

Date : 18 July 2019
Time : 10am
Venue : ALDI Bathgate, Pottishaw Road, Jct 4/M8, EH48 2FB
Committee : Next Generation
Present : Colin Ferguson, Zander Hughes, Peter Moss, Jenny Baillie, Chris Scott-Park, Matthew Steel, Iain Livesey, Ben McClymont, Ally Brunton (SAYFC), Emma Bradbury, Charlie Adam (NFUS Vice-President), Ruth McClean (NFUS Communications Manager), Jenny Brunton (NFUS Policy Manager)
Apologies : John Manson, Catherine Sloan (SAYFC), David Cooper, Angus Beck, Bruce McConachie, Adam Wright, Jamie McLean, Ian Dickson, Amy Jo Reid (SAYFC)

1. Chairman's Report

Next Generation Chairman Colin Ferguson (CF) gave an update to the group on recent work including the successful Next Generation reception at the Royal Highland Show. There was a good turnout including many MSPs and Jenny Brunton (JB) and Clare Slipper (NFUS Political Affairs Manager) have both received good feedback and many indications that many MSPs would like to engage further on particular issues.

Colin also informed the group that NFUS would be publishing his blog on tax incentives on long term let land to encourage let land that day and this can be found at - <https://www.nfus.org.uk/news/blog/next-generation-chairs-blog-19-july-2019>

2. Regional Updates

Committee members were asked to bring concerns facing members in their region to the national meeting. Regional Reps were asked to provide an update on a regional event to be held in 2019 and progress made in securing branch monitors and a Vice-Regional representative.

East Central – There is an East Central Next Generation meeting at Angus Soft Fruits on Thursday 1 August alongside SAYFC's East Area Agri-Affairs with a focus on marketing and alternative production systems. There was a successful meeting

held at Craig and Katreen Malone's farm in July with a focus on the FLS Starter Farm Scheme and opportunities for new entrants.

Forth and Clyde – Panel Night/Drop in stations on the 9 or 12 September on adding value and diversification.

Orkney – Meeting at the end of year on resilience.

Lothian and Borders – Disappointing to not the planned joint meeting with SAYFC but proceeding with event later in the year. Interest in farm safety and vehicle requirements.

3. Committee Updates

The Next Generation representatives were asked to provide an update on relevant issues discussed at commodity committees.

Poultry – Continued issues with oversupply and barn/cage demands from supermarkets. Also issues with SEPA requirements and substantial costs.

Milk – Lack of information of milk contracts and would like to see more blogs, videos etc to increase engagement on what this means.

4. Agrespect Pledge

The group were asked to consider signing the Agrespect pledge which aims to promote the countryside as a vibrant, tolerant and welcoming place for everyone irrespective of gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation. More info at -

<https://agrespect.com/>

The group unanimously agreed to sign the Agrespect pledge and this would be taken to the NFUS Board so they could consider if NFUS would also sign the pledge.

5. RBS Entrepreneur Accelerator Programme

Policy Manager Jenny Brunton provided an update on this programme which was launched between NFUS Next Generation, RYP, SAYFC and RBS at the Highland Show. The launch event will be in late October in a central location with the course taking the form of 8 weeks online. Online Registration will be launched in early September.

6. Autumn Conference

The group was asked to form a proposal for a session at the Autumn Conference on the 25 October at SNH Battleby, which can be presented to the Board of Directors.

The group would like to propose a session on 'Future Markets' featuring a mixture of primary producers, processors and retailers on how farmers meet the changing demands of the modern consumer. The group is keen to work with retailers to ensure that they are producing a desired product.

ACTION – A proposal has been put to the Presidential Team and has been considered for the programme at the Autumn Conference.

7. Forestry and Land Scotland Starter Farms

There was a consensus that not enough is being done to deliver viable opportunities to new entrants and progress individuals up the farming ladder. The group felt that Scottish Government's Farming Opportunities for New Entrants (FONE) group was not meeting expectations or delivering any meaningful results. The group decided that they would like a letter to be sent to Fergus Ewing MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy to raise their concerns on measures that are in place to incentivise the new entrants and young farmers within the industry and ask for further discussion on these issues.

ACTION – A letter has been sent from NFU Scotland Next Generation Chairman, Colin Ferguson to the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy regarding the issues raised.

8. Any other business

- UK Next Generation Conference on 23 and 24 September at Stoneleigh with a focus on Climate Change and Opportunities for new entrants and upskilling the workforce.
- 25 September – Day in the Scottish Parliament sitting in on the REC Committee, meeting with Rural Spokespeople and an evening reception with MSPs.
- Next Meeting – Friday 15 November