# Farminguk

ISSUE 120 NOVEMBER 2021



FIRST SCHOOL OF

# SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND FARMING

LAUNCHEDIN UK

# CONTENTS











**04** FIRST SCHOOL OF **SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND FARMING** LAUNCHEDIN UK

**10** RSPCA ASSURED LAUNCHES **NEW DOCUMENTARY SERIES** AND TV AD

**12** FARMERS HAIL CLARKSON FOR CHAMPIONING **BRITISH FARMING**

**18** FORMER AG STUDENT RETURNS TO COLLEGE TO RUN **900-ACRE FARM**

**20** UK-NEW ZEALAND **TRADE DEAL** 'A BLOW' FOR BRITISH DAIRY

**24** SCOTTISH FAMILY FARM RECEIVES £250K TO **PLANT 68,000 TREES**




13



24



40

**26** CALL FOR FARMERS TO SIGN UP FOR **FARMER TIME** AMID RISING DEMAND

**28** FARMERS SEEKING TO DIVERSIFY TOLD TO CONSIDER **PLACEMAKING**

**32** EXODUS OF OVERSEAS WORKERS LEAVES **POULTRY FARMS IN DIRE STRAITS**

**40** RISE IN NUMBER OF **FARM INHERITANCE AND SUCCESSION** DISPUTES

**44** PRINCE CHARLES CALLS ON PUBLIC TO **REDUCE MEAT AND DAIRY** INTAKE

**46** UK'S FIRST **CARBON NEUTRAL POTATO** HITS SHELVES

4

# FIRST SCHOOL OF **SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND FARMING** LAUNCHED IN UK



The School of Sustainable Food and Farming is the first of its type in the UK



# FARM STORY

## The first School of Sustainable Food and Farming has officially launced in the UK, aiming to encourage new sustainable farming methods to help British agriculture achieve its net zero goal.

**The School of Sustainable Food and Farming is the first of its type in the UK. Its courses will seek to introduce regenerative methods of farming - for livestock, soil health and biodiversity - to help produce the nation's food in an even more sustainable and climate-friendly way.**

In the UK, agricultural production is currently responsible for 10 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions. So the school will play a huge part in realising the government's new "green" agriculture policy, unveiled in November last year.

Based at Harper Adams University in Newport, the school's courses will be designed using the work on sustainable farming and food production by the University, and in unique collaboration with supermarket Morrisons, foodservice outlet McDonald's UK, and the National Farmers Union.

For the first time in the world the school will bring together all of the latest thinking and learning on farming using sustainable methods. Virtual courses will cover a wide range of topics including carbon sequestration, the potential of green energy production on farms - including anaerobic digestion plants,



**SOPHIE THROUP**, Agriculture Manager at Morrisons, along with **CALUM**, who is part of Morrisons apprenticeship scheme

and understanding the value of carbon. In addition, on-the-farm learning with university tutors will take place; to offer real-world practice. The courses will be run by the UK's leading experts in agronomy, veterinary practice and nutrition.

The school's courses will include; undergraduate courses to train new sustainable farmers; short courses and apprenticeships to upskill the current farming workforce; and research posts. The school will also act as a hub for sharing the latest thinking and learning on sustainable farming, and will be involved in policy engagement - to ensure the farming sector gets the support and advice it needs.

Minette Batters, President of the National Farmers Union, said: "A transformation is needed globally to boost sustainable food production and ensure that we can continue to feed a growing population while doing our bit for the planet. In Britain farmers have an ambition to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 and the School of Sustainable Food

and Farming will help us get there. It will help our farmers - both established and new - take on the role of world leaders in climate-friendly food production, paving the way for farming across the world in a sustainable and beneficial way."

Professor Michael Lee, Deputy Vice Chancellor at Harper Adams University, said: "The way Britain - and the world - farms is changing, and the future is upon us. We need to recognise that, and to understand that the future sustainable production of our food is critical. It is time for modern agricultural institutions to develop the systems we need to support this production for the twenty-first century - such as this School, which brings together the expertise we have at Harper Adams with the experience of industry, wherever it is needed in the country. What we are doing here is pioneering, and it will help the UK to lead the world in agricultural thinking and practice."

Sophie Throup, Head of Agriculture at Morrisons, said: "We need to revolutionise our food production and what we're doing today is unique. It's the first time the NFU, restaurants, supermarkets and universities have come together to act with one voice for the greater good. We have supported the development of this school both for our own farmers - but also for the nation's farmers. It will play an important part in helping all of Morrisons farmers to get to Net Zero Agri by 2030, but Morrisons also wanted to help create a legacy for all of UK farming."

Harriet Wilson, Agriculture and Sustainable Sourcing Manager at McDonald's UK & Ireland, said: "We all have a role to play when it comes to tackling climate change, and we are at a moment where we need to work even harder to look after the planet. Therefore we're really proud to be partnering on this innovative School of Sustainable Food and Farming, which will help us to better understand and implement sustainable farming methods that can be used by the British and Irish farmers that produce the quality ingredients for our restaurants, as well as the farming industry as a whole."

Harper Adams University is the leading specialist institution tackling the future development of our planet's food production, processing, animal sciences, engineering, land management and sustainable business.

Morrisons has pledged to become the first supermarket to be completely supplied by "zero emission" British farms by 2030 - five years ahead of the industry. Morrisons is UK farming's biggest customer and will work directly with its farmers to create affordable zero emission produce. Morrisons UK agriculture target forms part of its plan to become "net zero" for emissions by 2040, in line with the international Paris Agreement.

McDonald's UK and Ireland recently launched its Plan for Change - a comprehensive business and sustainability strategy to help it achieve its aim of net zero emissions across its entire business by 2040. The plan sets out ambitious goals and actions across its four key areas - Planet, People, Restaurants and Food - to ensure the business leads positive change from farms to front counter.

# The perfect partner...

Morrisons

FARMING

Morrisons are delighted to support BFREPA by joining their Sustainability Scheme.

We are fully committed to working with our producers to shape the future of the egg category in our stores.

We acquired Chippindale Foods in 2018 and have invested heavily in the site to produce a state of the art facility, not only grading eggs but processing seconds for use within our own manufacturing and retail sites.

Chippindale

Good eggs SINCE 1930

British Egg Academy

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A GREAT FUTURE

# Cut out the egg packer and work direct with the retailer...

We're looking for the most forward thinking Producers to join our progressive direct supply network.

Chippindale Foods works together with the Morrisons Egg Team in an open and transparent joint effort to shape the future of the egg category in our stores.

Our producer offer includes:

- Long term sustainable and transparent pricing model fixed across the group
- Free to buy model on feed and pullets
- Annual pricing reviews with the involvement of all stakeholders
- 'Chuckle Eggs' 12p per pack returned directly to producers
- Feed Tracker pricing option
- FREE Lion Passport Training Accredited Courses
- 11 day payment terms
- Involvement in industry leading initiatives
- In house processing to use within Morrisons manufacturing

Producer support:

- Hands on Technical Team providing guidance throughout production
- Compliance guidance and support
- Budget and business planning
- Regular producer meetings

Call one of the Chippindale's team

**Richard Pearson: 07850 740622**

**Hazel Russell: 07970 264460**

**Thomas Rhodes: 07548 226091**

**Office: 01423 884042**

Chippindale Foods, York Rd, Knaresborough, HG5 0RP



Richard with our longest standing producer, Stephen Throup

# RSPCA ASSURED LAUNCHES **NEW DOCUMENTARY SERIES** AND TV AD




Welly Vision will also be promoted with TV advertising from 5 November



## RSPCA Assured has launched the second episode in its online micro-documentary series, Welly Vision, as part of a major push to better educate consumers about farming and where their food comes from.

**Presented by food journalist, campaigner, and Food Unwrapped presenter, Kate Quilton, the first and second instalments of Welly Vision are available to view now on RSPCA Assured's website.**

The latest 10-minute micro-documentary focuses on laying hens and is aimed at the 64 million or so people in the UK who eat eggs - that's about 97 percent of the UK population. It covers topics such as different methods of egg production, egg codes, shell and yolk colour, as well as more challenging subjects. There will also be two shorter videos available in the coming weeks honing in on specific areas of egg production.

Commenting on the latest campaign instalment Xenia Kinglsey, RSPCA Assured's senior marketing manager, says:

"In this second episode of Welly Vision, we aim to continue educating people about the challenges of farming animals for food, with the ultimate goal of highlighting the importance of higher welfare labels.

"After the huge success of episode one, which focused on pork production, we're really excited to see how this latest instalment is received."

Welly Vision will also be promoted with TV advertising from 5 November on Channel 4, Sky Max, Sky Showcase, Sky Atlantic, Food Network, More 4, Eden, HGTV as well as video-on-demand services from 4 - 10 November. Peak spots will include slots during Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. The TV ad will feature highlights from both episodes one and two of the micro-documentary series.

Further, the campaign will be supported by full-page print ads in Sainsbury's, Olive, Delicious, Foodism and BBC Good Food magazines, as well as social media ads and organic posts.

The first episode of Welly Vision, which looked at pigs and pork production, was broadcast in August this year. Future episodes of Welly Vision, focusing on meat chickens and turkeys, will be launched in 2022.

# FARMERS HAIL CLARKSON FOR CHAMPIONING **BRITISH FARMING**




The popular series showcased the realities of farming on Clarkson's Oxfordshire farm to millions of viewers



## A prominent shepherd and author has praised Jeremy Clarkson for doing more for farming in one TV series than the BBC's Countryfile programme has in 30 years.

**James Rebanks, a sheep farmer from Penrith, Cumbria and award-winning author, made the comments at the Cheltenham Literary Festival.**

He was asked what effect the hugely popular Amazon Prime series Clarkson's Farm had had on British agriculture's reputation.

"I can report back from within the farming community: they all loved that programme. They loved it," Mr Rebanks said, reported in The Telegraph.

"Ok, he's clowning around and he plays to that audience, and a lot of farmers are lads that like machines and they would have watched Top Gear and all the rest of it.

"But what they really liked is [that] they have been frankly p---d off with Countryfile for about 30 years because the whole logic of Countryfile is that you can't make a mainstream, prime-time TV programme about farming because farming is for a niche group of idiots.

"And what Clarkson has come along and done is gone, 'Actually, no, everybody will watch a programme about farming, you just need to do it in a certain way.'

"He sends himself up and in a funny way makes the two working-class rural men the heroes of the programme and that goes down very well in the farming community."

The comments come as Clarkson was recently named NFU's Farming Champion of the Year for his 'work which has seen him champion British farming'.

BALED

# QUALITY DEDUSTED & CLEANED BALES

## PERFECT FOR ENRICHMENT





Our straw bales are treated and are the perfect size for chickens to perch, peck and de-construct.

Pallet wrapped only, so less plastic for you and the environment to deal with.

CALL US ON: 01270 522233 / 07973 396306

**baled.co.uk**



NFU President Minette Batters said The Grand Tour presenter had 'done his best' to showcase British food and farming over the past 12 months.

"His show has really resonated with the public, brought alive the ups and downs of our industry to a huge new audience, and transported British farming into the living rooms of families across the country," she said.

The eight-part series followed Clarkson through his first year as he contends with the day to day challenges of running his own farm, amid the backdrop of an unexpected pandemic and some of the worst farming weather in decades.

Speaking about his own series to FarmingUK, the former Top Gear presenter said he wanted to present British farming in a different light.

"I think some of the farmers around here were concerned that the show would ridicule agriculture, which it absolutely does not do – it is a love letter to British farming," he said.

"I was fed-up with television only showing farming as either someone bottle feeding a lamb in a cosy barn or as massive intensive setups on the other side of the world.

"What we wanted to do was to show what farming is actually like on an average farm."

Amazon announced in summer that Clarkson's Farm will return for a second series following the programme's huge success.

Fan Grabiner, head of UK originals at Amazon Studios, said Clarkson's Farm was Jeremy's 'unfiltered love letter to farming'.

"It is that authenticity, charm and humour, combined with the farm's fantastic characters, which have made the series such a remarkable hit with audiences," he added.

"We are delighted to be joining the team for another year-in-the-life of Diddly Squat, and wish Kaleb and farmers across the country luck as Mother Nature continues to take revenge on Jeremy."

www.bigdutchman.de

FLEXIBLE MODULAR SYSTEM

# Big volumes of eggsperience: NATURA

**NATURA multi-level systems for layers – flexible, efficient and profitable:**

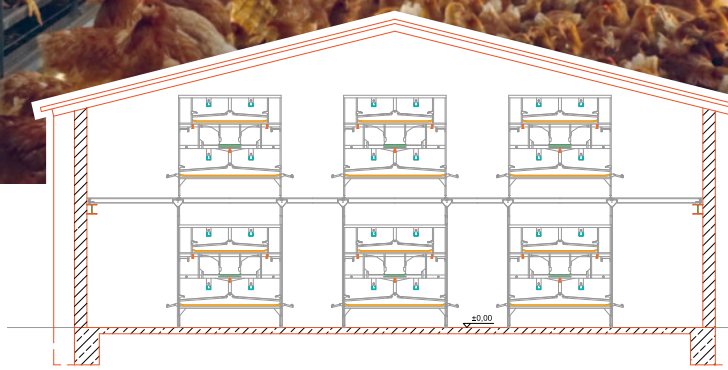
| for conversion of existing colony sheds
| high stocking density on a small footprint/good utilization of the building
| all advantages of the market proven NATURA Step system
| intermediate ceiling is supported by the multi-tier-structure
| freedom food approved for barn egg production

**Newquip Limited,** NQ House, Conygarth Way
Leeming Bar Business Park, Leeming Bar
Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL7 9EE
Tel. 01677 428600, enquiries@newquip.co.uk

For barn egg production!





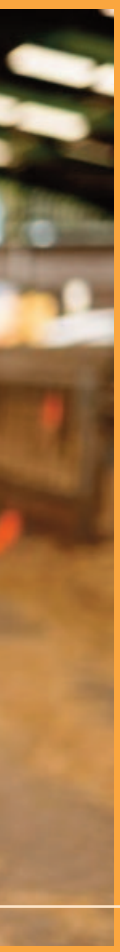



Big Dutchman®

# FORMER AG STUDENT RETURNS TO COLLEGE TO RUN **900-ACRE FARM**



James Richardson, Bishop Burton's new Farm Manager, studied agriculture there from 2008 to 2010



## A former agriculture student who ended his studies over ten years ago has returned to his old college to take over its 900-acre farm.

**James Richardson studied agriculture at Bishop Burton College from 2008 to 2010, before returning home to work on his family's beef and sheep hill farm in Derbyshire.**

He then joined Dyson Farming as a herdsperson two years ago, working in Gloucestershire.

Now James will take over the running of the college's farm, which has nearly 900 acres split between arable and grassland, with units for pigs, beef and sheep.

James said that, as a former student, he had an affinity with the college and was delighted to be back in Yorkshire.

"My passion lies in regenerative farming and achieving zero net carbon, while retaining very high standards of day-to-day operations and animal welfare," he added.

"I am already planning a number of developments, including using technology to record and analyse animal performance data to inform breeding and management decisions."

Bishop Burton is heavily involved in regenerative farming, with both livestock and arable operations geared to helping it achieve its aim of zero net carbon in the next ten years.

It is also working to ensure that the benefits of new technologies such as precision farming, robotics and automation are maximised to support sustainable farm businesses post-Brexit.

James said he would work with the college's students and tutors to ensure the farm utilises all these resources.

Bishop Burton Principal Bill Meredith welcomed the return of James to the college after his 11 year absence.

"The aging population of farmers is a well-recognised issue for the future of agriculture so we are focused on bringing new blood with the necessary skills into the sector," he said.

"The farm is central to all of our agriculture courses and I am delighted that our new Farm Manager is a great example of how acquiring the right skills can lead to a range of careers in farming."

# UK-NEW ZEALAND **TRADE DEAL** 'A BLOW' FOR BRITISH DAIRY



Dairy contributes over NZ$19bn to the NZ economy and is one of its most dominant goods export sectors



## The UK-New Zealand trade agreement is a 'blow' for UK dairy as it will create an unbalance in market opportunities, a trade association has warned.

**Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the deal on Wednesday 20 October, saying the development would 'benefit consumers and businesses'.**

Tariffs on New Zealand dairy, the country's largest export commodity, along with sheep meat and beef exports to the UK will gradually be phased out.

They will be completely removed from dairy products after five years, and 15 years for sheep meat and beef.

According to the New Zealand government's statistics, dairy is the country's biggest export earner – worth about NZ$19 billion a year.

While farming groups there have hailed the trade agreement, industry bodies in the UK have raised concern over its impact.

The NFU warned it contained "little discernible benefit" for farmers in the UK, as it would "open our doors to significant extra volumes of imported food."

The National Sheep Association (NSA) also highlighted concern that the free trade agreement risked undermining the UK sheep sector's high standards.

Now the dairy sector has raised concern, namely over skewed market opportunities, the impact on sustainability and the lack of collaboration between government and farmers.

Dairy UK, a trade association for the dairy supply chain, said the New

# Belton Farm

COLLEGE FARM ROAD | BELTON IN RUTLAND | OAKHAM | RUTLAND









## *A thriving farm business in around 37 acres of land offering a unique lifestyle opportunity in glorious rolling countryside*

Compact Estate in Unique Setting | Around 37.43 Acres | Substantial Detached Farmhouse
Planning Permission to Extend | Beautiful Surroundings | Sporting Rights Included
Additional 9.74 Acres by Separate Negotiation

37.43 ACRES | EPC RATING C | **OFFERS OVER £1,500,000**

3 2 2

**Yorkshire**
**T** 01423 368993
**E** yorkshire@finestgroup.co.uk



Zealand trade deal was a "blow for UK dairy."

"This agreement will see tariffs eliminated over five years," said Dr Judith Bryans, who is chief executive of the industry body.

"With its lower production costs, New Zealand will be able to seize its opportunity to grow an unlimited market share for its dairy products here in the UK.

"While true this agreement comes with export opportunities for agriculture and UK dairy companies, the UK market is many times bigger than that of New Zealand."

She added: "At a time when the UK dairy sector is challenging itself to continuously raise its own sustainability credentials, when it is already one of the most sustainable, this deal will reduce our control over the environmental footprint of UK food consumption.

"There's absolutely no reason to assume this won't continue to happen in further trade agreements either," she warned.

In the government's haste to strike deals, farming groups say UK agriculture is being left vulnerable and undervalued compared to other sectors of the economy.

There are fears the UK could become overly dependent on imports as a result of a shrinking agricultural industry, with domestic food production capabilities undermined.

"Long term, there's a real risk that British agriculture will shrink, gambled away for little return," Dr Bryans added. "Once these businesses are gone, it will not be easy to rebuild them.

"We are not opposed to trade deals; we welcome mutual opportunities, but we are opposed to agricultural being traded away."

# SCOTTISH FAMILY FARM RECEIVES £250K TO **PLANT 68,000 TREES**



Scottish Forestry has agreed to issue funding to help the family farm commence the woodland project

## A Dumfriesshire family farming business has accepted nearly £250,000 in government funding to help them plant over 68,000 trees on 31 hectares of land.



**The vast tree planting project aims to diversify the farm, run by Olly and Shara Routledge, and improve its productivity on poorer quality land.**

As well as providing shelter belts for sheep, the trees will also provide a source of income when they are used for timber in the future.

The new woodland will be grown around four miles from Moffat on the A708, the majority being native oak, birch and aspen, with a smaller proportion of sycamore.

The woodland planting will be carried out by the Routledge's, a family run farming business which has a long history in the Moffat Valley stretching back 50 years.

The planting will complement the landscape on the A708 tourist route between Moffat and Selkirk, displaying diversity of colour and structures of species.

Mr Routledge said: "The decision to increase the tree planting on the farm represents a coordinated approach to making good use of some poorer quality ground to provide alternative income opportunities, while focusing a reduced number of sheep on the more easily accessed and managed land.

"The planting of mixed conifer and hard wood forestry contributes to our wider family aspiration to take positive steps in relation to climate change, but also enhancing biodiversity in a landscape that has been heavily impacted by sheep.

"By way of example, when I grew up on the farm there were good numbers of Black Grouse and we hope that our actions will significantly bolster the small number of birds that remain."

Scottish Forestry has agreed to issue £240,000 worth of funding to help the Routledge's commence the project.

The Scottish government has committed to increasing woodland creation targets to 18,000 hectares of new planting each year by 2024/25.

Environment Minister Màiri McAllan said: "Scotland's forest and woodlands are making a significant contribution towards tackling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity decline.

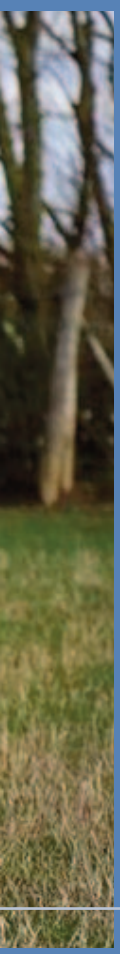
"This project is a great example of tree planting creating multiple benefits for rural business, biodiversity and for climate change."

# CALL FOR FARMERS TO SIGN UP FOR **FARMER TIME** AMID RISING DEMAND



Educational initiative Farmer Time brings British agriculture directly into classrooms through live video calls

## Farmers are being encouraged to sign up to an educational initiative which allows schoolchildren to be taught about food and farming via live video calls.



**Farmer Time, spearheaded by charity LEAF Education, allows pupils to gain a real time, year-round understanding of farming and the food supply chain.**

Due to its success, over 230 teachers representing nearly 7,000 children are now waiting to be paired with farmers. The Farmer Time team is calling on more farmers to get involved to help inspire future generations about farming, food production and the environment.

Farmer Time has connected 742 teachers, or over 22,500 children, with farmers since the initiative began in 2016, according to a new report released on Friday (15 October) by LEAF.

It says that 100% of farmers and teachers enjoyed the experience, and 90% of farmers felt their paired class gained a better understanding of the food supply chain. Farmer Time has been pioneering a new approach to agricultural education for more than four years by bringing farming directly into classrooms through live video calls.

The initiative has also seen a rapid global expansion with international partners in Sweden, Finland, the Republic of Ireland and as far afield as Australia and New Zealand.

Director of LEAF Education Carl Edwards said: “It is never too early to start talking to children about farming, to spark their interest, to ignite their sense of wonder and to share the realities of how their food is produced.

"Farmer Time is transforming the way we connect our future generations with farming and empowering them to make healthy, sustainable food choices."

But organisers say they need more farmers to sign up. "We have over 200 schools - that's over 6,000 children - waiting to learn more about our industry. We are encouraging any farmer, who can spare twenty minutes a fortnight and has good internet connection, to be part of something truly amazing.”

Cambridgeshire farmer, Tom Martin, who founded Farmer Time, urges farmers to give it a go, calling it a 'fantastic way to reach out to the consumers of tomorrow'.

"Any farmer can take part - it doesn't cost anything, just your time and willingness to reach out," he said.

"Just talking to children, answering their questions and seeing their genuine interest in what farmers do is hugely rewarding."

# FARMERS SEEKING TO DIVERSIFY TOLD TO CONSIDER **PLACEMAKING**



Placemaking explores how farmers can create a location in which people want to live, work and spend money



## Farmers who are considering diversification are being told to look at how the principles of 'placemaking' could help to drive up the number and quality of customers they attract.

**Placemaking is relatively new in the context of the rural sector, but it is a process that Strutt & Parker believes has huge potential as farms look to develop new diversified enterprises.**

Rural placemaking can help a farm to produce a commercial masterplan which will give any new business activity the best possible chance of success, the firm says.

Essentially, placemaking explores how farmers can create a location in which people want to live, work and spend their leisure time and money. Traditionally, many farmers approach diversification on a piecemeal basis, Strutt & Parker says, rather than stepping back and considering how everything works together in terms of the customer experience.

Ed Mansel Lewis, head of the firm's Rural Ambitions team, explains that placemaking is frequently discussed in relation to urban planning, but the principles are equally applicable in the countryside.

"Crucially, it is a concept that has a multiplying effect on some established financial metrics which anyone running a customer-facing diversification will want to monitor anyway - the Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC) and Average Basket Value (ABV).

"The former is calculated by dividing the costs of marketing and sales by the number of customers acquired, the latter is the total value of goods sold, divided by the number of transactions to give an average spend per transaction

# Dalton Engineering

*Everything for the poultry farmer!*

**Essential products that encourage natural bird behaviour and improves flock welfare**

## Lucerne Bale (Alfalfa) 20kg

***Encourages natural feeding behaviour and reduces feather-pecking***

Tightly pressed bales encourage birds to spend an extended time scratching and feeding. The finely chopped alfalfa contains a good concentration of valuable proteins and roughage to stimulate the digestive system. Tight bale structure is designed to promote natural pecking and scratching, distracting birds from hostile behaviour.

- **Encourages natural feeding behaviour**
- **Promotes healthy digestion and disease resistance**
- **Keeps flock actively healthy**



Call us for a **FREE** copy of our catalogue






## Well Bird® Pecking Block

***Satisfies natural poultry foraging instinct***

Developed and manufactured in the UK, specifically to satisfy a bird's natural desire to explore, scratch and peck. This enrichment block has the perfect hardness to satisfy feeding behaviour, without adversely affecting day to day diet. It reduces the overall stress levels of the flock and enhances bird welfare.

- **Encourages natural foraging and healthy beak**
- **Reduces hostile feather-pecking behaviour**
- **All-natural ingredients including limestone granules**
- **Suitable for layers, broilers, pullets and breeders**

*Find more products like this at...*



Dalton ENGINEERING LTD

POULTRY KNOW-HOW

**www.daltonengineering.co.uk**

**Tel: 01845 578 325 • Email: info@daltonengineering.co.uk**



"A lower CAC is better, as it means it is costing less to win customers and a higher ABV is better, as people are willing to spend proportionately more when they buy goods or services compared to when buying from others in the same sector." Businesses winning new customers at a relatively low marketing cost are often those situated in places that enjoy lots of footfall, and where there are long dwell times and high return rates, says Mr Mansel Lewis.

"Effectively, they are businesses in lovely places that people enjoy visiting and where they want to spend their time. This simple understanding is at the heart of placemaking."

**What are the key principles of placemaking?**
Strutt & Parker has recently published a report 'The Future of the Estate' which examines the role of placemaking in creating successful diversified businesses.

**Below are some key points from the report for farmers to consider:**

**Taking a customer-led approach:** For any new business, the starting point should be understanding who the customers are and what they want. Decisions about what services to provide and where to place them should be guided by careful customer data analysis.

**The Anchor:** The anchor is the key, identifiable reason that customers would choose to visit a place. For farms, the anchor is likely to be the opportunity to spend time in the countryside, connecting with nature and enjoying the views.

**The power of 10+:** Another of the main principles of the placemaking concept is that places thrive when people have a range of reasons (10+) to be there. There is no magic in the number 10, rather it is a reminder that more is better. Farms already own and run a variety of individual businesses, but the art of placemaking is considering how to create a 'destination', giving visitors even more reasons to visit and increase the length of their stay.

**Creating clusters of like-minded businesses:** Create clusters of like-minded businesses which have shared values and complement each other by appealing to a similar sort of customer. Farms can sometimes end up letting space to a collection of businesses from different sectors, which do not complement one another. Taking a more editorial approach to the businesses that are clustered together, means the whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts.

# EXODUS OF OVERSEAS WORKERS LEAVES **POULTRY FARMS IN DIRE STRAITS**



The UK's current labour shortage woes are affecting all areas of the poultry industry



## An exodus of overseas workers have left UK poultry businesses in dire straits, with one firm loosing 50% of its workforce over the last four months.

**The number of job vacancies has hit one million for the first time since records began, and many of these are in the poultry industry with one broiler integrator reporting 812 unfilled positions.**

Since the UK left the EU and the start of the pandemic, the number of overseas workers has been reducing, causing problems for agricultural sectors that rely on them.

Following lobbying from the NFU and other industry groups, in September the government announced their decision to add 5,500 poultry workers to existing visa schemes.

In addition, the government has agreed to issue 5,000 extra visas for HGV drivers to come to the UK to transport food and fuel - easing problems with haulage.

Recruitment for additional short-term HGV drivers and poultry workers will begin in October and this route will be valid until 24 December 2021.

However, this initiative is designed for temporary workers that travel to the UK to support the increased demand for poultry meat over Christmas.

It will not support those businesses who are looking to fill permanent jobs in the wider poultry industry: stock people, catchers etc.

British Poultry Council chief executive Richard Griffiths said: "The government's move to allow temporary workers for the poultry meat sector will be welcomed by seasonal producers.

"Temporary workers from outside the UK have long been vital to delivering Christmas for our sector and given the unprecedented challenges of the last year they are needed more than ever."

For those would have a seasonal poultry business alongside egg production it could be a lifeline - but long-term issues with a lack of applicants to the industry continues.

These issues are all too familiar to Stewart Rogers, of Rogers Poultry Services Ltd, as he deals with



Poultry farmer Stewart Rogers is down to just 14 catchers and struggling to fulfil the work

overseas workers leaving and a dearth of applicants to vacancies.

He has worked in the poultry industry for 26 years. “We founded our vaccination, catching and fumigation team in 2017, working with pullet rearers and broiler breeders in the Southwest of England.

"At first we only employed vaccinators and contracted the catching work but then started recruiting our own," he said.

A few years ago, they had two teams of catchers, totalling 14 plus 10-12 vaccinators and by April 2021 this had increased to 28 catchers.

“Many of the workers were from Eastern Europe, on full-time contracts – paying tax and National Insurance etc.
"Some settled with their families and found their own accommodation, whilst for other I rented several properties to house them.”
Now Stewart is down to just 14 catchers and struggling to fulfil work. “When the pandemic hit, they were alarmed as they couldn’t travel home to see their families.
Poultry farmer Stewart Rogers is down to just 14 catchers and struggling to fulfil the work
Poultry farmer Stewart Rogers is down to just 14 catchers and struggling to fulfil the work

"However, being integral to food supply they were classed as ‘key-workers’ and pleased to play their part in keeping the country fed.”

As restrictions eased many wanted to go home as they weren’t classed as skilled workers, who must be paid £25,600.

“They knew what was needed to stay and decided they’d rather leave of their own




The government has agreed to issue 5,000 extra visas for HGV drivers to come to the UK

accord, rather than be forced to go," Stewart said.

"Also, with the weakness of the pound and the skills they had developed, they easily found comparable contracts in France, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands."

Not all stayed in the poultry industry but those who did highlight the issue of us developing great workers only for other countries to benefit.

"It's frustrating because they would have rather stayed here and were good dependable workers. Mainland Europe also offers them the ability to travel home more frequently and easily.

"There was the option to apply for a temporary visa but that would cost them nearly £700. Some had already completed all the paperwork to achieve settled status and some of those have stayed with their families, but others have left."

He's now only housing four or five workers and has had to take the decision to end rental agreements of several properties.

"To lose half of your work force is very concerning, I'd worried about the effect Brexit would have on labour for some time," he added.

"Hauliers are already at breaking point and speaking to my customers they need stock workers and managers too. It goes to show that you are only as strong as your weakest link."

Stewart employs British workers too and a month ago placed job adverts on Facebook. "It was viewed by over 6,000 people but I only got one application," he said.




Order online at www.countryfreshpullets.com or for more information please contact

Tel: 01691 830741 Email: lucerne@lloydsanimalfeeds.com

"The problem is finding people that want to do this kind of work. Catchers are paid significantly more than the national living wage, but most would have a job in a supermarket or factory that pays similarly."

He can understand why it isn't everyone's cup of tea but says that the industry can't afford to pay higher wages. "Whilst people aren't prepared to pay more for food, there isn't any more money in the system."

Labour shortages are affecting all areas of the poultry industry. There are reports of producers unable to get flocks moved out at the end of the laying cycle and broilers destroyed in houses, as there isn't sufficient slaughterhouse staff to process them.

Stewart said: "The issue of staff shortage in the industry has been overlooked for some time but it is only now that stories are making the press.

"Nando's and KFC have been forced to close restaurants as they can't guarantee a supply of chickens. Everyday I'm discussing the issues with my customers to work out how we are going to manage, but no one knows how long it is going to last."

Stewart described himself as normally much more positive, but this issue is causing him grave concern. "I know that the possibility of temporary visas has been discussed for agricultural workers.

"That would certainly help in the short term but there needs to be wider solutions to help the industry in the long-term."

While catching machines are one answer in the broiler industry, it isn't going to work in pullet or layer houses, due to the amount of furniture in the house.

"The question is this the end for cheap labour for food production and if so the additional costs to encourage British workers into the industry is going to have to be passed through the supermarkets and to the consumers," he said.

"And maybe that is a good thing – people seem happy to pay £4 for a coffee but baulk at paying the same for a chicken.

"British produce needs to be more highly valued by the public as the quality, high welfare product it is." Stewart estimates that this would mean a 30-40% pay increase for workers.

"It's important that these jobs are valued as skilled too. They must undertake regular training and meet the requirements of quality standards.

"Many of them have worked for us for 10-20 years and are very experienced, we should be looking after these workers."

Instead, they are moving to EU countries, who are benefitting from their expertise gained in the UK.

Kelly's Turkeys, one of the UK's biggest turkey producers, have warned that imports from France are likely to increase due to labour shortages.

PoultryNews reported owner Paul Kelly as saying that the turkey sector will be badly hit this Christmas as businesses rely on agencies who bring in labour from the EU and that pool of labour is no longer accessible.

"The larger companies have made the prudent decision to reduce Christmas turkey numbers by at least 20% as they

# You have the Problem? We have the People

Vencomatic Group
United Kingdom

Spares and Parts – Engineer Support – High Value



Team of specialist UK based engineers



## Andy Pond
### Senior Poultry Consultant

With over 30 years in the poultry industry, in highly specialist roles, Andy is an open source for all aspects of poultry farming. Having owner experience, Andy can empathize with our customers, providing excellent assistance. With onsite advise on starting a new project, increasing production and improving bird welfare.

"If you have a question, give me a call"



## Adrian James
### Customer Care Manager

At Vencomatic we are always here for you after installation by providing outstanding after care.
One call to resolve all - Adrian is proudly the point of contact for Vencomatic and Prinzen being able to give you the help you need. Being able to call upon a UK wide engineering team, Adrian will resolve any issues you face.

"One call to resolve all"



Many of Stewart Rogers' poultry workers were from Eastern Europe, on full-time contracts

simply cannot process the turkeys without the seasonal labour to do it," he said. "Covid has not helped the labour situation – but it is not the primary reason as many EU workers have left UK.

"They do not feel welcome anymore and unless they have settled status – which only lasts for five years – the paperwork they need to go through to get here is bureaucratic and is costly."

Christmas turkey production is a popular diversification for free range egg producers, but they too will face issues if those that regularly to this seasonal work don't have settled status.

A group, which includes the British Meat Processors Association, Food and Drink Federation, Road Haulage Association and UK Hospitality has called on the government to bring in a special 12-month Covid-19 Recovery Visa to help alleviate staff shortages in the supply chain.

The group said this would allow the supply chain to recruit people into critical roles, such as HGV drivers, in the short term. "This visa will alleviate the pressure on the sector and give it the time it needs to continue to recruit and train domestic staff."

# RISE IN NUMBER OF **FARM INHERITANCE AND SUCCESSION** DISPUTES



There has been a significant increase in the number of farm disputes taken to court in recent years



## Running the farm tends to be the way of life for many families, but over recent years there has been a rise in the number of inheritance and succession disputes, writes Nazia Nawaz, of Ramsdens Solicitors.

**Such disputes have highlighted the risks that arise from lack of communication and documentation on the intention of farmers for their future generations and the succession of their farming businesses.**

One of the most common claims that arises is proprietary estoppel, which farming families are more susceptible to.

This is due to the more informal nature of the running of the farm, relaxed and usually verbal partnership agreements and the unwritten expectation of some children of inheriting the family farm and/or business.

For a proprietary estoppel claim to be successful, three key elements must be satisfied. These were summarised in the case of Davies v Davies [2016]:

- A representation, promise or assurance made by the defendant which gave rise to a reasonable expectation by the claimant that they would acquire a certain proprietary interest in the farmland
- That there was reasonable reliance by the claimant upon that promise
- That the claimant suffered a detriment as a consequence

The court looks at each element in turn and assesses each case on its own facts.

Where these three criteria are met, the court then decides on what

would be a suitable award in that case, and so it does not automatically follow that the person to whom the promise was made will be granted the exact amount, land or item that was promised to them.

In Davies v Davies, the claimant brought a proprietary estoppel claim to acquire the land and farming business which was promised to her by her parents.

She had worked on the farm for little or no remuneration from a young age. A partnership agreement was written up between her and her parents but never finalised.

The parents later reneged on that promise after a family dispute and so she brought a claim against her parents to effectively enforce the promise.

Whilst the court accepted that a proprietary estoppel claim had arisen and that the claimant had suffered detriment in that she had worked long hours for little pay and she had lost the opportunity to consider alternative career paths, the court did not award her the farm which was promised to her.

On appeal, the court decided that the value of her award should be based on what she was likely to have earned had she pursued a different career and so she was awarded £350,000.

The case highlights the fact that courts will look to make an award that is fair and just in all the circumstances even where a claim is made out.

In slight contrast, in the more recent case of Habberfield v Habberfield [2019] the claimant was awarded £1.2 million after she had spent 30 years working on the family farm, based on a promise that the family business and the dairy unit would be hers when her father retired and that she would inherit the farm upon the death of her parents.

The claim was contested by the claimant's mother, who denied that any such promise was made to her daughter.

The court accepted that assurances had been made to the claimant and that her mother was aware of these, but the court decided that these assurances or promises were only in relation to the dairy unit and not the other farm activities, which were run by the claimant's brother.

The court found that she had quite clearly dedicated her life to the farm and so she had suffered a detrimental reliance on the promises.

The claimant had declined an offer to run the farm in partnership with her parents in 2008 and after a family feud with her sister, she had left the farm in 2013.

The Judge held that whilst the claimant declined the partnership offer, the offer would not have given her the control of the dairy unit which is what she was promised and what she had expected to receive.

The partnership was not offered to the claimant on the basis that rejecting the offer would forfeit her inheritance and therefore her rejection was not found to affect her entitlement to any inheritance. In deciding the level of award, the Judge took into account the cost of reinstating a working dairy unit and associated land and awarded her £1.2 million.

Unfortunately, the most common feature in many farming disputes is that there is rarely any form of compelling documentation to support intentions for

succession and future plans.

Many disputes could be settled quickly, or even avoided, if the families recorded their intentions and plans with clear and established partnership agreements, wills or even a written agreement detailing conversations and promises made.

**Farming Partnership Agreements**
Succession planning is vital, especially where there are significant assets involved.

Farming partnerships tend to include land as partnership property, but the land is generally the most valuable asset, which means that careful consideration is essential when discussing partnership agreements in a farming business.

The case of Wild v Wild [2018] emphasised the importance of written partnership agreements.

Here the claimant, one of the sons of a deceased farmer, believed that the farm and a bungalow worth roughly £1.65 million were assets of the farming partnership business.

The claim was opposed by the deceased's widow, who claimed that these assets were not partnership assets and that these formed part of the deceased's estate which she was to inherit under the terms of his will.

The court found that the use of the farm and property by the farming business and mention of this in the partnership accounts in itself was not sufficient to prove that it was a partnership asset.

It was found that evidence of intention of the business partners was essential and here there was insufficient evidence in this case to support any arguments that the property was intended to be a partnership asset.

Much of the arguments, in this case, could have been avoided, if the business partners had entered into a written partnership agreement and kept written records of the agreements between them as well as details of the partnership assets.

It is always advisable to take early legal advice and to address any apparent risks in good time to prevent disputes arising in future. The somewhat informal nature of many farming businesses means that this is ever more important in farming families to ensure that succession planning is discussed and addressed in good time.

The following are some of the issues which can be dealt in written partnership agreements:

- What is to happen in the event of a partner's retirement, incapacity or death?
- In one of the above events, is the partnership to continue?
- How a partner's interest is to be valued
- How a partner is to be paid out
- In the event of a dispute, what would happen and should there be an agreed process of dispute resolution in the first instance?

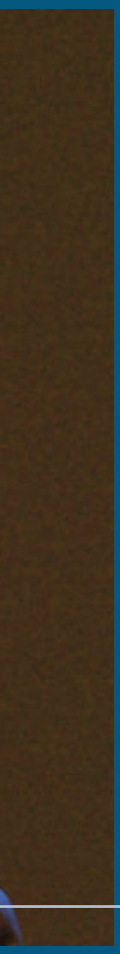
In many situations, farming disputes and/or court proceedings cannot be avoided completely, but the issues might be capable of being narrowed much sooner where there is relevant documentation, such as wills, partnership agreements and declarations of trust in place.

# PRINCE CHARLES CALLS ON PUBLIC TO **REDUCE MEAT AND DAIRY** INTAKE



Prince Charles has revealed he's stopped eating meat and fish for two days a week

# Prince Charles has called on the public to reduce their meat and dairy intake to help tackle the climate crisis.



**As part of a new interview with the BBC, the Prince of Wales revealed he doesn't eat meat and dairy on certain days of the week, and has done so 'for years'.**

He said the public could also change their diets to help combat the world's environmental problems, as "the business of what we eat of course is important."

The comments come just weeks before the UN's COP26 climate summit, which takes place in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November.

Prince Charles told the BBC: “I haven’t eaten meat and fish on two days a week and I don’t eat dairy products on one day a week.
"If more people did that it would reduce a lot of the pressure on the environment."

The Prince of Wales also advocated buying grass-fed 'quality' meat over meat produced from intensive systems.

He warned that the COP26 summit was "a last chance saloon", and it would be "a disaster" if world leaders did not collaborate to tackle the climate crisis.

"I mean it'll be catastrophic. It is already beginning to be catastrophic because nothing in nature can survive the stress that is created by these extremes of weather," he said.

The second part of the UK's National Food Strategy, released in July, also called on the public to reduce their meat consumption, by 30% within 10 years.

Businessman Henry Dimbleby's 288-page report said alternative proteins, such as plant-based and cultured meat, must be developed on a larger scale.

The restaurateur, who was invited by Defra to lead the National Food Strategy, said that the British public's current appetite for meat was 'unsustainable'.

He noted in the report that 85% of farmland was used to feed livestock, adding 'we need some of that land back'.

Amid scrutiny of the industry as COP26 nears, farmers have been asked to spread accurate facts about British agriculture and its impact on the environment.

Meanwhile, farmers are currently showcasing the industry's ambition to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 as part of this week's Countryside COP.

# UK'S FIRST **CARBON NEUTRAL POTATO** HITS SHELVES



Welsh grower Puffin Produce has measured every contribution to the potatoes' carbon footprint

# The UK's first carbon neutral potato farmed using regenerative practices by growers in Pembrokeshire will hit the shelves at 200 Waitrose stores this week.



**Root Zero potatoes are certified carbon neutral and grown using sustainable practices to remove carbon dioxide, create healthy soil and increase local biodiversity.**

Grown in Pembrokeshire by Puffin Produce, the firm has measured the carbon footprint of the potatoes - from the power used to grow, store and transport them, to how consumers cook them.

Saving more than five and a half tonnes of plastic from reaching shelves, the potatoes are packed in 100% plastic-free bags which can be recycled, reused or home-composted. The company is also using its packaging to raise awareness of the links between food waste and climate change, offering tips for cooking and storing to help customers cut down on the amount wasted.

Huw Thomas, CEO of Puffin Produce, said: "The food system contributes up to 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions - in the week that world leaders meet at COP26 it's clear that we have to act now.

"With customers increasingly looking for products which will help them reduce the carbon footprint of their weekly shop, and support the protection of soils and nature, retailers have a major opportunity by supporting innovative products like Root Zero."

Root Zero potatoes are farmed using regenerative practices which remove carbon from the atmosphere, regenerate soil and increase biodiversity.

Around 110 miles of hedgerows are being conserved to support biodiversity, and specific projects are underway to protect key species like barn owls, yellow hammers and rare solitary bees.

On its farmland, 445 acres of new cover crops are being planted which, as well as sequestering an estimated 97,900kg of carbon dioxide, will boost soil health and provide additional habitats.

Based on the findings from the footprint assessment, Puffin Produce has set a target to reduce the carbon intensity of Root Zero potatoes by 51% by 2030, covering emissions from across the entire supply chain.

Going further, it has also committed through the Science Based Target Initiative to a company-wide 1.5°C target to reduce its operational emissions by 46% by 2030.




# FOR A SIMPLIFIED JOURNEY

## INTRODUCING INNOVAX®-ND-ILT, THE LATEST ADDITION TO OUR DUAL CONSTRUCT HVT VACCINE RANGE.

Providing effective **3-in-1 protection** against Marek's Disease, Newcastle Disease and Infectious Laryngotracheitis, Innovax-ND-ILT offers the following benefits:

- Convenient in-hatchery vaccination as a single in-ovo or subcutaneous injection
- Long lasting disease prevention*
- Simplified live vaccination schedules – reducing on-farm labour costs
- No horizontal spread of live ND or ILT vaccine virus and no reversion to virulence[1]
- Licensed to be mixed with Nobilis® Rismavac

**To find out how Innovax can help with the productivity of your flock please contact your MSD Animal Health Account Manager or email ukpoultryteam@msd.co.uk**

***GETTING PROTECTION, WELFARE AND PRODUCTIVITY ON THE RIGHT TRACK.***

*Innovax-ND-ILT Summary of Product Characteristics: Newcastle Disease DOI: 62 weeks, Infectious Laryngotracheitis DOI: 62 weeks and Marek's Disease DOI: Entire risk period.

Reference: 1. A double recombinant herpes virus of turkeys for the protection of chickens against Newcastle, infectious laryngotracheitis and Marek's diseases. Gergen *et al.* Avian Pathology 2019, VOL. 48, NO. 1, 45-56.

Innovax®-ND-ILT contains cell-associated live recombinant turkey herpesvirus (strain HVT/NDV/ILT), expressing the fusion protein of Newcastle disease virus and the glycoproteins gD and gI of infectious laryngotracheitis virus: $10^{3.3}$ – $10^{4.3}$ PFU*. *plaque forming units. **POM-V**. Nobilis® Rismavac contains live cell associated Marek's disease virus strain CVI988 ≥ 3.0 $\log_{10}$ $TCID_{50}$. **POM-VPS**. Further information is available from the SPC, datasheet or package leaflet. MSD Animal Health UK Ltd. Registered office Walton Manor, Walton, Milton Keynes MK7 7AJ, UK. Registered in England & Wales no. 946942. Advice should be sought from the medicine prescriber.

**Use Medicines Responsibly.**

Copyright © 2021 MSD Animal Health UK Ltd. All rights reserved.

UK-INX-210500001

MSD Animal Health