



PEAK FARMERS GROUP

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER: MARCH 2025



FEBRUARY MEETING- HARDENCLOUGH FARM

This February, a small group of us braved the cold for a farm visit to Hardenclough Farm in Edale run by Rachel and James Metcalfe. James is the third generation of the family to farm the tenanted 350 acre hill farm.

They currently run a sheep flock based around 500 North Country Cheviots bred both pure and crossed with Traditional BFL rams and a small herd of pedigree Luig cattle. Small flocks of both Herdwick and Badgerface Welsh Mountains are also kept on the farm.

Topics covered included being National Trust tenant farmers, the farms HLS agreement and SFI opportunities.



MEET JESS WHITE OUR NEW STEERING GROUP MEMBER



I'm Jess White and I'm a Knowledge Exchange Manager for the West Midlands with AHDB. Prior to this, I was on the Genus Graduate Management Trainee Programme where I gained valuable experience in genetics, consultancy and project management.

I have grown up on my family's dairy and beef farm in Derbyshire where I have developed a passion for showing cattle with my local Holstein Young Breeder's Club. Being passionate about animal health and welfare, I studied BSc Animal Science at the University of Nottingham where I assisted with research trials focussing on calf behaviour. I am also an appointee to the NFU Dairy Board which has provided me with invaluable insight into policy and government lobbying.



MARCH MEETINGS- RUTH GRICE & SFI SOIL MANAGEMENT TEMPLATE

March has been a busy month with two meetings held. Ruth Grice presented her Nuffield Scholarship work on how dairy farmers and environmental organisations can achieve sustainable food security and combat climate change. Ruth delivered an excellent presentation that was a very thought provoking and relevant topic. Further information on her research can be found here <https://www.nuffieldscholar.org/scholars/2023/ruth-grice>.

The second meeting was a SFI soil management plan workshop run by Ross Dilks. Whilst the news of new SFI applications being stopped was still fresh, the meeting was still well attended and the information provided by Ross was highly valuable. Send an email to PFG for a template.



**Bubnell Cliff
Farm Visit-
10th April
BOOK NOW**

Other News

PFG continuation with the end of FiPL Funding

Following the finishing of the FiPL funding for the Peak Farmers Group at the end of March, we are beginning to plan the continuation of the group- possibly in a slightly different form. Some feedback from members will be sought over the next month to learn what direction you'd like to see the group go in. If you have some ideas you'd like to share please get in touch!



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