

HEREFORDSHIRE FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS



75th ANNUAL COUNTY HEDGING MATCH 2025-2026

to be held on
Sunday 1st February 2026
booking in at 9.00am for a 9.30am start

at
Bodenham Lake Nature Reserve

**by kind permission of Herefordshire Wildlife
Trust**

COMPETITION RULES

HFYFC Hedging Match 25/26 Rules

End of Year Trophies

| | |
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|  | Hereford Times Efficiency Shield The overall results will count towards the Efficiency Shield – this is the overall competitions trophy for the year |
|  | The NFU Trophy The overall results will count towards the NFU Trophy for Agricultural Competitions (except Stockjudging) for the year |
|  | The CL Coxon Overall Intermediate Competitions Cup for the year |

Awards on the Day:

- The Club gaining the highest marks in **Classes 1, 2 and 3** will be awarded the ***Agricultural Valuers Association Trophy***.
- The ***Pencombe Agricultural Society Cup*** will be awarded to the Club gaining the highest marks in **Class 3**.
- The ***Leslie Price Perpetual Challenge Cup*** for the Best Laid Hedge of the Day, presented to the best laid hedge across all unaided classes (Classes 1, 2 and 3 only).

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

Please read carefully and follow instructions clearly to avoid any mistakes or confusion.

a) The closing date for entries to be received at the County Office is: **9pm on MONDAY 19TH JANUARY 2026. LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

We realise that some of the names on your form may change after this date. Providing the changes are notified to the competition steward this will cause no problem.

b) All competing members must have a VALID CURRENT MEMBERSHIP. Please note that all memberships must be signed by the member, as well as a Parent/Guardian if under 18 and must be signed and dated by the authorised Club Officer.

c) Any trophies relating to this competition held by any Club member must be returned to the County Office by the above deadline date, along with the entry form.

d) Please make sure all competitors are aware of the competition rules and times.

e) **HELPING MEMBERS WITH ADDITIONAL PHYSICAL or LEARNING REQUIREMENTS.** HFYFC seeks the inclusion of the full membership in its endeavours. Should a member require assistance to compete at a County Final due to any additional physical or learning requirements, every effort shall be made to ensure inclusion of any member with dignity, respect and confidentiality. HFYFC requests prior knowledge of assistance required in order to maximize the benefit to the individual.

HFYFC GENERAL RULES

These General Rules are to be adhered to for all HFYFC Competitions

1. The competitions listed herein are open to members of Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (HFYFC) holding a valid, current YFC membership. (Valid is classed as being fully processed and authorised and of the current year, a copy of the card can be a printed copy or electronic version shown on a device.)
2. Failure to produce a fully processed and authorised valid membership will mean that the member will be unable to compete in the competition.
3. Age ranges for competitions are as follows:
 - Senior – Open to members 28 years of age or under on 1st September 2025
 - Intermediate – Open to members 21 years of age or under on 1st September 2025
 - Junior – Open to members 16 years of age or under on 1st September 2025, and 10 years of age or over on the day of the competition.
4. Health and Safety requirements must be adhered to at all times
5. Competitors must act in accordance with HFYFC policies, where applicable.
6. No alcohol is to be consumed by competitors before or during the competitions. Any member judged to be under the influence of alcohol, or any other substance will not be permitted to continue with the competition and may be disqualified. Alcohol will also not be used or displayed in any competition (unless specified in the competition rules). Empty bottles can be used for display purposes only.
7. The use of mobile phones by competitors during competitions is prohibited.
8. A white coat must be worn where specified.
9. No competitor can enter the same competition in different age ranges.
10. All work must have been made by members in the last 12 months.
11. All work must be that of the competitor who has booked in, if the entry is being booked in by somebody else then the person booking it in must have a copy of the competitor's card.
12. The entry to a competition cannot have been entered into a previous HFYFC competition.
13. Club or County names must not be displayed on any part of entries or displays (unless otherwise stated in the specific competition rules) – *please be careful when using photographs including club tops.*
14. Where more than one entry per club is allowed in a competition, where applicable, only the points of the highest scoring entry will count towards the cups and trophies and overall results.
15. Competitors must arrive on time and report to the competition steward **before** the start time of the competition to book in with necessary equipment to complete the competition.

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16. In the event of a conflict between the competition rules and the general rules, the competition rules will govern.
17. All staged items or exhibits must remain the responsibility of the competitor. Neither HFYFC nor the site host accepts any liability for loss, damage or theft of any item.
18. No staged items or exhibits can be removed before prize giving, at penalty of disqualification.
 1. The Chief Steward and the Competitions Chairmen reserve the right to cancel or amend any competition rule at any time.
 2. In all competitions the decision of the Chief Steward and the Competitions Chairmen will be final.
 3. Unacceptable behaviour or questionable material by competitors or supporters which brings YFC into disrepute; or which may be deemed to adversely affect other competitors/performers will be penalised. This includes maintaining a respectful attitude towards all judges, stewards, officers and any other event helpers.

Deductions

4. **Late entries**
 - a. Any entry received by the County Office after the date and time specified on the rules for the competition, will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and the decision will come from the County Chairman and Competitions Chairman, on whether they can compete and if any deductions will apply to the club's score.
 - b. The member partaking in the competition is still eligible to get a prize card and compete at the next round.
 - c. The deduction will occur after the prize cards have been written out. The deduction will apply to any trophy handed out on the day, overall day scores and the end of year trophies.
5. **Transferring of classes**
 - a. If a club wishes to transfer a member into a class (which previously had no entry) after the entries have been received by the County Office on the date and time specified on the rules for the competition a 25% deduction will incur for the CLUBS score. The member partaking in the competition is still eligible to get a prize card and compete at the next round. The deduction will occur after the prize cards have been written out and will apply to any trophy handed out on the day and the end of year trophies.
6. **For entries not according to schedule**
 - a. 25% of marks awarded will be deducted for all entries that are not according to the schedule - This includes any exhibits oversize, missing items (recipe/photos etc). If there are multiple things wrong with the entry, there will only be one deduction of 25% applied.
 - b. 25% is deducted from the total score given by the judge, but if they still place after a deduction is awarded the Competitor will still be eligible to gain a prize card with the deducted score and will still be eligible to qualify for the next rounds where applicable.
7. **In competitions with time limits**

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a. In competitions with time limits, the following marks will be deducted if the competitor overruns - (unless otherwise stated in rules – i.e., stock judging):

| Competition Length | Penalty |
|----------------------|--|
| Up to 30 minutes | 5% of total marks per minute or part thereof |
| 31 to 60 minutes | 5% of total marks per two minutes or part thereof |
| 61 to 120 minutes | 5% of total marks per five minutes or part thereof |
| 121 minutes and over | 5% of total marks per ten minutes or part thereof |

b. The Competitor will still be eligible to gain a prize card with the deducted score and will still be eligible to qualify for the next rounds where applicable.

c. 5% is deducted from the total score given by the judge.

26. Any disagreements from clubs/competitors about markings or deductions must be made on the day of competition to the Chief Steward or Competitions team, and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

27. In the event that a deduction is applied for any reason and the subsequent mark results in a decimal place, if the decimal place is 0.5 or above, it shall be rounded up to the next whole number. If the decimal place is 0.49 or below, it shall be rounded down to the next whole number.

INFORMATION FOR CLUBS & COMPETITORS:

Please confirm if you require training on the Entry form. If there is sufficient interest, County will look into the possibility of providing training.

IMPORTANT RULE INFORMATION TO BE ADHERED TO:

COMPETITORS WANTING TO USE CHAINSAWS CAN ONLY DO SO IF THEY PRODUCE A VALID CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE ON THE DAY. A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CERTIFICATE IS NOT SUFFICIENT! COMPETITORS USING CHAINSAWS MUST WEAR ALL NECESSARY SAFETY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.

HELPERS IN CLASS 4 WANTING TO USE CHAINSAWS CAN ONLY DO SO IF THEY PRODUCE A VALID CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE ON THE DAY. A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CERTIFICATE IS NOT SUFFICIENT! HELPERS USING CHAINSAWS MUST WEAR ALL NECESSARY SAFETY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.

HFYFC Hedging Match 2025-2026 Timetable

| Class | Competition | |
|-------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1 | U28 Unaided Singles | 9am Sign In |
| 2 | U28 Unaided Pairs | 9am Sign In |
| 3 | U21 Unaided Pairs | 9am Sign In |

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|---|-----------------|-------------|
| 4 | U28 Aided Pairs | 9am Sign In |
|---|-----------------|-------------|

COMPETITION RULES

- a) Stakes will be provided by the site hosts.
- b) Heatherings are to be supplied by competitors.
- c) Lengths of hedge to be completed are subject to change on the day of the competition, depending on the number of entries and length of hedge available.
- d) Any competitor or team who starts to hedge MUST complete their given length
- e) **Clubs withdrawing a competitor or competitors MUST do so by 9pm on Monday 26th January 2026. Competitors/teams withdrawn after this time shall be penalised by a fine of £10.**
- f) Prizes will be awarded as noted in the Trophies section above and, in addition to those prizes, marks will be awarded to the County Efficiency Shield at the rate of 100 for the highest score, reducing by 10 marks down to 10th position. An extra 10% of the marks will be added on for entering.
- g) The Federation will not hold itself responsible for any deviation from the schedule owing to weather conditions or other circumstances beyond its control.
- h) The Federation reserves the right to withhold any prizes if there are insufficient entries or merit in any class.
- i) All disputes will be settled by the committee, whose decision will be FINAL. Any objection must be lodged with the Chief Steward in writing on the day of the Match, together with a fee of £5, which will be forfeited to the funds if the objection is deemed frivolous.

- j) Competitors in Classes 1, 2 and 3 may not receive assistance from anybody, including stewards. Those who are felt not to be competent without assistance will be moved to class 4, at the discretion of the Chief Steward.
- k) Height of finished hedge to be stated on the day of the match
- l) The Chief Steward may, at his/her discretion, remove any obstacle with a chainsaw.
- m) COMPETITORS WANTING TO USE CHAINSAWS CAN ONLY DO SO IF THEY PRODUCE A VALID CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE ON THE DAY. A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CERTIFICATE WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT! COMPETITORS USING CHAINSAWS MUST WEAR ALL NECESSARY SAFETY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.**
- n) HELPERS IN CLASS 4 WANTING TO USE CHAINSAWS CAN ONLY DO SO IF THEY PRODUCE A VALID CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE ON THE DAY. A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CERTIFICATE WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT! HELPERS USING CHAINSAWS MUST WEAR ALL NECESSARY SAFETY CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT. ANY COMPETITOR NOT FOLLOWING THE GUIDANCE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COMPETE.**

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Class 1 – Under 28 Singles (unaided)

Time: 9am

Entries: Open to unlimited members per Club aged 28 years of age or under on 1st September 2025 and 10 years of age or over on the day of the competition.

Marks: Back – 20

Stake – 20

Pleach – 20

Heather – 20

Finish – 20

Total – 100

Rules:

1. Competitors will be required to stake, pleach and heather approximately 6 metres.
2. Competitors in this class MAY NOT receive ANY assistance.

Awards: Prize cards will be awarded to the teams finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the class. The Club gaining the highest marks in Classes 1, 2 and 3 will be awarded the Agricultural Valuers Association Trophy. Competitors in this class are eligible for the Leslie Price Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Best Laid Hedge of the Day (applies to all entrants in Classes 1, 2 and 3).

Class 2 – Under 28 Pairs (unaided)

Time: 9am

Entries: Open to 4 teams of TWO members per Club aged 28 years of age or under on 1st September 2025 and 10 years of age or over on the day of the competition.

Marks: Back – 20

Stake – 20

Pleach – 20

Heather – 20

Finish – 20

Total – 100

Rules:

1. Competitors will be required to stake, pleach and heather approximately 8 metres.
2. Competitors in this class MAY NOT receive ANY assistance.

Awards: Prizecards will be awarded to the teams finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in this class. The Club gaining the highest marks in Classes 1, 2 and 3 will be awarded the Agricultural Valuers Association Trophy. Competitors in this class are eligible for the Leslie Price Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Best Laid Hedge of the Day (applies to all entrants in Classes 1, 2 and 3).

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Class 3 – Under 21 Pairs (unaided)

Time: 9am

Entries: Open to 4 teams of TWO members per Club aged 21 years of age or under on 1st September 2025 and 10 years of age or over on the day of the competition.

Marks: Back – 20

Stake – 20

Pleach – 20

Heather – 20

Finish – 20

Total – 100

Rules:

1. Competitors will be required to stake, pleach and heather approximately 8 metres.
2. Competitors in this class MAY NOT receive ANY assistance.

Awards: Prize cards will be awarded to the teams finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in this class. The Club gaining the highest marks in Classes 1, 2 and 3 will be awarded the Agricultural Valuers Association Trophy. The Pencombe Agricultural Society Cup will also be awarded to the Club gaining the highest marks in this class only. Competitors in this class are eligible for the Leslie Price Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Best Laid Hedge of the Day (applies to all entrants in Classes 1, 2 and 3).

Class 4 – Under 28 Pairs (aided)

Time: 9am

Entries: Open to 4 teams of TWO members per Club aged 28 years of age or under on 1st September 2025 and 10 years of age or over on the day of the competition.

Marks: Back – 20

Stake – 20

Pleach – 20

Heather – 20

Finish – 20

Total – 100

Rules:

1. Competitors will be required to stake, pleach and heather approximately 6 metres.
2. Competitors in this class MAY receive assistance.
3. Any helpers providing assistance in this class will be required to book in on the day, and will be required to produce a valid certificate of competence. Failure to produce a certificate will mean that they cannot provide assistance.

Awards: Prize cards will be awarded to the teams finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in this class

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