



NUFFIELD FARMING SCHOLARSHIPS TRUST

THE STEVEN AND GILL BULLOCK AWARD WINNER 2009 - LYNDON EDWARDS

CITATION FROM THE JUDGES

Lyndon Edwards was raised on a 240-acre family dairy farm and had to leave school at 16 to come into the business when his father suffered a heart attack. For his Nuffield study in 1999 he chose Organic Dairy Farming. He was already interested in organic production and learnt much about the principles and practice from his study tour - but he also concluded that organic milk marketing in the UK was inefficient with a lack of co-operation between the co-operatives and no serious attempt to develop the market.

His Nuffield study gave him the confidence to complete organic conversion at home and to develop his home business substantially - doubling the acreage he farmed; doubling the herd; developing 14 office units in converted buildings; and building a thriving veterinary centre.

At the same time Lyndon became very active in the organic milk movement, especially working to coordinate the activities of the co-operatives. This led to a directorship of Omsco (the Organic Milk Co-operative). However, he is very realistic about the organic milk market and all dairy farmers benefit now from his unpaid off-farm work for the industry as a whole, including his chairmanship of the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, his membership of the government Working Group for Positive Animal Health and many other roles.

The judges were very impressed at the many examples Lyndon gave of how the Nuffield experience had given him factual information for use in his own business - but also more broadly, how Nuffield had given him confidence for building this business very successfully beyond cows. In addition, he has built on the personal development he gained from Nuffield to get appointed to his current high profile roles, which benefit the whole UK dairy industry.

The judges were also impressed with Lyndon's leadership style, which is very practical, patient and inclusive - and it brings people on side without confrontation, which is especially important in all aspects of farmer co-operation. They appreciated too, his continuing ambition and vision for his own business; for local farmer co-operation and for the industry as a whole.

In their summary, the judges concluded that Lyndon is a scholar who firmly grasped the enormous potential and opportunity which a Nuffield scholarship provides. He then capitalised on every bit of that potential for his own business and for the benefit of the dairy industry as a whole. He is highly convincing living evidence of the catalytic value of a Nuffield scholarship and a very worthy winner of the third Steven and Gill Bullock Award in 2009.

Judges:

**Norman Coward / Jane King / Stephen Fell NSch
October 2009**