



Grower skills and business support for fresh food farming enterprises

Position paper

February 2026

Members

Black Mountains College
Coleg Cambria
Landworkers' Alliance
Our Food Trust

Aims

To supply expanding fresh food farming enterprises in Powys with the skilled workforce they need.
To mobilise business support for new farming enterprises.

Opportunity

Black Mountains College, situated within Powys, provides higher education in agroecological horticulture, with a plan to expand to 60 students a year. This ample supply of future farmers could, if connected to a growing fresh food farming sector in Powys through work experience programmes, provide much of the needed workforce.

As the relationship with Birmingham and more new farms are developed, it will be possible to offer opportunities to people there to relocate to Powys to grow food. This is an opportunity to diversify the farming sector in Powys.

Government business support for new farms proved to be very helpful for the three new farms built at Sarn in 2025.

Activities

We will strengthen existing pathways into farming, including apprenticeships and work experience programmes. We will learn from the experience of the current apprenticeship programme being trialled by Landworkers' Alliance. We believe these apprenticeships must be publicly funded. We will also explore opportunities for work experience for college graduates.

We will work with Lantra and Welsh Government to expand business support for new farms.

Funding opportunities

To be explored.