

**POLLY DAVIES** is a mixed organic tenant farmer in South Wales, with a large range of agri-environmental management options undertaken, due to the Glastir Advanced contract with the Welsh Government. The farm enterprises include a beef suckler herd, 500 Romney Ewes & 80ha of organic cereals in rotation. There is also a small organic pig unit to supply the farm butchery and meat box delivery business. Polly is passionate about increasing the farm yields both in ecology and improved organic agronomy, so the environmental management options are not a fringe to the farming enterprise, but embedded within the whole farming system.

**CLAIRE EASTHAM** farms with her husband Martyn in Dorset, together they run a 150 head Spring Calving herd on a Dorset County Council Farm. Claire also works off farm to help other farmers access grant schemes such as Countryside Stewardship and facilitates a local farmer cluster group. This time helps give an all-rounded view of the industry – the challenges faced and what the future might look like. The collaborative approach of the cluster group is of real interest and something Claire envisages more of in the future of UK agriculture.

**JOE FISHER** is part of a family arable farm on The Crown Estate in South Nottinghamshire. Since moving back to the farm 6 years ago he has converted the business to conservation agriculture principles whilst expanding the farmed area. The rotation has a diversity of cropping including cereals, oilseed rape, beans, quinoa, sugar beet & stewardship. He has a small area of asparagus which he direct sells locally, and has focused adding alternative income streams through horse liveries, building lets & storage projects. He hopes the programme will allow him to gain knowledge & insights to help shape his business and wider network as the industry enters such a changing landscape

**BRYONY GITTINS** farms 700 Texel X Lleyn and Aberfield sheep on 302 acres of Welsh countryside. Zoology graduate and former outdoor pursuits instructor Bryony returned to the family farm near Abergavenny in 2017 after a time working in London where she worked for a leading merchant bank and then Hay on Wye where she worked in outdoor education settings and in expedition leadership. Determined to follow in her father's footsteps as he relinquishes the responsibility and day to day work on the upland farm, Bryony is steadily building up her knowledge, experience and expertise in the farming industry and strives to improve her flock health, build business value and increase profitability. She has expanded into various tourism diversification, is exploring renewable energy and environmental schemes and plans to develop her woodland which she hopes will lead to increased biodiversity along with providing an area for further diversification options. Proud to be a female farmer, Bryony works hard to promote diversity in the industry and raise awareness of mental health in agriculture.

**CHARLES GOADBY** is a second generation mixed farmer from Warwickshire, married to Linda, a primary teacher and having 2 children, Chloe and Henry. In partnership with 2 brothers and his father Charles milks 350 cows through both a conventional parlour and a robotic milking system which are housed all year round. All of their dairy beef calves are reared through to slaughter alongside farming around 850 acres of combinable crops. Despite being at the intensive end of the scale, Charles is passionate about soil health and sustainability and believes that an intensive farming system can also be a regenerative farming one. Alongside being a family man, Charles's passions also lie in communicating with the public, telling his real story of farming as well as for working with schools and educational.

**KENDRA HALL** grew up in rural Indiana, USA, on a small family horse farm surrounded by corn and soybean fields. She went on to study for a degree in Animal Science (BSc) and a masters in Agricultural Communications (MSc) at Purdue University, where she developed a keen interest in consumer perceptions of livestock production and creating opportunities for engagement between farmers and consumers. She moved to the UK in 2018 currently lives in beautiful south Wiltshire. She currently works at Reverberate PR and consults a diverse range of agricultural clients on communications activity and strategy. Earlier this year, Kendra was awarded a 2022 Nuffield Farming Scholarship and aims to study “Building trust in British farming through increased transparency of on-farm livestock production

**KELLY HEWSON FISHER** started life on a dairy farm in Lincolnshire and after a degree in Agri-Food Marketing and Business Studies from Harper Adams she spent 12 years with ADAS as an Agricultural Business Consultant. For the last 7 years Kelly has been the Lincolnshire Catchment Advisor for Anglian Water working with the agri sector and associated industries finding local solutions to local challenges.

**ED HODSON** has spent the past nine years working for GRIMME UK Ltd, during that time he has held roles as technical sales for vegetable and irrigation equipment; sale operations manager and the past two years as product specialist for all GRIMME potato equipment. His role encompasses supporting the sales team with product knowledge and technical detail but also working with growers, processors and packers on strategic projects such as refining processes or cost reduction. He has been involved in implementing the first potato production system in the UK on a 6.0m controlled traffic farming system and is currently looking at how Regenerative Agriculture can be implemented into root crop production. He graduated from Harper Adams University in 2008 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering with Marketing and Management and took up a role with Briggs Irrigation for 4 years as a service engineer before joining Grimme in 2012. Ed is the Vice Chairman of the Agricultural Engineers Association Technical Committee and is also on the LE-TEC working group which advises on industries requirements for the Land Based Engineering apprenticeship.

**SARAH LAW** and her husband farm a mixed operation in Abeerdershire including a contract farming agreement for 1100ac of hill and in-by ground. She works primarily off the farm as a Business Development Manager in the Distillery, Food & Beverage industries. (full biog coming soon)

**EMILY LINTON** has worked in the agricultural sector as a farm animal veterinary surgeon for the past 15 years. She is a mum of 2 small people and so currently works part time in farm practice covering both Devon and Cornwall. Working mainly with dairy clients, Emily carries out routine visits as well as running farmer education and engagement meetings. Emily is particularly interested in the pathways available to farmers to move towards a more regenerative/agroecological farming model and the barriers that can stand in the way. She is also very aware of the negative impacts anthelmintics can have on soil health and the organisms that live in it, and is about to embark on a project with a colleague to look at their use on farms within the practice.

**SEAN MCDERMOTT** is head gardener with L'Arche community belfast. He has an avid interest in sustainability and regenerative farming techniques, animal husbandry and conservation. Through his role in L'Arche he works with adults with and without learning disabilities to help them engage with food production and the natural world. Sean was awarded a small grant through the Queen University esrc acceleration business collaboration scheme to develop a new 'one-stop-shop' online platform to celebrate and promote sustainable food movement in NI. Nourish NI was conceived in partnership with the belfast food net work, utilising the sustainable food place fram work to address all aspects of the food system. He hopes to promote local food producers and encourage,inspire and inform a uital emerging sector. The platform will be launched at the NI food, farming and land conversion next February.

**FLAVIAN OBIERO** is a Kenyan-born pig farmer and now manages a unit at Plumpton College. He has over 11 years of experience in the British pig farming industry and lives in East Sussex. (full biog coming soon)

**ADAM SHORT** is from a non-farming background, and discovered his love for livestock in 2002 during his year in industry in Brecon, Wales. This was whilst studying Software Engineering at Aberystwyth University. Adam went on to rent land, farming sheep and fattening pigs, whilst pursuing a career in IT. In 2016 Adam moved to just under 30 acres in Mid Devon, continuing with sheep and pigs, but also championing the rarest native goat breed – The Old English. Becoming registrar of the breed in 2018, Adam helped the breed achieve RBST and DEFRA NBAR recognition in 2020. In 2019 Adam and a colleague founded MA Systems Ltd and launched Cloud-Lines.com – an innovative breed management & conservation system. In 2020, in response to the pandemic, MA Systems also launched Cloud-Lines-Shows.com to help fill the gap in the absence of physical livestock/farming shows. Adam's smallholding focuses on traditional breeds, in extensive & low-input systems, and aims to be a small case-study within the huge range of future sustainable farming practices.

**EMMA SMAIL** works as a project manager for the Trent Rivers Trust. The Trent Rivers Trust delivers environmental projects within the River Trent catchment for the benefits of water quality and biodiversity at a landscape scale. Emma leads on the River Mease catchment project, bringing improvements to the small but protected river situated within an agricultural landscape. Originally training as an ecologist, Emma also has training and experience as a research agronomist and farm advisor, becoming FACTS qualified in 2017. Emma now works closely with farmers and other stakeholders and partners in the Mease, offering advice on catchment friendly farming practices, as well as delivering phosphate trapping and river restoration construction projects on farms.

**ALEC SMITH** is a Chartered Environmentalist and Senior Business Advisor for Sentry Limited. Alec has been employed at Sentry since he graduated from Nottingham University in 2009. Beginning his career in Farm Management Alec has progressed through Sentry, now providing Rural Business Advice to a wide range of clients across UK and Ireland. Alec has developed and now oversees the Sentry Business Solutions Team, consisting of eight rural professionals who specialise in practical advice utilising our diverse agricultural background and farming roots. He is also part of the Sentry Management Team – specialising in Business Advice and Management.

**DAN STAMPER** teaches agriculture for Kendal College. After living in West Sussex, Dan returned to Cumbria, where he was born and raised. He studied agricultural at Newton Rigg College and worked on the family farm. Deciding to combine a passion for agriculture with that for education by completing Teacher Training with Chichester College, where he worked for 10 years. His teaching experience covers L1 to L5. Dan currently teaches apprentices for Kendal College. A reoccurring theme throughout out Dan's teaching career has been those students with additional need, especially those for whom a classroom setting just does not work.

**GREGG TAYLER** is currently a Farm Manager for David Davies Resources in charge of the businesses organic dairy unit, not from a farming background Gregg grew up in Northamptonshire focusing on sport development. Realising he had a passion for agriculture he travelled to New Zealand in 2014 to take up an assistant role on a 900 cow milking herd in central Canterbury. Working his way from assistant to farm manager in 3 years and picking up valuable skills along the way. When a job opportunity came up to return to the U.K, he and his wife made the trip back in 2018 to manage an organic and antibiotic free, spring block dairy unit in Shropshire. Gregg is a grazing enthusiast and firm believer in true grass based, low cost farming.

**CHRIS TAYLOR** is an agronomist based in Monmouthshire, with a passion for sustainable UK farming. A graduate of Harper Adams University College, Chris spent his placement year in Australia and New Zealand, which inspired his enthusiasm for soil health. Upon graduating, Chris was selected for the Co-operative Farms Management Trainee Scheme, which offered farm management experience on two large arable units in East Yorkshire and Cambridge. He returned to South Wales in 2014 to begin his career as an agronomist, during which time, he's complete the BASIS Diploma in agronomy with environmental management. Chris has recently been awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship, with a study title "Do regenerative farming practices pave the way for UK agriculture to meet Net Zero?" Having not come from a farming family, Chris aspires to one day farm under his own right and put his knowledge and experience into practice under a regenerative farming system.