



*(F/L) Tony Pexton, NFST Chairman, with 2009 Frank Arden Award winners, Lindsay Hargreaves and David Gardner.*

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**27<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

## **2009 FRANK ARDEN AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

**Two accomplished and ambitious agri-business managers have been announced winners of the 2009 Frank Arden Memorial Award.**

**David Gardner**, Head of Fruit Operations at The Co-operative Farms, and **Lindsay Hargreaves**, Farm Manager of the Elveden Estate in Suffolk, are successful joint winners of the 5<sup>th</sup> Frank Arden Memorial Award which carries the study theme of 'The appliance of new science and frontier technologies to transform the UK agriculture and food sectors'.

"Our congratulations go to David and Lindsay, both worthy winners of this timely award," says John Stones, Director Nuffield Farming Scholarships, who anticipates some detailed and very candid research from these recognised and highly successful leaders of our industry.

"Both scholars are now challenged to travel and study overseas over the next 10 months to explore what is happening elsewhere and to bring some of the most exciting innovations in agricultural science back to the UK. With the current disconnect between science and food production, their findings should prove extremely opportune. We wish them well and look forward to their study recommendations."

For the last eight years, **David Gardner** has been part of The Co-operative Farms' senior management team holding a variety of roles. He is currently responsible for the fruit farms across the business and is embarking on a significant expansion to supply produce 'Grown by us' into Co-operative stores.

"I have always believed that to be a successful farmer you have to be doing today what everyone else will be doing tomorrow," says David. "Identifying research relevant to your business is the key to staying ahead, and I am hopeful that my study will bring some exciting science to the attention of UK farmers."

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“Looking ahead, I don't for one moment underestimate the challenge of focusing such a wide brief down to the key issues for us here in the UK. I nevertheless look forward to reporting back in early 2010.”

**Lindsay Hargreaves** describes himself as a ‘career farm manager’. Having graduated from Wye College in 1978 with a degree in agriculture, he worked for 15 years on the South Lincolnshire silts before moving to the Suffolk sand lands of the Elveden Estate in 1993, where he has been ever since.

“Receiving the Frank Arden Award represents a very special opportunity to research and review what is happening on a global scale,” recognises Lindsay. “I do not underestimate the enormity of this task, but I fully expect to be bringing back important messages and actions for British agriculturalists.

“I'm not only looking forward to carrying out the study, but also to bearing the torch for science, agriculture and a prosperous and sustainable future on my return. The future of UK farming will be built on science and looking forwards, not on a nostalgic yearning for some mythical and lost past,” he stresses.

### ***2009 study theme***

New science and innovative technologies are being developed at all levels of the food supply chain - from ultra rapid genetic analysis and elite genotypes at the farm level, right through to novel, high value food products to address society's nutritional challenges. But many of these opportunities remain untapped or underutilised here in the UK.

The aim of this special award – to study ‘**The appliance of new science and frontier technologies to transform the UK agriculture and food sectors**’ - is to identify the technologies which could prove of most value, and explore how best industry can access and apply them to both differentiate and significantly improve the competitiveness of the UK agri-food sectors.

### ***Study programme***

Awardees will travel and study over the next 10 months, and complete their report by the spring of 2010. Their findings will be presented at a major industry conference in the same year.

Further information can be obtained from John Stones, Director Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust - Tel: 01858 555544, Email: [nuffielldirector@aol.com](mailto:nuffielldirector@aol.com) ([www.nuffieldscholar.org](http://www.nuffieldscholar.org)).

## NOTES TO EDITOR:

### FRANK ARDEN MEMORIAL AWARD

- This special award is generously sponsored by the Frank Arden Memorial Fund and is open to UK residents working in the fields of food, farming or forestry. There is no age limit. The bursary provided allows for reasonable research and travel expenses, both in the UK and abroad.
- **Frank Arden CBE** (1915-1979) was a legend in his own life time. He established a farming business in North Lincolnshire regarded as a showpiece for progress in agriculture. Throughout his career he continually sought new challenges and was always adaptable in his approach to meet market demands. His vision and enterprise were rooted in extensive travel and the ability to embrace new technology. **The Frank Arden Memorial Award** was instigated by his family to continue to share his principals and passion for agriculture with others in the industry by funding key studies that address topics of importance to the UK agricultural industry.
- Previous Frank Arden studies include: 'The image of British Agriculture' - **Guy Smith**; 'Maintaining long-term incomes for rural land based businesses' - **Tony Pexton**; 'Expansion of the EU' - **Will Taylor**; 'The carbon footprint of British agriculture' - **Prof Chris Pollock, Julian Morgan, Jiggy Lloyd and David Hugill**.
- **2009 award applications:** Applicants were required to submit a proposal outlining their scheme of study, together with how they intend to act on their findings. The closing date for applications was 22nd May 2009 and was followed by interviews for shortlisted candidates in June 2009. The interview panel in 2009 consisted of David Leaver (RAC Principal), Tony Pexton (Chairman NFST), Jack Ward (Vice Chairman NFST) and Alison Blackburn (NFST Board).

### NUFFIELD FARMING SCHOLARSHIPS TRUST

- Nuffield Farming Scholarships invite enthusiastic individuals to explore topics of their own choice in agriculture, land management, horticulture or the food chain. They are dedicated to developing leadership in farming and the rural industries, and are recognised for the opportunities they provide to identify new knowledge and to apply it to practical and profitable industry outputs.
- Funded by the agriculture and food industry, charities and trusts with agricultural objectives and past Scholars themselves, the Trust presents around 20 awards each year.
- Founded in 1943, the Nuffield name and emblem (a bull riding a bicycle) both derive from the original benefactor, the late Lord Nuffield (William Morris). The Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust (NFST) was subsequently established in 1947. The NFST is registered as a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity, following its incorporation in July 2003.

## PROFILES



### David Gardner

David Gardner (50) is currently Head of Fruit Operations at The Co-operative Farms and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Farming.

He has worked for The Co-operative Farms for most of his career, spending periods in Hertfordshire, Shropshire, Hampshire and Cheshire, before becoming the manager of Stoughton Estate (Leicestershire) in 1991. During 10 years at Stoughton, David completely redeveloped the Estate, building new dairy facilities and new grain storage.

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For the last eight years, David has been a member of The Co-operative Farms' senior management team, holding a variety of different roles. He is currently responsible for the fruit farms across the business and is embarking on a significant expansion of the business to supply produce 'Grown by us' into Co-operative stores.

David comes originally from Sussex and doesn't have a farming back ground. He lives in Leicestershire with his wife, Sioux. They have two grown-up sons.

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## Lindsay Hargreaves

Lindsay Hargreaves (53) describes himself as a 'career farm manager'. Having graduated from Wye College in 1978 with a degree in agriculture, he worked for 15 years on the South Lincolnshire silts before moving to the Suffolk sand lands of the Elveden Estate in 1993, where he has been ever since.

The farming at Elveden extends to around 10,000 acres of the 22,500 acre estate, the balance being largely protected heath land, woodland and forest. In heading up the farming operation, Lindsay has focused on the resource strength around him.

"Free draining and easy working soils are ideal for root vegetable crops, but real success relies heavily on control of soil moisture, soil nutrition and crop protection," explains Lindsay. "This is science-based farming in the extreme," he suggests. "Without access to the latest knowledge and techniques we could not make commercial sense of growing safe, reliable and wholesome food here."

His assertion is evidenced by the history of the estate which has been at the forefront of modern farming, coupled with high environmental care for many generations.

Lindsay has a strong farming heritage. He was brought up in north Lincolnshire, the son of a farm manager and a fifth generation farmer. He met Carolyn, his wife, herself a farmer's daughter, at Wye. They have three children.

Lindsay is a Liveryman and Court Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Farmers, a Fellow of the Institute of Agricultural Management and an Associate of the Royal Agricultural Societies.

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