



Draft 2024 Annual Conference Programme

The 2024 Nuffield Farming Conference will be held at the Assembly Buildings Conference Centre in the heart of Belfast. For more information, go to <https://www.nuffieldscholar.org/belfast2024>

(Please note adjustments may need to be made to this programme due to unforeseen circumstances)

Tuesday 19th November 2024	
From 13:35	Three Pre-Conference Visits: Blakiston Houston's Reynolds Dairy Farm / Ewan McCracken's Dairy / Bullhouse Brewery
19.30	Welcome Buffet at the Europa Hotel – Grand Ballroom
Wednesday 20th November 2024	
09.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference Opens: Welcome address by Chair, Wyn Owen • Welcome by Visit Belfast – Jackie Geddis, Business Events Account Manager • Main Conference Sponsor – Graham Wilkinson, CEO AHDB
09.25	<p>Presentation Session 1: New Models for Farming Chaired by Tom MacMillan <i>Sponsored by Taggart Jack</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Clark - Gate to grid, a responsible model for integrated energy production (<i>sponsored by Elizabeth Creak Charitable Trust</i>) • Will Brown - Finding synergy between the traditional farming model and vertical farms (<i>sponsored jointly by Central Region Farmers Trust and The Food Chain Scholarship</i>) • Jonny Hanson - Large carnivore reintroductions to Britain and Ireland: farmers' perspectives and management options (<i>Sponsored by The Thomas Henry Foundation</i>) • Jim Bliss - Born to be wild? Does the future success of marginal farming lie in the untapped potential of rewilding? (<i>Sponsored by Worshipful Company of Farmers with Savills</i>)
10.45	Tea/coffee and pastries Break
11.05	<p>Presentation Session 2: Poultry Chaired by Jenna Ross <i>Sponsored by McDonald's UK & Ireland</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Roach - There is a buzz around insect protein in the broiler industry, does the idea have legs? (<i>Sponsored by Aviagen, Cobb Europe and Hubbard</i>) • Alistair McBain - A Review of Alternative Proteins to Drive Net Zero Egg Production (<i>Sponsored by The MacRobert Trust</i>) • Sylwia Sobolewska - Feed Efficiency and Targeted Genetic Selection as the Key for Sustainable Performance and Profitability in Laying Hens (<i>Sponsored by BEMB Trust</i>)
12.10	<p>Presentation Session 3 Chaired by Tom Rawson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Nuffield Farming Next-Gen Scholars UK dairy tour; Bronagh Dempster, Ewan McCracken and Kirsten Henry (<i>Sponsored by The Elizabeth Creak Charitable Trust and The Thomas Henry Foundation</i>) • Global Focus Programme (GFP) - Alistair Trickett
12.40	Lunch and VVIP Lunch
13.45	Address from Andrew Muir MLA, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

13.55	<p>Scholarships Awards Ceremony: HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO, Patron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2025 Nuffield Farming Scholars • The 2024 Nuffield Farming Next-Gen Scholars
14.25	<p>Presentation Session 4: Climate and Sustainable Businesses Chaired by Chris Taylor <i>Sponsored by Fane Valley</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew Sincock - Waste not, want not - How to maximise your organic manures (<i>Sponsored by McDonald's UK & Ireland</i>) • Byron Braithwaite - Creating forests that thrive in a changing climate: Drought and fire resilience (<i>Sponsored by John Oldacre Foundation</i>) • Luke Breedon - Biochar Use in Agriculture: The Environmental and Economic Benefits (<i>Sponsored by Alan and Anne Beckett Award</i>) • Roisin Taylor - Revival and Survival: adapting for a 2-degree warming world within the British Cut Flower Industry (<i>Sponsored by John Oldacre Foundation</i>)
15.45	Tea/coffee and tray bakes Break
16:05	<p>Presentation Session 5: Cropping Opportunities Chaired by Mary Munro <i>Sponsored by tbc</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camilla Hayselden-Ashby - Green gold: Is hemp the new oil? (<i>Sponsored by NFU Mutual Charitable Trust</i>) • Harry Barnett - How to counteract the agronomic and market challenges facing the UK potato industry (<i>Sponsored jointly by McDonald's UK & Ireland and The Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association</i>) • Henry Alexander - A comparative analysis of seaweed farming - lessons for the UK (<i>Sponsored by The Richard Lawes Foundation</i>) • Richard Copas - The mechanization of cherry production and harvest (<i>Sponsored by Malcolm Isaac Scholarship</i>)
17.25	Conference Day 1 Ends
19.00	Pre-Dinner Drinks Reception at the Titanic Belfast
19.30	2024 Annual Dinner at the Titanic Belfast
Thursday 21st November 2024	
08.15	AGM for all Nuffield Farming Scholars
09.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference Opens: Welcome address by the New Chair, Tom Rawson • Principal Northern Ireland Sponsor - Trevor Lockhart, CEO Fane Valley
09.50	<p>Presentation Session 6: Community and Health in Agriculture Chaired by David Rose <i>Sponsored by AHDB</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire Taylor - Turning the tide on the anti-farming agenda (<i>Sponsored by The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland</i>) • Hannah Batty - People. Processes. Potential: a blueprint for great team management on UK dairy farms (<i>Sponsored by The Trehane Trust</i>) • Hannah Fraser - Displacing empty calories with nutrient dense food: How can UK farmers be rewarded for practices that promote nutrient density? (<i>Sponsored jointly by Yorkshire Agricultural Society and Worshipful Company of Fruiterers</i>) • Tom Pearson - What can farmers do to make a positive impact on the health of their local community? (<i>Sponsored by NFU Mutual Charitable Trust</i>)
11.10	Tea/coffee and pastries Break

11.30	<p>Presentation Session 7: Supply, Data and Technology Chaired by David Gardner <i>Sponsored by tbc</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Grey - Fresh produce supply chain excellence - Growing our share of the value chain (<i>Sponsored by The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland and Worshipful Company of Fruiterers</i>) • Ed Towers - The integration of new technologies to incentivize environmental services (<i>Sponsored by John Oldacre Foundation</i>) • Jamie Lockheart - Unlocking the potential of Data Use and Agri-tech within Agriculture (<i>Sponsored by the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association</i>) • Izak Van Heerden - Agrileadership for tomorrow's world; The future of work is not what you think it is! (<i>Sponsored by East Sussex NFU</i>)
12.50	Lunch
14.00	Announcement of the New Trustees
14.05	<p>Presentation Session 8: Livestock, Environment and Regenerative Agriculture Chaired by Jim Baird. <i>Sponsored by Phileo UK & Ireland</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire Whittle - Can regenerative agriculture improve the health and welfare of livestock? (<i>Sponsored by McDonald's UK & Ireland</i>) • Ruth Grice - Working together: How dairy farmers & environmental organisations can achieve sustainable food security & combat climate change (<i>Sponsored by AHDB</i>) • Rob Howe - Exploring & defining the role of Farm Vets within Regenerative Agriculture (<i>Sponsored by AHDB</i>) • James MacCartney - UK red meat production: How to win the battle for environmental sustainability in the mind of the consumer (<i>Sponsored by Worshipful Company of Butchers</i>)
15.35	<p>Nuffield Farming Awards Ceremony Chaired by Jim Baird</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steven & Gillian Bullock Award • Nuffield Farming Greener Future Award – <i>sponsored by LEAF</i> • Nuffield Farming Frank Arden Leadership Award • Nuffield Farming Best Report • John Stewart Award for Best Presentation
16.05	Closing comments by Chair Tom Rawson
16.20	Tea/coffee and pastries
17.00	Conference Ends