

NFYFC @ ORFC 3rd Jan 2013, 11:20am, Turl Street Kitchen, Oxford

“Panel discussion with some up and coming members of the Young Farmers movement”

Members of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs will be holding a session during the Oxford Real Farming Conference on Thursday 3rd January at Turl Street Kitchen in Oxford. The event which will start at 11:20am will be run as a panel discussion covering current topics of concern to the young farmers of today. This is especially relevant in light of the announcement due from Minister of Agriculture David Heath on the Future Farmers Campaign which aims to encourage more new people into the Agricultural industry.

The barriers for new entrants entering the industry, the usefulness of genetic modification and the role of social media in today's agriculture will be issues likely to feature, followed by a short Q&A.

The following young farmers will be involved:

Russ Carrington – Chairman

Although Russ grew up on his family's farm in Herefordshire he left to study Civil Engineering and follow a different career. However, after a stint of international travel he decided to return to what flows in the family bloodline and become a farmer but with a string of off-farm skills and a passion for embracing the challenges of food production in the 21st century. He now assists in the management of Caplor Farm, an 800 acre mixed farm in Herefordshire as well as helping out at home. On top of this he is very active in the young farmers movement, writes in village magazines, sits on Defra's Green Food Project working group, and in addition has started a local Transition Farming movement in Herefordshire. Russ is also a founding member of the Pasture-Fed Livestock Association and has recently taken on the role of its executive secretary.

Katherine Sealy

Katherine has a degree in Countryside and Business Development from Harper Adams and currently works as Rural Development Manager at Bicton College, working with rural businesses to identify how Bicton College can help them develop their business. Previously Katherine worked as a research officer on the Farm Business Survey; analysing farm accounts and production related data in the South West for Defra. Prior to this she spent nearly 7 years as an agricultural & rural adviser in Dorset, where she set up and ran the first Fresh Start Academy in the South West as well as advising individuals and businesses.

Katherine has been involved in Young Farmers' Clubs (YFC) for a number of years, taking on the role of National Agricultural & Rural Affairs Chairman in 2009-10 representing young farmers and new entrants in the run up to the reform of the CAP

Reform and preparing them for the opportunities and challenges of living and working in agriculture and rural areas. This involvement has led Katherine to become England YFC representative for CEJA, the European Council of Young Farmers, and she is pleased to see that generational renewal is at the heart of the reforms.

In her spare time Katherine enjoys running, reading and cooking.

Matthew Sharp

Matthew is currently at Newcastle University reading BSc Agriculture with Farm Business Management. He's a first generation farmer having set up for himself last year farming three blocks of land carrying sheep and more recently, cattle.

His main interests lie in livestock farming and trying to run an efficient low input high output grass based system. Aside from farming Matthew has a successful Agri-journalism and PR business and has written for leading publications including Farmers Weekly and Farmers Guardian.

He's been involved in YFC from club to National level and is still an active member in his County.

In the future he hopes to become involved in Agri-business and farm consultancy and find some time to play rugby.

Chris Bateman

Chris has worked in farming since he left school and joined his local Young Farmer's Club to widen his skills. Since then he has been club and county chairman and now chairs NFYFC's Agricultural & Rural Affairs committee.

Whilst running his own agricultural contracting business and supplying relief labour on farms in his area, Chris has a passion for the dairy industry and believes in making changes for the future generations of farmers. He especially likes to educate people who are not from a farming background about what really happens day to day on a working farm.

His hobbies include shooting, public speaking and vintage machinery.

Victoria Hicks

Victoria is the National Project Coordinator for the Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE). Based at the National Farmers Union offices in Stoneleigh, Victoria manages the day-to-day aspects of CFE which can include anything from liaising

with partner organisations and farmers to writing press releases and 'tweeting'. The CFE encourages farmers to choose certain options in agri-environment schemes that benefit farm wildlife, farmland birds and protect natural resources. Topics covered in this role stretch across agri-environment schemes, CAP reform, land management, protecting soils and water, and cross compliance.

In YFC, Victoria is the current Chair of Gloucestershire FYFC and former Area Chairman for the South West. Her passions within YFC include stockjudging, public speaking and drama.

Twitter Discussion

The weekly #AgriChatUK # twitter discussion will be taking place on the same evening and discussing Rural Employment. Young farmers will be getting involved in this and will be tweeting throughout the day using the '#realfarming' hashtag.