 00:26:59,039

it's all psychological;

746

00:26:55,840 --> 00:27:01,120

it's all mindset, and certainly

747

00:26:59,039 --> 00:27:03,039

once I knew that he was leaving, the last

748

00:27:01,120 --> 00:27:04,400

fortnight seemed to go really slowly,

749

00:27:03,039 --> 00:27:07,520

but I was glad to have him home

750

00:27:04,400 --> 00:27:09,919

once he got back. But I did

751

00:27:07,520 --> 00:27:12,159

really enjoy it, and I feel as much as an

752

00:27:09,919 --> 00:27:15,120

achievement it was for him to go to

753

00:27:12,159 --> 00:27:17,520

Antarctica, it was an achievement for me

754

00:27:15,120 --> 00:27:19,440

to manage to

755

00:27:17,520 --> 00:27:22,960

run the farm. I’m not saying I did a

756

00:27:19,440 --> 00:27:24,799

fantastic job, but we're still here, so

757

00:27:22,960 --> 00:27:26,159

I'll take it.

758

00:27:24,799 --> 00:27:27,840

You mentioned Gethin there. Gethin

759

00:27:26,159 --> 00:27:29,760

was one of the workers that you

760

00:27:27,840 --> 00:27:31,200

brought on board to help during that

761

00:27:29,760 --> 00:27:34,960

time.

762

00:27:31,200 --> 00:27:37,200

He was brilliant. The timings

763

00:27:34,960 --> 00:27:40,720

just worked perfectly. Gethin is a

764

00:27:37,200 --> 00:27:42,159

local lad who is a new graduate from

765

00:27:40,720 --> 00:27:44,880

Harper Adams,

766

00:27:42,159 --> 00:27:47,200

and has career ambitions to be an

767

00:27:44,880 --> 00:27:49,840

auctioneer, and had done

768

00:27:47,200 --> 00:27:53,120

some summer harvest work and was kind of

769

00:27:49,840 --> 00:27:55,440

between jobs hoping to apply for

770

00:27:53,120 --> 00:27:57,840

auctioneer jobs, and he came to us in

771

00:27:55,440 --> 00:28:00,399

that interim period. We always knew

772

00:27:57,840 --> 00:28:03,760

that he'd move on, and he has now, but

773

00:28:00,399 --> 00:28:07,200

so grateful for having him.

774

00:28:03,760 --> 00:28:09,039

Deian, for you, clearly, when you were out

775

00:28:07,200 --> 00:28:11,039

at Halley, you were very focused on the

776

00:28:09,039 --> 00:28:12,320

job at hand, but were there times where

777

00:28:11,039 --> 00:28:14,080

you were thinking “what's going on at

778

00:28:12,320 --> 00:28:16,080

home now?”.

779

00:28:14,080 --> 00:28:19,120

Were there times where you were thinking

780

00:28:16,080 --> 00:28:21,279

“do I need to get involved?”,

781

00:28:19,120 --> 00:28:23,760

or could you switch your mind off from

782

00:28:21,279 --> 00:28:24,720

from Gorwel for that time?

783

00:28:23,760 --> 00:28:27,279

784

00:28:24,720 --> 00:28:29,279

Yes, I could switch off because

785

00:28:27,279 --> 00:28:31,200

basically, there was nothing I

786

00:28:29,279 --> 00:28:33,360

could do. If it was all going wrong, it

787

00:28:31,200 --> 00:28:34,880

was going wrong, and

788

00:28:33,360 --> 00:28:37,279

all I could do was answer the

789

00:28:34,880 --> 00:28:39,520

WhatsApp messages if there was anything,

790

00:28:37,279 --> 00:28:41,360

and try and support in that way as much

791

00:28:39,520 --> 00:28:43,039

as I could. Apart from that, that was it.

792

00:28:41,360 --> 00:28:44,799

793

00:28:43,039 --> 00:28:46,720

Jamie was a little bit on her own then.

794

00:28:44,799 --> 00:28:47,760

795

00:28:46,720 --> 00:28:50,159

Well,

796

00:28:47,760 --> 00:28:52,399

I was and I wasn't. I think

797

00:28:50,159 --> 00:28:55,039

we'd had a good discussion, and we put

798

00:28:52,399 --> 00:28:58,480

plans in place that I knew who to phone

799

00:28:55,039 --> 00:29:02,320

in which situation. For instance, never

800

00:28:58,480 --> 00:29:04,159

once did I worry for a moment about

801

00:29:02,320 --> 00:29:05,760

like if a cow got ill -

802

00:29:04,159 --> 00:29:08,320

you just phone the vet; that's what

803

00:29:05,760 --> 00:29:11,200

happens and that's what Deian would do, and

804

00:29:08,320 --> 00:29:13,760

we would sort it out. Actually,

805

00:29:11,200 --> 00:29:15,440

I think I did have the vet out

806

00:29:13,760 --> 00:29:17,679

once, but

807

00:29:15,440 --> 00:29:19,600

those things weren't big deals.

808

00:29:17,679 --> 00:29:21,360

If the tractor breaks,

809

00:29:19,600 --> 00:29:22,159

you get the tractor engineer.

810

00:29:21,360 --> 00:29:23,840

811

00:29:22,159 --> 00:29:26,320

We talked about all of that. We definitely

812

00:29:23,840 --> 00:29:29,360

put plans in place before I left.

813

00:29:26,320 --> 00:29:31,120

There were scenarios we talked

814

00:29:29,360 --> 00:29:32,880

about ‘you

815

00:29:31,120 --> 00:29:35,919

phone this guy, or you phone this person,

816

00:29:32,880 --> 00:29:37,919

or you do this and you do that. And

817

00:29:35,919 --> 00:29:41,279

Dad's about as well a little bit, and

818

00:29:37,919 --> 00:29:43,120

he knows the little things, like

819

00:29:41,279 --> 00:29:45,120

which tap to close and which tap to

820

00:29:43,120 --> 00:29:46,640

open, if anything is a bit

821

00:29:45,120 --> 00:29:48,080

dodgy.

822

00:29:46,640 --> 00:29:50,320

823

00:29:48,080 --> 00:29:53,440

All in all,

824

00:29:50,320 --> 00:29:56,240

I wasn't too worried.

825

00:29:53,440 --> 00:30:00,000

I felt very supported, to be honest, and

826

00:29:56,240 --> 00:30:02,159

the wider community were great.

827

00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:04,159

A couple of Deian's friends would

828

00:30:02,159 --> 00:30:06,559

text me every now and then, just to check

829

00:30:04,159 --> 00:30:09,200

if I was OK, which

830

00:30:06,559 --> 00:30:11,120

I didn't need, but it was really lovely

831

00:30:09,200 --> 00:30:13,279

that they bothered, and to know that you

832

00:30:11,120 --> 00:30:15,200

could pick up the phone if you needed to.

833

00:30:13,279 --> 00:30:18,559

Like Deian said, his dad was here every

834

00:30:15,200 --> 00:30:21,120

day, and it's knowing the little

835

00:30:18,559 --> 00:30:22,880

intricacies of the farm that make all

836

00:30:21,120 --> 00:30:24,799

the difference. When the

837

00:30:22,880 --> 00:30:27,120

water troughs broke, I can assure you it

838

00:30:24,799 --> 00:30:28,720

wasn't me that was fixing them! I

839

00:30:27,120 --> 00:30:30,880

wouldn't have a clue where

840

00:30:28,720 --> 00:30:33,120

to start, but I did manage to

841

00:30:30,880 --> 00:30:33,120

pay the bills.

842

00:30:33,600 --> 00:30:36,720

The farm was still there, and the

843

00:30:34,880 --> 00:30:38,399

business is still going, so something

844

00:30:36,720 --> 00:30:39,679

must have gone right, so well

845

00:30:38,399 --> 00:30:42,080

done.

846

00:30:39,679 --> 00:30:44,640

Deian, for you, looking back at that

847

00:30:42,080 --> 00:30:46,159

experience, was there a highlight,

848

00:30:44,640 --> 00:30:47,760

something that you will never ever

849

00:30:46,159 --> 00:30:49,840

forget? I’m sure the whole experience was

850

00:30:47,760 --> 00:30:51,360

something you will treasure, and you may

851

00:30:49,840 --> 00:30:53,440

want to go back, I don't know,

852

00:30:51,360 --> 00:30:55,520

but is there something that happened, or

853

00:30:53,440 --> 00:30:56,799

possibly something that you think, and it

854

00:30:55,520 --> 00:30:57,760

could be some of the people you spent

855

00:30:56,799 --> 00:30:59,600

time with, I don't know, but is there

856

00:30:57,760 --> 00:31:01,600

something that you think was really,

857

00:30:59,600 --> 00:31:03,279

really valuable?

858

00:31:01,600 --> 00:31:04,960

859

00:31:03,279 --> 00:31:06,399

All the people that I met there were

860

00:31:04,960 --> 00:31:08,399

really nice, and

861

00:31:06,399 --> 00:31:10,720

they were great - there was a great bunch of

862

00:31:08,399 --> 00:31:11,919

us, and we really got on well.

863

00:31:10,720 --> 00:31:14,080

864

00:31:11,919 --> 00:31:15,840

Probably, the thing I'll remember most is,

865

00:31:14,080 --> 00:31:18,880

866

00:31:15,840 --> 00:31:20,159

867

00:31:18,880 --> 00:31:21,440

868

00:31:20,159 --> 00:31:22,640

869

00:31:21,440 --> 00:31:24,399

they've been having issues out there, and

870

00:31:22,640 --> 00:31:26,080

because of icebergs breaking off, they

871

00:31:24,399 --> 00:31:28,640

haven't been able to get the ship in to

872

00:31:26,080 --> 00:31:30,559

resupply the station,

873

00:31:28,640 --> 00:31:33,120

so that's

874

00:31:30,559 --> 00:31:34,640

given them a lot of problems in order

875

00:31:33,120 --> 00:31:35,440

to get fuel in there.

876

00:31:34,640 --> 00:31:36,720

877

00:31:35,440 --> 00:31:39,519

878

00:31:36,720 --> 00:31:40,880

They had to have an air dropper fuel.

879

00:31:39,519 --> 00:31:42,640

880

00:31:40,880 --> 00:31:44,880

A big Hercules

881

00:31:42,640 --> 00:31:46,480

plane basically flew over

882

00:31:44,880 --> 00:31:48,559

and pushed a load of barrels up to the

883

00:31:46,480 --> 00:31:50,000

back of the plane, and we went to pick

884

00:31:48,559 --> 00:31:51,039

them all up.

885

00:31:50,000 --> 00:31:52,480

886

00:31:51,039 --> 00:31:54,880

Now that's something I’ve never seen

887

00:31:52,480 --> 00:31:58,960

before, and probably will never see again -

888

00:31:54,880 --> 00:32:01,200

that was quite amazing.

889

00:31:58,960 --> 00:32:03,760

I just want to say they all

890

00:32:01,200 --> 00:32:06,480

landed on the floor perfectly, and

891

00:32:03,760 --> 00:32:08,080

there were no holes in any of them, and it

892

00:32:06,480 --> 00:32:09,519

just went

893

00:32:08,080 --> 00:32:12,320

like clockwork -

894

00:32:09,519 --> 00:32:14,159

it worked really well. It's

895

00:32:12,320 --> 00:32:16,000

not how they usually do it, but just

896

00:32:14,159 --> 00:32:18,159

because of

897

00:32:16,000 --> 00:32:19,519

A68 or whatever the big iceberg was

898

00:32:18,159 --> 00:32:22,000

and all the rest of it, they broke off

899

00:32:19,519 --> 00:32:24,320

and they caused a few issues, so

900

00:32:22,000 --> 00:32:25,919

they had to fly the fuel to keep

901

00:32:24,320 --> 00:32:28,480

the base going.

902

00:32:25,919 --> 00:32:29,840

Having spent that time away

903

00:32:28,480 --> 00:32:31,200

from Gorwel,

904

00:32:29,840 --> 00:32:34,399

has your

905

00:32:31,200 --> 00:32:36,720

mindset towards farming or your

906

00:32:34,399 --> 00:32:39,039

business philosophy changed in any

907

00:32:36,720 --> 00:32:40,559

way from that experience? Have you

908

00:32:39,039 --> 00:32:42,799

changed anything on the farm

909

00:32:40,559 --> 00:32:44,640

since coming home, or possibly

910

00:32:42,799 --> 00:32:46,000

change the work-life balance at

911

00:32:44,640 --> 00:32:48,000

all?

912

00:32:46,000 --> 00:32:50,720

Well, I haven't been home

913

00:32:48,000 --> 00:32:53,039

that long yet, but yes, we definitely

914

00:32:50,720 --> 00:32:53,840

need to change a few things.

915

00:32:53,039 --> 00:32:55,600

It

916

00:32:53,840 --> 00:32:56,799

soon dawned on me that we work way too

917

00:32:55,600 --> 00:32:57,560

hard.

918

00:32:56,799 --> 00:32:59,600

919

00:32:57,560 --> 00:33:02,880

920

00:32:59,600 --> 00:33:04,640

Out there, yes,

921

00:33:02,880 --> 00:33:07,440

the days are long, but it's nowhere near

922

00:33:04,640 --> 00:33:10,880

as long as what we do at home.

923

00:33:07,440 --> 00:33:12,880

Yes, we need to

924

00:33:10,880 --> 00:33:14,320

change it somehow, I’m not sure how yet,

925

00:33:12,880 --> 00:33:17,440

but

926

00:33:14,320 --> 00:33:19,760

reduce the hours we work

927

00:33:17,440 --> 00:33:22,640

by destocking or whatever it may be,

928

00:33:19,760 --> 00:33:24,720

or finding someone else to work,

929

00:33:22,640 --> 00:33:26,799

but yes, we need

930

00:33:24,720 --> 00:33:28,720

to work less. That's

931

00:33:26,799 --> 00:33:29,840

a really interesting point.

932

00:33:28,720 --> 00:33:31,600

I guess the point you're trying to

933

00:33:29,840 --> 00:33:33,679

make is having that work-life balance,

934

00:33:31,600 --> 00:33:36,240

isn't it, and making sure that you have

935

00:33:33,679 --> 00:33:39,039

that flexibility and freedoms to do

936

00:33:36,240 --> 00:33:41,519

other things from time to time?

937

00:33:39,039 --> 00:33:43,600

Finally, a question to both of you -

938

00:33:41,519 --> 00:33:45,440

what would be your advice

939

00:33:43,600 --> 00:33:47,519

to other farmers who may very well be

940

00:33:45,440 --> 00:33:49,360

listening to this podcast now,

941

00:33:47,519 --> 00:33:51,039

who also have aspirations to do some

942

00:33:49,360 --> 00:33:52,799

travelling, and want to spend some time away

943

00:33:51,039 --> 00:33:54,159

from their farms, their families and their

944

00:33:52,799 --> 00:33:56,399

businesses?

945

00:33:54,159 --> 00:33:57,840

What would be your advice to them to

946

00:33:56,399 --> 00:34:00,960

realise

947

00:33:57,840 --> 00:34:00,960

that aspiration?

948

00:34:01,360 --> 00:34:04,559

949

00:34:02,159 --> 00:34:07,600

I very firmly believe that you make your

950

00:34:04,559 --> 00:34:10,720

own luck. If you want to

951

00:34:07,600 --> 00:34:11,599

do it, then you can absolutely make it

952

00:34:10,720 --> 00:34:12,960

happen.

953

00:34:11,599 --> 00:34:16,399

954

00:34:12,960 --> 00:34:18,480

‘Prepare’, I think, is probably the top

955

00:34:16,399 --> 00:34:21,760

tip - think about all the

956

00:34:18,480 --> 00:34:24,079

different eventualities, think about the

957

00:34:21,760 --> 00:34:27,200

the phone call list - who you

958

00:34:24,079 --> 00:34:29,760

can call for help in which situation,

959

00:34:27,200 --> 00:34:30,960

and just think about what adaptations you

960

00:34:29,760 --> 00:34:33,119

might need

961

00:34:30,960 --> 00:34:36,720

to put in place in order to allow

962

00:34:33,119 --> 00:34:38,800

somebody else to run the farm, and

963

00:34:36,720 --> 00:34:40,240

to be honest I think that's probably

964

00:34:38,800 --> 00:34:41,919

advice that people

965

00:34:40,240 --> 00:34:44,000

could take, whether they're actually

966

00:34:41,919 --> 00:34:45,440

going anywhere or not, because nobody

967

00:34:44,000 --> 00:34:47,359

ever quite knows what's around the

968

00:34:45,440 --> 00:34:49,440

corner for them.

969

00:34:47,359 --> 00:34:52,240

There are a lot of farmers where

970

00:34:49,440 --> 00:34:54,159

everything's in their heads, and

971

00:34:52,240 --> 00:34:55,200

they know exactly what's happening on

972

00:34:54,159 --> 00:34:57,040

the farm,

973

00:34:55,200 --> 00:34:58,960

but it's quite difficult for someone

974

00:34:57,040 --> 00:35:02,119

else to come and step in and just take

975

00:34:58,960 --> 00:35:02,119

that over.

976

00:35:03,359 --> 00:35:08,350

I totally agree - plenty of

977

00:35:06,720 --> 00:35:10,400

planning.

978

00:35:08,350 --> 00:35:12,720

979

00:35:10,400 --> 00:35:14,160

We were lucky, in a way, because

980

00:35:12,720 --> 00:35:18,160

there was plenty of time in between -

981

00:35:14,160 --> 00:35:19,920

it wasn't like a sporadic thing where

982

00:35:18,160 --> 00:35:22,079

‘I’m going tomorrow’, kind of thing, but

983

00:35:19,920 --> 00:35:22,960

we had a bit of time to plan.

984

00:35:22,079 --> 00:35:25,040

985

00:35:22,960 --> 00:35:28,160

I think maybe, the most important one

986

00:35:25,040 --> 00:35:29,680

probably is the finance, and

987

00:35:28,160 --> 00:35:30,800

making sure there's enough money,

988

00:35:29,680 --> 00:35:32,960

because there's more people going to

989

00:35:30,800 --> 00:35:35,200

come in and they're going to need to be

990

00:35:32,960 --> 00:35:37,520

paid.

991

00:35:35,200 --> 00:35:38,880

I think the financial side of

992

00:35:37,520 --> 00:35:40,640

things needs to be

993

00:35:38,880 --> 00:35:43,119

pretty good as well.

994

00:35:40,640 --> 00:35:45,280

Well, it's been really refreshing to chat

995

00:35:43,119 --> 00:35:46,880

to you both, and I’ve been lucky - I’ve

996

00:35:45,280 --> 00:35:48,880

done some travelling through the Nuffield Farming

997

00:35:46,880 --> 00:35:50,720

Scholarship, as well. I was once told that

998

00:35:48,880 --> 00:35:52,400

if you wait for the right time, sometimes

999

00:35:50,720 --> 00:35:54,000

there'll never be a right time. For those

1000

00:35:52,400 --> 00:35:56,560

with

1001

00:35:54,000 --> 00:35:57,280

aspirations, with ideas and that sense

1002

00:35:56,560 --> 00:35:59,520

of

1003

00:35:57,280 --> 00:36:01,440

drive to do some travelling and spend

1004

00:35:59,520 --> 00:36:03,359

some time away from the farm, I think the

1005

00:36:01,440 --> 00:36:06,320

advice from all three of us is to do

1006

00:36:03,359 --> 00:36:08,480

it, but as you've set out, very

1007

00:36:06,320 --> 00:36:10,720

clearly, planning and preparation is key

1008

00:36:08,480 --> 00:36:12,160

to making sure that you have a successful

1009

00:36:10,720 --> 00:36:14,480

time away, and that everything is

1010

00:36:12,160 --> 00:36:15,680

supported in the meantime.

1011

00:36:14,480 --> 00:36:16,880

For those listening, if you're

1012

00:36:15,680 --> 00:36:18,880

interested in some travelling, obviously

1013

00:36:16,880 --> 00:36:20,720

Farming Connect supports some study

1014

00:36:18,880 --> 00:36:23,680

visits, and if you're possibly looking

1015

00:36:20,720 --> 00:36:25,920

for inspiration for places to go, you can

1016

00:36:23,680 --> 00:36:28,160

look at Farming Connect’s YouTube channel, where

1017

00:36:25,920 --> 00:36:30,480

there are plenty of videos, and

1018

00:36:28,160 --> 00:36:32,400

particularly a series called Zoom

1019

00:36:30,480 --> 00:36:35,119

Around the World – well worth taking a

1020

00:36:32,400 --> 00:36:36,960

look at that. Well, Deian and Jamie, thank

1021

00:36:35,119 --> 00:36:38,880

you once again for joining us on Ear to

1022

00:36:36,960 --> 00:36:40,400

the Ground. It’s been fantastic to have you both

1023

00:36:38,880 --> 00:36:41,920

here. Welcome back, Deian. It’s good that you're

1024

00:36:40,400 --> 00:36:44,320

back safe and sound and that everything's

1025

00:36:41,920 --> 00:36:47,440

going well, and I wish you both the very

1026

00:36:44,320 --> 00:36:47,440

very best for the future.

1027

00:36:50,000 --> 00:36:55,520

Diolch. Diolch. Spot on. That's brilliant! Well done

1028

00:36:52,000 --> 00:36:58,640

guys! Did you enjoy that?

1029

00:36:55,520 --> 00:36:58,640

Deian’s just collapsed.

1030

00:36:59,040 --> 00:37:05,520

1031

00:37:01,200 --> 00:37:05,520

It was good, and you did good, Dei.

1032

00:37:05,680 --> 00:37:09,280

If you would like more information about

1033

00:37:07,440 --> 00:37:11,760

the support available through Farming

1034

00:37:09,280 --> 00:37:13,599

Connect, then please contact your local

1035

00:37:11,760 --> 00:37:16,640

development officer or the Service

1036

00:37:13,599 --> 00:37:19,119

Centre on 08456 000 813.

1037

00:37:16,640 --> 00:37:20,880

1038

00:37:19,119 --> 00:37:23,520

And there we are, we've reached the end

1039

00:37:20,880 --> 00:37:25,520

of yet another episode. We'll be back in

1040

00:37:23,520 --> 00:37:27,760

two weeks’ time with plenty more to talk

1041

00:37:25,520 --> 00:37:30,000

about, but in the meantime, don't forget

1042

00:37:27,760 --> 00:37:32,320

to hit ‘subscribe’ on whichever platform

1043

00:37:30,000 --> 00:37:34,800

you use to keep notified of all new

1044

00:37:32,320 --> 00:37:36,640

episodes of Ear to the Ground.

1045

00:37:34,800 --> 00:37:38,800

On behalf of the team at Farming

1046

00:37:36,640 --> 00:37:42,990

Connect and myself, Aled Jones, thank you

1047

00:37:38,800 --> 00:37:44,330

for listening, and goodbye for now

1048

00:37:42,990 --> 00:37:56,329

[Applause]

1049

00:37:44,330 --> 00:37:56,329

[Music]

1050

00:37:58,960 --> 00:38:01,040