

media relations



Client

Lycetts is one of the UK's leading independentlyoperated insurance brokers, specialising in farm, estate and bloodstock insurance.

Objective

- Raise the profile of Lycetts as a thought leader in agricultural risk and a leading insurance broker for the agricultural community
- Interrupt the omnipresent media voice of the National Farmers Union (who also offer insurance)
- Leverage the company's insurance and risk management expertise to create objective, valuable insights into how emerging, unrecognised and hidden business risks can be best managed.

Results

- 740 pieces of positive coverage over the year, with a total circulation of 36.2million.
- 61 cuttings / month on average
- 62 cuttings in national farming titles including Farmers Weekly, Farmers Guardian, Farming Monthly, Vegetable Farmer, National Farm Attractions Network, Farm Contractor & Large Scale Farmer, The Countryside Alliance website, Scottish Farmer, Farming Scotland and Farming UK.
- 590 cuttings in agricultural pages of regional mainstream press, from Dunoon and Kilmarnock to Bridgewater and Bodmin.
- The most successful farming release, around flytipping, achieved 233 cuttings!
- 28 cuttings for a wedding insurance story to coincide with the Royal Wedding for the high net worth division.

"The campaign has propelled brand awareness among our agricultural audience to new heights in an incredibly short period of time."

What we did

- News from the client was non-existent, so we conducted extensive online research into the UK farming sector and the challenges it faces and carried out a quick-fire series of interviews to mine the specialist knowledge of the company's rural industry experts
- Business issues faced by farmers and potential hot topics for proactive news generation were identified and a detailed PR planning calendar was compiled to incorporate all seasonally-related risks.
- We researched existing government stats and reshaped them into headline-grabbing news.
 (e.g. farming fatalities and safety breaches following new sentencing guidelines).

- Each story was meticulously tailored for regional media by adding, not just relevant statistics for that region, but also local case studies and quotes from the relevant Lycetts regional office.
- Opportunities to challenge the NFU on a local level were identified, leveraging Lycetts' strong local expertise and maximising coverage in defined areas.
- The most influential farming trade titles were targeted with longer by-lined thought leadership features e.g. a guide on diversification risks post-Brexit was published in Farmers Weekly and a risk protection guide to rural crime in Farmers Guardian

"Our investment in this PR campaign has proved one of the most rewarding communications decisions made during my time at Lycetts. Cameron Wells' creativity and smart approach to generating widespread coverage for a limited PR spend has delivered remarkable results."

FARM SECURITY SPECIAL

The isolated nature of many farms makes them a popular target for criminal gangs. But what can farm businesses do to protect themselves? Rupert Wales-Fairbaim, rural divisional director at Lycetts Insurance brokers, gives some advice

Protect your business from rural criminals

THEFT OF FERTILISER AND OTHER CHEMICALS

Aberdeen Alarm Co

Farmers Guardian

Farm energy

OIL THEFTS



FLY-TIPPING

HARVEST METAL THEFTS

Vital diversification insurance tips

New and unfamili ventures bring interest, challenge and potentially a useful income boost - but don't overlook the basics, such as insurance. Suzie Ho gets some tips



Farmers Weekly



Dog walkers warned as new powers sought to deal with sheep attacks

FARMWEEK



AN agricultural expert is warning dog owners to be vigilant when walking their pets in the countryside, as "frust-rated" rural police forces call for new powers to crack down on sheep

tam Nicholl, of farm insurance broker specialist Lycetts, fears owners are not fully aware of the risk their pet poses to livestock, with farmers forced out of the industry every year due to the trauma and crippling cost of attacks.

An All Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare found that an estimated 15,000 sheep were killed by dogs in just one year, putting the cost to the farming sector at around £1.3 million.

A multi-force police working group has now called for changes in the law, including making dog attacks a recordable crime, giving police power to seize dogs, the creation of a DNA database for offending dogs and harsher sentences for owners.

William said: "Unfortunately, even the most docile of dogs can get caught up in an attack on sheep because many of them think it is a game. What many dog owners don't realize is that their dog does not have to physically attack a sheep to cause harm. A backing or 'playful' dog may seem innocuous to its owner but to a sheep, it is a threat and can spark blind panic among the flock.

"Even if a dog does not make contact with the livestock, the stress from worrying by dogs can cause sheep to die - often by the dozen - and expectant ewes to abort.

"As we are in lambing season, the flock is at its most vulnerable now, and we urge dog ters to take heed and stick to the lead. Escaped dogs are also a huge problem so don't let them room freely and strengthen your boundaries."

Over the past year, five police forces - North Yorkshire, Devon and Cornwall, Sussex, North Wales and Hertfordshire - took part in an initiative by the National Police Chiefs Council (NSPCC), which sought to identify the true extent of livestock worrying in the country

The Wildlife and Rural Crime Working Group was formed after rural police forces expressed stration with not only irresponsible dog ownership, but the limited powers available to them to respond to dog attacks.

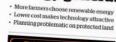
As attacks are not currently treated as a recordable crime, there is little reliable police data on the scale of the problem faced by farmers.

The forces anal-ysed data on their systems from Sept-ember 2013 to 2017 and found there were 1,205 recorded incidents of livestock worrying across the five areas. In total, 1,928 animals were killed, and 1,614 injured - at an estimated cost of £250,000. In some cases, the farmer suffered financial losses in excess of £20,000 for a single incident

One in 10 (11 per cent) incidents involved repeat offenders - owners or welkers whose dog had worried or caused damage to livestock before.

Farm Week

Farmers plug into renewable energy generation



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Anglia Farmer

INPROVER A



Solar will continue to



receive strong investment

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Risky business?

Lycetts' Charles Foster on plugging the diversification knowledge gap

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compution for farmers to diversify. A rough transitional period will almost certainly ensue following any overhaul of the existing farm payments system, yet it may also present new opportunities for a profitable future. New Zealand's farm reforms in the 1980s. for example, noved the catalyst

New Zealandi farm reforma in the p1996, for example, provid the cardigat for diversified land use, new product development and a vibitant new read combined with a representative formers perstains, could use the national formers in similar vein. New Weith and the weith the state example of the state of the state experiments, and the state of experiments many of these risks may be uniformers.

may be unforeseen. Mitigating these risks calls for shrewd business planning and income pusiness planning and investment strategies, along with judicious risk

management assessments and prudent, supporting, insurance arrangements to protect against potential new liabilities.

Low-cation renewable energy schemes, uch as solar electricity biomass generative or wind turbines, have seen significant uptake in recent times. According to Defra's Farm Business Survey 2015/16, renewable energy is the second-most popular form of diventification, with 23% of businesses generating green energy

Rural tourism

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'Scourge of the countryside': Councils could gain new powers to combat fly-tipping

Diversify Now



Councils could gain new powers to tackle fly-tipping, which has been described as the 'scourge' of the countryside

The government is considering new proposals to introduce hefly new fines for people who commit illegal dumping of rubbish.

The proposals will specifically target people caught using unlicensed waste carriers.

The Defra consultation has also suggested new powers for Environment Agency officers to lock gates or block access to problem waste sites to prevent thousands of tonnes of waste illegally building up.

Environment Minister Therese Coffey said. 'Waste crime and fly-Spping blight our communities and spoil our countryside, and we need determined action to tackle it.

These new powers for the Environment Agency will curb the rise of waste sites that continue to operate outside the law

"But we must all take responsibility for our waste to make sure it does not end up in the hands of criminals who will writuily dump it."

The consultation launched on Monday (15 January), and it will also scrutinise how the waste sector performs.

posals need to pass a vote in Parliament, which will commence this spring.



Scource of the countryside

Scottish Land&Estates Driving Rural Business in Scotland Agricultural expert warms Scotland's waterways could become polluted if farmen tet slage storage standards sip ummun turning adout Nows An apticularial scalar is watering that highly losis sun of tion tame could lo summer if tensors aren't regime. South Card South West Canton Routh Card North Card North Card With first car plage highest All already at the clamp, tarmers are being unged by where function to check their clamps are not learning collutaries left the provid If the effluent three trage changes gets reto the arguments, it can have a di externations as it could be up to 200 terror more took. Then unbeened remark Wittern Tuesd at the Lands's Education (date - fears that two many barren's barren's and wain two torcases they aren't help aware of the dangers of poor slage decage. effuent is extraordinarily toxic - so the damage it can cause to well "Since the ensurement is the process and ensurine a separation in it. It way contrast to contain assist care the restriction, which and produces and proble values statefore which will require transitione action by an Environ approximation actions. vanies of the offerce, farmers face helly free it prov Eafter Bis year, the Environment Agency revealed that a farmer had been fine protocol wavecourse after taking to preventy store stage. Concess vested has farm and found a large a chains that lied dencity with the new Weakers emphasised that event encourses (over is available for the course), it is not in could result from action taken by the Counterent Apercy as a weak of any excitent. "Formers have many Hile and Eventment Agency standards to those this which rankes unleared," to addid. "It will not only allow them to and early in the knowledge they are fully compli-exercising that they early suffer an unexpected tracking the energy power

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Wheat that can survive drought

Ben Barnett

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BREAKTHROUGH: Wheat is a staple food for millions of people.

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Scottish Land and Estates

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