

What is your favourite tractor?

Emily Cartmail



Now you are probably thinking what sort of question is that, then let me explain..

That's the question i got asked at my very first Eccleshall YFC meeting, 10 years ago. I answered 'i don't know'. I also didn't know how this one meeting was going to change my life and start my YFC Journey.

This may sound dramatic to some, but i really mean it. It's got me my partner, job, lifelong friends and confidence. I've gone from a girl knowing very little about agriculture to talking about dutch barns and cambridge rollers around the dinner table. I went from never seeing a pig carcass to winning the NFYFC smithfeild trophy for pig judging. The possibilities really are endless with YFC.

Back in 2014 i attended my first Staffordshire YFC AGM. I clearly remember listening to Lisa Hawkins on the stage talking about her year as County Chair and thinking how does anyone have the confidence to stand in front of so many people and talk. Since that moment i have competed in many public speaking competitions and even been placed 3rd at the NFYFC finals. As your current County Chairlady i will now be standing in Lisas shoes talking about the last 12 months within Staffordshire YFC. Something that would have petrified me all those years ago.

YFC has taken me to so many places, from a ranch in America to Windsor Castle to celebrate the Kings Coronation. Before YFC i had never traveled anywhere by myself, unless you count catching the bus to collage traveling that is! In 2017 i was lucky enough to be awarded a trip to America, traveling 4,500 miles, 3 planes and 2 train journeys by myself to stay with a family I had never met in Montana. I went from not knowing any tractor models to driving a combine harvester in a country i'd never visited before.



I think the point i am trying to get across in this blog is that YFC is truly life changing, if you allow it to be. If you start competing in competitions, attending events and talking to members i promise you YFC will give you back what you put in and more.

The opportunities on offer within YFC compare to no other organisation with the motto Fun, Learning and Achievement.

National Young Farmers Week is coming up in October and now is the perfect time to join, so i ask you all 'what is your favorite tractor?' to get your YFC journey started.

Cheers, until next time Emily.