

BRIDFA CWMTAWE

◆ SECTIONS A, C & D | STUD EST. 1975 ◆

CWMTAWE GANOL FARM

Document in support of planning at Cwmtawe Ganol Farm, Godre'rgraig SA9 2NX.

Here is an overview of the business, a breakdown of the overall logistics and an explanation of the day-to-day running of the Stud farm as requested by yourselves during the site visit on Tuesday, 17th December when you met Euros Morgan.

The running of a stud farm is all encompassing. 7 days a week for the whole 52 weeks of the year. Daily hours on the farm can vary between a minimum of 8 hours to a full 24 hours.

In recent years the farm has bred around 20 foals annually and kept around 6 stallions, 40 mares and youngstock.

Why is planning now required?

The family has been breeding horses since 1975 as a hobby. Conway Morgan was a full-time secondary school teacher until his retirement in 2019 when he then established the Cwmtawe Ganol Farm partnership and moved to breed horses full time. The Business has expanded within those 5 years moving from a hobby to a Business. Cwmtawe Welsh Ponies and Cobs have been sold to America, Netherlands, Germany, Scotland, Ireland, Belgium, Austria, Czech Republic and Sweden. The stud farm has expanded dramatically with 20 foals due each year compared to the only one or two foals bred whilst this was a hobby previously. This however means that the family's lifestyle needs to evolve to work to the demands of the business. Conway and family live off site which is not convenient, and it has a detrimental effect on their wellbeing and lifestyle. The demands of running a Business such as this means that Conway and his family are constantly traveling back and forth between home and the farm. Furthermore working through harsh weather conditions, late nights with no amenities at the farm for breaks or amicable shelter.

The breakdown below highlights the various tasks and anomalies that come with the Business as it currently runs. This includes a vast amount of travel be it constant visits back and forth between the main farm location, various locations across the UK where our horses are kept and the daily route from the farm to the families current residential home. In addition to the below, there are no necessities / facilities on the farm (no toilets, clean kitchen for any drinks or food etc) for workers as well as no hot / sterile water for the horses when needed to treat sick horses.

It is worth noting that stud farms of this size and nature employ a live on-site Groom / Stud manager alongside the family who also live on site. A Business of this nature means that there is various admin to be completed and there is no amenities to complete these onsite, meaning that documents and archives are to be stored away from the Business location causing some disarray.

HEADLINES

The stud farm consists of the following:

- Producing, training and conditioning show horses.
- Breeding and selling horses.
- Providing a breeding service. (People bring their mares to be naturally covered by a stallion).

FARM BUILDINGS (On main site at Cwmtawe Gaol Farm)

The barns and farm buildings consist of 16 stables and large pens. (Some that can be multipurpose - these are situated within the steel barn.) In the peak of winter, the current stabling will allow 30 horses to be indoors.

During foaling there the steel barn at one time could hold 7 expected mares / mares with foals. (This is known to us as our Intensive Care Unit). This is where the sick foals/mares come for their round-the-clock care or just to watch the mares closely during foaling.

VETS

The stud farm's Vets are Dyffryn Tywi Equine Clinic. They are the best equine specialists in South/West Wales and are in fact one of the closest to the farm. They are situated in Nantgaredig, Carmarthenshire and are a good 45-60 minutes away from the farm in Godre'rgraig.

We work closely with the vets and over the years have developed a very good working relationship with the vets for us to complete some of the immediate procedures on the ground (such as manipulation of foal birth) whilst the vets are traveling to us. They would communicate various instructions via the phone until their arrival. This kind of work is unpredictable and the hours may vary. Sick foals and mares will need attending to ever 2 hours for up 30 days. When you calculate this risk by how many foals we breed it can mean that we are at the farm through day and night during the months of April-July.

Unfortunately, in 2024 alone, due to not having a presence on the farm fully with the traveling back and forth between farm and family home, we lost 1 foal during the foaling and a further 2 foals later in the season due to dehydration and scouring. We also lost a mare to Colic in December - unfortunately she was found a few hours too late and there was nothing that could be done.

STUD FARM TIMELINE

January

Winter feeding.

Horses are stabled for winter or out grazing grass on winter keep.

General horse training.

(Battling the light with the shorter days.)

Daily hour average: 10-12hrs

February

Same as above with the addition of starting to train and condition the show horses for the up and coming season.

Daily hour average: 10-12hrs

March

Foaling starts with a couple of mares.

Show horse preparation continues but the demands increases.

Some shows start in England towards mid/end March.

Daily hour average: 12-14hrs

Foaling Process:

The foal gestation period is around 11 months and 10 days.

Mares tend to foal without assistance, they are problem free with the actual birth but when something does go wrong, then it goes seriously wrong. A 10-minute delay with assistance could mean life or death for both the foal and the mare. Meaning a great financial loss and an emotional loss for the family.

Following a successful birth, then major intensive care can be needed with problems such as:

- Mare rejects the foal. Mare would need to be injected to try and make her take the foal. In the meantime, the foal will need to be syringe fed and/or bottle fed. It is important that the foals receive the necessary colostrum within the first few hours.
- Foals might not suck naturally. This could be for several reasons. They might not be strong enough or might not be able to find the teats. They would then need to be syringe fed and/or bottle fed. It is important that the foals receive the necessary colostrum within the first few hours. The foals would be fed every hour to start off and then every two hours or so. (Little and often, the same as a baby). This feeding would continue until for up to 5 months if the foal is not adopted by a surrogate mare.
- Every 21 days the mares will come into season until they are back in foal. This comes with its own issues as the mare's heat richens the milk that they produce and then causes the foals to scour. This can cause the foals to dehydrate very quickly and regularly leads to the foals being drip bound, needing regular medication as well as sometimes being bottle fed if are terribly weak.

The more routine care includes:

- worming the foals from a few days to then every few weeks for the first 5 months of their lives with us.
- microchipping the foals as well as registering the foals.

April-June

Breeding season is a very busy time of the business.

Foaling home bred foals.

Stallion breeding services for clients to bring their mares to Cwmtawe.

Show horse preparation and showing demands increase.

Promotion of sale horses. (Videoing, photographing - social media content).

Admin for sale of foals.

Daily hour average: 14- 24hrs.

July-August

Foaling complete.

Breeding season continues until mid-July and then stallions are pulled away from the mares.

Caring for the foals continue. Worming every few weeks.

Showing season at its peak. 2-3 shows per week that entail a lot of traveling across the country, as far as North Wales and nation width of England.

September

Foals start being weaned. (Separating the foals away from their mothers).

Foals handling groundwork, every single foal will need to be handled. (Halter breaking, being tied, loading practice, hof pickup etc).

October - December

Remaining foals to be weaned, halter broken and sold.

This is the main selling period. The major horse sales happen between mid-October and mid-November.

Preparing horses for sales.

Advertising horses for sale.

Admin for sales and auctions.

Transporting horses to sales and auctions.

Horses will also be sold privately during this period - which includes preparation time and admin.

HISTORIC VANDALISM / CRIME

There is a public footpath running through the farmyard. The farm is located within a heavily populated area with a large housing estate nearby therefore there is a high footfall on our farmland. Throughout the decades the farm has been subject to various acts of crime from lead and slate being stolen from the farm buildings roofs; animals being let out of their stables; property being damaged etc. There are monthly fly tipping occurrences across the farm land. In addition to these issues, one of the major problems we face is people feeding the horses with various items (*including freshly cut mowed lawn grass*) that are not suitable for their diets. Unfortunately these items can lead to various illnesses with the most common colic which is life threatening. If there was a more prominent presence on the farm, then we would be confident that vandalism would reduce if not disappear.

We currently cannot keep our horse lorry; farm dogs; Arabian Horses and various other items on the farm site as they would be at too high of a risk.

Further investment in the farm facilities is limited until there is a presence on the farm 24/7.