

FFRWYTHAU PENCOED CASE STUDY

Fruit & Bounty

Site details

Ffrwythau Pencoed in Llechryd, Ceredigion, is a 12.6 acre sustainable farm and One Planet Development (OPD) owned by Stefan and Natasha Cartwright. They are establishing a table apple enterprise and have an honesty stall selling their seasonal fruit and vegetables.

Stefan and Natasha planted their orchard six years ago. Historically there were orchards in the area, producing apples for juice and cider making. Table apple production differs to juicing apple production as the apples must be, 'good looking, free of scab, presentable and taste good'.



Aim

Stefan and Natasha were looking to develop their table apple enterprise.

They have experience of planting fruit trees and wanted specific advice about pruning for productive fruit trees for hand-picking. They have found little guidance available for fruit producers on their scale.

They were also interested in mentoring to scale up production, storage and distribution.



Outcomes

CARE's Fruit and Bounty project arranged for Stefan to be mentored by Billy Auger from [Augernik Fruit Farm](#) in Shropshire. He was able to visit Billy's farm and contacted Billy for advice over the following few months. Stefan appreciated having Billy as a mentor,

"It's very specialist knowledge I've had access to – it's unusual to find someone growing table fruit for market. Billy's a rare character, he does it all. It's given me more confidence and I'm in a better place than before."

Stefan attended numerous courses put on by CARE as part of the Fruit and Bounty project, including; grafting workshops; a cider-making course and a visit to the processing unit. Stefan and Natasha also benefited from buying rootstock collectively with CARE and others and they borrowed the apple juicing equipment.

In October 2022, Stefan and Natasha hosted the Dydd Afal event run by CARE's Fruit and Bounty project team. They have put on events before, though not at the scale of the Dydd Afal event. They felt 'well held' by the CARE team and found the event attracted a wider audience than they would have done alone. They were happy to share their specialist knowledge and received encouraging feedback from attendees, 'people were interested to see our way of working'.

Learning

Stefan found Billy very approachable and generous with his mentoring. He felt more comfortable asking for advice knowing that Billy was being paid for his time and having a formal agreement facilitated by CARE.

Stefan is happy to share his knowledge similarly and is open to mentoring others as part of a formal, funded scheme.

Partnering with other growers and a larger organisation helped Stefan and Natasha with the group purchasing discount and putting on a large event. They couldn't have done these alone.

Stefan and Natasha's farm is powered by on-site renewable energy. This, alongside their One Planet Development plan, impacts on what equipment they use and CARE's apple juicer was fine.



Next Steps

Stefan has a much clearer picture of the future after seeing Billy's farm, 'I could see 10 years ahead for my orchard'. Stefan goes on to say,

'We're far more confident. I know what I'm doing. I can safely say I know what I'm doing growing fruit trees. Billy was able to take me to the place based on long held knowledge (not large scale intensive). Long term the trees will be better from me seeing Billy's place and having one-to-one support.'

Natasha and Stefan anticipate increasing their production and exemplifying that table fruit can be produced commercially in West Wales, reducing reliance on fruit imported from England and further afield.

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Ffrwythau a Bounty

Manylion y safle

Mae Ffrwythau Pencoed yn Llechryd, Ceredigion, yn fferm gynaliadwy 12.6 erw ac yn Ddatblygiad Un Blaned (OPD) sy'n eiddo i Stefan a Natasha Cartwright. Maent yn sefydlu menter afalau bwrdd ac mae ganddynt stondin gonestrwydd yn gwerthu eu ffrwythau a'u llysiau tymhorol.

Plannodd Stefan a Natasha eu perllan chwe blynedd yn ôl. Yn hanesyddol roedd perllannau yn yr ardal, yn cynhyrchu afalau ar gyfer gwneud sudd a seidr. Mae cynhyrchiant afalau bwrdd yn wahanol i gynhyrchiant afal suddio gan fod yn rhaid i'r afalau fod yn 'dda yn edrych, yn rhydd o'r clafr, yn daclus ac yn blasu'n dda'.



Nod

Roedd Stefan a Natasha am ddatblygu eu menter afalau bwrdd.

Mae ganddyn nhw brofiad o blannu coed ffrwythau ac rodden nhw eisiau cyngor penodol am docio coed ffrwythau cynhyrchiol i'w casglu â llaw. Ychydig iawn o ganllawiau sydd ar gael iddynt ar eu graddfa i gynhyrchwyr ffrwythau.

Roedd ganddynt ddiddordeb hefyd mewn mentora i gynyddu cynhyrchiant, storio a dosbarthu.

Canlyniadau

Trefnodd prosiect Fruit and Bounty CARE i Stefan gael ei fentora gan Billy Auger o Augernik Fruit Farm yn Swydd Amwythig. Llwyddodd i ymweld â fferm Billy a chysylltodd â Billy am gyngor dros y misoedd dilynol. Roedd Stefan yn gwerthfawrogi cael Billy fel mentor,

"Mae'n wybodaeth arbenigol iawn rydw i wedi cael mynediad iddi - mae'n anarferol dod o hyd i rywun sy'n tyfu ffrwythau bwrdd ar gyfer y farchnad. Mae Billy yn gymeriad prin, mae'n gwneud y cyfan. Mae wedi rhoi mwy o hyder i mi ac rydw i mewn lle gwell nag o'r blaen."

Mynychodd Stefan nifer o gyrsiau a ddarparwyd gan CARE fel rhan o'r prosiect Fruit and Bounty, gan gynnwys; gweithdai impio; cwrs gwneud seidr ac ymweliad â'r uned brosesu. Bu Stefan a Natasha hefyd yn elwa o brynu gwreiddgyff ar y cyd â CARE ac eraill a benthycwyd yr offer sudd afal ganddynt.

Ym mis Hydref 2022, cynhaliodd Stefan a Natasha ddigwyddiad Dydd Afal a gynhaliwyd gan dim prosiect Ffrwythau a Bounty CARE. Maent wedi cynnal digwyddiadau o'r blaen, ond nid ar raddfa digwyddiad Dydd Afal. Roeddent yn teimlo eu bod wedi'u 'cynnal yn dda' gan y tîm CARE a chanfod bod y digwyddiad wedi denu cynulleidfa ehangach nag y byddent wedi'i wneud ar eu pen eu hunain. Roeddent yn hapus i rannu eu gwybodaeth arbenigol a chawsant adborth calonogol gan y mynchwyr, 'roedd gan bobl ddiddordeb mewn gweld ein ffordd o weithio'.



Dysgu

Roedd Stefan o'r farn bod Billy yn hawdd siarad â hi ac yn hael gyda'i fentora. Teimlai'n fwy cyfforddus yn gofyn am gyngor gan wybod bod Billy yn cael ei dalu am ei amser a bod ganddo gytundeb ffurfiol wedi'i hwyluso gan CARE.

Mae Stefan yn hapus i rannu ei wybodaeth yn yr un modd ac mae'n agored i fentora eraill fel rhan o gynllun ffurfiol wedi'i ariannu.

Fe wnaeth partneru â thyfwyr eraill a sefydliad mwy helpu Stefan a Natasha gyda'r grŵp i brynu disgownt a chynnal digwyddiad mawr. Ni allent fod wedi gwneud y rhain ar eu pen eu hunain.

Mae fferm Stefan a Natasha yn cael ei phweru gan ynni adnewyddadwy ar y safle. Mae hyn, ochr yn ochr â'u cynllun Datblygu Un Blaned, yn effeithio ar ba offer y maent yn ei ddefnyddio ac roedd peiriant sudd afal CARE yn iawn.



Camau nesaf

Mae gan Stefan ddarlun llawer cliriach o'r dyfodol ar ôl gweld fferm Billy, 'Gallwn weld 10 mlynedd i ddod i'm perllan'. Mae Stefan yn mynd ymlaen i ddweud,

'Rydym yn llawer mwy hyderus. Rwy'n gwybod beth rwy'n ei wneud. Gallaf ddweud yn ddiogel fy mod yn gwybod beth rwy'n ei wneud yn tyfu coed ffrwythau. Roedd Billy'n gallu mynd â fi i'r lle ar sail gwybodaeth hirsefydlog (nid yn ddwys ar raddfa fawr). Yn y tymor hir bydd y coed yn well o weld lle Billy a chael cefnogaeth un-i-un.'

Mae Natasha a Stefan yn rhagweld cynyddu eu cynhyrchiant ac yn dangos y gellir cynhyrchu ffrwythau bwrdd yn fasnachol yng Ngorllewin Cymru, gan leihau dibyniaeth ar ffrwythau a fewnforir o Loegr a thu hwnt.