



## **JOHN STONES**

### **NFST DIRECTOR**

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John Stones has been UK Director of the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust since November 2001.

He studied at Harper Adams and on graduating in 1975 managed a pig business in Suffolk before moving to Leicestershire in 1983. In response to rising feed prices, John specialised in feeding food co-products to pigs, designing and operating one of the few on-farm plants for processing blood from abattoirs as a protein feed. A management buyout in 1995 fulfilled a personal ambition to establish a farming business in partnership with his wife Della.

John was active in Young Farmers Clubs (YFC) and was a member of the national Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee (ARAC), which was established in response to a challenge from Agriculture Minister, Peter Walker, who asked the organisation how government could assist new farming entrants.

Awarded a Nuffield Scholarship in 1988 to study 'high welfare pig production systems', John travelled to Northern Europe, Canada and the USA. His findings led to a significant change in direction for his business. It most definitely was 'the start of a life-changing experience' and following his award John participated in many NFST activities - including a term on the managing board, organising conferences and leading a study tour to the Chicago Board of Trade in 1994.

Today John's hands-on farming activity is limited to a small flock of Easy Care Sheep. He is a member of the Easy Care Sheep Society and Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farmers (serving as a member of the Company's Education Committee). He represents Nuffield on the Royal Agricultural Society's 'Practice with Science Panel' and the Agri-Food Charities Partnership steering group.

John was made an Associate of the Royal Agricultural Societies (ARAgS) in 2009 for his 'Contribution to Agriculture' and elected to the Committee of The Farmers Club in 2008.

He has served as Chairman of Market Harborough Branch NFU, and remains active in his local branch. He is also chairman of a local land owning charity.

John and Della have two daughters and, when time allows, John enjoys sailing in Norfolk, watching Leicester Tigers rugby and more recently renovating his daughter's house!

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***Nuffield role***

“My role as Director involves governance, promoting Nuffield awards, managing the selection process, as well as briefing and mentoring some 200 successful candidates through their study periods.

“Included in my responsibilities is our annual conference, liaison with current sponsors and the development of new awards, publicising the work of the Trust, managing finances and maintaining communication links with some 700 alumni of the scheme’.