

Date of meeting : 22 February 2019
Time : 10:30am
Venue : NFUS Boardroom, Rural Centre, Ingliston
Committee : Next Generation
Present : Colin Ferguson, Zander Hughes, Peter Moss, Jenny Baillie,
Chris Scott-Park, Matthew Steel, Ian Dickson, Iain Livesey, Charlie Adam
(NFUS Vice-President), Jenny Brunton (NFUS Policy Manager)
Apologies : John Manson, Catherine Sloan (SAYFC), David Cooper,
Angus Beck, Bruce McConachie, Adam Wright, Jamie McLean

1. Chairman's Report

Next Generation Chairman Colin Ferguson provided the group with a round up of the groups activities since he was elected in January.

- There was a good representation of Next Generation at the NFUS AGM and Conference in Glasgow with two tables at the evening dinner.
- Colin had attended Board training and would be attending the first Board Meeting on Tuesday 26 February.
- Colin informed the group of discussions with the Scottish Conservative Party both at the AGM and since then and that both him, Zander Hughes and Jenny Brunton were meeting with MSPs in March.
- Colin highlighted that the groups' moto is 'Bring Solutions, Not Problems'.

2. Policy Manager's Update and overview of Union Structure

Policy Manager Jenny Brunton gave a presentation which outlined the structure of NFUS including how Regions are represented, Commodities represented and the structure of the Board of Directors. Jenny also outlined the election process and the group discussed how they could encourage individuals to stand for positions from Branch Chairman to President.

3. Regional Updates

Argyll and Islands

Ian Dickson provided the group with an update including that there had been good representation of young farmers at Branch AGMs. The Bute AGM was taking place that night and an invitation had been extended to the local SAYFC club. There were ongoing issues with Livestock worrying.

Dumfries and Galloway

The Dumfries and Galloway Executive Committee were appointing a Next Generation Representative on Monday 25 February to replace Colin Ferguson who had been elected as Chair of the group.

Forth and Clyde

Jenny Baillie and Scott Chris-Park informed the group that the region had had a stand at the recent Stirling Bull Sales which saw good member engagement. Ongoing issues with livestock worrying and the releasing of urban foxes into rural areas.

East Central

Matthew Steel had attended both the Regional Board Meeting and the Gove-Ewing debate that week. Matthew informed the group of recent issues with the oversupply of eggs and how they hope to promote medium eggs to consumers. Matthew also highlighted issues with foxes as he had lost a considerable number of hens in recent weeks with a substantial loss.

Zander Hughes informed the group that he had discussed a Next Generation meeting with Kate Maitland and Phil Daughtrey with the West Fife and North East Fife Branches with the hopes of securing a date soon.

Lothian and Borders

Iain Livesey gave an overview of his discussion with regional Managers Kerry Clark and Lindsay Brown on how to encourage those who are post-SAYFC but are yet to engage with NFUS. They hope to host a visit to either Jim Shanks or Neil Thomson's farms in June.

North East

Jenny informed the group that she would be attending a Next Generation Panel Night with Clive Phillips and Duncan Morrison, hosted by the Buchan Branch.

Orkney

Peter Moss described the activity in Orkney with Next Generation. There is good uptake and a keen interest from all generations to encourage all to engage. Had a successful event with heather Wildman on succession with over 30 attending. Looking at possibility of a Resilience meeting this year.

ACTION – All Regional Representatives are to inform the group of details of their regional Next Generation meeting by 31 March 2019.

After concern was expressed by the group over Livestock worrying, Jenny Brunton informed them on NFUS recent work on a Livestock Worrying Bill Consultation and a year long campaign by NFUS to increase responsible dog ownership.

4. Objectives of the Next Generation Working Group

Colin Ferguson gave an overview of the proposed Next Generation Aims and a draft workplan to deliver on these. The three aims are:

1. Increase the coverage and engagement of the Next Generation Group
2. Identify support mechanisms to assist the Next Generation to progress within the industry
3. Highlight the mechanisms by which free movement of land can be achieved

The group discussed each aim individually and how they can deliver on these with a work plan being drawn up.

- The group would like to see wider engagement with the building of regional Next Gen networks and the appointment of a shadow rep for all NG group members.

- Events focused on topics such as Succession are believed to be good at engaging all generations whilst addressing a difficult topic.
- The group would like to focus on encouraging opportunities rather than discussing problems.
- Engagement with other Next Generation groups from other Unions.
- Identify measures within Steps to Change that will support the Next Generation.

ACTION – Jenny Brunton to circulate Workplan for 2019 for approval.

ACTION – Jenny/Colin to send correspondence to HM Treasury regarding tax incentives on long term let land.

ACTION – All Group members are to send Jenny Brunton one Environmental or Productivity Measure from NFUS’ ‘Steps to Change: A New Agricultural Policy For Scotland’ Document that they feel would benefit the Next Generation and why.

5. Douglas Ross – Communications Assistant

Douglas Ross, NFUS Communications Assistant, proposed to the group the launch of a NFUS Scotland Instagram page with the third week over every month being a Next gen ‘takeover’. The group also gave some ideas on competitions and that they would like to see less text heavy documentation and more images. The group are to feed in images to Douglas to aid with this.

Instagram		Blog	
		March	Zander Hughes
April	Iain Livesey	April	Ian Dickson/John Dickson
May	Peter Moss	May	Jenny Baillie
June	Colin Ferguson	June	
July	Chris Scott-Park	July	
August	Bruce McConachie	August	
September	Zander Hughes	September	
October	Matthew Steel	October	
November	Ian Dickson	November	
December	David Cooper	December	

6. Next Generation Engagement

The group were asked their thoughts on how to increase engagement and encourage more young people to attend NFUS events, from Branch meetings to the National AGM.

In general, the group would like to see meetings that are:

- Interactive – farm walks, visits, processors etc.
- Promote initiatives such as the Joint Venture Hub as collaboration is a key necessity for the success of industry.
- Less focus on CAP/support and more positive discussion around opportunities and innovation.
- Many of the group would rather attend specific commodity monitor meetings and Regional meetings rather than their branch meetings as these are felt to be negative and discuss the same topics at every meeting.
- Make Regional meetings more open.
- An online forum or App was suggested where any member can feed in thoughts and opinions on any topic.

AGM and Autumn Conference

Those from the group who had attended the AGM had enjoyed it and the opportunity provided to meet others and network. In particular, the joint union panel was enjoyed.

Thoughts for future events such as the AGM or Autumn Conference are:

- Breakout sessions on specific issues – commodities, regional etc.
- Headline speakers - the group would like to see some names that may attract more people to attend. Not just politicians etc but also inspirational individuals both from Scotland and abroad.
- One Political Session each day.
- Technical/Innovation Sessions.
- Use of technology – use twitter for questions, an attendee app etc.
- Positive rhetoric – discussing opportunities/solutions not problem focussed.

Family Membership

The group would like to promote family membership as they agree that this will directly increase the engagement with young people in farming and aid the Next Generation network. Colin Ferguson agreed to seek clarification on the definition of membership options and how the family membership is structured to ensure that NFUS is accessible as possible.

7. Any other business

- The Chairman discussed that in the Next Generation Terms of Reference, two individuals from SAYFC are invited to attend the Next Generation group. Currently only one place is filled by Catherine Sloan and the group agreed for Colin to extend an invitation to another SAYFC member.

Matthew Steel informed the group that he had had a conversation over the phone with Adam Wright who had expressed some unhappiness with the group, as he feels to date they've not been listened to

- The group valued the feedback but did not agree with the comments. It was highlighted that each individual has their own take on the Next Generation Working Group, and it is up to each person to make the best of opportunities. The importance of attending branch, regional and commodity meetings was noted. It was also clarified that the NFU Scotland Next Generation group runs as a democracy and that decisions are made as a group. Whilst sometimes individuals may not agree with decisions, there is a collective responsibility for the whole group to engage and promote the outcomes. The Chairman reminded the group that should they have any concerns, both he and Jenny Brunton are always available to discuss them, and that the NFU Scotland board are listening and supporting the Next Generation group – an indication of this is the seat on the Board of Directors and the dedicated staff resource to deliver the groups outcomes.

ENDS