

A WARM WELCOME TO THE 17TH OXFORD REAL FARMING CONFERENCE!

And a huge thank you to all of you who have contributed to the programme, which grows year on year in its richness and diversity – a combination of big, ambitious questions with, as always, a focus on practical farming. This year, expect sessions on how to think impossibly: an economy fit for purpose; small farms for the future; the end of corporate-controlled dystopia. And, importantly, what role is there is for Artificial Intelligence in farming, and how can we protect the biosphere from further pollution?

I'm reminded this year in particular that ORFC stands on the shoulders of Nyéléni, the First International Forum on Food Sovereignty. Held in 2007 in Nyéléni, Mali, this was three years before the launch of ORFC, so the seven principles of food sovereignty that it established were embraced by ORFC from the start. The Third Nyéléni Global Forum was held last September 2025 in Kandya, Sri Lanka. More than 700 people from 101 countries took part, representing Indigenous Peoples, peasants, fisherfolk, workers, pastoralists, feminist movements, grassroots environmentalists, people in migration, nomadic peoples, social and solidarity economy activists, people's health activists, and artists. Over the next two days, we will be welcoming people reporting back from Kandya, along with other activists from Aotearoa, Kenya, Palestine, the United States, and beyond.

Here in the UK, the movement for agroecology and food sovereignty continues to grow in dynamism and ambition. I'm struck by the way in which we are working together, seeing more that we can agree on than we disagree on. This is both at the organisational level and at the farm level - where knowledge exchange is to be so valued and the inventiveness of farmers so admired. The session where farmers describe how they are turning their hand to building abattoirs is a case in point, and a must attend for me. But as always at ORFC, expect the unexpected!

Ruth West, co-founder, Oxford Real Farming Conference

WHAT TO EXPECT AT ORFC 2026

ORFC is the annual gathering of the UK's real food and farming movement. It's an opportunity to gather, exchange ideas, learn new skills, and draw strength to work together for food and farming systems transformation. We've got over two inspiring days of discussions, workshops, performances, and socials ahead of us, and all of it is **programmed by you** through our open Call for Submissions.

With the help of our programme partners, we've brought together over 150 dynamic talks, workshops and performances, with pioneering changemakers

Share your highlights! #ORFC26

including farmers, policy experts, food justice activists, Indigenous wisdom-keepers, and scientific researchers. From building climate-resilient futures and strengthening solidarity across borders to confronting fascism, corporate power, and the challenges and opportunities of advanced technologies, we'll be learning from farmers and landworkers on the frontlines in the UK and beyond.

THE VENUES

As the movement to transform our food and farming systems has grown, so has the ORFC! This year, the conference takes place across nine venues and nineteen session spaces.

First stop is registration at the Catholic Chaplaincy, where you will also find exhibitors and the Newman Room, our main speaker's hall. Once you've registered and picked up your lanyard and programme, find the handy map inside to help you find your way around. We'll be hosting our plenaries at the Main Hall at the Town Hall, which will be open for books, exhibitors, food, drink, and music across the conference.

Sessions will be in rooms at the Catholic Chaplaincy, the Town Hall, the Museum of Oxford, Blue Boar House, St Columba's United Reformed Church, St Aldate's Church, the Story Museum, Jesus College Cheng Building, and Jesus College Ship Street. Everything is within a few minutes walk. If you have a particular session you really want to join, though, leave plenty of time to get there. **Sessions will always fill up, but come with an open mind:** if you can't get into one room, head to another and be prepared to learn something unexpected!

LIVESTREAMED ROOMS

ORFC online goes live from six rooms this year: the Main Hall for the plenaries, the Newman Room, the Assembly Room, the Old Library, the Woodshed, and the Digital Hub. Our online audience can catch amazing sessions on climate change crops, activist surveillance, advanced science on animal sentience and soil health, Indigenous wisdom, campaigning for agrarian reform and much more!

OPEN AND INCLUSIVE

The conference is for everyone. It is a collective space for sharing and being with one another in a respectful way, whilst also recognising that people come from unique backgrounds and are affected differently and to varying degrees by structural oppression. During sessions, feel free to make yourself quietly comfortable as you need, or to take yourself out of a session if you need a break. Find more details on accessibility and quiet spaces on pages 4-5. Send feedback to info@orfc.org.uk or via the delegate survey sent after the conference.

OUR PARTNERS, FUNDERS AND SPONSORS

We are grateful to work with the following **programme partners** in 2026: Animate Earth, Compassion in World Farming, IPES-Food, La Via Campesina, Land In Our Names (LION), Landworkers' Alliance, Listening to the Land, Pasture for Life, Shared Assets, Soil Association, Solidarity Across Land Trades (SALT), and Sustain. Thank you to our **funders and sponsors**: A Team Foundation, Be the Earth Foundation, Cotswold Seeds, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, FarmED, Farming the Future, Organic Herb Trading, Riverford, Sheepdrove Trust and Shumei International. Also, our thanks to all our **supporters** who purchased supporter tickets this year, helping to make the conference more affordable for all.

We are grateful to work with the following **media partners**: Farmerama Radio, Feminist Food Journal, The Resurgence Trust, REVOLVE Media, and Rooted Magazine. Also, we're pleased to partner with Good Food Oxfordshire to bring together a delicious array of lunch and dinner options from local food vendors.

THE CONFERENCE TEAM

ORFC is brought together by our talented team, which includes: Alice Jervoise (Listening to the Land Programme Coordinator), Andy Dibben (Farm Practice Advisor), Brittany Oakes (RFT Operations Manager), Caitlin Osborne (Operations Manager), Carla Sarrouy Kay (Programme Coordinator), Dora Taylor (Justice Programme Coordinator), Felix Hewitt (Communications Coordinator), Francesca Price (RFT Executive Director), Helen Freudenberg (Volunteer Coordinator), Hester van Hensbergen (Conference Manager), Holly Gould (Operations Assistant), Lucy Harding (RFT Communications Manager), Mike Bowden (AV Specialist), Ruth West (Co-Founder and Advisor) and Tesni Clare (Freelance Communications).

The team has been joined for the in-person conference by Ben Brown, Emma Burnett, Ione Maria Rojas, Irma Allen, and Rachel Bowen, Rhiannon Colvin (Venue Coordinators); Peter Lefort (Tech Support Lead); Dan Hussey, Henry Owen, and Marta Lomza (Tech Support); Jonny Tomlinson (Stage Manager); Sarah Parker (First Aid Officer); Sarah Webster (Wellbeing Coordinator); Brett Price (Videographer); Hugh Warwick (Photographer).

For our online conference, the team is joined by Lucy Fisher (Operations Coordinator), Becca Kirkpatrick (Conference Assistant), and Erin Maguire (Tech Support).

The ORFC is made possible with the incredible support of our in-person and online volunteers. Please treat them with respect and thank them for their work.

We are extremely grateful to Penny Hemming and Linda Taube from the Riverford Field Kitchen Garden Team for putting together beautiful displays of foliage and dried flowers for the conference.

The ORFC is a programme of the **Real Farming Trust**, a charity that connects and supports people trying to transform our food system from the grassroots up. To find out about the rest of our work, visit realfarming.org.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

REGISTRATION AND MORE

When you arrive in Oxford, you'll need to register and pick up your lanyard and badge. For **Registration**, head to the **Oxford Catholic Chaplaincy** conveniently located on St Aldates, a two minute walk from the Town Hall. We will be open from 4pm to 9pm on Wednesday, and from 8am onwards on Thursday. If you're arriving on Wednesday, once you've registered, head straight over to the **Main Hall** at the **Town Hall** for dinner, drinks, music and a chance to meet our exhibitors, from 4.30pm until 10pm. On Thursday morning, we'll be gathering for our **Opening Plenary** in the **Main Hall**, with inspiring words from movement leaders to anchor us over the next two days, before diving into **the sessions**.

Here are a few of the themes you'll find in our programming as you explore:

FARM PRACTICE: There'll be lots of great take-home advice, deep dives into the success and challenges of individual farms, and the latest research and practice on topics such as dual-purpose livestock, soil health, crops for a changing climate, animal sentience and much more. You'll find these sessions throughout the conference, but start with checking out what's on in the **Assembly Room, Council Chamber, Court Room, and St Aldate's Room in the Town Hall**. The farm practice strand is organised in collaboration with the Soil Association and Pasture for Life.

FOOD AND FARM POLICY: For everyone impassioned by the politics of food and farming, we've selected a brilliant series of policy and politics focused sessions with Sustain, the Soil Association and IPES-Food. Come along to sessions in the **Cheng Building and the Newman Room** to debate the future of glyphosate, ask your questions to political decision-makers, dig into the corporate capture of food systems, and explore tactics for combating pollution and intensification in farming.

JUSTICE STRAND: The Justice Strand, hosted by Land In Our Names (LION), Solidarity Across Land Trades (SALT) and Shared Assets, invites those from marginalised perspectives to connect, share knowledge and empower each other.

Sessions centre on equity, solidarity and collaboration, and explore topics such as: land access, reparations, abolition, health justice, racial justice, queer liberation, neurodiversity, alternative economies, migration, workers' rights and anti-oppression. Justice Strand sessions are held across multiple spaces in the **Story Museum, Town Hall, and Blue Boar House**.

LANDWORKERS ALLIANCE AND LA VIA CAMPESINA: La Via Campesina (LVC) is a global grassroots 'movement of movements' representing over 200 million peasants, farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and Indigenous people across 81 different countries. The Landworkers' Alliance is a member organisation of LVC, and works to build the movement for agroecology and food sovereignty across all four nations of the UK. This year, members of LVC and LWA will be joining us after the 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum – the major global gathering of grassroots movements for food sovereignty – and the negotiations at COP30. Get ready to discuss mobilising for popular agrarian reform, the state of global action on climate justice and food, agroecology and health, farmworkers' rights, and more.

LISTENING TO THE LAND: this strand explores what it means to have a more reciprocal relationship with Nature and how a heart-based approach to our work might support and progress the transformation of our food and farming system. Working with partners, Animate Earth and Shumei International, you will find various sessions seeded through the programme that explore traditional or Indigenous knowledge systems, farming practices based on an intuitive relationship with the land to establish a more embodied connection to landscape. Alongside talks on plant sentience, the Rights of Nature, and sacred land stewardship, there will be opportunities for delegates to talk about their experience of this connection and to meet others who share similar belief systems.

PLUS LOTS MORE: Whether you're looking for land, love or lunch, we've got something for you. Join us in the **Main Hall** for drinks, food, music and pop-up workshops - from seed swaps, to working with wool, and craftivism for change. Or gather in the Newman Room for food and farming futures drinks, head to the Inter-Varsity Room for a great big lunchtime landmatch, or up to the **Merton Room** in the evening to join Commonland's landscape lounge. Head to the **Story Museum** for an evening of music, poetry and circus antics in the **Woodshed**, songs and speed dating in the **Whispering Wood**, and the LGBTQIA+ social in the **Magic Common Room**.

BOOKSHOP AND BOOK SIGNINGS: Mostly Books, from Abingdon, will be hosting our bookshop in the **Main Hall** this year, with a wide selection of books from our conference speakers and on relevant topics. They'll be hosting book signings with authors at the conference, so keep an eye out for the timings at the bookshop

itself and the info desks located at the **Town Hall** and **Oxford Catholic Chaplaincy**.

EXHIBITIONS:

We have two exhibitions on display this year. *Beyond the Fields* is Kat Wood's photographic series celebrating twelve women farmers from the North of England. The portraits will be on display in the **Main Hall** and at the Catholic Chaplaincy. Megan Willoughby's *Wheel of the Year - Vessels for Transformation* is a series of paintings celebrating the cycle of the year. It will be on display in the **Newman Room**.

AND EVERYTHING ELSE: The best way to find out what we've got to offer is by digging into the programme schedule yourself. Find everything listed on pages 6 - 26. Then look up the speakers and facilitators on pages 27 - 58. When it comes to getting to sessions, please be aware that space in each of the rooms is limited. **If you are keen to see a particular session, we recommend you get there early to secure a seat.**

GETTING AROUND: Use the fold-out map, or ask us. If you don't know how to get to your next session or would like some help navigating the programme, head to the info desk or ask one of our volunteers in the orange high vis.

ACCESSIBILITY

We are committed to making ORFC as welcoming, inclusive and accessible as possible to all delegates. All venues are fully accessible, except for the Merton Room in St Aldate's Tavern, which unfortunately does not have lift access. These provisions are in place across the conference to support those with accessibility needs:

Time Between Sessions: We heard delegate feedback that more time was needed to travel between sessions. We have reduced all session times from 90 to 80 minutes, so there will be extra time to move between spaces.

Accessible Seating: We will be reserving accessible seats in each session space for those with accessibility needs. If that's you, please speak to the volunteer on the door. If these seats are not in use when the session is starting, they will be released for use.

Signage and Lanyards: Look out for our newly designed signage across the conference, with larger text to help you navigate around the venues more easily. Lanyard badge font and size have also been redesigned to make them more legible.

Quiet Spaces: There is a dedicated quiet space in the Ploughman Room on the first floor of the Town Hall. You can head to this space at any time if you need some time to recharge in silence. Please respect this space for peaceful relaxation: it is a laptop free zone.

Wellbeing Support: We have a dedicated wellbeing support staff member, Sarah Webster. If you need wellbeing support during the conference, you can approach any staff member or volunteer and they will connect you with Sarah.

First Aid: Sarah Parker is our dedicated first aid officer and will be on hand to provide assistance if needed. Please approach a member of staff or volunteer who can help take you to Sarah.

Hearing Loops: Hearing loops are available in the Main Hall, Assembly Room and Old Library (Town Hall), Cheng Building and Ship Street (Jesus College), The Sanctuary (St Columba's) and in the Woodshed (Story Museum).

JAM Card: We welcome JAM (Just a Minute) card holders. To find out more, see www.jamcard.org.

ORFC CODE OF CONDUCT

ORFC is dedicated to creating an inclusive and respectful environment, where different opinions can be expressed within the context of respect for others. It should go without saying that harassment of attendees, workshop leaders, speakers or staff will not be permitted.

Conference sessions are not to be used to promote company services.

LUNCHES AND DINNERS

Thanks to Good Food Oxfordshire, we've got a wonderful selection of local food stalls in the Main Hall at the Town Hall. Lunch will be available from 12.30 to 1.45pm on Thursday and Friday, and dinners from 5 to 9pm on Wednesday, and 5:30 to 9pm on Thursday from the following vendors:

Damascus Rose Kitchen: traditional and fresh Middle Eastern dishes, all vegetarian.

Ellie's Kitchen: Greek savoury pies with winter organic salad and tzatziki – authentically traditional, homemade, seasonal and organic.

Fig and Honey Catering: Family-run business offering organic, fairly traded and fresh food with vibrant global flavours.

Iraqi Women Art and War: Offering veggie and vegan dolma, layered chicken rice dishes all served with seasonal vegetables

Organic Deli: meat or vegetarian curry boxes containing organic salads, mixed grains and fresh vegetables.

Maghreb Kitchen: Showcasing the delicious rich flavours of North Africa, including chicken tagine, vegetable moussaka served with cous cous and fresh salads.

Vaults & Garden Café: delicious organic veggie or stew bowls made fresh daily, with vegetarian and vegan options.

There are also cafés downstairs at the Town Hall, off the courtyard of the Story Museum. Present your conference badge for 10% off your food and drink order.

TEA AND COFFEE

Tea and coffee are available free of charge in the Main Hall, but you will need to provide your own cup. If you don't have one, ORFC mugs and tumblers are for sale near the registration desk at the Catholic Chaplaincy and in the Town Hall. Keep them with you at all times!

BAR

Join us at the Old Tree Brewery bar on Wednesday and Thursday night in the Main Hall for delicious beers, wine, and kombucha from Old Tree Brewery, a social enterprise micro-fermentary using traditional brewing techniques. On Thursday night, the bar in the foyer of the Story Museum will be open for those attending evening sessions and socials.

NURSING ROOM

The Triangle Room in the Story Museum is available for anyone who needs to care for the needs of a child or baby.

CLOAK ROOM

We have unticketed, unsupervised cloak rooms available in the foyer of the Cheng Building and in Ship Street. Belongings are left in these rooms at your own risk and must be collected by 5:30pm on Friday.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO

There will be photography and filming at the conference. Please let us know at registration if you do not want to be photographed or filmed.

Sessions in the Newman Room at Catholic Chaplaincy; the Main Hall, the Assembly Room and the Old Library in the Oxford Town Hall; the Woodshed in the Story Museum; and the Digital Hub in the Cheng Building will be live-streamed and this may include some brief shots of the audience.

Please keep your phones on silent during the conference. We'd love to see your highlights from the conference on social media – please post using #ORFC25.

Connect with us on Instagram (@oxfordrealfarmingconference), Facebook and LinkedIn (/OxfordRealFarmingConference).

COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESS

The press room is the **Barristers' Room** in the Town Hall. There are additional quiet spaces for interviews in the Cheng Building. Your press contact throughout the conference is Lucy Harding (press@orfc.org.uk), who will be available to help set up interviews or find quiet places to record. All press and comms professionals are welcome to join us for the ORFC Media Drinks in the Merton Room at 6pm on Thursday. There will be free drinks for those who get there first!

HUNGRY FOR MORE? JOIN US IN THE FIELD!

Join ORFC in the Field for practical residential workshops in partnership with outstanding agroecological farms across the UK. Last year, we learned about livestock and biodiversity at Hill Top Farm in the Yorkshire Dales, cooperatives and horticulture at OrganicLea in North London, and all things agroforestry at Wakelyns in Suffolk. This year, we'll be exploring home-grown fibres, permaculture and livestock, landscape restoration and more! Stay tuned by signing up to our newsletter at orfc.org.uk for exciting announcements coming soon.

WEDNESDAY 7TH JANUARY

4PM – 9PM

Catholic Chaplaincy
NEWMAN ROOM

REGISTRATION

Early registration will be open from 4pm to 9pm on Wednesday. You'll need to check in and pick up your lanyard and badge before joining the other arrivals in the Main Hall. For the first one hundred delegates to register, we've got a treat: a voucher to spend at Old Tree Brewery!

Town Hall
MAIN HALL

WELCOME NIGHT

Join us in the Main Hall for delicious local food and drinks from Old Tree Brewery. There'll be delicious and nutritious plates with pies, rice dishes, tagines, curries and more to nourish you after your journey. Come along for a selection of music curated by folk musician and song collector Sam Lee, to meet new and old friends, browse the bookshop, and chat with the exhibitors.

THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY

8AM ONWARDS

Catholic Chaplaincy
NEWMAN ROOM

REGISTRATION

Register and pick up your lanyard, badge and a programme anytime from 8am. You'll need to do this before you head to your first session.

9.30AM – 10.30AM

Catholic Chaplaincy
NEWMAN ROOM

REGISTRATION AND OPENING PLENARY LIVESTREAM

Registration continues throughout the conference. You'll need to pick up your lanyard and badge at the Catholic Chaplaincy before you can attend any sessions. We'll be livestreaming the opening plenary in the Newman Room as well.

Town Hall

MAIN HALL

OPENING PLENARY

Gather in the Main Hall as we open the 17th Oxford Real Farming Conference. Together, let's draw inspiration and conviction for the days ahead. We'll be hearing from movement leaders about what motivates them to transform food and farming systems for the better, and gathering wisdom and strength from the species and environments we work amongst. With music and song to settle us in, including the unmissable Shumei Taiko Ensemble, we suggest you arrive early to secure a spot! The Opening Plenary will also be livestreamed into the Newman Room, Assembly Room, and Old Library.

11AM – 12.20PM

Catholic Chaplaincy

NEWMAN ROOM

RESISTANCE AND RENEWAL: A DEBATE ON GLYPHOSATE

Speakers: Georgie Bray, Martin Lines, Michael Antoniou, Nick Mole

Chair: Helen Browning

Is the ubiquitous herbicide, glyphosate, about to have its moment of reckoning? The Government's renewal assessment of the chemical was expected in 2026. However, the UK is now negotiating a trade agreement with the EU. Dynamic alignment on pesticides regulation between the UK and EU puts the fate of glyphosate into question, particularly for pre-harvest desiccation. Meanwhile, understanding of glyphosate resistance and its negative human and environmental health impacts improves. Our interdisciplinary panel brings together academic, policy and farming views to ask: What is the true cost of another glyphosate approval? Are there real alternatives to glyphosate for nature-friendly farmers?

Town Hall

MAIN HALL

BOOK SIGNINGS, EXHIBITORS AND REFRESHMENTS

Join us in the Main Hall to chat with the exhibitors, browse the bookshop and meet authors, or just take a moment to relax and top up on tea or coffee. The Main Hall is open all day after the plenary, with lunch available from 12.30-1.45pm, and relaxed and open workshops in the afternoon including a wool demo and seed swap.

Town Hall
ASSEMBLY ROOM

RESILIENT VINEYARDS: PRACTICE, VIABILITY, MARKET STRATEGY

Speakers: Abby Rose, Robin Snowdon, Justin Howard-Sneyd, Will Davenport, Matt Robson

Chair: Claire Lyons

Viticulture is one of the fastest growing agricultural sectors in the UK, with real potential for rural livelihoods and landscape renewal. Yet viticulture faces significant pressures from climate chaos, soil degradation, and rising production costs. This session explores how vineyards can remain viable while working with organic, biodynamic, and regenerative systems. The panel will share practical strategies for reducing inputs, using cover crops, building soil health, and sustaining business resilience. The session offers a grounded introduction to UK viticulture, combining practical insight with ideas for building resilient, biodiverse vineyards.

Town Hall
OLD LIBRARY

AGRARIAN REFORM NOW: REFLECTIONS FROM NYÉLÉNI AND BEYOND

Speakers: Sophia Møller Straarup, Dee Woods, Palestinian Representative of La Via Campesina

Chair: Edu H. Nualart

Agrarian reform is not just a policy demand – it is a struggle against centuries of land dispossession, corporate control, and colonial legacies that continue to deny peasants, Indigenous Peoples, and rural communities in their territories and livelihoods. Join La Via Campesina for an urgent and constructive discussion of the need for popular and integral agrarian reform, and reflections on the outcomes of the 3rd Nyéléni Global Forum related to land, water, forests and territories. In this session, we'll explore how we can meaningfully confront land concentration and develop new proposals and demands with collective struggle at their heart, as we look ahead to the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD+20) in 2026.

Town Hall

COUNCIL CHAMBER

WATER IS LIFE — HELPING CLEAN AND CARE FOR IT**Speakers:** Simon Charter, Patrick Holden, Nigel Akehurst, Dan Turner, Minni Jain**Chair:** Gabriel Kaye

"Water is the driving force in Nature" said Leonardo da Vinci. As custodians of the countryside we are responsible for water on farms and in the landscape. We need to adapt usage and storage to changes in climate and pollution. In this session, we will be looking at challenges with water quality, quantity and revitalisation, landscape hydration, watercourse viability and aquatic biodiversity; managing sustainable on-farm water systems; and exploring catchment work and community to help nature with local rivers and streams. The speakers will be sharing case studies and funding sources so we are all inspired to work with caring for water.

Town Hall

COURT ROOM

HOME GROWN ORGANICS: BALANCING SUPPLY AND DEMAND**Speakers:** John Taylor, Lee Holdstock, Adam Westaway**Chair:** Katrin Hochberg

Organic sales are growing year-on-year, retailers report shortages for some categories and confidence in consumer demand, imports are increasing and yet, we are not seeing the level and type of conversions that reflect the opportunities. Can the lessons of the past inform how best to support long-term and sustainable growth of UK organic production? This session will discuss the opportunities for more UK organic production, how to best support conversion and how to support increased production without undermining current organic producers. Our panellists all have 20+ years of experience, supplying organic vegetables and dairy and supporting the organic sector. They'll share their experiences and will reflect candidly on the ups and downs of the organic market over many years, what producer support has worked and how to share the risk more effectively and fairly across the whole supply chain.

Town Hall

ST ALDATE'S ROOM

TRAUMA AND WELLBEING: CONFRONTING THE HEALTH GAP**Speaker:** Stuart Maitland-Knibb**Chair:** Suzy Deeley

Farming people face higher rates of preventable death and serious injury than the wider population. Drawing on findings from RABI's Big Farming Survey, this session explores how trauma, delayed medical access and cultural attitudes to health intersect in rural life. Stuart Maitland-Knibb shares evidence on the Platinum 10 approach – the critical first minutes after injury – and how earlier intervention could save lives on farms.

Museum of Oxford
MUSEUM MAKERS SPACE

WORKSHOP: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF UK ORCHARDS

Hosted by Forum for the Future

Orchards in the UK face an increasingly uncertain future. To ensure that we protect orchard spaces for the many benefits they create, we need to act now. Join Forum for the Future for a workshop exploring five visions for a thriving and resilient future for the orchard fruit sector in the UK. We'll show films created during the collaborative 2025 *Future of UK Orchard Fruit* research project, which engaged over 150 participants working in the sector, and share our experiences of storytelling for action. We'll then discuss the five visions together and collectively explore how we can drive action for systemic change to create a future in which UK orchards thrive: producing UK-grown healthy food, providing jobs and opportunities, feeding community, and building biodiversity.

Blue Boar House
INTER-VARSITY ROOM

WORKSHOP: WHAT CAN FUNDERS AND THE MOVEMENT DO TOGETHER?

Speakers: Anna Lappé, Bonnie Hewson, Sareta Puri

Chair: Beth Bell

The fundraising treadmill isn't sustainable. Join us for a workshop hosted by the Food Ethics Council, where you'll have the chance to connect with others from across the sector to explore how funders and the wider movement can collaborate effectively and authentically for real change. This session is designed as a lively forum to exchange challenges, pose questions, and share valuable insights and intelligence. Alongside thought-provoking short presentations from Anna, Sareta and Bonnie, we'll delve deeper into key resources – such as the Food Issues Census 2024/25 and Where the Green Grants Went 9. Join us in this dynamic workshop to work together for the collective good.

St Columba's United Reformed Church
SANCTUARY

PUTTING OUR FUTURE SEED SECURITY ON ICE?

Speakers: Catrina Fenton, Charlotte Allender, Elaine Bradley

Chair: Tim Lang

The future of food is reliant on viable seed. The adaptability of open pollinated crops is well documented, but the majority of seed preservation is conducted through a seed bank model, storing it in a cold store or freezer. To what extent do we need to scale up community seed saving initiatives, so seed can adapt to rapidly changing climate conditions by being regularly sown? How can professional and amateur growers work better side-by-side to ensure better choice for future generations? And is there a disconnect between seed security and food security at policy level?

St Columba's United Reformed Church

HALL

WHOLESALE'S ROLE IN PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE

Speakers: Sam Best, Calixta Killander, Ben Pratt, Hugo Harrison

Chair: Harry Dyer

Let's grow the routes to market for organic agriculture together. It can be hard for small-scale agroecological growers to find enthusiastic buyers and consistent demand. In this panel discussion we'll look at what we can do to change that, exploring practical steps for working with wholesalers, retailers, and restaurants. We will look at real examples of successful routes to market, including how collaborative crop planning between farms and wholesalers and with restaurants can work in practice. And we'll address some of the sticking points involved, including risk management, the need to balance specific requirements with what the farm can produce, and price competition. With a panel representing growers, wholesalers, and chefs, we will share our experience of how farms can get their produce sold efficiently, effectively and profitably.

St Aldate's Tavern

MERTON ROOM

ROOTS AND REVIVAL: NATIVE LIVESTOCK BREEDS AND SKILLS

Speakers: John Atkinson, Claire Whittle

Chair: Christopher Price

Explore traditional farming skills – like walling, shearing, hoof care, and hedge laying – and discover how they support native livestock breeds. These endangered crafts are vital for sustainable, resilient farming, helping to protect biodiversity, preserve cultural heritage, and sustain rural livelihoods. Join us to reconnect with the land, learn hands-on techniques, and be part of keeping these traditions alive for a thriving, future-ready countryside.

Story Museum
WOODSHED

THUS SPOKE THE PLANT – CONVERSATIONS WITH THE VEGETAL WORLD

Speakers: Monica Gagliano, Patrick MacManaway, Kandake Makonnen, Nathaniel Hughes

Chair: Rachel Fleming

What evidence is there for sentience, intelligence and communication in the plant realm and how should we respond and interact with it? We bring together plant scientists and communicators to look at the evidence for plant-human communication, how it works and what it means for our role as humans within the ecosystem.

Story Museum
MAGIC COMMON ROOM

WORKSHOP: A VISION FOR AGROECOLOGICAL APPRENTICESHIPS

Facilitators: Dan Karlsson, Nir Halfon, Kate Collyns, Rachel Phillips, Hatty Richards, Chloe Broadfield

Training is vital to equip new entrants with the skills to produce good-quality, local, and sustainable food. Offering a new perspective on a long-discussed topic, this collaborative workshop explores practical solutions for entrants and employers, with updates on agroecological training opportunities, qualifications, and policy. The session will identify essential knowledge and skills needed by employers, support the development of new agroecological apprenticeships, and examine evidence for the need and impact of a national apprenticeship standard in this dynamic and evolving sector.

Story Museum
LINK ROOM

WORKSHOP: FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING: CULTIVATING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN FOOD

Hosted by Basic Income for Farmers, Solidarity Across Land Trades (SALT), and Land In Our Names (LION)

Eating seasonally signifies we're eating in rhythm with nature. But seasonal doesn't signify sustainable livelihoods. Many growers face insecure, low-paid work that wilts in winter and only returns in spring. This systemic precarity limits the diversity of our growers. Anyone working food systems knows: biodiversity is vital to resilience. Join us in this participatory workshop to hear stories fed in from land-workers' union SALT, LION, and Basic Income for Farmers: who's behind your seasonal veg? We invite everyone to co-create pathways towards fairer, sustainable livelihoods for the land stewards: the backbone of any local food system.

Jesus College Cheng Building
DIGITAL HUB

RETHINKING FARMING FROM THE WATER

Speakers: Don Staniford, Alma Joensen, Giulia Nicolini

Chair: Jack Thompson

The connections between land and water are intrinsic – yet food from the water is often overlooked in debates about food systems. The consequences of this neglect are profound. Fish are plundered from the Global South to feed animals and aquaculture. Agricultural runoff pollutes rivers and oceans, while fish stocks are being driven toward collapse. In this conversation, a researcher, activist, and seaweed farmer, will explore why seafood remains 'out of sight, out of mind' and what happens when we bring it back into view. Together, they will unpack how land and aquatic food systems are interwoven, examine the impacts of ignoring these links and explore opportunities to reimagine farming from the water.

Jesus College Cheng Building
SEMINAR ROOM

NATURAL TREATMENTS FOR FLYSTRIKE IN SHEEP

Speakers: Linnie Hutchison, Lindsay Whistance

Chair: Chris Aukland

This session shares results from an Innovative Farmers Field Lab on natural flystrike prevention and treatment. Covering fly species and lifecycle, the trial tested essential oils, homeopathic nosodes and plant-based pour-ons across three stages: boosting livestock vitality, prevention, and natural treatments. Focusing on farmer experiences, we explore practical challenges, environmental impact; compare natural options with conventional controls, and consider the potential for future research.

Jesus College Ship Street
LECTURE THEATRE

CO-CREATING RESILIENCE: NATURE, FARMERS AND SCIENCE

Speakers: Monika Zurek, Jen Lucey, George Bennett, Tom McVeigh

Chair: E.J. Milner-Gulland

How can scientific research and local farming knowledge together harness the power of nature to build agricultural resilience in a whole food system context? Farmers and researchers will engage in an open dialogue to explore challenges and opportunities for meaningful collaboration between farmers and scientists to work better with the ecology of agricultural landscapes and overcome mounting challenges in food production. The session will follow a dialogue format with two farmers and two scientists, to encourage an open exchange of perspectives, ideas and pathways forward.

Jesus College Ship Street

WORKSHOP ROOM

WORKSHOP: GROW YOUR FARM BRAND WITH THE NEST

Facilitators: Shanley Mitchell, David Shulman

Discover how branding, storytelling, and sales can grow your farm's reach and impact. Shanley Mitchell shares her expertise in creative direction and communications, while David Shulman brings two decades in business improvement and five years running a Riverford Organics veg box franchise, which he more than doubled. Together, they'll offer clear, practical ways to shape your story, build loyal customers, and grow your brand on a limited budget.

12.45PM – 1.30PM

Catholic Chaplaincy

NEWMAN ROOM

BOOK TALK: DOES NATURE HAVE RIGHTS? WITH "A BARRISTER FOR THE EARTH"

Speaker: Monica Feria-Tinta

In her book *A Barrister for the Earth*, Monica Feria-Tinta takes us behind the scenes of ten groundbreaking cases around the world that give nature a legal voice and reshape our relationship with the planet. These cases mark a turning point, showing how the law can serve as a powerful tool to safeguard our shared future. Join us for an inspiring conversation with Monica about the rise of nature's rights, the legal battles shaping our planet's future, and the possibility of a new way of living in harmony with the Earth.

Town Hall

MAIN HALL

LUNCH IN THE MAIN HALL

Join us in the Main Hall for lunch from 12.30-1.45pm, chat with the exhibitors, browse the bookshop, and top up on refreshments. The Main Hall is open all day with relaxed and open workshops in the afternoon including a wool demo and seed swap. In the evening, we'll be enjoying drinks, dinner, and folk music together.

Town Hall
ASSEMBLY ROOM

MORE THAN ORANGES AND LEMONS: SAVOURING DIVERSITY WITH TODOLÍ CITRUS

Speakers: Óscar Olivares-Fuster, Matthew Slotover

Discover the incredible story of the Todolí Citrus Fundació and its collection of almost 500 varieties of ancient, forgotten, and unusual citrus fruits. Technical director Óscar Olivares-Fuster, and Matthew Slotover, owner of Toklas restaurant, the first importer of Todolí's fruit to the UK, will share how the foundation has grown into a remarkable living library of citrus biodiversity and more. Not just a centre of scientific research and education, but a hub of delicious and unusual fruits to inspire chefs to experiment with new recipes. Come along for an open discussion and exploration of how the learnings from this project can inspire parallel projects in fruit cultivation and new ways of celebrating biodiversity in kitchens.

Town Hall
OLD LIBRARY

BOOK TALK: FINDING LIGHTS IN A DARK AGE: BUILDING LOCAL AGRARIANISM

Speakers: Chris Smaje, Cordelia Rowlatt

Chair: Muna Reyall

In this session, Chris Smaje – author of *A Small Farm Future* – discusses his new book, *Finding Lights in a Dark Age: Sharing Land, Work and Craft* with Cordelia Rowlatt. Part of Chris's new book is about building local agroecological communities bottom-up in the face of the present poly-crisis. Cordelia and Chris jointly created Vallis Veg, a small market garden and land-based community in Somerset. In this session, they share thoughts about that experience, linking it to the wider political challenges discussed in Chris's new book.

Town Hall
COUNCIL CHAMBER

ASSESSING SOIL HEALTH VIA ENERGY FLOWS AT FARMED

Speaker: Jed Soleiman

Measuring energy flows in ecosystems is emerging as a possible novel way to measure their health, helping understand elements such as diversity and function under one metric. Applying this framework to soil could offer a promising approach to quantify ecosystem change following interventions, allowing us to follow the cascade of ecological impacts that create differences to soil health over time. In this session, we will explore this soil energetics framework and present results from our first field trials at FarmED on the regenerative arable rotation, quantifying the restorative effects of herbal leys, and a wider potential roll out.

Museum of Oxford

MUSEUM MAKERS SPACE

WORKSHOP: GROW WITH INTENTIONS, TRUSTING INTUITION, INSPIRATION AND IMAGINATION

Facilitator: Kai Lange

Making a living growing food can be exhausting and demanding work. Join biodynamic farmer and teacher Kai Lange, who will share practices you can take home to help rekindle and reconnect your passionate self with the desire to work closely with nature. We'll workshop rituals to help lift you up, trust your intuition, inspire your creativity, take charge, and invite and initiate the future you imagine. This is an opportunity to see beyond the demands and challenges of life, engage in a dialogue with your inner and outer nature, and practice manifesting your intention through ritual.

Blue Boar House

INTER-VARSITY ROOM

WORKSHOP: THE GREAT LUNCHTIME LANDMATCH – FOR GROWERS AND LANDHOLDERS

Hosted by Landmatch England

It's time for the Great Lunchtime Landmatch at ORFC! Are you a grower without land, or a landowner with parcels of land that are unused, or don't work for your current model? Come and meet the Landmatch England team who are offering a guided networking session and introduction to the new Landmatch service. If you're a new entrant to farming and looking for a space to put down roots for a new enterprise, or you're a landowner ready to help someone kickstart their new food, flower or farming based business, we would love to see you there. As we seek a better balance between our businesses and the land, join us to explore new connections and find the perfect match for your business.

St Columba's United Reformed Church

SANCTUARY

BOOK TALK: GHOSTS OF THE FARM: WOMEN FARMERS ACROSS THE ERAS

Speaker: Nicola Chester

Ghosts of the Farm tells the true story of two 'wannabe' farming women from two different eras, in the same fields: Miss White in the 1940s and 1950s, who apprenticed herself to a female farming couple who were the much-loved heart of their village, and Nicola Chester, who, despite working with horses, on farms and as a cowgirl in Canada in the 1980s and 1990s was denied that opportunity. Haunted by these warm, pioneering women, Nicola asks what was lost when the farmgate was shut upon women after WWII? What messages do they have for us now and what should we be asking them? What are the far-reaching consequences, considering climate and land justice, and the importance of women to a thriving community?

St Columba's United Reformed Church

HALL

BREWING FOR BIODIVERSITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Speaker: Thomas Daniell

Chair: Emma Burnett

Join Tom, the founder of Old Tree Brewery CIC for a story of how fermentation, foraging and agroforestry can combine to re-nature our agri-culture and create regenerative livelihoods. Tom will share ten years of learning from brewing with perennial and wild plants – creating circular systems that connect soil, gut health and community. From compost to kombucha, craft drinks to living soil, to the planting of Drink Forest Gardens: discover how the botanical brewery providing the ORFC bar is working to reverse monocultures and realign what we drink with what sustains life! Come along, learn how to get involved, then join us for more drinks in the Main Hall later.

St Aldate's Tavern

MERTON ROOM

THE ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF PROHIBITING THE COCA LEAF AND COCAINE

Speakers: Carmen Posada Monroy, Clemmie James

From the origins of the coca plant in the Amazon Basin, to transit regions in Brazil and Africa, to destination markets in Europe, the historic prohibition of Coca and Cocaine has created a multi-billion dollar illegal market that causes environmental harm and hinders climate justice. However, reforms towards a legally regulated market are now being designed around the world. This session will explore how reforms to current drug policy could deliver agroecology, restore Indigenous rights and deliver sustainable livelihoods if collectively designed with those most impacted by the current harms of prohibition.

Story Museum

WOODSHED

THE MAGIC OF TREES FOR LIVESTOCK

Speaker: Jim McAdam

Chair: William Frazer

Professor Jim McAdam OBE has been at the forefront of agroforestry research and development for over three decades, establishing one of Europe's longest-running silvopasture trials in 1989 at Loughgall, Northern Ireland. In this session he shares the many benefits trees bring to farms – from carbon storage and biodiversity to livestock welfare through shade, fodder and natural parasite control. He'll also show how trees improve nutrient cycling and the wider farm environment. Expect practical, down-to-earth advice on integrating trees into your system, with time for questions.

Story Museum

MAGIC COMMON ROOM

LGBTQIA+ SOCIAL

Hosted by Out On The Land (Landworkers' Alliance)

Come and join us for lunch and meet other LGBTQIA+ people attending the Oxford Real Farming Conference in this informal, welcoming space. Turn up by yourself or with friends. Visit our craft table for an easy way to meet new people. Bring flyers to share about your farm. Share who you're looking forward to seeing at the conference. Or just hang out! Free lunch for the first 40 people, or bring your own.

Jesus College Cheng Building

DIGITAL HUB

FRACKING FOR FERTILIZER? ON DIRTY SUPPLY CHAINS

Speakers: Clare Carlile, Margot Gibbs

Chair: Phoebe Cooke

We all know pesticides and fertilisers are bad for biodiversity. But did you know that some fertilisers are made using fracked gas that is spreading pollution among communities of colour on the US gulf coast? This session will lift the lid on a groundbreaking fertilizers investigation at DeSmog and draw in the work of Lighthouse reports' Margot Gibbs looking into malpractice by pesticide firms.

Jesus College Cheng Building
SEMINAR ROOM

REGENERATIVE INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE OF FOOD

Speaker: Nikki Trott

Our food system must transform – with perhaps only 40 harvests left in Europe, systems change is not optional. Regenerative food systems require regenerative investing to fund them. While impact investment is growing, it's not enough. In this keynote, Rooted founding partner, *Sacred Business* author and *Going Conscious* podcast host Nikki Trott shares a vision and practical plan for a new era of capital – patient, protected and reciprocal – aligned with the wisdom of life itself, to regenerate food and the Earth.

Jesus College Ship Street
LECTURE THEATRE

BOOK TALK: ANIMA: A WILD PASTORAL

Speaker: Kapka Kassabova

Chair: Nell Whittaker

Join award-winning author Kapka Kassabova to hear the story of *Anima*: one summer spent living with perhaps the last true pastoralists in Europe. Kapka joined a small community of rare-breed farmers in the seasonal movement of their sheep, along with a single hired shepherd and eight dogs, to find pasture in the Pirin Mountains in southern Bulgaria. Along the way, she found herself becoming more deeply involved in the tangled human-animal relationships of this small community, and attuned to the sacrifices inherent in this isolated existence. In her discussion, Kapka will share what she learned from the experience and how it has animated her to make a case, in her passionate book, for a different way of living – one where we might all begin to heal our broken relationship with the natural world.

2PM – 3.20PM

Catholic Chaplaincy
NEWMAN ROOM

DIGITAL DILEMMAS: WHO CONTROLS AGTECH?

Speakers: Jennifer Clapp, Barbara Van Dyck, Edu H. Nualart

Chair: Chantal Wei-Ying Clément

From AI-powered livestock monitoring to automated robotic weeders, digitalisation is increasingly shaping food systems. But as these solutions remain largely corporate-driven and narrowly techno-centric, do they align with agroecology? In this panel, we'll unpack the conditions whether digitalisation supports just, resilient food systems and where guardrails may need to be set. We'll explore how to reframe ongoing debates, reclaim tech sovereignty and discuss how the food movement might reorient dominant solution pathways.

Town Hall

MAIN HALL

WORKSHOP: WORKING WITH WOOL: DEMONSTRATION AND SKILL SHARING

Facilitators: Megan Perry, Ria Burns, Jen Hunter, Julie Baber, Rebecca Hazell, Vera Hoenen

Following popular and successful workshops the last two years we are back again to showcase the beauty and versatility of wool – introducing you to new skills and highlighting the role of sheep and wool in sustainable farming systems. This is an informal drop-in space where you can hear about different ways to process and use wool and try your hand at a range of crafts such as carding, spinning, weaving, knitting, felting and more. Or if you have a skill to demo then bring your craft along! All abilities welcome!

Town Hall

ASSEMBLY ROOM

UPDATES FROM THE FRONTIER OF SOIL SCIENCE

Speakers: Alex Park, Joe Collins, Josiah Judson

Chair: Harriet Bell

Our understanding of soil has progressed exponentially in recent years and the pace isn't slowing. Three speakers will present work from the forefront of how technology and AI are helping us map, monitor and understand soil in ways, and at scales, we've never been able to do before. The question which follows is how can these technological advances be accessible for on-farm decision making? Between Biofonic, The Earth Rover Program and AI4SoilHealth we'll be looking at acoustic monitoring of below ground biology, seismological mapping of soil structure across continents and whether it's possible to map likely future soil health, in different parts of the world, based on farm practices today.

Town Hall
OLD LIBRARY

WHO WORKS, WHO EATS: JUSTICE IN SUPPLY CHAINS

Speakers: Catherine McAndrew, Sarah Woolley, Sabrina Espeleta, Member of Justice Is Not Seasonal Campaign

Chair: Ruth Ogier

Any vision for food justice in the UK must have the global workers' struggle at its heart. UK supermarkets and food corporations' control and extract huge profits from global supply chains. At every point in the supply chain, from precarious agricultural labourers on mega-farms in Morocco to migrant workers in Kent, through distribution to supermarket retail, and hospitality, workers are exploited. We must continue work to integrate the spheres of food workers' and food sovereignty struggles, building solidarity action and a connecting vision.

Town Hall
COUNCIL CHAMBER

WORKSHOP: AN INTRODUCTION TO ADAPTIVE GRAZING

Facilitators: Nikki Yoxall, Hannah Thorogood

If you are a current or future livestock farmer, interested in how to develop adaptive grazing plans and how to get started out on the ground, then this is the session for you! Hear from two expert grazing practitioners (one lowland, one upland) on how they have transitioned to adaptive, mob grazing techniques and the benefits for their farm systems. They can answer your questions about livestock performance, biodiversity improvement as well as kit and equipment for optimised grazing systems.

Town Hall
COURT ROOM

FUNDING SMALL FARM FUTURES

Speakers: India Hamilton, Edward Morgan, Georgina Grimes, Teresa Allward

Chair: Patrick Holden

Small farms that work with nature and serve local communities are disappearing, despite delivering vital public goods. As costs rise and support shifts, how can we reverse this trend? This session rethinks financial structures – from market premiums to public money – and explores how we can shift value and power back to producers. Let's make sure small farms are those with a future – not just a legacy.

Town Hall

ST ALDATE'S ROOM

WORKSHOP: LAND ACCESS SOLUTIONS FOR BPOC FARMERS

Facilitators: Sareta Puri, Nicola Scott

This interactive, solutions focused workshop tackles urgent land access challenges faced by Black and people of colour (BPOC) farmers in the UK, a topic rarely explored in mainstream agricultural debates. Co-facilitators will introduce three policy ideas, inspired by reparative approaches like community land trusts, basic income models and innovative funding models. Participants will co-create and refine one actionable policy proposal, leaving with practical, justice-centred solutions. This session is unique in combining hands-on collaboration, policy-driven outcomes and coalition-building, making it highly relevant for ORFC attendees seeking to transform the UK food and farming sector.

Museum of Oxford

MUSEUM MAKERS SPACE

INNOVATION IN FOOD SYSTEMS FOR NATURE RECOVERY

Speakers: Sarah Johnson, Holly Purdey, Helen Bynum, Angelika von Heimendahl

Chair: Vicki Hird

The session will explore marketing nature friendly farm produce locally and regionally. You will hear from farmers and other groups and local farm chains – looking at where food – grown in ways to support wildlife – is supplied to local communities, building fair market rewards for nature friendly farms in shops, chains, markets, direct sales etc. The presenters work on or with local farms, building local customers, education and awareness including via local Wildlife Trust community activities. Delegates will be able to discuss with speakers how to overcome barriers, share experiences and start up, scale up and scale out to build bigger better markets for nature friendly food.

Blue Boar House

INTER-VARSITY ROOM

WORKSHOP: INNER LANDS: CULTIVATING FOUNDATIONS OF WELLBEING

Facilitators: Jessica Bockler, Johanna McTiernan, Dan McTiernan

This session shares insights from Calmer Farmer, a pioneering wellbeing programme that has already supported 89 UK farmers and growers. Pilot evaluation has shown significant improvements in wellbeing, embodiment, and presence, with participants reporting reduced anxiety, greater self-regulation, and a deeper sense of connection to land and community. Through simple embodiment practices, we can learn to calm our nervous system, release rumination, and discover more peace and flow amidst uncertainty. Join us to experience these practices and explore how tending to our inner landscapes can prevent burnout and nurture more grounded, life-affirming food systems.

St Columba's United Reformed Church
SANCTUARY

LISTENING TO THE LAND STEWARDS

Speakers: Lyla June, Sagaravajra, Benedict Pollard, Ninian Stuart

Chair: Rachel Fleming

Listening to the land has encouraged farmers, growers and land owners to steward land in different ways, often bringing ancient technologies and traditions back into contemporary use. We talk to some of those people who are opening their land or their growing practice up to ceremony, community, story and to a more reciprocal and integrated relationship between humans and place.

St Columba's United Reformed Church
HALL

BUILDING AN ABATTOIR: FARMERS AT THE FOREFRONT

Speakers: Andy Gray, Jane Cooper, Claire White

Chair: Adrian Steele

Faced with continuing smaller abattoir closures some farmers have been taking matters into their own hands, embarking on the journey of building an abattoir. This session covers all that entails, the good, the bad and the ugly! We will hear about projects at various stages including a micro sheep slaughter unit on Orkney, an on-farm abattoir in Devon, a small abattoir on the isles of Scilly and the North Cotswold Abattoir group whose ambitious plans include an abattoir, butchery school, retail business and more. We will also hear about new technology supporting innovative small abattoirs.

St Aldate's Tavern
MERTON ROOM

WORKSHOP: RETAIL LANDSCAPES FOR AGROECOLOGY TO THRIVE FOR ALL

Facilitators: Rachel Jones, Julia Kirby-Smith, Georgia Phillips, Lucy Antal

This interactive workshop will explore visions of the retail landscape we need for agroecology for all to thrive. Building on findings from Sustain's Local Food Growth Plan, Bridging the Gap's report and Foodrise and Better Food Traders' Purpose over Profit report, attendees will help to shape visions proposed by the speakers and work on the next steps to making this vision a reality.

Story Museum

WOODSHED

UNDER SURVEILLANCE: UNCOVERING BIG AG'S DIRTY TACTICS

Speakers: Anna Lappé, Clare Carlile, Don Staniford

Chair: Hazel Healy

Recent reporting has revealed that big agriculture is deploying chilling surveillance techniques against food systems and environmental activists in the UK and the US. DeSmog have found that the Animal Agriculture Alliance has tracked over 2,400 individuals linked to animal welfare and environmental groups in the US, while closer to home, wildlife activists exposing conditions on Scottish salmon farms have been the targets of covert surveillance operations. Join reporters and activists for a discussion of the state of play that will shed light on the intelligence operations Big Ag are complicit in to block positive food system change.

Story Museum
MAGIC COMMON ROOM

WORKSHOP: MAKING DISABILITY JUSTICE VISIBLE IN UK FOOD AND FARMING

Hosted by the Community Food Growers Network

Disability affects us all – whether now or some time in the future. Yet the food and farming sector is almost exclusively set up for the able-bodied. To build a resilient and inclusive agroecological movement we must dive deeper into what access and ableism mean, as well as who and how it impacts the most. Join the Community Food Growers Network for a first of its kind at ORFC – a workshop focussing on disability justice within the Food and Farming movement in the UK – sharing reflections from their Disability Justice (DJ) Learning Circle through this space to take a breather, go gently and enter into this vital conversation in a way that embodies care for our selves, bodies and each other.

Story Museum
LINK ROOM

WORKSHOP: PLANNING AND DESIGNING ANNUAL POLY CULTURES

Facilitator: Jack Peppiatt

Wild plants thrive in dense, diverse communities, but that's rarely how we grow our vegetables; this session will explore some of the lessons learnt from 3 seasons of growing annual vegetables in dense polycultures. Using a Natural Farming framework, it will explore the theory and benefits of growing in polycultures (improved soil health and fertility, increased productivity per area, biodiversity benefits, etc.), including reliable combinations, as well as exploring some of its challenges. Participants will then be encouraged to think in groups about how and why they would introduce polycultures into their own growing systems, including getting everyone to design their own polyculture bed.

Jesus College Cheng Building
DIGITAL HUB

SOIL TO PUB: BUILDING A SUPPLY CHAIN

Speakers: Geetie Singh-Watson, Peter Weeden, Harry Dyer

Chair: Sheila Dillon

How can restaurants work with scale suppliers and complex supply chains, yet still deliver exciting, consistent dining experiences that meet, and exceed, guest expectations? And, how do farmers develop a hospitality customer base they can depend upon? By humanising supply chains and re-establishing essential connections between grower, kitchen and diner both agriculture and hospitality can thrive, rather than survive.

Jesus College Cheng Building
SEMINAR ROOM

THE FUTURE OF FUNGICIDES: EXPLORING ANTIFUNGAL RESISTANCE

Speakers: Rosie Bryson, Matthew Fisher, Tim Parton

Chair: Abi Brown

Antifungal resistance is an emerging challenge with implications for farming and human health. This panel brings together Dr Rosie Bryson, Tim Parton, and Professor Matthew Fisher to connect the dots between antifungal resistance, resilient food production, and public health. We'll unpack what antifungal resistance is, what drives it, and how it may affect fungicide use on farms – and hear how and why farmers like Tim are reducing reliance on them.

Jesus College Ship Street
LECTURE THEATRE

URBAN–RURAL ALLIANCES FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY AND HEALTH

Speakers: Regina Murphy Keith, Rebecca Laughton, Sophia Møller Straarup

Chair: Ali Taherzadeh

We aim to connect urban and rural communities, strengthening agroecology and promoting the right to food and to health for all. The session will explore the intersections between agroecological food production and decent health conditions for all, while addressing the relevance of building convergence between food sovereignty and public health movements, in order to resist industrial food systems and create just, local alternatives that nourish our bodies, minds and territories. The dialogue will present strategies and community-led initiatives that work towards access to nutritious food for everyone while protecting land, labor, and peasants rights.

Jesus College Ship Street
WORKSHOP ROOM

WORKSHOP: LISTENING TO THE SOUNDS OF SOIL

Facilitators: Rye Hickman, Ella Browning, Oliver Hattingh, Thomas Martin

Ever wondered what soil sounds like? This session explores soil bioacoustics as a non-invasive method for listening to life underground. We'll discuss the practicalities of soil bioacoustic data collection and the approaches for assessing soil health from the audio recordings, including current challenges, such as 'what animal is making that sound?'. Then, we'll listen to the difference between "clean" lab recordings for controlled sound library collection and the unruly soundscapes of the field. Join researchers and landworkers to explore practical uses, challenges, and future directions – offering a unique way to connect and think with the living world beneath our feet.

4PM – 5.20PM

Catholic Chaplaincy
NEWMAN ROOM

STATE OF GLOBAL ACTION ON FOOD AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Speakers: Anna Lappé, Barbara Hachipuka Banda, Dee Woods, Jyoti Fernandes, Sabrina Espeleta

Chair: Nicole Pita

Over three decades of climate negotiations have failed to deliver meaningful action for those most affected by hunger, inequality, and climate breakdown. This session brings together global advocates for agroecology and food sovereignty to assess the state of action on food and climate after COP30. From Zambia to the UK, speakers will explore what a just transition in food and farming really means, and where the most promising spaces for local and global change are emerging.

Town Hall
MAIN HALL

WORKSHOP: SEED SWAP WITH THE SEED SOVEREIGNTY PROGRAMME

Facilitators: Katie Hastings, Randa Toko, Tom Booth, Rowan Phillimore, Amber Hayward, Holly Silvester

A food revolution starts with seed! Diverse, open-pollinated, regionally-adapted seeds are key to an abundant, climate-resilient food system. Sharing seeds with other growers is a time-honoured tradition that has helped farmers harness the power of crop diversity for millennia. We can all improve the resilience in our fields and the flavour on our plates by taking part in this ancient ritual of reciprocity. Following the success of ORFC's first-ever seed swap last year, The Gaia Foundation's Seed Sovereignty Programme is back with more seeds, stories, and a new, specially commissioned artist seed packet to keep your treasures safe. Don't forget to bring your seeds!

Town Hall
ASSEMBLY ROOM

THINKING LIKE A FISH: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR LOUGH NEAGH

Speakers: Jim McAdam, Helen Keys, Ian Marshall, Mark Horton, Andrew Muir MLA

Chair: William Frazer

Before blue-green algae shone a spotlight on Lough Neagh's pollution crisis, a group of ecologists and farmers came together to design practical, nature-based solutions that could work for both river and farm. Five years on, these approaches are showing results for both the rivers and the farmers. The challenge now is wide-scale adoption. In this session, we'll hear from The Rivers Trust, a farmer putting the systems into practice, and members of the team who designed them – exploring how farmers, communities and policy makers can work together to make these solutions mainstream.

Town Hall
OLD LIBRARY

COMBATTING HATE IN FOOD AND FARMING: PRACTICAL ACTIONS FOR SOLIDARITY

Speakers: cee-cee manrique, Ben Messer, Ed Gardener

Chair: Isobel Talks

Food systems should nourish communities, not division. Yet fascism is infiltrating food and farming spaces. This panel explores concrete tactics to resist this: speaking clearly on values, creating inclusive spaces, running political education workshops, and showing up in solidarity – from trans rights demos to food access campaigns. We'll examine how language shapes movements, evidence of racism blocking food access, and grassroots work. You will leave with actionable steps. Whether you're a grower, activist, or food worker, discover how to organise locally, educate intentionally, and stand firmly against hate. Together we'll forge a food system rooted in justice, not exclusion.

Town Hall
COUNCIL CHAMBER

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEURODIVERSITY IN AGROECOLOGY

Speakers: Henry Little, Jasmine Rose Lucraft-Mee, Rachel Phillips, Matt Williams, Berni Courts

Chair: Jamie Feilden

Agroecology stands up as a social movement that promotes social values, participation and fairness, as well as scientifically rigorous practices. It strives towards equitable, dynamic change. With this active and experienced panel and facilitator, we will explore together, where current opportunities exist for neurodiverse participants to engage in education, training and productive employment within the agroecological sector. Bringing knowledge from participants, farmers, horticulturalists, researchers, educators and programme leads we aim to enquire where biodiversity and neurodiversity can meet as inclusive opportunities for all of our agricultural futures.

Town Hall
COURT ROOM

DUAL-PURPOSE DAIRY BREEDS DELIVER

Speakers: Phil Gordon-Jones, Huw Foulkes

Chair: Tracy Wathen-Jones

Unlock the potential of native dual-purpose breeds – cows that give both milk and meat! Perfect for micro-dairies and direct-to-consumer sales, these hardy animals boost biodiversity, preserve heritage, and let farmers create ethical, local products people love. Join us to see how blending tradition with innovation is shaping a sustainable, transparent, and exciting future for dairy.

Town Hall
ST ALDATE'S ROOM

BIODYNAMICS: STORIES OF SOIL RESTORATION FROM CROATIA AND ITALY

Speaker: Jasminka Iličić

Chair: Bridgette Olsen

Join Jasminka Iličić and Bridgette Olsen as they show you with examples from around the world how with biodynamic agriculture we can create soil structure, increase humus, improve water retention and prevent soil erosion. All while providing tasty, vital and high quality products. Jasminka will bring the experience of her vegetable, herb and flower farm in Croatia and Bridgette her knowledge in the use of biodynamic preparations and experience as a Demeter inspector – the international trademark for biodynamic quality. Hear their stories, and discover how to apply these effective methods to enliven soils on your farm.

Museum of Oxford
MUSEUM MAKERS SPACE

GENE EDITING: PROGRESS OR POLLUTION?

Speakers: Pat Thomas, Melanie Challenger, Gabriel Kaye, Lawrence Woodward, Alysoun Barrat-Bolger

Chair: Mark Moodie

Gene-editing is arriving in the UK farming and food – from crops and livestock into wildlife and lab-grown foods; is it healthy? With regulations and traceability disappearing, are we ready for a future where genetic engineering is routine and invisible? Covering citizen and biodynamic perspectives as well as political and regulatory analysis of government aims, the panel will discuss the claimed benefits vs real risks. Can we help shape public opinion and policy? Do we care? What will we do? Come ready to think, question and act.

Blue Boar House
INTER-VARSITY ROOM

WORKSHOP: LISTENING ON MANY LEVELS

Facilitators: Jon Young, Sarah Fontaine

As farmers and landworkers, we are in constant communication with our surroundings, gathering multitudes of detailed sensory information and feeding back at the level of our ancient nervous system. However, the vast majority of this ongoing communication never reaches our conscious awareness. Join US author and master animal tracker, Jon Young, and Sarah Fontaine for a workshop where you will learn simple practices of sensory attunement that when practiced over time will enhance your capacity to listen on many levels, and therefore to hear with a true, felt sense of connection to the land.

St Columba's United Reformed Church
SANCTUARY

WHY NATURE NEEDS US: ACCESS, RIGHTS, AND RECONNECTION

Speakers: Nadia Shaikh, Martin Lines, Paul Powlesland

Chair: Amy-Jane Beer

From the organisation campaigning for greater rights to access nature, a major panel discussion addressing how expanded access can help a culture shift towards reconnection, healing, guardianship and stewardship of nature and why farmland *must* be part of the solution. Featuring Nadia Shaikh, co-director of Right to Roam, Paul Powlesland, founder of Lawyers for Nature, and Martin Lines, founder and CEO of the Nature Friendly Farming Network, chaired by writer and campaigner Amy-Jane Beer.

St Columba's United Reformed Church
HALL

WORKSHOP: OLDER LANDWORKERS: BEGINNING, CONTINUING, HANDING ON

Facilitator: Jackie Bridgen

This workshop will offer three creative thinking groups for older non-landowning landworkers and tenants. One group will focus on gaining access and the fulfillment of a life's dream for older people who have not had a chance to work on the land before but who may have the chance in later life (e.g. after retirement). The second group will explore continuing to work. Adapting ageing bodies, keeping minds alive, and adjusting and re-imagining land work to continue into older age. A group for long servers! The third group will explore passing the torch. Mindful ways to pass a life's work on to the young as non-landowners. Innovative ideas to pass on skills, tools, businesses, tenancies. Sharing findings to create a meaningful journey.

St Aldate's Tavern

MERTON ROOM

WORKSHOP: WHAT A STORY – JUSTICE, NARRATIVE CHANGE AND ACTION

Facilitators: Margarita Bárcena Lujambio, HyoJin Park

Hosted by A Growing Culture and the Agroecology Comms Network (ACN)

This interactive workshop will guide delegates through participatory tactics for narrative change, focusing on the transformative power of storytelling and world-building frameworks. Participants will explore how to craft stories that challenge systems of oppression and examine the underlying assumptions that shape them. By understanding how narratives can build on larger systemic shifts, this session will inspire delegates to think creatively and equip them with tools to center justice in their communications work.

Story Museum

WOODSHED

LANDSCAPE RECOVERY – STORIES FROM THE PILOT

Speakers: Tony Juniper, Al Meghji, Lorient Whittle, Paddy Deady

Chair: Chris Davis

Join this Landscape Recovery session to hear from pioneering projects working to restore nature at scale. Part of the Environmental Land Management Schemes, Landscape Recovery supports farmers and land managers taking a large-scale, collaborative, long-term approach to delivering environmental and climate benefits alongside sustainable food production. From Hadrian's Wall to the Isles of Scilly, projects aim to restore habitats, reduce flooding, improve water quality, support species and sustainable livelihoods. Tony Juniper will share the vision and we'll hear from the Boothby Wildland and Upper Duddon projects about their experiences, as the delivery phase of these pilot projects begins.

Story Museum

MAGIC COMMON ROOM

BUILDING FROM THE LAND

Speakers: Sahra Hersi, Richard Choksey

Chair: George Massoud

Growing Place was a 3-year project which explored how infrastructure for both urban and rural growing sites can be created in a way that aligns with agroecological principles. This project saw Material Cultures engage with Black Rootz and Wolves Lane Centre to co-design and build an adaptable, replicable building typology. The result is Harvest House, a building that can be constructed from regionally available materials, with simple tools and minimal skill. Growing Place defined a working model for how to build using materials from the land, involving the community at every step, and distributing the knowledge and practices developed in the process. Join us to learn more about the project.

Story Museum

LINK ROOM

FARMING WITH LOW TO NO CAPITAL: NEW ENTRANT PERSPECTIVES

Speakers: Amelia Greenway, Bryn Perry, Jack Scott

Chair: Jenna Hegarty

New entrants to farming face significant challenges including, limited access to land, high land prices, difficulty securing finance, and a lack of suitable training and support. In this session three new entrant farmers discuss their experiences of entering the sector with low to no capital, their commitment to working with nature (a not so silent business partner) and what barriers need tackling to support new farmers enter the sector, then thrive once they're in.

Jesus College Cheng Building

DIGITAL HUB

TIME TO GET DRASTIC ON FOOD SYSTEM PLASTICS?

Speakers: Joe Yates, Jo Banner, Bryce Cunningham, Jennifer Clapp

Chair: Hannah Blitzer

Food systems are driving global plastic pollution while suffering from its effects. Used extensively from farm to fork, plastics are deeply embedded in modern agriculture and food supply. Yet these fossil fuel-based materials and the thousands of hazardous chemicals they contain are now contaminating ecosystems, food chains and human bodies. This session convenes the voices of those grappling with this challenge, including frontline communities, farmers and scientists, to discuss why the entire plastics lifecycle, from extraction and production to use phase and end of life, deserves the close attention of the agroecological community.

Jesus College Cheng Building

SEMINAR ROOM

WORKSHOP: ACTION AGAINST INDUSTRIAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Facilitators: Myrtle Gregory, Ruth Westcott, Holly Purdey, Jan Palmer

The case against industrial livestock is clear – but the challenge is huge. Big Meat and Dairy are well-funded and strategic, and so too must we be. Led by Eating Better and Sustain, both experts in cross-sector collaboration, this workshop will explore how NGOs and farmers can coordinate more effectively, use limited resources for big wins, and hold a strong joint position on a transition away from the industry. This session will blend discussion with activities, allowing space for creativity, courageous conversations, and bold new ideas.

Jesus College Ship Street

LECTURE THEATRE

HARNESSING HORTICULTURE TO HELP SOLVE THE HEALTH CRISIS

Speakers: Anna Taylor, Lily Farmer, Jo Poulton

Chair: Rebecca Laughton

Health and horticulture policy exist in separate silos. Yet, small scale, peri-urban agroecological market gardens are pioneering ways to connect horticulture and health, leading to dietary, mental and physical health benefits. Bringing together people doing practical work to break down the barriers between production and consumption, by hosting volunteers, distributing “meal packs” and running cooking classes, with those involved in public health campaigning, this session will illustrate the opportunities and challenges of creating a food strategy that both incentivises the growth of more agroecological fruit and vegetables in the UK and encourages everyone to eat more vegetables.

Jesus College Ship Street
WORKSHOP ROOM

WORKSHOP: SACRED BUSINESS

Facilitator: Nikki Trott

How can business thrive in harmony with humanity and the Earth? Join *Sacred Business* author, *Going Conscious* podcast host and *Rooted* founding partner, Nikki Trott, for a transformative workshop exploring how we can weave the transformation of ourselves with strategic action to create a new era of life-affirming food and farming businesses. In this interactive workshop we'll explore the key principles of Sacred Business and discover how we can reconnect business with the Earth, our hearts and our greater missions - for the good of all.

6PM – 7.20PM

Catholic Chaplaincy
NEWMAN ROOM

FOOD AND FARMING FUTURES NETWORKING HOUR

Hosted by Sustain, Emergent Generation, Soil Association and Roots to Work

We welcome new entrants and young people who are passionate about the politics and practice of food and farming to connect with others already established in the sector. Soil Association, Sustain, Roots to Work and Emergent Generation, together with other youth and food and farming-focused networks, will be joined by friends and partners at this evening of intergenerational knowledge sharing in a diverse, inclusive, informal space. The session will be structured to help match you and your interests with leading figures and mentors in the industry. Everyone interested in agriculture, rural life, food, education, or policy is welcome!

Town Hall
MAIN HALL

DINNER, DRINKS AND DANCING

Join us in the main social hub, where all night long we'll be eating, drinking, and dancing. Old Tree Brewery will be serving up beers, wine, and kombucha from 4pm onwards. There'll be a cornucopia of delicious dinners, served from 5.30pm. Later, we'll be celebrating with folksongs curated by musician and song collector Sam Lee. The Assembly Room will also be open as a Social Space in the evening.

St Columba's United Reformed Church
SANCTUARY

WORKSHOP: GROWING SOLIDARITY: ZA'ATAR AND SEEDS OF PALESTINE

Facilitators: Michal Nahman, Petra Mansour, Sally Azzam, Karena Batstone, Johanna Korndorfer, Martyn Windsor, Mandy Biscoe, Leonie Nimmo, Palestinian Representatives of La Via Campesina

This session is a collaboration between the Land Stories Collective and the Exeter Seed Bank, with the participation of visitors from Palestine. We will explore Palestinian seed and food security and sovereignty as we shape clay pots to hold Palestinian heritage seeds. Speakers will guide intimate conversations about grief, hope, land and resistance. Together, we will reflect on how we can advance the rights to seed, food security, and the sovereignty of Palestine. We will close the session by coming together to share freshly prepared flatbreads and za'atar, reflecting through taste and touch how we honour the political, ecological and embodied histories of Palestinian land and life.

St Aldate's Tavern

MERTON ROOM

ORFC MEDIA DRINKS

Hosted by the Agroecology Comms Network (ACN)

This is an opportunity for journalists and comms professionals attending the conference to gather for an informal social before the evening's entertainment. Please come and meet friends and colleagues for a drink upstairs in the St Aldates Tavern (opposite the Oxford Town Hall). The event will be hosted by the Agroecology Comms Network, which connects those working in communications across the food and farming movement. There will be free drinks for those who are quick!

Story Museum

WOODSHED

WILD SERVICE: WHY NATURE NEEDS YOU

Speakers: Sam Lee, Nicola Chester, Daniel Grimston

Chair: Amy-Jane Beer

What does it mean to belong, to enact homage, community and reciprocity in celebration and guardianship of nature? An immersive experience in words and song from four masters of their respective crafts, nature writers Amy-Jane Beer and Nicola Chester, poet and playwright Daniel Grimston and singer and song collector Sam Lee. Drawing from their contributors to the groundbreaking book from Right to Roam campaign, *Wild Service: why nature needs you* described by Patrick Barkham as 'the foundation text for a new environmentalism.'

Story Museum

WHISPERING WOOD

ALL NATIONS RISE: INDIGENOUS SONGS AND STORIES WITH LYLA JUNE

Speaker: Lyla June

Listen to the poetry, heart and song of Dr Lyla June, an Indigenous musician, scholar, and community organiser of Diné (Navajo) and Tséts'ehstâhese (Cheyenne) lineages. Her multi-genre presentation style blends hip-hop, acoustic singer-songwriter styles, and traditional Indigenous instruments for an earthy and soulful musical experience. Her messages have engaged audiences across the globe towards personal, collective, and ecological healing. She blends her study of Human Ecology at Stanford, graduate work in Indigenous epistemologies, and the traditional worldview she grew up with to inform her music, perspectives and solutions. Through her music she prays to build intercultural bridges and weave peaceful solidarity. Drinks will be available in Ginny's Bar to take with you into the Whispering Wood.

Story Museum

MAGIC COMMON ROOM

WORKSHOP: COLLECTIVE CONJURING: AN AGRO-FUTURIST CREATIVE WRITING SESSION

Facilitators: cee-cee manrique, Sam Sivapragasam

Hope can be hard to come by these days, but we must never let our imaginations be defeated. We live in a world that wouldn't have been possible without the defiant imaginations of our ancestors. In this creative writing session we will look to BPOC writers and activists who refused to let their imaginations be colonised or defeated. We will harvest from the fruits of their radical hope and by engaging with writing prompts, plant our own seeds. Collective imagining is crucial to movement building and cultivating hope. Come along to this relaxed writing session, to be moved and to imagine together what our better agro-futures might look like. No writing experience necessary.

Story Museum

LINK ROOM

WORKSHOP: RESTING THE REVOLUTIONARY BODY

Facilitators: Leah Salm, Sarah Davenport

Like land needs to lie fallow, so do we. In the midst of advocating and disrupting destructive systems, self-nurture is often neglected. Could rest be our most radical act? This session offers a pause in the cerebral buzz of ORFC — a chance to drop from mind into body. With gentle, accessible movement, a guided earth meditation, and the deep restoration of Yoga Nidra (sleep yoga), no doing, note-taking or thinking is required. Just come as you are, and simply be.

Jesus College Cheng Building
DIGITAL HUB

RIGHTS TO SEEDS, RIGHTS OF SEEDS

Speakers: Cooking Sections

Peasant seeds — long unregistered, diverse, and freely exchanged — are increasingly outlawed by patents, monocultures, and agrochemical dependencies. Joining Cooking Sections for a performance lecture drawing on ongoing work in Southern Italy, where 125 drought-resistant varieties are propagated through 40 agroecological farms, cooperatives, and drought nurseries, in collaboration with a national museum that grants 'cultural provenance' to keep them in cultivation as a 'living collection'. It also presents proposed legal amendments resisting heat, water scarcity, and market enclosures, advancing Rights of Seeds as legal fictions within broader Rights of Nature imaginaries.

Jesus College Cheng Building
SEMINAR ROOM

JUSTICE IS NOT SEASONAL — THE FIGHT FOR FARMWORKERS' RIGHTS IN THE UK

Speakers: Members of the Justice is Not Seasonal Campaign

Chair: Catherine McAndrew

In 2023, a group of Latin American farmworkers recruited to work in the UK on the Seasonal Worker Visa participated in a strike against their employer, alleging discrimination, non-payment of wages, and debt bondage. They have since been waiting for two years in the asylum and modern slavery system for justice in their case. In 2025, the group formed Justice is Not Seasonal campaign to highlight the injustices they had experienced on the scheme and to demand rights and dignity for people who are victims of modern slavery. In this session, listen to the testimonies of members of the campaign and their hopes for an agricultural system based on dignity and free from exploitation.

8PM — 9.30PM

Town Hall
MAIN HALL

DINNER, DRINKS AND DANCING

Join us in the main social hub, where all night long we'll be eating, drinking, and dancing. Old Tree Brewery will be serving up beers, wine, and kombucha from 4pm onwards. There'll be a cornucopia of delicious dinners, served from 5.30pm. Later, we'll be celebrating with folksongs curated by musician and song collector Sam Lee. The Assembly Room will also be open as a Social Space in the evening.

St Aldate's Tavern
MERTON ROOM

LANDSCAPE LOUNGE: A GATHERING FOR LANDSCAPE-SCALE CHANGEMAKERS

Hosted by Commonland

Are you a farmer cluster facilitator, landscape-scale collaborator, or someone who thinks and weaves at the landscape level? Join us at the Landscape Lounge – an informal space to connect, reflect, and share. Join us to break bread, raise a glass or two, and build community with others navigating the complexities and opportunities of landscape-scale regeneration work. Whether you're facing challenges in convening at scale or exploring what "landscape" means in your context, this gathering is for you. We will keep the program light and accessible, as you might be saturated from an inspiring day! We hope to see you there to connect and recharge – together! Drinks & snacks provided (no dinner).

Story Museum
WOODSHED

BATTLE FOR THE BIOSPHERE: NATURE VS FINANCE

Speaker: Kate Raworth

We know we are all entangled in the destruction of the living world, much of it fuelled by profound tensions between the deep design of nature and the deep design of finance. Nature is cyclical, relational, and regenerative. Finance as we know it is linear, extractive, and accumulative. If our aim is to get into the Doughnut – to meet the needs of all people within the means of the living planet – what does this design clash mean? Will finance inevitably eat the Earth, or can it be redesigned at root to be in service to life itself? Join Ringmaster Kate Raworth to explore what's at stake and find ways to turn this challenge around. Come to Doughnut Economics Circus ready to listen, debate, juggle, and laugh.

Story Museum
WHISPERING WOOD

SPEED DATING IN THE WHISPERING WOOD

Facilitators: Lorna Rees, Alice Favre

When you're completely committed to agroecology and overthrowing a deeply problematic global food system it can be hard to find time for dating... so this year the ORFC is stepping up for the singletons! Remove that strange awkwardness of having to sidle up to someone to see if they're available or not, and join the High Priestesses of Love for a playful session of speed dating and making connections with other fabulous folk in the real farming community who share your values and understanding. This is an LGBTQIA+ inclusive event. Grab a drink from Ginny's Bar and come join us!

FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY

8AM – 8.30AM

Town Hall
OLD LIBRARY

MEDITATION WITH SATISH KUMAR

Facilitator: Satish Kumar

Join peace activist and former monk Satish Kumar - who turns 90 this year! - for a morning meditation that invites us to pause, reflect and reconnect with what supports us in our work and lives. Rooted in gratitude and love for the Earth, this meditation is a moment to breathe, listen, and remember our shared belonging to Nature and to each other.

9AM – 10.20AM

Catholic Chaplaincy
NEWMAN ROOM

FARMER PERSPECTIVES: PATHWAYS TO HEALING PEOPLE AND PLANET

Speakers: Patrick Holden, Rod Calder-Potts, Barbara Hachipuka Banda, Shinya Imahashi

Chair: Ben Raskin

There is growing awareness of the connection between personal wellbeing, planetary health and the current food system. The impact of climate change, along with the significant rise in diet-related health conditions, has highlighted the urgent need to shift how food is produced. This panel will explore the diverse perspectives of farmers from Scotland to Zambia who transitioned to agroecological, regenerative practices through a shift in mindset. Learn how they tapped into farming as a spiritual practice to support the healing and wellbeing of the land, their crops, and their communities.

Town Hall
MAIN HALL

WORKSHOP: TACTICS FOR TROUBLED WATERS: CRAFTIVISM FOR CHANGE

Facilitators: Roisin Taylor, Alena Walker, Ellen Bradley

Freshwater pollution is an invisible crisis – let's make it impossible to ignore. In this drop-in, hands-on workshop, UK Youth for Nature invites farmers and landworkers to explore craftivism: a creative, mindful form of activism that speaks powerfully to decision-makers. Together, we'll create three pieces: one to keep, one to give, and one to collect as a symbol of our collective solidarity.

Town Hall
ASSEMBLY ROOM

BIOSTIMULANTS: A PRACTICAL GUIDE

Speakers: Jayne Arnold, Tim Parton, Mike Harrington, Peni Ediker

Chair: Calixta Killander

Biostimulants are being used at all scales of food production now. What are they? What can they do? How and when should we use them? This session will cover the theory and practical uses of biostimulants, covering both their arable and horticultural uses, as well as demonstrating effective use at different scales of food production.

Town Hall
OLD LIBRARY

BLACK AGRARIANISM ACROSS THE DIASPORA

Speakers: Marcus Macdonald, Rae Hippolyte, Victoria Llorens, Richard Choksey, Pamela Shor

Chair: Rachel Solnick

Black Agrarianism has histories across the globe, this session will tell those stories. Often we focus on what urban farms are doing now, however these farms and their cultural practices have long roots, which cross oceans. Black agrarianism is not new, it is ancient, it draws on ancestral wisdom and knowledge, it contains resistance, and survival and struggle, it faces displacement and grows belonging. Lets hear from farmers across the afro-diaspora on their shared struggles and their unique stories.

Town Hall
COUNCIL CHAMBER

LEARNINGS FROM FARMER-FARMER MENTORING PROGRAMMES

Speakers: Lisa Norton, Clare Hill

Chair: Jimmy Woodrow

Over the past 3 years, Pasture for Life has been running 'Pasture and Profit in Protected Landscapes', a £1.75m project funded by DEFRA's Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme via 18 National Parks and Landscapes across England. At the centre of these projects was farmer-farmer mentoring, delivered by 93 farmer mentors, alongside a series of events and support. The project makes the overwhelming case for further support for farmer-farmer knowledge exchange. We'll hear from Pasture for Life, the project's academic evaluator, Lisa Norton, and mentor Clare Hill, who will also bring experience from her Roots to Resilience programme.

Town Hall
COURT ROOM

HOW HOMEOPATHY CAN IMPROVE CROP HEALTH, YIELD AND RESILIENCE

Speakers: Leonardo Faedo, Charlotte Southall, Pat Aherne

Chair: Lawrence Woodward

This session integrates scientific research with the practical application of homeopathy for crops. An agronomist, a researcher and a farmer demonstrate how homeopathy offers a toxin-free, cost-effective strategy to enhance crop health, yield, and resilience. They combine the latest scientific findings with field-based case studies and a farmer's direct experience. With evidence from 30 countries and mainstream adoption in Brazil for salad, fruit and field crops, this emerging field provides a scientifically informed, nature-aligned approach to climate-related challenges in crop production.

Town Hall
ST ALDATE'S ROOM

VENISON: QUALITY MEAT WITH A POSITIVE IMPACT

Speakers: Carrie Starbuck, Georgina Cockett, SJ Hunt, David McAuley

Chair: Sophie Robinson

In parts of the UK, certain deer species have grown out of balance with their environment and are damaging crops and hampering biodiversity regeneration efforts. This session explores how informed, collaborative and responsible deer management can protect land and wildlife while offering a sustainable, ethical, and environmentally-friendly food product. We will discuss a multi-system approach which could help to rebalance deer numbers and get more venison on the table. From direct to consumer sales to venison in canteens and food banks, our speakers will model both the problem and the solution using the results of their projects.

Museum of Oxford

MUSEUM MAKERS SPACE

WORKSHOP: WHOSE LAND, WHOSE STORIES? RETHINKING HERITAGE IN THE AGE OF AGROECOLOGY

Facilitators: JC Niala, Atenchong Talleh Nkobou, Ollie Douglas, David Mwanaka, Leonie Nimmo

In this interactive session, we'll explore how agricultural histories can inform a sustainable future and why museums often fall short of this potential. Despite holding rich farming and food collections, museums are rarely seen by farmers or community growers as spaces for their stories. Why is that, and how might this change? Using collections as a starting point, we'll examine whose knowledge is represented or missing, and how museums can embrace lived, local, and Indigenous knowledges to support debates on agroecology and regenerative farming. Join us to help shape future work at the Museum of English Rural Life, University of Reading, and History of Science Museum, University of Oxford.

Blue Boar House

INTER-VARSITY ROOM

WORKSHOP: COOKING UP JUSTICE AND JOY IN THE LANDED COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Facilitators: Chiara Tornaghi, Maddy Longhurst, Jenny Slaughter, Bex Elston, Ellen Pearce, Suzy Russell, Jade Bashford

Landed Community Kitchens are solidarity-based economic and social collaborations between community kitchens and agroecological producers. We are trialling different arrangements to make this work in eight places across the north of England. How do we deepen and strengthen community-grower bonds to foster joy and resilience in a time of polycrisis? How might these locally important relationships become cherished neighbourhood infrastructure and influence our personal and cultural response to the coming challenges?

St Columba's United Reformed Church

SANCTUARY

BANKING ON NATURE — ONLY FOR THE RICH?

Speakers: Simon Crichton, Martin Lines, Molly Easton

Chair: Nina Pullman

Restoring nature and sustaining food production are two of the most urgent challenges facing our land today. Join experts in finance, farming, and nature policy as they tackle the 'land use debate' – can we restore landscapes for nature while sustaining food production and considering the financial implications of conserving or rewilding land? Is rewilding just for the wealthy or can emerging carbon and biodiversity markets and policies like Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) make it viable for all? This panel dives into real world solutions that balance the urgent need for biodiversity restoration with the realities of farming.

St Columba's United Reformed Church
HALL

WORKSHOP: GROWING A LOVE FOR PULSES IN SCHOOLS

Facilitators: Mallika Basu, Bee Wilson, Nick Saltmarsh, Jason O'Rourke

How can we inspire the next generation to eat and enjoy British-grown pulses? This session, part interactive workshop, part panel discussion, will explore how schools can spark excitement for pulses with a view to changing children's preferences. Hands-on activities based on the TastEd method will invite participants to explore pulses with all the senses, revealing how this can encourage healthier diets. A panel, chaired by Mallika Basu, and including TastEd founder Bee Wilson and Hodmedod founder Nick Saltmarsh, will explore the opportunities and challenges of growing UK pulse consumption and how schools, farmers, and producers can work together to connect young people to homegrown crops.

Story Museum
WOODSHED

FARMING IS MEDICINE: FROM TURTLE ISLAND TO ÉIRE

Speakers: Rupa Marya, Oliver Moore

Chair: Anna Lappé

See the connections between health and soil, colonialism and climate change, farming and medicine. Join us for a screening of the Deep Medicine Circle's short film–Farming is Medicine–which shares their landmark decolonial land and food project. After the film, Anna Lappé will facilitate a discussion between Dr Rupa Marya and Dr Oliver Moore on bringing this work to Ireland, bringing together agroecology, medicine, decolonial practice, and ecological restoration to build a food system based in care.

Story Museum
MAGIC COMMON ROOM

WORKSHOP: BUILDING WORKERS' POWER: IN CONVERSATION WITH SALT

Hosted by Solidarity Across Land Trades (SALT)

A space for land based workers, prospective and experienced, to come together using words and movement to share experience, stories, strategy, rage and joy. We want to co-create radically honest, cross-generational conversations with you around working conditions, class, race, disability, mental health and ageing within land work and talk about how we can improve conditions and feel more connected through Trade Union organising and activism. Please note: this is a worker, or prospective worker only space. Those with hiring and firing power are asked kindly to respect the need for a dedicated space for workers to organise.

Story Museum

LINK ROOM

WORKSHOP: WORDS CREATE WORLDS

Facilitators: Angharad Wynne, Jon Young

Imagine having words that capture our deep and mysterious relationship with the land, or our sense of communion with the more-than-human world. Not borrowed words from indigenous languages, but simple, beautiful words as rooted in this land as the great oaks themselves - words that lie slumbering in the bone languages of the English tongue. Naming an experience validates it and brings it into our shared culture so it can be discussed, witnessed, and embraced. To reconnect humanity with all life, we need nouns and verbs to pave the pathways from the margins to the centre of modern culture. In this interactive session, Angharad Wynne and Jon Young will discuss the work ahead and invite your insights, as part of a consultation to create a more connected world through words. This session is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend and fellow word-smith, Manchán Magan.

Jesus College Cheng Building

DIGITAL HUB

A Q&A WITH THE EFRA COMMITTEE

Speakers: Jayne Kirkham MP, Sarah Bool MP, Sarah Dyke MP, Josh Newbury MP

Chair: Alistair Carmichael MP

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee plays a key role in scrutinising Defra's policies and in making recommendations to government on food and farming issues. Chaired by Alistair Carmichael MP, this panel brings together members of the committee to give an overview of its work over the past year and priorities for 2026, including inquiries and plans to hold the government to account on issues such as farm payments, food security, and the agricultural transition. There will be space for questions and discussion, offering farmers and land workers a chance to respond to the committee's work and raise key concerns directly with MPs involved in government scrutiny.

Jesus College Cheng Building
SEMINAR ROOM

WORKSHOP: DISHING UP DETAIL: PRACTICAL STEPS TO ACCESS PUBLIC SECTOR FOOD

Facilitators: Kiloran O'Leary, Amber Wheeler, Sarah Gowanlock, Sean Ruffell

Join us as we dish up practical steps to supply fruit and veg to the public sector with learnings from successful school food pilots across the nations. We'll get into the nuts and bolts of these successful examples and how they have benefited smaller scale producers. From developing a safety standard, using AI for software advancement to taking a whole school approach.

Jesus College Ship Street
LECTURE THEATRE

USING THE LAW FOR BETTER FARMING AND A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

Speakers: Natasha Hurley, Emma Dearnaley, Lily O'Mara, Julia Eriksen

Chair: Carina Millstone

From challenging unfair trade deals to putting a stop to US-style megafarms and protecting precious living rivers, join us for a discussion on how we can use the tools of litigation to drive change for better farming and a cleaner environment. After a year of great successes in Norfolk, Herefordshire and Shropshire, let's discuss what we can do next to make the most of the legal opportunities to build better food and farming for everyone. We'll be joined by expert campaigners, and lawyers to discuss what we can do together to use legal advocacy for cleaner rivers, reducing emissions, improving animal welfare and protecting our rural environment.

Jesus College Ship Street
WORKSHOP ROOM

WORKSHOP: FARM TO FORK

Facilitator: Phillipa Hughes

How can farmers develop a hospitality customer base they can depend upon? And how can hospitality source from small scale suppliers and complex supply chains, yet still deliver exciting, consistent dining experiences that meet and exceed guest expectations? The aim of this workshop is to create a practical operational framework, whether that is the form of a procurement policy or supplier agreements that can be used to build, strengthen and grow short supply chains.

11AM – 12.20PM

Catholic Chaplaincy

NEWMAN ROOM

GROWING IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAND: INDIGENOUS PRACTICES FOR RESILIENT FUTURES

Speakers: Pania Newton, Rupa Marya, Lyla June

Chair: Jyoti Fernandes

Join this session to hear frontline voices working to heal and transform food systems through Indigenous wisdom, cultural renewal, and collective care. Chaired by Jyoti Fernandes of the Landworkers' Alliance and La Via Campesina, this session brings together Pania Newton, Māori land rights activist; Dr Rupa Marya, founder of the Deep Medicine Circle; and Dr Lyla June, Indigenous regenerative food systems expert. Together, they explore what it means to grow food in right relationship with the Earth, and how Indigenous regenerative practices and decolonising food systems can guide us on the path to resilience, sovereignty, and collective healing.

Town Hall

MAIN HALL

BOOK SIGNINGS, EXHIBITORS AND REFRESHMENTS

Join us in the Main Hall to chat with the exhibitors, browse the bookshop and meet authors, or just take a moment to relax and top up on tea or coffee. The Main Hall is open all day, with lunch available from 12.30-1.45pm, and more book signings in the afternoon until the closing plenary at 4pm.

Town Hall

ASSEMBLY ROOM

SENTIENT BEINGS: WHAT SCIENCE AND AI REVEAL ABOUT FARMED ANIMALS

Speakers: Françoise Wemelsfelder, Natasha Boyland, Sean Wensley, Clare Hill

Chair: Anthony Field

Farmed animals are sentient beings with rich emotional lives and complex behaviours – but how well do we truly understand them? This session explores how science, lived experience, and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) are deepening our understanding of animal sentience. We'll explore how farmers' insights, empathy, innovation, and behavioural science can inform better welfare, enrich farming practices, and shape policy. We'll also consider the ethical risks posed by AI – from misreading animal signals to automation – and ask what responsible use of these technologies looks like. What does recognition of animal sentience mean for policy and food systems?

Town Hall

OLD LIBRARY

SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIAN LAND WORKERS

Speakers: Palestinian Representatives of La Via Campesina, Cathi Pawson, Ruth Hancock

Chair: Leonie Nimmo

Join us for a panel discussion exploring how we can deepen our solidarity work with Palestinian landworkers in the UK and internationally. We are delighted to welcome Palestinian Representatives of La Via Campesina to this panel, who will share their work supporting Palestinian communities to grow food and remain steadfast on their land. We will also hear from the LWA's Palestine Solidarity Twinning Project, which promotes grassroots solidarity with Palestine. We'll be hearing Ruth's experiences from the perspective of a twinned farm, from Cathi as co-founder of Zaytoun, and exploring together how we can further develop and grow the movement.

Town Hall

COUNCIL CHAMBER

RETHINKING CHICKEN: DUAL-PURPOSE POULTRY IN PRACTICE

Speakers: Mike Mallett, Annie Rayner, Zoë Davis

Chair: Sam Packer

Diverse, locally bred chickens were once used for both egg and meat production. As farms specialised so did the chickens, along with the breeds, feeds, and environments they live in. This has had ethical and welfare implications for poultry – like male-chick culling for egg production – and has embedded negative environmental impacts. There might, however, be another way of doing things. Hear from farmers who are trialling dual-purpose poultry systems, seeking resilient, traditional breeds that can thrive on a lower protein diet; the welfare researchers who are documenting the evidence and system economics; and chefs exploring ways to bring these ‘different’ products to market.

Town Hall
COURT ROOM

PRACTICAL GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF GREEN MANURES INTO HORTICULTURE

Speakers: Jayne Arnold, Maria Jenkins, David Newman

Chair: Andy Dibben

Green manures, when successfully applied, help to improve nutrient cycling, weed suppression, and will increase soil organic matter, ultimately benefiting crop resilience. Content to include the benefits and the challenges. In this session, we'll look at case studies and practical examples of techniques, timing and species selection with a view to putting detail on the following subtopics: fertility building, under-sowing and over-wintering.

Town Hall
ST ALDATE'S ROOM

SUBTLE TECHNOLOGIES FOR AGROECOLOGICAL FARMS OF THE FUTURE

Speakers: Henk Kieft, Aranya Austin, Simon Charter, Patrick MacManaway

Chair: Julia Wright

The agroecology movement is at risk of missing out on the financial and other development support on offer because it is knowledge- rather than technology-intensive. Yet there is a whole range of promising, non-toxic and healthful technologies that are underexplored. Underpinned by post-material science, these subtle technologies include the application of sound and electromagnetic frequencies, device-mediated consciousness applications and geomancy. This novel session aims to put these technologies on the map at the ORFC for the first time, to stimulate discussion and form an alliance to co-explore subtle, post-material technologies for the farming sector.

Museum of Oxford
MUSEUM MAKERS SPACE

WORKSHOP: RE-DISCOVERING THE JOY AND VALUE OF NORTHERN PULSES

Facilitators: Josiah Meldrum, Ellen Pearce, Lucy Antal, Sonja Woodcock

Could pulses grown in the North of England become a celebrated source of local menus? Nutrient dense, locally grown, pulses should be a significant part of a culturally appropriate planetary plate for the North of England yet appropriate production, processing and knowledge of how to work with them from farm to fork is limited. This interactive workshop will hear from a range of projects exploring local histories, public procurement and the on-farm experience. Join us to explore the concept of localised agroecological production in the North, shortened supply chains, the traditional role of pulse in the Northern food and farming systems, and how to rediscover our lost pulse heritage!

Blue Boar House
INTER-VARSITY ROOM

WORKSHOP: COMMONING BIOREGIONAL FIBRE AND TEXTILE PRODUCTION

Facilitators: Zoe Gilbertson, Nick Evans, David Dixon, Tim Crabtree

This workshop invites people to explore early learnings from an experimental research and development approach to local fibre production. The South West Textile Commons is a collaboration between Liflad CIC, Wessex Community Assets, SWE Fibreshed and Fantasy Fibre Mill to support the bioregional fibre production of flax, hemp and wool. By commoning funding, knowledge, practice and culture we are engaging community, farmers and designers across South West England. We'll share our story then explore with participants the challenges and benefits of collective local production.

St Columba's United Reformed Church
SANCTUARY

SOIL SISTARS: AFRICAN CARIBBEAN WOMEN FOOD NETWORK LEADING WITH THE LAND

Speakers: Dee Woods, Dawn Dublin

Chair: Sandra Salazar

Join us in celebrating the power and legacy of melanin rich women through time and space, as stewards of the soil, keepers of seeds and the leaders of our community. Through storytelling, reflection and shared wisdom, we honour our roots in African and Caribbean farming traditions, grounded in solidarity, food sovereignty and land stewardship. Together we'll celebrate the contributions that shape front-line communities and explore how traditionally, women nurture connection, build community and lead movements for justice, sustainability and generational legacy.

St Columba's United Reformed Church
HALL

NOT JUST VEG SHARES: TEN WAYS OF RUNNING A CSA

Speakers: Michael Leddy, Adam Lockyear, Wilf Richards

Chair: Hannah Lamb

When most people think CSA they're probably thinking a simple veg share scheme where a group of members pay up front for veg. But many other products can be CSAed and there are many other ways of getting produce out to the community. By co-financing production and matching supply directly to demand, CSAs cut out many of the unhealthier profit-driven, competitive pressures found in traditional supply systems, offering a level of independence from market volatility and an alternative to destructive business practice. They also build mutually supportive communities. Right now, we need as much of both of these as possible. Join us to find out how and your product could and should be CSAed!

St Aldate's Tavern
MERTON ROOM

COUPLES THERAPY: CANDID STORIES FROM FARMING COUPLES

Speakers: Rebecca Mayhew, Stuart Mayhew, Alice Pawsey, John Pawsey

Chair: Kate Bradshaw

Farmers are more often than not both business and romantic partners, working alongside each other in the farm business, and still remaining loving and compassionate life partners. But how does this happen? What do you need to put in place to ensure what goes on with sheep, stays with sheep? Facilitated by executive coach and farmer Kate Bradshaw, she'll be joined by two Pasture for Life couples who share their secrets to harmony, house rules and happiness. It's a serious yet entertaining session, full of techniques to try out, as well as those instantly recognisable moments in all farming couples' lives when the manure hits the proverbial manger. Warning: may contain humour, practical take-aways and serious insights.

Story Museum
WOODSHED

THE DEMISE OF PLANT-BASED FOODS: CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION OR CONCERN?

Speakers: Amy Williams, Nikki Yoxall, Rebecca Tobi

Chair: Rob Percival

In recent years, sales of plant-based alternatives to meat have fallen sharply, and investment in the plant-based sector has reduced. While plant-based alternatives may not be the agroecological ideal, the contraction of the sector might represent a victory for industrial, low welfare meat. The causes of the decline are complex, but some consumers have rejected these products as ultra-processed, while continuing to eat ultra-processed animal foods. Should the agroecology movement welcome the demise of plant-based, or should it be cause for concern? How can we harness the energy of the UPF debate to target industrial meat? And crucially, what role should government policy play in all this?

Story Museum

MAGIC COMMON ROOM

EMERGENT GENERATION SPEAKERS' CORNER: RECONNECTING TOWN AND COUNTRY

Speakers: Sinéad Fenton, Stevie Back, Karl Franklin, Chloe Lucas

Chair: Mitchel Green

Hear from young voices who build urban-rural connections in farming and food. Join us for this open conversation with youth discussing their work in urban, peri-urban, or rural contexts. What do they do and how do they do it? How does their experience of urban-rural differences affect their approach? Building on Emergent Generation's online Speakers' Corners – where members share knowledge, practice speaking skills, and connect – this session brings the expertise, curiosity, and agency of youth.

Story Museum

LINK ROOM

WORKSHOP: HOMES FOR LANDWORKERS: A HIDDEN CRISIS

Facilitators: Oli Rodker, James Binning, Ruth Munns, Loretta Bosence

Agroecology is a growing movement, but a basic element is still missing: housing. Those growing food for a fairer, low-carbon future are too often living in caravans, cabins, or far from the land they care for. This session asks why housing has become the silent crisis in the agroecological transition and what we can do about it. We'll explore how housing precarity shapes who can access land-based work, how planning systems block low-impact living, and what collective, practical alternatives are already emerging. From low, lean and simple-to-build housing designs to land reform and policy change, we'll imagine how homes, planning, and construction could better align with ecological principles, using local resources, affordable methods, and designs that truly root people in the land.

Jesus College Cheng Building

DIGITAL HUB

FOOD, TRADE AND TURMOIL: NAVIGATING GLOBAL DISORDER**Speakers:** Jennifer Clapp, Sophia Murphy, Ruchi Tripathi**Chair:** Robbie Blake

Sweeping US tariffs are sending shockwaves through global markets, sparking retaliations, market upheaval & fears of a global recession. The Global South – already grappling with a historic debt crisis – is now reeling from dramatic aid cuts and punitive terms of trade. With food prices soaring, farmers squeezed and hunger intensifying, food systems are among the first to feel the strain. How can we respond? Join IPES-Food to unpack the current moment and explore bold pathways towards cooperative self-reliance, food sovereignty and resilient food systems.

Jesus College Cheng Building

SEMINAR ROOM

ONE LAST FARM: FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION**Speakers:** Catherine Withers, Graeme Willis**Chair:** Georgina Edwards

One Last Farm is a Bafta-winning 17-minute documentary about Bristol's last working farm and its fight to survive. The film tells a deeply personal story of a farmer's connection to land, food, and community, while highlighting national issues facing small, nature-friendly farms. Urban fringe farms may be overlooked by policymakers, but can offer multiple benefits including local food security, nature conservation, and community wellbeing. The session includes the film screening followed by a panel discussion and questions from the audience.

Jesus College Ship Street

LECTURE THEATRE

THE UNSEEN HARVEST: HOW CAN WE PREVENT GOOD FOOD GOING TO WASTE ON FARMS?**Speakers:** Peter Hall, Phil Holtam, Sarah Calcutt, Charlie Neal**Chair:** Jade Bashford

With a mixture of market constraints, labour shortages and logistical challenges, 3.3 million tonnes of produce goes to waste on UK farms each year, amounting to a loss of £1.8 billion in financial terms. At the same time, 14% of households are living in food insecurity and just 9% of children are getting the recommended five portions of fruit and veg each day. Join the Felix Project, the UK's leading food redistribution charity, for a panel on farm surplus. The discussion will highlight the different ways organisations are looking to reduce wasted food by rescuing nutritious British produce from farms across the UK and redistributing it to communities in need.

Jesus College Ship Street
WORKSHOP ROOM

WORKSHOP: PLASTIC FREE FARMING: A DREAM OR A NECESSITY?

Facilitators: Lauren Haley, Lily McGuinness

Plastic use throughout farming is rife and many of our systems and methods now appear tied to plastic consumption. We all know it's bad, but how can we practically transition to alternative materials? In this workshop we will work collaboratively to put forward a toolkit of what practical alternatives to plastic are working on our farms and in our distribution methods. These conversations will be underpinned by a presentation on scientific research into alternatives to plastic mulches and on farm trials by a grower; influenced by permaculture principles.

12.45PM – 1.30PM

Catholic Chaplaincy
NEWMAN ROOM

ARCHITECTS OF ABUNDANCE: INDIGENOUS FOOD SYSTEMS AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Facilitator: Lyla June

What if human beings were not pests or a virus upon the Earth? What if we are actually perfectly designed to be extraordinary catalysts of biodiversity and ecosystem health? What if with these two human hands we could not only sustain the Earth but help her thrive even more with our very presence? Let's delve into the beautiful world of Indigenous civilisations of every continent and examine case studies where this has proven to be true.

Town Hall
MAIN HALL

LUNCH IN THE MAIN HALL

Join us in the Main Hall for lunch from 12.30-1.45pm, chat with the exhibitors, browse the bookshop, and top up on refreshments. The Main Hall is open all day ahead of the closing plenary.

Town Hall

ASSEMBLY ROOM

FARM DEEP DIVE: DIVERSIFICATION WITH GREAT COTMARSH FARM

Speakers: James Allen, Katie Allen

Chair: Jimmy Woodrow

James and Katie Allen farm at Great Cotmarsh, Wiltshire, overlooking the Marlborough Downs. Placing soil health and nature at the heart of their system, they produce organic and Pasture for Life certified meat for their local community. They are also both leading lights in the farmer-led fibre renaissance. Katie produces her own botanical dyes, which go into her homegrown knitwear, and James has built a micro-tannery to produce tanned leather from the farm and other Pasture for Life farms in the region. An on-farm classroom helps outreach to local schools and fashion brands. This session will focus on this diversification and the growing number of ways for small farms to make money.

Town Hall

OLD LIBRARY

VIABILITY OF GROWING TEA IN THE UK

Speakers: Jo Harper, Kathryn Harper

Chair: Yuki Chan

In this session, we will share our 10-year journey growing tea on Dartmoor, highlighting our successes and challenges as new entrant farmers. We now care for over 7,000 *Camellia sinensis* plants, producing green, black, oolong and white teas, while propagating 2,000 seedlings annually with a vision to create a genetically diverse, locally adapted landrace variety. Attendees will learn about the viability and joy of tea growing in the UK and be inspired to incorporate tea plants into diverse growing systems. We also hope our unique experience can illuminate how local tea production can enhance climate resilience, diversify UK agriculture, support local economies and enrich cultural diversity.

Town Hall

COUNCIL CHAMBER

THE LAND SPEAKS: UNLOCKING NATURE'S WISDOM

Speakers: Bronagh O'Kane

Chair: William Frazer

Bronagh O’Kane is a self-confessed soil geek with a passion for worms and their vital role in soil health. After a career in the military, she returned to her family farm and began a journey into regenerative agriculture. In this session Bronagh will share how she is restoring soil health and biodiversity by slowing down, observing and tuning into nature – watching, listening and even smelling the land – to let it guide her farming practices.

Town Hall
COURT ROOM

SMART VENDING FOR NATIVE PRODUCE

Speaker: Louise Day

Chair: Tom Blunt

Learn how to boost sales of Native Breed produce through vending machines and click-and-collect! This session explores accessibility, sustainability, and convenience, showing how technology, smart supply chains, and consumer insights can help local farmers reach more customers. Get practical tips to ‘bring the customer to you’ and grow your market impact.

Blue Boar House
INTER-VARSITY ROOM

WORKSHOP: FLAX FIBRE, DYE DEMO AND CONVIVIAL CONVERSATION

Facilitators: Zoe Gilbertson, Rosie Bristow, Nick Evans, Sophie Holt

See how *linen usitatissimum*, also known as flax or linseed, turns from straw into gold and how natural dyes create beauty and colour. Experience hand processing flax to fibre whilst chatting with pioneers of a movement re-establishing agroecological flax to linen and natural dye infrastructure across the UK and Ireland. We welcome all who are curious about natural dyes, bast fibres and open source, farm scale processing machinery to join us in open conversation whilst working with the materials.

St Columba's United Reformed Church
SANCTUARY

FARM DEEP DIVE: MY JOURNEY INTO NATURE-FRIENDLY TENANT FARMING

Speaker: Amelia Greenway

Chair: Ruth Ashton-Shaw

Join NFFN Farming Champion Amelia Greenway of Springwater Farm in Devon and NFFN Scotland Vice Chair Ruth Ashton-Shaw of Low Auldgirth in Dumfries, as they deep-dive into Amelia's journey into farming, having grown up on a family farm and now having started her own farming business as a tenant farmer for the National Trust. The discussion will focus on how Amelia has navigated being a new entrant to farming, her experiences as a female farmer in a still largely male-dominated industry, and the more practical aspects of nature friendly farming on her farm e.g. their use of conservation grazing.

St Columba's United Reformed Church
HALL

WORKSHOP: SACRED EARTH SISTER CIRCLE: GATHERING AND PLANT COMMUNION

Facilitators: Sandra Salazar, Dee Woods, Dawn Dublin, Pamela Shor

Join us in a sacred women's circle for a deep dive into the symbiotic worlds of plants, exploring how they communicate, connect and guide us. Through shared knowledge, storytelling and reflection, our panel of women rooted in herbalism, land stewardship and ancestral healing will explore the First World, the seen and unseen language and ancestral wisdom of plants. Come and be, listen, share, learn and remember.

St Aldate's Tavern
MERTON ROOM

BOOK TALK: RAINFOREST RESTORATION AND HEALING

Speaker: Merlin Hanbury-Tenison

Chair: Fiona Mountain

Merlin Hanbury-Tenison discusses his highly acclaimed book, *Our Oaken Bones*, with Fiona Mountain. Struggling with mental health, Merlin and his wife Lizzie leave the bustle of London and return home to a Cornish hill farm, where they discover that the damaged woods surrounding the farm are one of the UK's last fragments of temperate rainforest. As they fall more in love with the rainforest, so begins a fight to save themselves, their farm and one of the world's most endangered habitats. Merlin is a Cornish conservationist and veteran who founded The Thousand Year Trust, Britain's rainforest charity.

Story Museum
WOODSHED

LETTING THE LAND LEAD

Speaker: Jon Young

The land, other-than-humans, and all of the natural world holds intelligence we can learn from. What if we listened and let ourselves be led by this ancient and innately practical wisdom? Jon will share how, with deep listening, awareness of natural cycles, and the intention to collaborate rather than dominate, we can create regenerative abundance with the land that we tend.

Story Museum

MAGIC COMMON ROOM

UPSETTING THE VALUE CHAIN: FOLX FARM'S FOOD ACCESS FUND PILOT

Speaker: Rae Hippolyte

Chair: Dora Taylor

The Food Access Fund (F.A.F) was a 17-month exploration into how a small-scale regenerative farm might focus a proportion of its growing activity on producing culturally relevant vegetables for the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets, London. This deep dive will tell the story of the project – the inspiration, delivery and impact of this work as well as lessons learned and a vision for the future. Within a food system that prioritises profit over people, F.A.F offers a blueprint of a fairer way to do things.

Jesus College Cheng Building

DIGITAL HUB

BOOK TALK: COUNTERING THE TITANS OF INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE

Speaker: Jennifer Clapp

Chair: Nicole Pita

In this keynote address, Jennifer Clapp unpacks the forces driving corporate dominance in the agricultural inputs industry and why it matters for society and the environment. Drawing on her new book, *Titans of Industrial Agriculture*, she traces the deep historical roots of corporate control and shows how dominant firms have shaped industrial agriculture in ways that have constrained farmer agency and undermined sustainability for over a century. Through this lens, Clapp highlights the urgent challenges facing today's food systems and offers lessons for building a more just, resilient, and sustainable future.

Jesus College Ship Street

LECTURE THEATRE

REMARKABLE MIGRANTS: HOW INSECTS ON THE MOVE ARE VITAL FOR FARMING

Speaker: Will Leo Hawkes

Every year trillions upon trillions of migratory insects soar above our heads, nearly completely unnoticed. These insects are remarkably important to global ecosystems and agricultural systems alike. They are vital pollinators, decomposers, pests and pest controllers, and perhaps most crucially, they move vast quantities of nutrients huge distances. This session, led by insect migration researcher Dr Will Hawkes, will showcase the work of the insects and how they play vital yet under-appreciated roles. We'll discuss how to encourage these insects to your farmland and how to protect them for generations to come.

2PM – 3.20PM

Catholic Chaplaincy
NEWMAN ROOM

TASTES OF TOMORROW: WHAT GROWS WHEN THE CLIMATE CHANGES?

Speakers: Pete Thompson, John Redhead, Calixta Killander

Chair: Jack Thompson

What grows when the climate grows hotter in the UK? This may feel like a distant concept, but some innovative farmers are already growing crops that were previously impossible in the UK's climate. In this session, we speak to farmers and researchers experimenting with olives, rice, nuts, wine to explore the world of opportunities but also the challenges. They will unpack the challenges in scaling to commercial level, navigating a lack of infrastructure and the lessons learnt along the way.

Town Hall
MAIN HALL

BOOK SIGNINGS, EXHIBITORS AND REFRESHMENTS

Join us in the Main Hall to chat with the exhibitors, browse the bookshop and meet authors, or just take a moment to relax and top up on tea or coffee. The Main Hall is open all afternoon until the closing plenary at 4pm.

Town Hall
ASSEMBLY ROOM

PERENNIAL PROTEIN: HOW UK NUT FARMING IS HEALING LAND AND COMMUNITIES

Speakers: Josiah Meldrum, Lucy Williamson, Andrew Kent, Tom McVeigh

Chair: Elsa Kent

The future of nutrient-rich food is a hotly debated topic, but no one can argue against highly biodiverse agroforestry that feeds both the soil and our bodies. Nuts are small but mighty – packed with protein, healthy fats, minerals, and antioxidants that deliver powerful health benefits. UK nut farming may still be a relatively small sector, but it's growing fast, with pioneers like Andrew Kent from Glastonbury Nut Farm and Tom McVeigh leading the charge. This session will explore how perennial protein from nut farming can heal the land, bring communities together, improve health outcomes, and what the market looks like going forward.

Town Hall
OLD LIBRARY

BASTA! DISMANTLING GLOBAL COLONIAL TRENDS IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

Speakers: Edu H. Nualart, Jyoti Fernandes, Palestinian Representative of La Via Campesina

Chair: Ed Gardener

Imperialism and colonial legacies continue to shape food systems and climate policies worldwide. We will take a moment to focus on the existing dynamics behind the weaponization of food, land displacement and ongoing struggles for sovereignty. Speakers will share reflections from the ground, analysis and agreements from key ongoing political processes, highlighting grassroots perspectives and strategies for resisting the colonial mindset within the agriculture sector, while calling for internationalist solidarity with the struggles and realities of the people in Palestine, where food and agriculture remain central to decolonial resistance.

Town Hall
COUNCIL CHAMBER

INSIGHTS FROM 2025 HORTICULTURE TRIALS

Speakers: Ed Scott, Andy Hayllor, Martin Kyte, Heleen Bos

Chair: Andy Dibben

Every year, growers who come to ORFC leave the conference, return to their land, and run trials. We plant different varieties, use different growing methods, and calculate what happened at the end. Was it productive? Did it taste good? In the spirit of sharing more of this learning, three panellists will disclose the results of their 2025 trials. Ed Scott, Polytunnels Manager at Riverford, will talk tunnel trials; Andy Hayllor, Gullaford Farm, will reveal his roots; and Martin Kyte and Heleen Bos, from Rijk Zwaan, will update us on seed varieties to look out for in 2026. Chair Andy Dibben, Abbey Home Farm, will coordinate the questions, please bring your own trial news to share!

Town Hall
COURT ROOM

LAND SPARING VS SHARING: HOW ORGANIC CAN DELIVER

Speakers: Sophie Alexander, Nic Lampkin, Mark Measures

Chair: Lawrence Woodward

The emphasis on land sharing, producing food for human health and wellbeing in as environmentally and socially sustainable manner as possible, appears to be falling out of favour amongst environmental organisations, as evidenced by the widespread promotion of wilding and so-called sustainable intensification and light green, regenerative conventional farming methods. The session will present the positive results from environmental monitoring of organic farms and discuss how organic farming can continue to evolve to better meet the needs of a changing environment.

Town Hall
ST ALDATE'S ROOM

REGENERATING ANCESTRAL LAND: BLUEPRINT FOR A REGENERATIVE FUTURE IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Speaker: Pania Newton

This session shares the journey of #ProtectIhumātao, a movement led by Pania and her whānau (family) to protect their ancestral land in Ihumātao, once central to feeding their people and the growing city of Auckland, New Zealand. What began as resistance to development has evolved into a living model of Indigenous-led land regeneration and food sovereignty. Pania will touch on their 200-year vision to restore wetlands, re-establish native forests, and cultivate whānau-led food enterprises. Grounded in Māori growing cosmologies, this session explores how ancestral knowledge guides approaches to regenerative food systems, climate and intergenerational wellbeing.

Museum of Oxford
MUSEUM MAKERS SPACE

PERMACULTURE MASTERCLASS — HOW TO APPLY IT TO YOUR FARM

Speaker: Hannah Thorogood

Join Hannah, who has been teaching and practising permaculture for 20+ years, for an interactive session of demystifying Permaculture and how it can be used to improve the efficiency and impact of your farm. Permaculture is grounded in doing our best for the planet, the people and mindful use of resources. How can we reduce our inputs, improve productivity and increase biodiversity? What permaculture tools can we apply to our farms? Bring pens and paper.

Blue Boar House
INTER-VARSITY ROOM

WORKSHOP: SEEING IS BELIEVING! HOSTING EVENTS ON YOUR FARM

Facilitators: Patrick Holden, Sophie Gregory, Rachel Phillips, Eddie Rixon, Bonnie Welch

Are you a farmer or grower who wants to share the story behind your food? Curious about how to welcome school groups in meaningful, engaging ways? Looking for funding ideas to support on-farm events? Or exploring how to run accredited or informal training on your land? If so, join us for a hands-on, interactive session where you'll connect with experienced farmers, educators and members of the Beacon Farms Network. Get inspired by practical tools, ideas and resources!

St Columba's United Reformed Church
SANCTUARY

UNBLOCKING POWER: THE KEY TO CHANGING OUR DIETS?

Speakers: Navaratnam Partheeban, Nicola Wilks, Rob Percival

Chair: Andrew Stark

If we are to truly 'fix' our food system, diets must change in a fair and equitable way. But as things stand, there are hidden and entrenched sources of power that are holding us back; colonial, psychological and corporate. This panel will provide space for a deep dive into exploring these links, and how we can overcome them to change our diets so that they are better serving people, the planet and the animals in our food system.

St Columba's United Reformed Church
HALL

WORKSHOP: HOW TO WASSAIL!

Facilitators: Alice Favre, Lorna Rees

Apart from ORFC, January can be a depressing, long month. To combat this, a community in Dorset (Chettle) started a Wassail in 2022 combining songs, costume making, cider drinking and nature connection – the perfect reason to come together during the darkest months. In 2023 they got grant funding and made a film about it. 'How to Wassail' is about waking up the fruit trees, thanking them for future harvests and having a party in an orchard. It is about deepening connection to land and celebration. This session gives insights into why and how the community created this evolving 'ritual', what happens in a Wassail, and how you can create your own. The session includes props, costume, a short film, and songs.

St Aldate's Tavern
MERTON ROOM

SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR YOUR FARM: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Speakers: Andy Bragg, Michael Leddy, Ali Jeffery

Chair: Suzy Russell

For years you've been managing and farming the family farm or your well-established CSA or market garden... but then what? Have you thought about succession? On top of economic struggles we are also seeing larger farms, market gardens and CSAs struggle because succession hasn't been thought through. This session will explore the whys and wherefores of succession planning. You'll hear from three people with three very different examples of how it can be done and explore the various ways we can mitigate against a negative impact when the time comes for you to move on or retire.

Story Museum
WOODSHED

BEYOND THE PRISON FENCE: LINKING LAND JUSTICE, FOOD GROWING AND ABOLITION

Speakers: Jesse Noon, Ali Anderson, Brendan Conway

Chair: Sumayyah Zannath

This session opens with a short film about Paradise Cooperative, a community garden situated on prison land, next to HMP Wandsworth. The film explores the history of the garden and its ongoing exploration of values, belonging, and what 'community' means in the shadow of a prison. The following panel and Q&A session will open up wider questions, including what are the connections between land justice and abolition? What role can community organising and food production play? How can we better understand the ways in which the incarceration apparatus leverages power over land and food systems? What alternative models of justice, care and sustainability can community-led growing spaces offer?

Story Museum
MAGIC COMMON ROOM

REBUILDING LOCAL SEED PRODUCTION AND BREEDING NETWORKS

Speakers: Ronja Schlumberger, Finlay Keiller, Holly Silvester

Chair: Adam Alexander

Can we build a diverse, profitable and equitable seed production sector for horticulture in the UK based on a shared vision of seed as commons with a focus on breeding and supplying nutrient dense cultivars that can flourish in low-input organic and agroecological systems? Three seed producers who are championing this vision share their experiences as breeders, growers, experimenters and trainers, the challenges of building resilient businesses, developing the sector, improving skills, access to resources and the opportunities for a new generation of growers to breed locally adapted vegetables for small and large-scale horticulture as well as amateur gardeners.

Story Museum

LINK ROOM

WORKSHOP: TODAY'S MENU – AGROECOLOGICAL FOODS TO CELEBRATE NOW

Facilitator: Jack Feeny

Every credible food system model for the future requires us all to shift our diets. This workshop, facilitated by No Mise En Plastic, explores the ingredients that can play a key role in the transition toward a just and resilient food system. Join discussions highlighting the ingredients that deserve a place on our plates. From perennials and wild meats to alternative grains and mussels, explore key insights from the Today's Menu online resource. We'll bring tasters of some exciting new flavours and examine how the constraints of seasonality can spark creativity. Leave empowered with practical knowledge and skills to make informed, climate-conscious food decisions.

Jesus College Cheng Building

DIGITAL HUB

STRATEGIES FOR INFLUENCING LAND POLICIES

Speakers: Tanguy Martin, Attila Miklos Szocs Boruss, Daniel Long

Chair: Sylvia Kay

Access to Land network is proposing a discussion on how social movements can influence land policies, focusing on land observatories as policy tools for land regulation. While the EU Commission has decided to launch a pilot for an EU Land Observatory, we remain committed to ensure this Observatory promotes justice, democracy, and sustainable land access for farmers. Our session will focus at both EU and national levels featuring panelists from different national contexts. The discussion will also explore links between land regulation and food sovereignty in Europe and prepare for the 2026 International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development organized by the Nyéléni movement.

Jesus College Cheng Building

SEMINAR ROOM

POLITICS, PROFITS, AND PESTS: BREAKING THE PESTICIDE TREADMILL**Speakers:** Elaine Acosta, Fredrick Otieno, Peter Lundgren, Keith Tyrell**Chair:** Mark Davis

Despite mounting evidence of harm, global farming remains trapped in pesticide dependence – driven by politics, commercial power and strategies, technical gaps, and fear of crop loss. This session explores what is undermining farmers' transition to sustainable farming and how science, policy, and international governance are converging toward change. We'll compare challenges faced by farmers in the UK, Africa, and Latin America, expose industry tactics that subvert science, and highlight efforts supporting transitions away from toxic pesticides. Trigger warning: this session will include discussion of suicide and self-harm.

Jesus College Ship Street

LECTURE THEATRE

BUILDING SHORT SUPPLY CHAINS FOR BRITISH FLOWERS**Speakers:** Jill Timms, David Bek, Debbie Scott, Lowri Davis**Chair:** Aaron Hirtenstein

Our unique session is for those interested in improving sustainable practice and farmers considering the benefits of growing flowers commercially or renting land to flowers growers. How can British flower growers and florists build stronger, shorter supply chains to meet rising demand for seasonal, sustainable blooms? We share key findings from a DEFRA Farming Innovation Project led by the Flower Grower Collective. This piloted physical regional hubs to distribute seasonal British flowers using the Open Food Network. We explain how digital tools, cooperation and logistics can help rebuild a thriving British flower economy, and provide practical steps you can take home to put into action.

Jesus College Ship Street

WORKSHOP ROOM

WORKSHOP: SOURCING AND SELLING: HOW TO FIND LOCAL, SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS FOR YOUR FOOD BUSINESS**Facilitators:** Julia Kirby-Smith, Melissa Ray

This workshop is aimed at food traders of all shapes and sizes, especially farmers and growers just starting out with selling, or anyone wanting to learn about sustainable sourcing, broadening your product range, and working with other producers. We will workshop: Principles of sustainability in food; How to find other producers near you; Building relationships (pricing, products, logistics); and Marketing. There will also be a chance for networking with other traders and producers.

4PM – 5PM

Town Hall

MAIN HALL

CLOSING PLENARY

Before you hit the road, the pub, or the field, let's come together one last time to celebrate all the learning, joy and motivation of the last two days. We'll take time to reflect on what we've discovered, debated, and drawn inspiration from. We'll relive all the action of the last couple of days with our ORFC26 highlights video and take a moment for a collective song and celebration. Together, we'll draw strength and collective grounding for the year to come. The Closing Plenary will also be livestreamed into the Assembly Room.

SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS

EXHIBITORS

The **Beaver Trust**'s vision is of thriving waterways vibrant with life, where beavers are embraced as a vital part of our biodiverse landscape. Established in 2019, the organisation works to support coexistence between people and beavers by offering site specific management advice and feasibility assessments. Through this work we aim to restore ecosystems and enhance climate resilience in a time of ecological and climate crisis. **@Beavertrust**

The **Biodynamic Association (BDA)** is a UK charity championing biodynamic agriculture, sustainability and quality food. We certify Demeter (biodynamic) and organic producers, processors and traders, and provide information & advice, training and education. Biodynamics is the world's oldest non-traditional system of organic growing. Research suggests biodynamics is the most effective organic system for carbon storage and for soil restoration. **@BiodynamicUK**

Black Mountains College believes in education that empowers people to build resilience in the face of the climate and ecological crisis. Our approach is built on rethinking traditional learning to foster the skills, creativity, and systems thinking needed for a more sustainable future. Our

countryside-based campus is a living classroom, with access to biodiverse landscapes that inspire and challenge our students to connect deeply with nature. **@Blackmountainscollege**

The **Centre For Agroecology, Water And Resilience (CAWR)** aims to advance resilience through creative work on a new generation of complex socio-economic and environmental issues impacting on the ability of people and communities to provide nutritious food, clean water and sustainable environments for all of Earth's inhabitants. Working hard with our many and varied partners from communities, civil society, enterprise and policy, our staff and students strive to deliver real-world impacts to support more sustainable, equitable and resilient food and water systems locally and internationally. **@CoventryCAWR**

The **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Network** is a multi-stakeholder cooperative for CSA farms across the UK with over 200 member farms. We are the only organisation in the UK dedicated to promoting and supporting the UK CSA movement. We do this through a programme of strategic mentoring, training, events, networking, advocacy and communication all aimed at achieving a CSA in every neighbourhood. **@CSANetwork**

The **Organic Growers Alliance** is a peer-to-peer support network of growers, farmers and horticulturalists. It's a Community Interest Company run by an elected committee, all of whom are volunteers. Membership is open to anyone actively engaged in commercial organic growing. Join the OGA today and be part of a growing network. **@OGAgrowers**

The **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)** are committed to working with the farming sector. As we work with farmers, land managers and stakeholders on new and existing schemes, we will share our thinking and policy progress, so please come to our stall to share your views, concerns and suggestions. **@Defrauk**

Earth Farmers work alongside farmers, growers, and landowners to regenerate soils and reshape farming systems for resilience and ecological health. We offer mentoring, training, and whole-system design across dairy, sheep and beef, arable and horticulture – supporting farming operations at every scale. **@Earth_farmers**

Ecological Land Cooperative (ELC) is creating a modern Commons by securing land for new entrant ecological farmers. Through precedent-setting planning work and long-term, affordable leases, we remove barriers to land access while regenerating ecosystems and strengthening local food networks. Rooted in cooperative governance, our model combines on-the-ground farms with national advocacy, building a pathway for land justice and agroecology to thrive across England and Wales. **@Eco_land_coop**

Edge: Edibles, Design, Grow, Educate is a non profit organisation working with landscape professionals, landowners & growers to create resilient food production systems which are commercially viable. We design regenerative and perennial food production on farms, in schools, hotels and in urban environments, including micro farms. We project manage and create perennial market gardens & agroforestry systems for food production. We deliver certified training on regenerative growing methods to growers and farmers. **@Edgelandscapinguk**

FareShare and **The Felix Project** are uniting to form a bigger and more ambitious organisation with greater national impact. We both work with the food industry to redistribute surplus food to thousands of charities. Thanks to a grant from Defra's Tackling Food Surplus at the Farm Gate scheme we have increased our capacity to store and redistribute surplus produce. We are looking to work with more farmers and growers to make sure your unsold produce reaches people's plates. **@Fareshareuk @Thefelixproject**

The **Landworkers' Alliance (LWA)** is a grassroots union of farmers, foresters and land-based workers in the UK and part of the global peasant movement for food sovereignty, La Via Campesina. **@Landworkersalliance**

Mostly Books is an award-winning independent bookshop in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Community focused with a well curated selection of books, the shop prides itself on providing excellent customer service, together with an ever-changing events programme. Mostly Books has been shortlisted for Independent Bookshop of the Year at the British Book Awards for the past seven years and was named South East Independent Bookshop of the Year in 2023. **@mostlybooks_shop**

Pasture for Life is one of the UK's leading regenerative farming membership organisations, with over 1,500 members, 10,000+ supporters and 160+ certified farms. We believe grazing animals power the regeneration of landscapes, economies, food cultures and communities. We deliver farmer-to-farmer learning through events, webinars, mentoring, online resources and consultancy to empower farmers to start their progress towards low input farming. Our members are demonstrating that it is possible to farm with nature and be more profitable. **@PastureForLife**

Plumpton College, set in the South Downs National Park, East Sussex, is one of just 11 independent land and environment colleges in the UK. It offers 19 course areas, including school programmes for 14-16-year-olds, courses for 16-19-year-olds, apprenticeships, adult learning, and employer training. Partnered with the University of Greenwich, it delivers university degrees in specialist subjects such as Sustainable Horticulture Management, Rural Land & Business Management, Sustainable Land Management, Commercial Wine Production, and Veterinary and Animal Studies. **@Plumptoncollege**

The **RSPB** is the UK's largest conservation charity – we bring people together who love birds and other wildlife and who want to take action. With 70% of land in the UK farmed in some way, we know that nature-friendly farming is the greatest opportunity we have to see habitats restored. Through active farm management, advising, world-class science research, policy influencing and campaigning, in collaboration with hundreds of farmers, we support farming that works for nature. **@Rspb**

Shift Bristol is a not-for-profit organisation, providing innovative and immersive training to build skills and practices for community-centered regeneration and resilience. We have over 20 years experience of teaching hands-on accessible skills, design systems, and collaborative, creative approaches to cultivating a more sustainable future. Our Practical Sustainability Course explores: Permaculture, Regenerative Agriculture, Soil, Ecology, Woodland Management, Natural Building, Organic Horticulture, Green Energy, Herbalism, Localised Economics and Food Sovereignty - plus so much more! **@Shiftbristol**

The **Soil Association's** vision is regeneration. We know food, farming, and forestry can lead the way to a better future – with good livelihoods, thriving wildlife and a safe climate. Using our 75 years of experience, we support everyone to work with nature and build practical solutions – from the ground up. **@SoilAssociation**

The Apricot Centre is a fully operational regenerative, biodynamic farm, educational hub, and wellbeing service. It trains new and transitioning farmers in regenerative practices, offering hands-on learning in agroecology and regenerative agricultural systems. It promotes wellbeing through nature-based therapies that support mental and physical health. Innovative courses, including the UK's first free accredited regenerative farming courses, empower individuals and

businesses to build resilient, climate-conscious food systems while fostering holistic wellbeing and strengthening local food networks. **@Apricotcentre**

With a goal to promote a deeper understanding of our interconnectedness with the natural world and with each other, **Shumei International** works to share knowledge about the Natural Agriculture approach to farming, which avoids the use of any fertilizers, chemicals, pesticides or additives. Prioritizing harmony with nature and natural living seeds, Natural Agriculture encourages communities to reconnect with nature and regenerate the land. **@Shumeiintl**

The Real Cheese Project champions raw-milk, farm-made cheese and the people behind it. We connect farmers, mongers, and eaters through monthly tasting boxes, events, and storytelling—celebrating sustainable, soil-up food systems that nourish land, animals, and community from pasture to plate. **@Therealcheeseproject**

The Resurgence Trust is an educational charity and global community dedicated to fostering positive change by honouring the connection of the Earth, the self, and all living beings. Through Resurgence & Ecologist magazine, our inspiring Resurgence Events programme, and The Ecologist online, we inform the environmental debate, nurture a culture of optimism, and guide people towards creative and practical solutions to the global challenges we face today.

@Resurgence_mag

At **Triodos Bank**, we believe banking – and farming – should work with nature, not against it. We support the shift to a nature-friendly agricultural system that produces healthy, safe and nutritious food for all. For 30 years, we've provided loans to farmers using organic methods, or financing those transitioning away from intensive, resource-depleting practices. **@Triodosuk**

At **University of Oxford**, researchers are exploring farming, food, and sustainability from many angles – including plant and animal science, farming with nature, protecting biodiversity, and understanding agri-food systems. At our stand, we'll share some of our work and invite farmers and practitioners to join the conversation. Together we can co-create impact and innovation, combining scientific and local knowledge to build more resilient, sustainable, and equitable agri-food systems that connect research with practice. **@oxfutureoffood.bsky.social**

GROW is a thriving agroecological farm that enriches the lives of The Totteridge Academy and local Barnet community, prioritising those facing barriers to education, well-being, and employment. Our mission is to champion food justice and advocate for a sustainable way of life for all. We cultivate knowledge, connection, and resilience through hands-on outdoor learning experiences.

@Wearegrow_

Whole Health Agriculture (WHAg) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to creating a more resilient and ecologically sound food system. We do this by supporting farmers to reduce chemical dependency and enhance livestock health and welfare through evidence-based natural practices. Through programmes of education, investigation and demonstration we provide farmer-tested alternative solutions to livestock and crop health problems. **@Whole_health_ag**

WITH THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS OF ORFC 2026

Adrian Audsley	Greencuisine Trust	Rewilding Wealth Ltd.
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Alef Trust	Grovehurst farm	Rose Dale's Organic Farm
Anita McNaught	Heather Manners	Ruth Morrello
Anne Robbins	Hillsdown Organic Farm	Scott Donaldson
Asthall Manor	Howard Davies	Soul Farm
Barbara Heinzen	Hugo Lewis	Steven Oxford
Barnaby Spooner	Jackie Thoms	Stuart Hales
Bede West	Jamie Lorimer	Sulham Estate
Bruce McNaughton	Jamie Stone	Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming
Burges Salmon LLP	Jane Cooper	The Community Supported Agriculture Network UK
Calderdale Ecological Land Trust	Jennifer Mackewn	The Savitri Trust
Chelsea Green Publishing	Jo Wills	Tilt Collective
Chettle Estate	Jock McFarlane	Tom Rigby
Christine Denwood	Jon Thornes	UK Youth for Nature
Colin Jonathan Taylor	Joost Herrebout / ÖBV Jugend Austria	University of Bristol
Compassion in World Farming International	Josie Cohen	University of Leeds
Daniel Callen	Jude Becker	University of Plymouth, Centre of Research excellence in Intelligent and Sustainable Productive Systems (CRISPS)

Darina Allen	Kitten grayson	
Doro Marden	Koru Ecology Associates Ltd	
Downforce Technologies	Lizzie Sagoo	
Edward Gorst	Lucy Skrine Touche	
Ennismore Foundation	Matthew Derr	
Farming the Future	Modus AV Ltd	
Garden Organic	Polly Pollock	
Gemma Watson	Rainforest Saver	

WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS, SPONSORS AND FUNDERS

ORFC is a project of the Real Farming Trust (RFT), a charity devoted to food sovereignty and agroecology which connects and supports people who are transforming our food system from the grassroots up. Learn more at <https://realfarming.org/>