

# NEW GENERATION, NEW IDEAS

**TUESDAY JANUARY 6TH**

## **The Landworkers Alliance: Setting the Scene for a New Generation**

**10:00 – 11:00, Old Library**

The Landworkers' Alliance is a producer-led organisation working on behalf of small-scale farmers. This session will hear how existing farming unions in the UK do not speak for the majority of producers, how and why the LWA was founded and what it hopes to achieve. Contrast the achievements of the French farmers' union, Confederation Paysanne, over their two decades plus of campaigning, lobbying and direct action.

Chair: Ed Hamer

Speakers: David Handley (Farmers for Action), Jyoti Fernandes (LWA), Genevive Savigny (Confederation Paysanne).

## **Mental Health and Well Being Amongst Farming Communities**

**10:00 – 11:00, Long Room**

People in farming communities face special pressures that can affect their well-being - whether related to their business, to the weather, to their health or to their family and issues of succession. Three farmers share their experience and discuss practical options for addressing such pressures. Representatives from the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs will present their Rural+ Mental Health campaign and Andrea Malmberg will also describe an internet-based Well-Being Self-Monitoring Tool that she has developed to help farmers to monitor and build their own well-being.

Chair: Jock Muirhead (young farmer, Somerset)

Speakers: Georgie Morris (young farmer, Shropshire), a representative from Farming Community Network, Andrea Malmberg (US rancher).

## **Pathways to Seed Sovereignty: an Update on European Seed Legislation and Lessons from the Continent on How to Mobilise to Protect Our Seeds**

**12:00 – 1:00, Old Library**

Seeds are the foundation of agriculture. They are highly prized by farmers the world over but also by corporations that seek to profit from their value. This session will include an update on the controversial EU plant reproductive material law (PRML) that is seeking strict regulation of small-scale seed markets, as well as the experiences from the French peasant seed network Réseau Semences Paysannes. It is also a practical session giving advice and tips on home seed saving.

Chair: Ashley Wheeler

Speakers: Ben Raskin (Soil Association), Phillipe Catinaud (Réseau Semences Paysannes, French Peasant Seed Network), Kate McEvoy (Real Seed Catalogue).

## **Reconnecting Communities to the Land Hosted by the Community Supported Agriculture Network UK**

**12:00 – 1:00, Long Room**

Whether you are running a CSA, a member of a CSA, interested in starting a CSA or just interested in how communities can come together to make changes to their local food systems, then this session is for you. We will highlight and share experiences from a variety of CSA schemes followed by an opportunity to discuss ways in which the CSA Network UK can support established, new and burgeoning CSAs and help secure a positive future for Community Supported Agriculture

in the UK.

Chair: Tracy Jones (CSA Network UK)

Speakers: Sylvan Friend (Chagford Community Farm), Annkatrin Hendry (Chagfood Community Market Garden).

## **Food Growing at Schumacher College: Combining Experimentation, Education and Productivity**

**1:15 – 1:45, Council Chamber**

Schumacher College, an international centre for sustainability in Devon, is probably the UK's first 'edible campus'. Students and apprentices help to grow a substantial proportion of the organic food consumed at the residential College, in 2 acres of polytunnels, kitchen gardens and perennial 'polycultures'. The College has just taken on an additional 5.5 acres for mixed agroforestry trials. This session will focus on the more experimental aspects of the food production at the College, for example novel perennials and agroecological techniques, as well as the key 'lessons learnt' for both feeding and educating college students.

Speaker: Jane Gleeson (Schumacher College).

## **Politics and Campaigns: How Lobbying Can Effect Change in Food and Farming Policy in the UK and the EU**

**2:00 – 3:00, Old Library**

This session will explain the practicalities of lobbying both UK and European parliaments for policies that support small-scale producers. The panel represents a breadth of experience from successful lobbying during the 2013 CAP reforms in Brussels to the Defra campaign launched by the LWA over the past 12 months as well as the experience of conventional lobbying of the UK government and Brussels by the YFC.

Chair: Oli Rodker

Speakers: Rebecca Laughton (LWA), Oliver Moore (ARC2020), Charlotte Johnston (National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs).

## **Appropriate Technology for Smallholders: the Role of Innovation and Adaptation in Improving Farm Livelihoods - Including the Official Launch of FarmHack UK**

**4:00 – 5:00, Old Library**

This session is for anyone interested in tools that can be created and adapted to improve the efficiency of their farm enterprise. It will hear a number of first hand experiences of farmers who have invented and adapted tools on their own farms, as well as how these inventions are documented and shared. The session will also include the official launch of FarmHack UK - an open-source community sharing skills and knowledge for real farming which will take place at Ruskin Mill in Gloucestershire on the 18th & 19th April 2015.

Chair: Ed Hamer

Speakers: Mike Donovan (Practical Farm Ideas), Joanne and Richard Mudhar (Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm), Jerome Keller (Prommata), Dorn Cox (FarmHack).

## **WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7TH**

### **First Steps on the Farming Ladder**

**9:00 – 10:00, Old Library**

A range of organisations from across the country will be presenting their work in establishing new entrant opportunities. This will be followed by a discussion on how we can all work together to support and increase those opportunities. The emphasis will be on agreeing some clear ways forward.

Chair: Oli Rodker

Speakers: Bonnie Hewson (Beacon Farms), Helen Woodcock (FarmStart Manchester), Vicki Hird (Sustain), Alison Rickett (Fresh Start Land Enterprise Centre).

### **The Rural - Urban Divide: Interactive Session with Groundspring Network and Reclaim the Fields**

**11:00 – 12:00, Old Library**

This is an interactive session by the LWA new-entrant wing. The rural-urban divide is an uneasiness we have observed in workshops we have held, and it has made us curious to voice this tension. We will explore what the rural-urban divide is, why it exists and practical steps to overcome barriers. How do first generation farmers integrate into rural communities? How does the farming community meet the needs of urban populations? This session is for future and first generation farmers, farming folk and city dwellers to collaborate and learn from one another.

Chair: Ed Hamer.

### **Planning for Food Sovereignty UK 2015 Gathering**

**12:30 – 1:30, Long Room**

Find out what's planned for the national gathering in October and help prepare for four days of discussions, skill sharing, action planning and organisation to strengthen the food sovereignty movement in the UK, creating practical, sustainable and democratic solutions to the failed industrialised food model. Another food system is possible. Let's make it happen!

Facilitated by core and supporting members of the planning group.

### **Promoting Careers in Farming**

**2:00 – 3:00, Old Library**

A panel debate hosted by the Young Farmers Club to bring together individuals and organisations working in different fields to promote careers in agriculture to school children and school leavers.

Chair: Russ Carrington

Speakers: Dan Corlett (FACE), Caroline Trude (Devon Young Farmers, St Georges House Consultation), Emily Davies (STEM Ambassador).