



## Gellifeddgaer Farm

Woodland & Forestry

### AGRICULTURE LEADING THE WAY IN SUSTAINABILITY

Gill and Charles Morgan and their son Richard, who are a 9th generation farming family, run Gellifeddgaer Farm on the outskirts of Blackmill, Bridgend in Mid Glamorgan.

While the 330 acre farm is located next to the 1,000 acre Mynydd-y-Gaer Common, it also has common rights on the upper and lower section of the 2,000 acre Coity Wallia Common.

With a large area to manage and farm, for the past three decades, Gellifeddgaer has been committed to protecting and looking after the environment. The farm has participated in environmental schemes throughout the years including the Habitat Scheme, Tir Gofal, Glastir Entry and is now part of Glastir Advanced.

### BENEFITS OF THE FUNDING

Gellifeddgaer Farm joined the Glastir Advanced scheme in 2015, a five year whole farm sustainable land management commitment which was designed to deliver key environmental aims.

Glastir, which is Welsh Government's sustainable land management scheme, offers financial support to farmers and landholders for the delivery of specific environmental goods and services aimed at combating climate change; improving water management and maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. Glastir Advanced is one of the several strands of the scheme and is a five-year whole farm commitment.

Since joining the scheme, the Morgan family has undertaken areas of broad-leaved woodland, water fringe and spacious rich grassland areas. Drystone walls have been rebuilt and fencing has been erected to enclose woodland. Areas of coppicing within the woodland to encourage re-growth has also been carried out and the farm is now seeing the benefits of this work.





## THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT...

"We are continuously looking for ways to improve our carbon footprint at Gellifeddgaer. As a farming family, we strive to make sure we do the best we can to maintain the countryside and our natural resources.

"With our participation in previous environmental schemes and subsequently, the Glastir scheme, it has made the task much easier for us to help mitigate and adapt to climate change.

"Quite often, agriculture is criticised for the detrimental effects it has on the environment, but other industries are also responsible. What we can appreciate is that there is so much we can do within our industry for the environment. By adopting new land and water management practices, we can make a huge difference to carbon storage and preserve biodiversity.

"Compared to other countries with far lower environmental standards in farming, our farms, our land, and the schemes we participate in, are good examples of best practice. We can make a huge positive impact as we strive toward net zero. We need to do it for the planet, for future generations, our rural communities and our farming industry."

Morgan family, Gellifeddgaer Farm

"Maintaining and overseeing our woodlands is integral to sustaining Wales's rural environment. Nearly £300 million of the last part of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 has related to land-based agri-environment-climate activities, with just over seven thousand holdings receiving investment through Sustainable Production Grant and Farm Business Grant. In that time alone we have seen over eight thousand hectares of new woodland created and over four thousand hectares supported through the Glastir Woodland Restoration.

"With all the environmental work featured in the Glastir and other land-based schemes over the years, the future is looking positive. The clear outputs seen through these schemes are considerable and, therefore, we need to continue to work together with the farmers of Wales to sustain the farmlands and woodlands for generations to come.

"We hope working with the farmers on projects like Glastir in the future will provide much needed space for nature, increase biodiversity, help to capture, improve our water quality and store carbon and provide timber in a sustainable way for construction and other services."

Kevin Taylor, Policy Manager, Welsh Government Agriculture  
- Sustainable Development Division