1

00:00:00,670 --> 00:00:04,030

[Music]

2

00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:11,500

[Music]

3

00:00:04,030 --> 00:00:11,500

[Music]

4

00:00:11,759 --> 00:00:16,000

Hello, and welcome to Ear to the Ground, a

5

00:00:14,160 --> 00:00:17,840

podcast brought to you by Farming

6

00:00:16,000 --> 00:00:20,480

Connect, supporting Welsh farmers to

7

00:00:17,840 --> 00:00:22,800

adapt and thrive. Well today, Jim and I

8

00:00:20,480 --> 00:00:25,279

have travelled to Fedw Arian Uchaf farm

9

00:00:22,800 --> 00:00:27,439

near Bala, the home of Geraint Davies and

10

00:00:25,279 --> 00:00:29,519

his wife Rachel and their children. I'm

11

00:00:27,439 --> 00:00:30,480

also joined by another Geraint - Geraint Jones,

12

00:00:29,519 --> 00:00:32,079

who's the

13

00:00:30,480 --> 00:00:33,840

Technical Officer for Forestry with

14

00:00:32,079 --> 00:00:35,680

Farming Connect. Thank you to both

15

00:00:33,840 --> 00:00:38,079

Geraints, firstly for agreeing to be

16

00:00:35,680 --> 00:00:40,160

part of this podcast episode for Farming

17

00:00:38,079 --> 00:00:41,680

Connect. Geraint Davies, if I can

18

00:00:40,160 --> 00:00:44,879

turn to you first. Thank you for the

19

00:00:41,680 --> 00:00:46,960

welcome here at Fedw Arian. Describe the

20

00:00:44,879 --> 00:00:48,320

landscape to us - where exactly are

21

00:00:46,960 --> 00:00:50,239

we now and what's

22

00:00:48,320 --> 00:00:53,440

in the distance behind us here?

23

00:00:50,239 --> 00:00:55,600

Welcome to Fedw Arian.

24

00:00:53,440 --> 00:00:58,480

We're lucky to be able to be looking

25

00:00:55,600 --> 00:01:00,559

down the top end of the Dee Valley,

26

00:00:58,480 --> 00:01:03,520

and right in front of us, they're the

27

00:01:00,559 --> 00:01:05,280

Berwyn mountain range, and so just

28

00:01:03,520 --> 00:01:06,720

underneath them you’ll have Cynwyd,

29

00:01:05,280 --> 00:01:08,880

Llandrillo and Llandderfel, as you're

30

00:01:06,720 --> 00:01:11,360

working back towards Bala.

31

00:01:08,880 --> 00:01:13,600

And just over the brow of the hill there,

32

00:01:11,360 --> 00:01:15,280

Bala is right there - so

33

00:01:13,600 --> 00:01:17,680

we're lucky, we're

34

00:01:15,280 --> 00:01:20,000

privileged to be able to call here home

35

00:01:17,680 --> 00:01:22,080

and we are on the very edge of the

36

00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:24,240

Snowdonia National Park,

37

00:01:22,080 --> 00:01:27,360

one of the last farms as you're

38

00:01:24,240 --> 00:01:30,400

heading down the Dee Valley, so on the

39

00:01:27,360 --> 00:01:33,040

edge of it. We live in a

40

00:01:30,400 --> 00:01:34,799

beautiful part of the world and

41

00:01:33,040 --> 00:01:35,840

we are lucky enough to be able to

42

00:01:34,799 --> 00:01:37,360

call here home.

43

00:01:35,840 --> 00:01:38,400

And it's been home to you and your

44

00:01:37,360 --> 00:01:39,280

family

45

00:01:38,400 --> 00:01:41,119

for

46

00:01:39,280 --> 00:01:43,280

three generations now? I'm the

47

00:01:41,119 --> 00:01:45,119

third generation tenant farmer here off

48

00:01:43,280 --> 00:01:47,600

the Rhiwlas Estate, which is just next

49

00:01:45,119 --> 00:01:49,439

door. My grandparents came here from a

50

00:01:47,600 --> 00:01:50,799

little small holding called Hendre Ddu

51

00:01:49,439 --> 00:01:54,720

across the valley

52

00:01:50,799 --> 00:01:56,479

in 1963, and then my parents took over in

53

00:01:54,720 --> 00:01:59,439

the year 2000,

54

00:01:56,479 --> 00:02:02,079

and Rachel and I, we've been here now 12

55

00:01:59,439 --> 00:02:03,680

years, so

56

00:02:02,079 --> 00:02:06,159

learning and building as we're going

57

00:02:03,680 --> 00:02:08,399

along. So deep, deep roots within

58

00:02:06,159 --> 00:02:10,160

this area. And

59

00:02:08,399 --> 00:02:11,520

over the past few years, you've been a

60

00:02:10,160 --> 00:02:13,200

focus farm

61

00:02:11,520 --> 00:02:14,959

with Farming Connect.

62

00:02:13,200 --> 00:02:16,239

What's been the advantages of that?

63

00:02:14,959 --> 00:02:17,920

64

00:02:16,239 --> 00:02:19,680

Especially on the green

65

00:02:17,920 --> 00:02:24,160

infrastructure of the farm, it's been a

66

00:02:19,680 --> 00:02:25,840

huge, huge benefit for us. From

67

00:02:24,160 --> 00:02:28,480

learning more about what we have been

68

00:02:25,840 --> 00:02:30,080

doing, because when we came here,

69

00:02:28,480 --> 00:02:31,920

it was a blank canvas for us; it had

70

00:02:30,080 --> 00:02:33,920

never been in any agri-environmental

71

00:02:31,920 --> 00:02:36,080

scheme, so we

72

00:02:33,920 --> 00:02:37,840

were able to go ahead and achieve what

73

00:02:36,080 --> 00:02:38,720

we wanted to.

74

00:02:37,840 --> 00:02:40,239

75

00:02:38,720 --> 00:02:43,760

We've been putting in hedgerows for the

76

00:02:40,239 --> 00:02:44,640

last 12 years or so, and

77

00:02:43,760 --> 00:02:46,720

the

78

00:02:44,640 --> 00:02:48,800

focus project with Farming Connect has

79

00:02:46,720 --> 00:02:51,280

just enhanced our knowledge of the

80

00:02:48,800 --> 00:02:53,040

importance of hedgerows and

81

00:02:51,280 --> 00:02:55,200

the amount that they actually deliver,

82

00:02:53,040 --> 00:02:57,519

not in a biodiversity and wildlife

83

00:02:55,200 --> 00:02:59,120

friendly way, but towards food production

84

00:02:57,519 --> 00:03:00,560

as well.

85

00:02:59,120 --> 00:03:03,360

Where the hedgerows are now on

86

00:03:00,560 --> 00:03:04,800

the farm, they are the first

87

00:03:03,360 --> 00:03:06,239

fields, well

88

00:03:04,800 --> 00:03:08,480

parts of the fields started to grow

89

00:03:06,239 --> 00:03:10,800

early on in spring, and then grassland

90

00:03:08,480 --> 00:03:12,640

keeps on growing into the winter months

91

00:03:10,800 --> 00:03:14,720

as well more than in the middle of the

92

00:03:12,640 --> 00:03:17,040

field, so we're very lucky in

93

00:03:14,720 --> 00:03:19,519

developing and finding that out

94

00:03:17,040 --> 00:03:22,080

through just observation of the farm.

95

00:03:19,519 --> 00:03:23,840

Then harsh winter weather, well stock

96

00:03:22,080 --> 00:03:25,920

love to shelter underneath it, and not just

97

00:03:23,840 --> 00:03:27,840

the winter weather, but also the harshest summers

98

00:03:25,920 --> 00:03:29,680

that we're having - stock absolutely

99

00:03:27,840 --> 00:03:32,560

need that shade, and

100

00:03:29,680 --> 00:03:35,120

hedgerows are a vital part of this farm

101

00:03:32,560 --> 00:03:38,400

for livestock production

102

00:03:35,120 --> 00:03:40,319

and wildlife hand-in-hand, so

103

00:03:38,400 --> 00:03:42,239

we’re lucky to have them here.

104

00:03:40,319 --> 00:03:44,159

And you've been putting back hedgerows

105

00:03:42,239 --> 00:03:45,360

in places where they were previously

106

00:03:44,159 --> 00:03:48,400

taken out

107

00:03:45,360 --> 00:03:49,680

by past generations? My father

108

00:03:48,400 --> 00:03:51,599

and grandfather are still scratching

109

00:03:49,680 --> 00:03:53,599

their heads in disbelief that they've

110

00:03:51,599 --> 00:03:56,080

done the hard work in taking them out

111

00:03:53,599 --> 00:03:57,840

in the 70s/early 80s and then I’m

112

00:03:56,080 --> 00:03:59,439

putting them exactly

113

00:03:57,840 --> 00:04:01,280

where most of them have been taken

114

00:03:59,439 --> 00:04:03,040

out, and

115

00:04:01,280 --> 00:04:05,200

just getting the full benefit,

116

00:04:03,040 --> 00:04:06,959

because those hedgerows were there for a

117

00:04:05,200 --> 00:04:08,400

reason and

118

00:04:06,959 --> 00:04:09,439

you find that out once you've ripped it

119

00:04:08,400 --> 00:04:11,920

out -

120

00:04:09,439 --> 00:04:14,720

“Ah, that's why the hedgerow was there”, and

121

00:04:11,920 --> 00:04:16,560

holding water back and everything.

122

00:04:14,720 --> 00:04:19,280

123

00:04:16,560 --> 00:04:21,919

The hedgerow here is becoming a superb

124

00:04:19,280 --> 00:04:24,080

part of the farm that's aiding us left,

125

00:04:21,919 --> 00:04:26,400

right and centre, really.

126

00:04:24,080 --> 00:04:27,600

Geraint Jones, this is music to

127

00:04:26,400 --> 00:04:30,400

your ears, because you're a firm

128

00:04:27,600 --> 00:04:31,520

believer in the benefits of hedgerows?

129

00:04:30,400 --> 00:04:34,320

Yes,

130

00:04:31,520 --> 00:04:36,720

and it’s a part and parcel of what

131

00:04:34,320 --> 00:04:38,479

we're looking at as an element of the

132

00:04:36,720 --> 00:04:39,919

project, with regards to

133

00:04:38,479 --> 00:04:42,000

specifically

134

00:04:39,919 --> 00:04:44,479

looking at hedgerows to be compatible

135

00:04:42,000 --> 00:04:47,040

with the rotational grazing system for

136

00:04:44,479 --> 00:04:48,160

the livestock on the farm, and everything

137

00:04:47,040 --> 00:04:50,320

that’s part of it, i.e.,

138

00:04:48,160 --> 00:04:51,680

hedgerow and trees,

139

00:04:50,320 --> 00:04:54,919

140

00:04:51,680 --> 00:04:54,919

their multifunctional

141

00:04:55,199 --> 00:05:00,160

methodology and the way they work

142

00:04:58,160 --> 00:05:02,240

contributes to the farm and make

143

00:05:00,160 --> 00:05:03,600

sure that they work for the farm.

144

00:05:02,240 --> 00:05:05,039

That's the interesting point;

145

00:05:03,600 --> 00:05:07,199

this is incorporating into your

146

00:05:05,039 --> 00:05:08,800

rotational grazing plan. We've

147

00:05:07,199 --> 00:05:10,320

recorded a number of podcasts on

148

00:05:08,800 --> 00:05:12,240

rotational grazing where a lot of

149

00:05:10,320 --> 00:05:14,880

farmers, particularly early on, are using

150

00:05:12,240 --> 00:05:16,560

electric fences to control the system, but

151

00:05:14,880 --> 00:05:18,639

your preferred system is to have

152

00:05:16,560 --> 00:05:20,240

physical hedgerows as a part of that

153

00:05:18,639 --> 00:05:22,960

rotation?

154

00:05:20,240 --> 00:05:24,479

Yes, that's

155

00:05:22,960 --> 00:05:26,800

my vision for making it happen

156

00:05:24,479 --> 00:05:28,639

here. We're on the way of getting it

157

00:05:26,800 --> 00:05:30,639

there; there are a few more fields where we

158

00:05:28,639 --> 00:05:33,280

want to put some hedgerows back

159

00:05:30,639 --> 00:05:35,520

or split a few others up

160

00:05:33,280 --> 00:05:37,360

and get an average size field so that we

161

00:05:35,520 --> 00:05:39,440

get better efficiency of rotational

162

00:05:37,360 --> 00:05:41,520

grazing around the farm.

163

00:05:39,440 --> 00:05:43,360

164

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

The plan is coming along quite slowly

165

00:05:43,360 --> 00:05:47,440

and nicely.

166

00:05:45,520 --> 00:05:49,600

I want to be able to open a gate,

167

00:05:47,440 --> 00:05:51,440

put the stock in there and close it, knowing

168

00:05:49,600 --> 00:05:53,199

they're going to be there, because

169

00:05:51,440 --> 00:05:55,120

with electric fencing here, we have some

170

00:05:53,199 --> 00:05:57,039

stubborn Welsh Black cattle and some

171

00:05:55,120 --> 00:05:58,800

Welsh Mountain sheep that do just love

172

00:05:57,039 --> 00:06:01,759

to walk through it, no matter how many

173

00:05:58,800 --> 00:06:03,360

voltage goes through it.

174

00:06:01,759 --> 00:06:06,400

175

00:06:03,360 --> 00:06:08,960

The part of the hedgerow is providing

176

00:06:06,400 --> 00:06:11,199

secure stock boundaries as paramount to

177

00:06:08,960 --> 00:06:12,319

the farm. Have you worked out

178

00:06:11,199 --> 00:06:13,680

how many

179

00:06:12,319 --> 00:06:14,960

in terms of the length, how many miles of

180

00:06:13,680 --> 00:06:17,120

hedgerows you've got on the farm?

181

00:06:14,960 --> 00:06:20,960

There's about 14km in total

182

00:06:17,120 --> 00:06:22,080

between here and the farm in Llanuwchllyn,

183

00:06:20,960 --> 00:06:23,600

from

184

00:06:22,080 --> 00:06:25,440

new hedgerows that have gone in and where we've

185

00:06:23,600 --> 00:06:28,319

been planting to

186

00:06:25,440 --> 00:06:30,400

where we've been laying, coppicing and so on - so

187

00:06:28,319 --> 00:06:31,840

a variation of all different ages

188

00:06:30,400 --> 00:06:34,560

as well.

189

00:06:31,840 --> 00:06:36,560

From 12 years ago

190

00:06:34,560 --> 00:06:38,880

when Rachel and I started the journey

191

00:06:36,560 --> 00:06:40,560

on putting them in and so on, we're ready

192

00:06:38,880 --> 00:06:42,160

to start laying a lot of these hedges

193

00:06:40,560 --> 00:06:43,759

now.

194

00:06:42,160 --> 00:06:45,199

It's just

195

00:06:43,759 --> 00:06:47,039

exciting and

196

00:06:45,199 --> 00:06:49,280

a pleasure to see them developing

197

00:06:47,039 --> 00:06:52,240

part of the landscape, and knowing

198

00:06:49,280 --> 00:06:53,919

that I did that. And when

199

00:06:52,240 --> 00:06:55,840

you multiply the size of those

200

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

hedgerows and the length, that's

201

00:06:55,840 --> 00:06:59,919

quite a significant

202

00:06:57,919 --> 00:07:01,919

plantation almost, if wanting a better

203

00:06:59,919 --> 00:07:04,240

description, that does absorb a lot of

204

00:07:01,919 --> 00:07:05,199

carbon? Exactly, and

205

00:07:04,240 --> 00:07:08,080

it's

206

00:07:05,199 --> 00:07:10,560

a very, very good example of what's

207

00:07:08,080 --> 00:07:12,560

doable on the farm

208

00:07:10,560 --> 00:07:14,720

without impeding on agricultural

209

00:07:12,560 --> 00:07:16,960

production and producing food.

210

00:07:14,720 --> 00:07:19,680

It's very, very important to

211

00:07:16,960 --> 00:07:21,680

get this in perspective. There

212

00:07:19,680 --> 00:07:24,080

are plenty of

213

00:07:21,680 --> 00:07:27,680

opportunities out there, so we're looking

214

00:07:24,080 --> 00:07:31,520

at increasing

215

00:07:27,680 --> 00:07:33,599

the hedgerow length on the farm, but also

216

00:07:31,520 --> 00:07:35,840

what's important is

217

00:07:33,599 --> 00:07:37,840

restoring what you have already as well,

218

00:07:35,840 --> 00:07:40,560

so looking after that, protecting it

219

00:07:37,840 --> 00:07:42,960

and enhancing it with regards to

220

00:07:40,560 --> 00:07:45,280

structural hedgerows, width and making

221

00:07:42,960 --> 00:07:47,680

them work for the farm to contribute

222

00:07:45,280 --> 00:07:49,039

towards shelter and shade being the main

223

00:07:47,680 --> 00:07:50,479

one.

224

00:07:49,039 --> 00:07:53,360

That in turn

225

00:07:50,479 --> 00:07:55,840

will allow Geraint,

226

00:07:53,360 --> 00:07:58,000

hopefully, to turn out his livestock

227

00:07:55,840 --> 00:08:00,720

earlier in the spring and keep them out

228

00:07:58,000 --> 00:08:02,800

later in the winter, and that runs

229

00:08:00,720 --> 00:08:04,400

hand-in-hand with the

230

00:08:02,800 --> 00:08:07,440

outstanding feeding area that

231

00:08:04,400 --> 00:08:10,080

he's got outside as well, so it will

232

00:08:07,440 --> 00:08:10,800

reduce pressure on the slurry store

233

00:08:10,080 --> 00:08:13,599

and

234

00:08:10,800 --> 00:08:16,720

reduce the ammonia emission issue as

235

00:08:13,599 --> 00:08:18,879

well. There are huge benefits,

236

00:08:16,720 --> 00:08:21,120

and

237

00:08:18,879 --> 00:08:22,560

looking at this and identifying these

238

00:08:21,120 --> 00:08:24,720

benefits and the multi-functional

239

00:08:22,560 --> 00:08:26,319

purposes of the trees and how

240

00:08:24,720 --> 00:08:28,000

they work for the farm is very, very

241

00:08:26,319 --> 00:08:30,000

important.

242

00:08:28,000 --> 00:08:31,280

And for you as well, it feeds into the

243

00:08:30,000 --> 00:08:33,279

broader

244

00:08:31,280 --> 00:08:35,839

strategy of becoming

245

00:08:33,279 --> 00:08:37,519

carbon neutral on the farm, and you're

246

00:08:35,839 --> 00:08:38,800

offsetting your own emissions by having

247

00:08:37,519 --> 00:08:41,440

that huge

248

00:08:38,800 --> 00:08:43,680

carbon sink in the hedgerows? Yes, and

249

00:08:41,440 --> 00:08:45,680

it's a no-brainer to be putting more

250

00:08:43,680 --> 00:08:47,920

trees in that format onto the farm so

251

00:08:45,680 --> 00:08:49,760

that we can carry on producing food and

252

00:08:47,920 --> 00:08:52,480

being as carbon neutral as we can, or

253

00:08:49,760 --> 00:08:55,440

offsetting it anyway.

254

00:08:52,480 --> 00:08:58,880

The obligation that we have is to reach

255

00:08:55,440 --> 00:09:01,440

carbon neutrality and we will do our

256

00:08:58,880 --> 00:09:03,200

utmost to get to that -

257

00:09:01,440 --> 00:09:04,640

from hedgerows to peatland restoration

258

00:09:03,200 --> 00:09:05,839

and everything -

259

00:09:04,640 --> 00:09:07,860

260

00:09:05,839 --> 00:09:16,800

it’s part of the solution.

261

00:09:07,860 --> 00:09:19,360

[Music]

262

00:09:16,800 --> 00:09:21,279

Well, Geraint, we are here in a sheltered

263

00:09:19,360 --> 00:09:23,200

spot

264

00:09:21,279 --> 00:09:25,600

in Fedw Arian,

265

00:09:23,200 --> 00:09:27,360

and you’ve enhanced the woodlands and the

266

00:09:25,600 --> 00:09:28,399

small pockets of woodland around us by

267

00:09:27,360 --> 00:09:30,080

planting

268

00:09:28,399 --> 00:09:30,800

more. Tell me exactly what you've done

269

00:09:30,080 --> 00:09:32,640

here.

270

00:09:30,800 --> 00:09:34,000

In total, the field’s about

271

00:09:32,640 --> 00:09:35,519

7.5 acres

272

00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:37,839

and

273

00:09:35,519 --> 00:09:39,760

we've got some very unproductive corners

274

00:09:37,839 --> 00:09:42,080

within it,

275

00:09:39,760 --> 00:09:44,000

so we decided to fence those off,

276

00:09:42,080 --> 00:09:45,600

and

277

00:09:44,000 --> 00:09:48,959

basically, there were

278

00:09:45,600 --> 00:09:51,200

20 mature trees in the field in total,

279

00:09:48,959 --> 00:09:53,200

and by fencing corners off, splitting the

280

00:09:51,200 --> 00:09:54,480

field into two and creating new

281

00:09:53,200 --> 00:09:58,000

hedgerows,

282

00:09:54,480 --> 00:10:00,640

we now have 2,350

283

00:09:58,000 --> 00:10:01,760

trees growing in the field,

284

00:10:00,640 --> 00:10:03,760

and

285

00:10:01,760 --> 00:10:06,160

productivity from the field as well

286

00:10:03,760 --> 00:10:06,959

has improved from what it was; we've

287

00:10:06,160 --> 00:10:08,480

got

288

00:10:06,959 --> 00:10:10,000

a field that last year gave us three

289

00:10:08,480 --> 00:10:12,560

cuts of silage, we've got an arable

290

00:10:10,000 --> 00:10:14,160

silage crop that's gone in this spring,

291

00:10:12,560 --> 00:10:15,040

and then of course you've got all

292

00:10:14,160 --> 00:10:17,360

293

00:10:15,040 --> 00:10:19,519

the hedges and edges corners of

294

00:10:17,360 --> 00:10:21,600

the farm just

295

00:10:19,519 --> 00:10:24,320

naturally providing

296

00:10:21,600 --> 00:10:25,200

shelter, biodiversity gains for my farm -

297

00:10:24,320 --> 00:10:27,279

298

00:10:25,200 --> 00:10:29,680

simple, simple wins.

299

00:10:27,279 --> 00:10:30,800

I wasn't producing much from that corner

300

00:10:29,680 --> 00:10:32,399

and

301

00:10:30,800 --> 00:10:34,240

I might as well focus on what I can

302

00:10:32,399 --> 00:10:36,160

actually produce from and actually give

303

00:10:34,240 --> 00:10:38,320

this to nature, in a

304

00:10:36,160 --> 00:10:40,560

simple way of putting it.

305

00:10:38,320 --> 00:10:42,240

We've got 50 trees planted working in

306

00:10:40,560 --> 00:10:43,680

partnership with the Snowdonia National

307

00:10:42,240 --> 00:10:46,640

Park there;

308

00:10:43,680 --> 00:10:48,640

they are coming towards five years old

309

00:10:46,640 --> 00:10:49,920

this coming autumn, I think,

310

00:10:48,640 --> 00:10:52,800

and

311

00:10:49,920 --> 00:10:54,800

it's just transformed it - the

312

00:10:52,800 --> 00:10:56,399

ecosystem that's within there now, the

313

00:10:54,800 --> 00:10:57,839

different flowers flowering throughout

314

00:10:56,399 --> 00:10:59,600

the year, and you've got some

315

00:10:57,839 --> 00:11:01,120

self-seeding trees coming into it as

316

00:10:59,600 --> 00:11:01,920

well;

317

00:11:01,120 --> 00:11:03,279

it's

318

00:11:01,920 --> 00:11:05,839

transformed from somewhere

319

00:11:03,279 --> 00:11:08,320

that stock ended up going

320

00:11:05,839 --> 00:11:10,000

and so you'd have to catch them there,

321

00:11:08,320 --> 00:11:12,079

carry them back out here to put on

322

00:11:10,000 --> 00:11:13,279

the bike to give them the

323

00:11:12,079 --> 00:11:14,880

attention that they might have needed

324

00:11:13,279 --> 00:11:15,920

and so on - so

325

00:11:14,880 --> 00:11:18,480

326

00:11:15,920 --> 00:11:19,920

making life easier for myself, really.

327

00:11:18,480 --> 00:11:23,040

You've done it

328

00:11:19,920 --> 00:11:24,079

without impeding on food production,

329

00:11:23,040 --> 00:11:26,560

and you've

330

00:11:24,079 --> 00:11:28,640

chosen the areas that

331

00:11:26,560 --> 00:11:29,680

provide themselves, with regards

332

00:11:28,640 --> 00:11:33,600

to

333

00:11:29,680 --> 00:11:35,440

difficult areas, slopes, etc., and with

334

00:11:33,600 --> 00:11:37,040

management of livestock in mind as well

335

00:11:35,440 --> 00:11:38,320

to make things easier, as

336

00:11:37,040 --> 00:11:41,040

you said,

337

00:11:38,320 --> 00:11:42,560

and taking advantage of local schemes, so

338

00:11:41,040 --> 00:11:44,480

National Park, for instance.

339

00:11:42,560 --> 00:11:46,240

No, you're absolutely right, and it's

340

00:11:44,480 --> 00:11:49,440

the Snowdonia National Park that we’ve

341

00:11:46,240 --> 00:11:51,279

worked with here; they provide the grant

342

00:11:49,440 --> 00:11:52,800

towards the fencing and so on, and they

343

00:11:51,279 --> 00:11:55,040

provide the trees for free because

344

00:11:52,800 --> 00:11:56,720

they've got the nursery themselves,

345

00:11:55,040 --> 00:11:58,480

and it's hitting their objectives or

346

00:11:56,720 --> 00:12:00,079

getting more trees into the ground and

347

00:11:58,480 --> 00:12:02,560

more corners

348

00:12:00,079 --> 00:12:04,240

that are wildlife rich as well in a

349

00:12:02,560 --> 00:12:06,160

simple way.

350

00:12:04,240 --> 00:12:08,079

I'd rather work smarter than harder

351

00:12:06,160 --> 00:12:10,800

myself, and

352

00:12:08,079 --> 00:12:13,680

anything I can do to help nature and

353

00:12:10,800 --> 00:12:15,440

climate change along the way and still

354

00:12:13,680 --> 00:12:17,279

be producing food the way that I want to

355

00:12:15,440 --> 00:12:20,079

do it, then I’m going to be all up for

356

00:12:17,279 --> 00:12:22,720

having a go at doing that. Exactly, and

357

00:12:20,079 --> 00:12:23,839

these options and schemes have got to be

358

00:12:22,720 --> 00:12:25,120

valuable;

359

00:12:23,839 --> 00:12:28,000

figures have got to stack up for the

360

00:12:25,120 --> 00:12:30,800

farm from a business perspective. How

361

00:12:28,000 --> 00:12:32,800

do you look at those elements? Until

362

00:12:30,800 --> 00:12:34,320

now, the productivity of the farm has to

363

00:12:32,800 --> 00:12:35,600

compensate for the loss that we're

364

00:12:34,320 --> 00:12:37,040

making in putting these, because the

365

00:12:35,600 --> 00:12:39,600

grants don't cover

366

00:12:37,040 --> 00:12:41,440

the entire cost of putting them in.

367

00:12:39,600 --> 00:12:42,880

Going into the future, we need a scheme

368

00:12:41,440 --> 00:12:44,320

that's going to reward us, because at the

369

00:12:42,880 --> 00:12:47,040

end of the day, I just want to be a

370

00:12:44,320 --> 00:12:49,360

profitable farmer, and as I’m making

371

00:12:47,040 --> 00:12:51,360

profit from these schemes, I will do more

372

00:12:49,360 --> 00:12:52,880

and more on my farm, so simple ways of

373

00:12:51,360 --> 00:12:54,480

getting farmers

374

00:12:52,880 --> 00:12:56,160

on board into creating

375

00:12:54,480 --> 00:12:57,200

profitable businesses

376

00:12:56,160 --> 00:12:58,720

and

377

00:12:57,200 --> 00:13:01,040

just

378

00:12:58,720 --> 00:13:03,360

working on it in a simple way, and

379

00:13:01,040 --> 00:13:04,320

the rewards are huge, aren't they?

380

00:13:03,360 --> 00:13:05,440

381

00:13:04,320 --> 00:13:06,720

From

382

00:13:05,440 --> 00:13:10,399

choosing the

383

00:13:06,720 --> 00:13:14,959

species to plant, you've taken

384

00:13:10,399 --> 00:13:16,720

a hint from the surrounding trees and

385

00:13:14,959 --> 00:13:18,800

species that are growing there?

386

00:13:16,720 --> 00:13:20,560

We're looking around

387

00:13:18,800 --> 00:13:22,000

our surrounding landscape -

388

00:13:20,560 --> 00:13:23,839

what's growing, what's growing well and

389

00:13:22,000 --> 00:13:25,519

so on, and we've been putting them into

390

00:13:23,839 --> 00:13:28,720

here as well, and it’s about

391

00:13:25,519 --> 00:13:29,760

creating a wider run of habitat,

392

00:13:28,720 --> 00:13:32,079

isn't it?

393

00:13:29,760 --> 00:13:33,760

And again, advice from Snowdonia

394

00:13:32,079 --> 00:13:37,040

National Park. We're lucky in that there's a

395

00:13:33,760 --> 00:13:39,360

fantastic team there that are very

396

00:13:37,040 --> 00:13:41,360

supportive for farmers to get involved

397

00:13:39,360 --> 00:13:44,079

in the conservation work that they want

398

00:13:41,360 --> 00:13:46,160

to see, and they make it work for both

399

00:13:44,079 --> 00:13:47,519

parties, which is a fantastic plus at the

400

00:13:46,160 --> 00:13:49,440

end of the day.

401

00:13:47,519 --> 00:13:52,240

We're

402

00:13:49,440 --> 00:13:55,360

here now alongside this hedge

403

00:13:52,240 --> 00:13:58,240

in Fedw Arian, having looked at

404

00:13:55,360 --> 00:14:02,240

the structure of hedgerows on the farm

405

00:13:58,240 --> 00:14:03,600

and put a management plan together.

406

00:14:02,240 --> 00:14:06,000

And this is interesting because it's

407

00:14:03,600 --> 00:14:07,680

been cut in an ‘a-shape’. How have you

408

00:14:06,000 --> 00:14:09,040

come to that decision?

409

00:14:07,680 --> 00:14:10,880

Well, it's all down to the contractor;

410

00:14:09,040 --> 00:14:11,920

he’s took it upon himself to do it in that

411

00:14:10,880 --> 00:14:13,920

way, and

412

00:14:11,920 --> 00:14:15,519

he's seen that the actual bottom of it

413

00:14:13,920 --> 00:14:17,680

needs a bit of help to

414

00:14:15,519 --> 00:14:19,680

strengthen itself up, so

415

00:14:17,680 --> 00:14:22,480

fair play to the contractor, he's

416

00:14:19,680 --> 00:14:25,199

gone and done it himself in terms of helping to

417

00:14:22,480 --> 00:14:27,040

strengthen my own hedgerow for me.

418

00:14:25,199 --> 00:14:28,959

And it's of course, as you said,

419

00:14:27,040 --> 00:14:30,959

the benefits of an ‘a-shaped’ hedge -

420

00:14:28,959 --> 00:14:33,199

there's a lot more light going into the

421

00:14:30,959 --> 00:14:34,160

base of the hedge so there's a lot more

422

00:14:33,199 --> 00:14:35,839

423

00:14:34,160 --> 00:14:38,240

growth of

424

00:14:35,839 --> 00:14:41,920

natural regenerating

425

00:14:38,240 --> 00:14:44,240

varieties of grasses and flora there,

426

00:14:41,920 --> 00:14:47,199

but also the hedge itself has really

427

00:14:44,240 --> 00:14:49,120

got into a good structure here and grown

428

00:14:47,199 --> 00:14:52,320

well, so there's more light going into

429

00:14:49,120 --> 00:14:54,560

the hedgerow itself as well.

430

00:14:52,320 --> 00:14:56,160

It is, isn't it? It's

431

00:14:54,560 --> 00:14:58,240

all about having that conversation with

432

00:14:56,160 --> 00:14:59,519

the people that tend the hedgerows

433

00:14:58,240 --> 00:15:02,480

for you and

434

00:14:59,519 --> 00:15:04,800

telling them what you want and

435

00:15:02,480 --> 00:15:06,880

co-working and delivering, and

436

00:15:04,800 --> 00:15:08,639

so many other things have the multiple

437

00:15:06,880 --> 00:15:10,160

benefits of it then. So the

438

00:15:08,639 --> 00:15:11,519

conversation with a contractor is all

439

00:15:10,160 --> 00:15:12,399

important before they start cutting,

440

00:15:11,519 --> 00:15:14,720

441

00:15:12,399 --> 00:15:16,800

and just to continue to

442

00:15:14,720 --> 00:15:18,720

make sure that the hedges that you do

443

00:15:16,800 --> 00:15:20,639

want to focus on with regards to a

444

00:15:18,720 --> 00:15:22,959

change in management, allowing more

445

00:15:20,639 --> 00:15:23,680

growth, etc., that the contractors are aware of

446

00:15:22,959 --> 00:15:26,399

that.

447

00:15:23,680 --> 00:15:28,320

Yes, absolutely true. And of course,

448

00:15:26,399 --> 00:15:30,320

the increase in growth as well,

449

00:15:28,320 --> 00:15:32,880

height and width structure,

450

00:15:30,320 --> 00:15:35,680

all benefits to increase

451

00:15:32,880 --> 00:15:38,370

biodiversity and carbon on the farm,

452

00:15:35,680 --> 00:15:46,959

which is excellent.

453

00:15:38,370 --> 00:15:48,959

[Music]

454

00:15:46,959 --> 00:15:50,240

Tell us a bit more about the peatland

455

00:15:48,959 --> 00:15:51,680

restoration. That's the project

456

00:15:50,240 --> 00:15:52,959

you've been doing alongside National

457

00:15:51,680 --> 00:15:54,639

Park?

458

00:15:52,959 --> 00:15:56,800

Yes. We've done

459

00:15:54,639 --> 00:15:58,880

a little block,

460

00:15:56,800 --> 00:16:01,279

blocking the ditches up on the mountain,

461

00:15:58,880 --> 00:16:03,680

and hopefully going into this autumn

462

00:16:01,279 --> 00:16:07,199

coming now, we will do a vast area

463

00:16:03,680 --> 00:16:08,800

of old peat hags that need attention

464

00:16:07,199 --> 00:16:10,639

and

465

00:16:08,800 --> 00:16:12,800

closing them up so that we hold

466

00:16:10,639 --> 00:16:15,040

the water back and drawing in the carbon

467

00:16:12,800 --> 00:16:17,680

through the sphagnum there so that we're

468

00:16:15,040 --> 00:16:19,680

building carbon storage in there,

469

00:16:17,680 --> 00:16:21,600

and also, there's quite a few

470

00:16:19,680 --> 00:16:23,839

kilometres of

471

00:16:21,600 --> 00:16:27,279

ditches that were opened by my father

472

00:16:23,839 --> 00:16:29,199

and grandfather in the early 80s

473

00:16:27,279 --> 00:16:30,480

which we're going to be closing up again.

474

00:16:29,199 --> 00:16:31,360

475

00:16:30,480 --> 00:16:32,959

On

476

00:16:31,360 --> 00:16:34,560

one side of things, they are good for

477

00:16:32,959 --> 00:16:36,720

the environmental and that’s why we are doing it, but

478

00:16:34,560 --> 00:16:38,800

they've now become dangerous to

479

00:16:36,720 --> 00:16:40,320

livestock as well, so

480

00:16:38,800 --> 00:16:41,839

we're going to be reprofiling them so

481

00:16:40,320 --> 00:16:43,279

that it’s safe for livestock to be going

482

00:16:41,839 --> 00:16:44,880

in and out through them as well, and

483

00:16:43,279 --> 00:16:46,399

traveling with your quad bike and what

484

00:16:44,880 --> 00:16:48,000

have you as well is going to be safer

485

00:16:46,399 --> 00:16:49,920

because you haven't got some deep

486

00:16:48,000 --> 00:16:52,079

ditches to fall into. You mentioned

487

00:16:49,920 --> 00:16:53,680

earlier about water.

488

00:16:52,079 --> 00:16:55,839

You've specifically got a project

489

00:16:53,680 --> 00:16:57,680

looking at water on this farm?

490

00:16:55,839 --> 00:16:59,199

We looked at the water

491

00:16:57,680 --> 00:17:01,040

that falls from the sky and lands on the

492

00:16:59,199 --> 00:17:03,680

farm and how it runs off and everything.

493

00:17:01,040 --> 00:17:05,520

We have a duty - if it falls

494

00:17:03,680 --> 00:17:07,280

from the sky, it has to leave the farm in

495

00:17:05,520 --> 00:17:09,360

a pristine condition.

496

00:17:07,280 --> 00:17:11,199

We've been

497

00:17:09,360 --> 00:17:14,400

looking into different ways where we can

498

00:17:11,199 --> 00:17:16,640

create ponds and hold water back, create

499

00:17:14,400 --> 00:17:18,720

habitats at the same time and use that

500

00:17:16,640 --> 00:17:20,000

water to our advantage for our livestock

501

00:17:18,720 --> 00:17:21,839

and what have you.

502

00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:23,679

We've been diverting an awful lot of

503

00:17:21,839 --> 00:17:25,280

water from the yard so that it doesn't

504

00:17:23,679 --> 00:17:26,400

end up into the slurry store and what

505

00:17:25,280 --> 00:17:29,039

have you,

506

00:17:26,400 --> 00:17:31,039

and then we’ve had a PhD student

507

00:17:29,039 --> 00:17:34,000

looking at the amount of rain that was

508

00:17:31,039 --> 00:17:36,640

falling on one little part of a woodland

509

00:17:34,000 --> 00:17:40,240

that runs onto about a

510

00:17:36,640 --> 00:17:40,240

nine acre-ish field, I think.

511

00:17:40,320 --> 00:17:44,400

By the time it reaches the bottom point

512

00:17:42,320 --> 00:17:47,120

of that field, there's a value of about

513

00:17:44,400 --> 00:17:49,520

£22,000 if you're going to be buying

514

00:17:47,120 --> 00:17:51,600

that in. If we can hold that

515

00:17:49,520 --> 00:17:53,520

back for the good of communities

516

00:17:51,600 --> 00:17:56,080

further downstream as well for as long as we

517

00:17:53,520 --> 00:17:58,400

can, we could use it for

518

00:17:56,080 --> 00:18:00,640

the livestock and everything,

519

00:17:58,400 --> 00:18:03,280

and again, it's just a simple, simple way

520

00:18:00,640 --> 00:18:06,080

of creating habitats at the same time.

521

00:18:03,280 --> 00:18:07,600

It's great to be able to do this,

522

00:18:06,080 --> 00:18:09,600

523

00:18:07,600 --> 00:18:12,160

calculating the amount of water that we

524

00:18:09,600 --> 00:18:14,000

are having here; there's about 100 inches

525

00:18:12,160 --> 00:18:15,360

falling on the farm over a 12 month

526

00:18:14,000 --> 00:18:18,240

period, and

527

00:18:15,360 --> 00:18:20,799

if we can hold that back for

528

00:18:18,240 --> 00:18:22,320

as long as we can and use it as much as

529

00:18:20,799 --> 00:18:24,160

we can as well,

530

00:18:22,320 --> 00:18:25,200

then it's a win-win for everybody, isn't

531

00:18:24,160 --> 00:18:27,039

it?

532

00:18:25,200 --> 00:18:28,400

What are your plans now for the future,

533

00:18:27,039 --> 00:18:29,520

because you do have

534

00:18:28,400 --> 00:18:31,840

some

535

00:18:29,520 --> 00:18:33,919

proposals to trial some

536

00:18:31,840 --> 00:18:36,000

agroforestry on some of your land?

537

00:18:33,919 --> 00:18:38,000

The land that I own, which is in

538

00:18:36,000 --> 00:18:40,160

Llanuwchllyn on a farm called Tŷ Du, I've got

539

00:18:38,000 --> 00:18:42,080

full control to be able to do whatever

540

00:18:40,160 --> 00:18:43,360

I wish to do with that,

541

00:18:42,080 --> 00:18:45,440

and

542

00:18:43,360 --> 00:18:46,480

we are working with Coed Cadw and we're

543

00:18:45,440 --> 00:18:47,840

going to be

544

00:18:46,480 --> 00:18:49,440

widening the

545

00:18:47,840 --> 00:18:52,240

buffer zones for the rivers that are

546

00:18:49,440 --> 00:18:53,840

running through it, and some will go out

547

00:18:52,240 --> 00:18:56,799

3-4 metres, others will go up to

548

00:18:53,840 --> 00:18:58,799

about 30 metres of buffer zone for it,

549

00:18:56,799 --> 00:18:59,760

and then planting trees right up along

550

00:18:58,799 --> 00:19:01,679

there.

551

00:18:59,760 --> 00:19:03,200

Some other corners,

552

00:19:01,679 --> 00:19:05,679

they're going to be

553

00:19:03,200 --> 00:19:07,520

very unproductive corners, where it's

554

00:19:05,679 --> 00:19:08,880

awkward to use machinery, and

555

00:19:07,520 --> 00:19:10,480

we're going to be fencing those off,

556

00:19:08,880 --> 00:19:13,200

planting trees and closing the

557

00:19:10,480 --> 00:19:14,400

gate on them and giving them to nature,

558

00:19:13,200 --> 00:19:16,080

and there are

559

00:19:14,400 --> 00:19:18,480

other fields where we’re going to be putting

560

00:19:16,080 --> 00:19:20,320

some rows of trees into them and so on,

561

00:19:18,480 --> 00:19:21,440

and hopefully create an orchard in there

562

00:19:20,320 --> 00:19:22,320

as well -

563

00:19:21,440 --> 00:19:24,240

564

00:19:22,320 --> 00:19:26,480

so simple things to try and

565

00:19:24,240 --> 00:19:29,200

enhance that farm's

566

00:19:26,480 --> 00:19:31,039

potential going forward, in terms of

567

00:19:29,200 --> 00:19:32,080

nature's recovery and climate change.

568

00:19:31,039 --> 00:19:33,840

569

00:19:32,080 --> 00:19:36,080

And is it about choosing the right piece

570

00:19:33,840 --> 00:19:37,520

of land for the right projects?

571

00:19:36,080 --> 00:19:38,960

You wouldn't necessarily do

572

00:19:37,520 --> 00:19:40,400

some of that work on the most productive

573

00:19:38,960 --> 00:19:42,400

land you've got. Would that be fair to

574

00:19:40,400 --> 00:19:43,679

say? No, that's absolutely fair to say.

575

00:19:42,400 --> 00:19:45,840

576

00:19:43,679 --> 00:19:47,679

Being realistic with what I can do on

577

00:19:45,840 --> 00:19:50,640

that farm, it's more of a farm that can

578

00:19:47,679 --> 00:19:52,160

hold more livestock than produce

579

00:19:50,640 --> 00:19:53,760

the type of land the market is willing

580

00:19:52,160 --> 00:19:55,919

to pay for.

581

00:19:53,760 --> 00:19:58,240

I'm willing to take a step

582

00:19:55,919 --> 00:20:01,039

back from producing food like I used to

583

00:19:58,240 --> 00:20:03,200

do on it, and actually look at it in a

584

00:20:01,039 --> 00:20:05,039

total different way.

585

00:20:03,200 --> 00:20:06,720

Yes, stock will go there to dry off and

586

00:20:05,039 --> 00:20:09,200

so on,

587

00:20:06,720 --> 00:20:10,320

but here I want to be able

588

00:20:09,200 --> 00:20:12,320

589

00:20:10,320 --> 00:20:14,559

to produce food as efficient as we

590

00:20:12,320 --> 00:20:16,799

can and produce, well grow as much grass

591

00:20:14,559 --> 00:20:18,480

as we can over the 12 months, because

592

00:20:16,799 --> 00:20:20,720

that is a fantastic way of storing

593

00:20:18,480 --> 00:20:23,520

carbon in the ground as well,

594

00:20:20,720 --> 00:20:25,039

and the productivity will be a key focus

595

00:20:23,520 --> 00:20:26,640

for this farm.

596

00:20:25,039 --> 00:20:28,559

And Geraint, we've heard a lot in this

597

00:20:26,640 --> 00:20:31,440

conversation about carbon, carbon

598

00:20:28,559 --> 00:20:34,799

sequestration, biodiversity,

599

00:20:31,440 --> 00:20:36,480

productivity, protecting nature -

600

00:20:34,799 --> 00:20:38,320

will that form a lot of the

601

00:20:36,480 --> 00:20:40,240

essential skill sets farmers are going

602

00:20:38,320 --> 00:20:41,919

to need in Wales over the next 10 years?

603

00:20:40,240 --> 00:20:43,200

It’s that understanding, it’s almost learning

604

00:20:41,919 --> 00:20:45,200

a new language. We're talking about some

605

00:20:43,200 --> 00:20:47,039

of the intricacies around carbon, and a lot

606

00:20:45,200 --> 00:20:48,799

of this for some will be new, and

607

00:20:47,039 --> 00:20:50,320

I guess it will become a part and parcel

608

00:20:48,799 --> 00:20:53,360

of what farming is about in the next few

609

00:20:50,320 --> 00:20:55,440

years? I think very much so to an extent,

610

00:20:53,360 --> 00:20:57,280

and we have to translate that into

611

00:20:55,440 --> 00:20:59,760

language that farmers and people

612

00:20:57,280 --> 00:21:01,280

understand on a day-to-day basis. It

613

00:20:59,760 --> 00:21:03,120

can get out of hand sometimes with the

614

00:21:01,280 --> 00:21:04,559

jargon used, etc.,

615

00:21:03,120 --> 00:21:06,960

but it's very important and bringing it

616

00:21:04,559 --> 00:21:08,320

down to simple terms with

617

00:21:06,960 --> 00:21:10,400

the platform that we have here at

618

00:21:08,320 --> 00:21:12,400

Fedw Arian.

619

00:21:10,400 --> 00:21:15,440

We're so, so lucky to be able to show

620

00:21:12,400 --> 00:21:18,480

examples, taking into account the

621

00:21:15,440 --> 00:21:20,480

hedges and trees, etc., and I’d argue

622

00:21:18,480 --> 00:21:22,159

that agroforestry was happening already

623

00:21:20,480 --> 00:21:24,400

on this farm with regards to the matrix

624

00:21:22,159 --> 00:21:26,880

of hedgerows and shelter belts that

625

00:21:24,400 --> 00:21:28,559

Geraint’s put in place over the years,

626

00:21:26,880 --> 00:21:30,960

which in turn is integrating everything

627

00:21:28,559 --> 00:21:32,960

else into the equation as well,

628

00:21:30,960 --> 00:21:35,840

soil being number one on the list, so

629

00:21:32,960 --> 00:21:38,000

improving soil carbon and

630

00:21:35,840 --> 00:21:40,000

organic carbon content and the

631

00:21:38,000 --> 00:21:42,320

health of the soil, and

632

00:21:40,000 --> 00:21:44,960

in doing that you're going to be

633

00:21:42,320 --> 00:21:46,880

raising the porosity,

634

00:21:44,960 --> 00:21:48,000

elevating the porosity of the soil to hold

635

00:21:46,880 --> 00:21:49,760

water.

636

00:21:48,000 --> 00:21:51,039

Geraint was talking

637

00:21:49,760 --> 00:21:53,440

about holding it back before it

638

00:21:51,039 --> 00:21:54,960

gets into the channel, and similarly the

639

00:21:53,440 --> 00:21:57,440

hedgerows are doing their work as well

640

00:21:54,960 --> 00:21:59,440

and the root network are taking that

641

00:21:57,440 --> 00:22:01,200

water underground, so filtering it

642

00:21:59,440 --> 00:22:03,120

before it gets

643

00:22:01,200 --> 00:22:06,559

into the water channel. All this

644

00:22:03,120 --> 00:22:08,240

integrates into

645

00:22:06,559 --> 00:22:09,520

an element that's

646

00:22:08,240 --> 00:22:11,120

part of the

647

00:22:09,520 --> 00:22:12,880

environmental plan for the farm, if you

648

00:22:11,120 --> 00:22:15,200

like, and

649

00:22:12,880 --> 00:22:18,320

as I said earlier, we are very lucky in that

650

00:22:15,200 --> 00:22:21,120

it's a very good example of

651

00:22:18,320 --> 00:22:23,039

showing that agriculture, and

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00:22:21,120 --> 00:22:24,720

this is the green land of agriculture

653

00:22:23,039 --> 00:22:27,440

in the fight against climate

654

00:22:24,720 --> 00:22:30,720

change and that we can actually develop

655

00:22:27,440 --> 00:22:33,120

this further and look at other opportunities.

656

00:22:30,720 --> 00:22:34,799

And in the transition now,

657

00:22:33,120 --> 00:22:36,080

yes there are going to be changes; it's

658

00:22:34,799 --> 00:22:37,760

not going to be wholesale

659

00:22:36,080 --> 00:22:40,320

and it's not going to be a massive shock -

660

00:22:37,760 --> 00:22:42,240

it's going to happen over time. Most

661

00:22:40,320 --> 00:22:44,159

governments have allowed that time to

662

00:22:42,240 --> 00:22:46,480

look at options and to look at

663

00:22:44,159 --> 00:22:48,640

developments on the farm,

664

00:22:46,480 --> 00:22:50,080

but what is important is that we

665

00:22:48,640 --> 00:22:53,520

can recognise

666

00:22:50,080 --> 00:22:55,440

as a baseline data the

667

00:22:53,520 --> 00:22:57,520

carbon footprint for the farm by

668

00:22:55,440 --> 00:23:00,400

diversity assessments, so

669

00:22:57,520 --> 00:23:02,559

that we can identify where the

670

00:23:00,400 --> 00:23:05,679

opportunities are, where we need to focus

671

00:23:02,559 --> 00:23:08,480

on reducing emissions, where we can maybe

672

00:23:05,679 --> 00:23:10,640

look at the less productive land to

673

00:23:08,480 --> 00:23:12,240

maybe plant more trees and look at soil

674

00:23:10,640 --> 00:23:14,480

health as well, and seeing how to develop and

675

00:23:12,240 --> 00:23:17,360

build the soil’s health up and soil

676

00:23:14,480 --> 00:23:18,159

carbon. There's a lot to it, and

677

00:23:17,360 --> 00:23:20,640

it's

678

00:23:18,159 --> 00:23:22,240

very much an instance of

679

00:23:20,640 --> 00:23:25,600

contributing and making them work

680

00:23:22,240 --> 00:23:27,440

to improve the

681

00:23:25,600 --> 00:23:29,280

environmental

682

00:23:27,440 --> 00:23:31,039

performance but also the

683

00:23:29,280 --> 00:23:33,280

economic performance of the farm. And it

684

00:23:31,039 --> 00:23:35,120

also feeds in nicely to the Welsh

685

00:23:33,280 --> 00:23:38,080

farming brand and the story that

686

00:23:35,120 --> 00:23:40,159

underpins food production here in Wales.

687

00:23:38,080 --> 00:23:41,360

It really, really does, doesn't it? And

688

00:23:40,159 --> 00:23:43,039

it's a

689

00:23:41,360 --> 00:23:44,799

very healthy green brand that we can

690

00:23:43,039 --> 00:23:46,559

promote. Whether we're

691

00:23:44,799 --> 00:23:48,240

looking for new markets or just the

692

00:23:46,559 --> 00:23:50,640

continued support from the consumers

693

00:23:48,240 --> 00:23:53,360

that we have already, they combine it

694

00:23:50,640 --> 00:23:55,279

with confidence that it is a really,

695

00:23:53,360 --> 00:23:57,120

really green product that they are

696

00:23:55,279 --> 00:23:58,080

buying on the supermarket shelf,

697

00:23:57,120 --> 00:24:00,000

and

698

00:23:58,080 --> 00:24:01,679

they're going away knowing that

699

00:24:00,000 --> 00:24:03,279

they're supporting the farmers that

700

00:24:01,679 --> 00:24:06,559

are producing that product that they are happy

701

00:24:03,279 --> 00:24:09,120

to take away with them, and

702

00:24:06,559 --> 00:24:12,000

it holds such a potential going

703

00:24:09,120 --> 00:24:13,919

forward as a green brand here in Wales.

704

00:24:12,000 --> 00:24:15,919

As a final question then, Geraint, if we

705

00:24:13,919 --> 00:24:17,840

had a time machine and we could go 10

706

00:24:15,919 --> 00:24:20,080

years into the future, what would

707

00:24:17,840 --> 00:24:22,080

Fedw Arian Uchaf look like and how confident

708

00:24:20,080 --> 00:24:23,600

are you about the future of farming here

709

00:24:22,080 --> 00:24:25,679

in Wales?

710

00:24:23,600 --> 00:24:27,520

To put it simply for you, if you look from

711

00:24:25,679 --> 00:24:30,559

above on Fedw Arian in about 10 years

712

00:24:27,520 --> 00:24:33,760

time, every single field will have a

713

00:24:30,559 --> 00:24:36,480

hedgerow around it and stock will still be

714

00:24:33,760 --> 00:24:38,480

rotationally grazing around those, and

715

00:24:36,480 --> 00:24:40,559

hopefully, if everything goes to plan,

716

00:24:38,480 --> 00:24:42,080

there will be an awful lot more ponds

717

00:24:40,559 --> 00:24:43,919

and habitat creation that would have

718

00:24:42,080 --> 00:24:45,679

happened into it,

719

00:24:43,919 --> 00:24:47,279

and I’m hoping that everything will

720

00:24:45,679 --> 00:24:49,840

click together and we'll still

721

00:24:47,279 --> 00:24:51,840

be producing if not more food from the

722

00:24:49,840 --> 00:24:53,760

benefits that the green infrastructures

723

00:24:51,840 --> 00:24:55,120

that I want to be putting in will actually be

724

00:24:53,760 --> 00:24:57,760

giving us.

725

00:24:55,120 --> 00:25:00,480

So an exciting feature lies ahead?

726

00:24:57,760 --> 00:25:02,080

Yes. Geraint Davies

727

00:25:00,480 --> 00:25:03,279

and Geraint jones, thank you very much to

728

00:25:02,080 --> 00:25:05,120

both of you for this conversation; it's

729

00:25:03,279 --> 00:25:06,720

been a fascinating insight to what

730

00:25:05,120 --> 00:25:08,640

you're doing here at Fedw Arian and your

731

00:25:06,720 --> 00:25:10,080

vision for the future, and Geraint

732

00:25:08,640 --> 00:25:11,679

Jones, thank you again for your input in

733

00:25:10,080 --> 00:25:14,080

terms of understanding what's

734

00:25:11,679 --> 00:25:15,840

going to be key and front and centre of

735

00:25:14,080 --> 00:25:17,760

developing an environmental plan for

736

00:25:15,840 --> 00:25:19,039

farmers going forward. And watch this

737

00:25:17,760 --> 00:25:20,640

space - the new

738

00:25:19,039 --> 00:25:22,000

Sustainable Farming Scheme, more details

739

00:25:20,640 --> 00:25:23,679

will be released on that

740

00:25:22,000 --> 00:25:25,200

no doubt in the months to come. But

741

00:25:23,679 --> 00:25:27,039

you're taking on board and doing a lot

742

00:25:25,200 --> 00:25:29,039

of the work now because you firmly

743

00:25:27,039 --> 00:25:30,880

believe in that. Congratulations,

744

00:25:29,039 --> 00:25:32,320

good luck and all

745

00:25:30,880 --> 00:25:35,120

the best for the future here, and thank

746

00:25:32,320 --> 00:25:35,120

you both once again. Thank you. Thank you, Aled.

747

00:25:37,520 --> 00:25:41,120

If you would like more information about

748

00:25:39,200 --> 00:25:43,520

the support available through Farming

749

00:25:41,120 --> 00:25:45,360

Connect, then please contact your local

750

00:25:43,520 --> 00:25:48,400

development officer or the Service

751

00:25:45,360 --> 00:25:50,880

Centre on

752

00:25:48,400 --> 00:25:52,640

08456 000 813.

753

00:25:50,880 --> 00:25:55,279

And there we are, we've reached the end

754

00:25:52,640 --> 00:25:57,279

of yet another episode. We'll be back in

755

00:25:55,279 --> 00:25:59,600

two weeks’ time with plenty more to talk

756

00:25:57,279 --> 00:26:01,760

about, but in the meantime, don't forget

757

00:25:59,600 --> 00:26:04,080

to hit ‘subscribe’ on whichever platform

758

00:26:01,760 --> 00:26:06,559

you use to keep notified of all new

759

00:26:04,080 --> 00:26:08,400

episodes of Ear to the Ground.

760

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

On behalf of the team at Farming

761

00:26:08,400 --> 00:26:12,320

Connect and myself, Aled Jones, thank you

762

00:26:10,559 --> 00:26:15,320

for listening, and goodbye for now.

763

00:26:12,320 --> 00:26:15,320

[Music]

764

00:26:15,950 --> 00:26:29,290

[Music]

765

00:26:17,290 --> 00:26:29,290

[Music]

766

00:26:31,840 --> 00:26:33,919

[Music]