



Minutes

Date of Meeting : 4 May 2020
Venue : Zoom
Committee : Next Generation
Present : Peter Moss (Chair), Matthew Steel, Michelle Stephen, Ben McClymont, Iain Livesey, Andrew Neilson, Ryan MacLean, Catherine Sloan (SAYFC), Martin Kennedy (NFUS Vice-President), Jenny Brunton (NFUS Policy Manager)
Apologies : Ian Dickson, Chris Scott-Park, Zoe Symington, John Howie, Andrew Jardine, Duncan Morrison, Hamish Logan, Andrew Neilson, Andrew Taylor, John McCulloch (SAYFC)

1. Peter Moss, Next Generation Chair, welcomed the group and thanked them for accommodating a rearranged meeting via zoom. PM outlined that the Board of Directors were conducting weekly zoom meetings to allow for prompt responses on live issues and to allow discussion on the changing landscape we find ourselves in at this challenging time.
2. NFUS Policy Manger Jenny Brunton gave an overview of how NFUS has responded to challenges presented by Covid-19 including launching a new webpage (<https://www.nfus.org.uk/coronavirus.aspx>)
3. It was acknowledged that due to the current situation, there is a focus politically on the crisis and the issues in the supply chain that this has caused. The group recognised that there is the potential to highlight the importance of sustainable and local food production.
4. Martin Kennedy highlighted that negotiations between the EU and UK must not be forgotten and that NFUS will continue to engage with both the UK and Scottish Agriculture Bills. The group recognised that they have a role to play in continuing to highlight the importance of equivalence standards to ensure a level playing field in trade negotiations and the positive story of food and farming.
5. The Next Generation representatives on commodity committees provided an overview of current discussions.

- 5.1. Matthew Steel (Potatoes, Horticulture and Poultry) – Labour biggest issue facing sector at present with the need for an expanded SAW scheme highlighted.
- 5.2. Ben McClymont (Milk) – The milk committee had recently had a very positive meeting with the Cabinet Secretary, Fergus Ewing. The group uses WhatsApp to keep up to date with pressing issues and had a zoom meeting arranged for later in the week. The closure of the hospitality sector had caused an oversupply in milk which had been compounded by the lack of processing capacity.
- 5.3. Catherine Sloan (Legal and Technical) – CS acknowledged the work of Zoe Meldrum on the relaxation of HGV driver hours and fuel issues. Access has been widely discussed due to a reported increase in those accessing rural areas. NFUS has produced access posters which are available at <https://www.nfus.org.uk/coronavirus/coronavirusqa/public-access-to-farmland-during-covid-19.aspx>
- 5.4. Ryan MacLean (LFA) – Reporting of tenancy concerns with the Crofting Commission slow to progress applications.
6. The Regional Next Generation Representatives provided an overview of current discussions. Overall, working remotely was working well with new WhatsApp groups being introduced and virtual roundtables with MSPs and MPs to highlight issues.
7. The lack of sufficient broadband was agreed to be impacting on the ability for some to engage and could heighten isolation issues.

8. Next Generation 2020 workplan



Next Generation
2020 Workplan.pdf

- 8.1. Education on Food and Farming – The group praised MK on a recent video highlight the positive credentials of Scottish agriculture and agreed that there is a need for more positive communication to highlight the story of Scottish food and farming. The group recognised the individual role that must be played to tell this story.
- 8.2. The Next Generation group had produced biographies which were being rolled out on social media to increase the exposure of the group.

- 8.3. Members of the group expressed their disappointment that RHET co-ordinators contracts had been terminated and agreed that it is vital that the story of careers, food and farming continues to be highlighted.
- 8.4. The group agreed to lead and support a #nowrongpath campaign to demonstrate the variety of roles available in the food and drink industry and to tell their own story of their career path.
Action – Jenny Brunton to discuss this at Education and Skills meeting.
- 8.5. Martin Kennedy surmised his discussions with John Swinney MSP, on food and farming education in the school curriculum. The need to engage with local authorities was highlighted and the group was supportive of pursuing these discussions.
- 8.6. Michelle Stephen informed the group of posters she had created to inform the public on what was going on in fields. This had prompted positive discussions with many local people in her area.
Action – Jenny Brunton to look into producing templates for NFUS to use to create posters as an educational tool.
9. The group were asked for their thoughts on how NFUS engages with the membership whilst face to face meetings cannot be held. Suggestions included webinars, podcasts and Q&A sessions.
 - 9.1. Specialist speakers on topics such as land reform, climate change, future policy, biodiversity etc. to increase knowledge of important subjects so that there is more informed discussion at meetings.
 - 9.2. Short videos on agenda items, consultations, regional issues to better understand issues in a digestible format.
 - 9.3. Potential to have interactive (zoom) discussions on particular subjects such as Sea Eagles, Milk Contracts, pesticides, climate change, beavers, labour, future policy, land reform, tax, new entrants to inform wider discussions and in some cases allow better discussion on specific issues which can be challenging at a regional level.
 - 9.4. Need for a social element and perhaps current focus on those isolated. Mental health element needs addressed and potential to establish branch or regional zoom meetings which may have a more social/fun element - quiz, bingo etc.

- 9.5. The Next Gen group suggested webinars and podcasts as a way of preparing for committee discussions.
- 9.6. More engagement on social media with people tagging NFUS being shared on Instagram – for the group this is the widest used forum.
- 9.7. Future ‘in person’ meetings should be livestreamed on Regional Facebook pages.

**** Next Meeting of the Next Generation – 5 August 2020 ****