Up the ladder
Huw Ellis, Nuffield Scholar, Pentre Wern, Gobowen, Oswestry
Dairy Co conference March 15
...there needs to be a ‘ladder’ which will enable men to change their status and function according to their ability. The ladder can only exist as a modification of the present system. Continuing to create small holdings will shorten and eventually destroy the ladder itself.

Professors Ashby & Davies – Aberystwyth University 1930
My journey up the ladder

- The DNA
- Work experience pre college
- College and middle year experience
- Rhosmaen – share farming
- Buckinghamshire – share farming
- Pentre Wern + Y Fach – FBT
- Land Purchase – smaller parcels – leverage
- Pentre Kendrick – 160 acres
- It can be done!
Access to land

- Hannera/Share cropping
- Historical tenancies
- Reform of tenancies
- Share farming
- Follow the availability of land
Securing an opportunity

- Working for/with the owner for a period
- Correct chemistry
- Application form – do not reveal everything!
- Get yourself known – build a track record.
- Can be frustrating!
Capital – onto the ladder

- Capital accumulator
- Livestock
- Money made to be invested, not spent
- Borrowed capital – good servant – cruel master
Mentors & experience

- Progressive farmers
- Good operators
- Land owners
- Good advice
Threats

- Increase urbanisation
- Solar farms, biomass and AD plants
- i.e. non agricultural competition
- Ageing farm ownerships – opportunity or threat?
A few of my thoughts...
Can do attitude

- Failure is not an option
- Attitude of mind
- Do not take no for an answer
- Be bold
- IF
IF

If you think you are beaten, you are.
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you'd like to win, but think you can't,
It's almost certain you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you've lost.
For out of the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will.
It's all in the state of mind.
If you think you're outclassed, you are.
You've got to think high to rise.
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster person.
But sooner or later the person who wins
Is the one who thinks they can.

Anonymous