



# NUFFIELD

## Farming Scholarships

Dear Nuffield Farming Scholar,

I would like to start my latest update with a number of thank-yous around the recent Nuffield interviews. Firstly, thanks to Tim Adams and all the team at Saffrey, we are very grateful to be able to use their amazing facilities in central London and their hospitality is second to none. Secondly, to our Selection Committee and the Nuffield office team of Rupert, Claire and Charlotte, with 43 interviews (including the Frank Arden leadership award) conducted over the three days it is quite an effort; in particular, I would like to thank Jo Price as she joined the panel for the first time. Thirdly, I would like to thank 25 sponsor representatives that came to observe potential candidates for interview, I personally find this really useful as these guys often fire in a specific sector question and of course it also adds to the process when an individual can be faced with up to 13 people in the room. Finally, of course I would like to thank all who made journey into London to be interviewed for a scholarship, in the end 25 have been awarded which is the highest number yet with the percentage score required to get over the line raising significantly again this year.

Simultaneously the interviews for the Bullock award for Innovation took place, my thanks go to Stephen Fell, Meryl Ward, Farmers Weekly editor Andrew Meredith as well as David Rose who observed the process on behalf of the Trustees.

The scholar backlog has been cleared (it was in November 2024 we had a very frustrating 67 reports that were overdue). In a robust stance by the Trustee Board three people have been removed from the programme, with four people committed to present in Aberdeen this year and the final two the year after in Leeds. Another change to future process is that anyone who feels they need to ask for an extension will have to apply to a Trustee led panel who will then make the call. The scholar agreement says 30<sup>th</sup> June as the deadline each year.

Albert Goodman are our new auditors and one of their first jobs was to look back over the last ten years of accounts. I am glad to say the operational deficit was far less than the previous year at around -£85,000. However, there has been an historic adjustment of -£40,000 which means in summary we have finished as per the budget at £125,000 deficit. Obviously, this year we won't fall foul of the historic piece as we move the Trust ever closer to zero deficit situation.

What started off as myself and Catherine hosting the Trustees at our farm for lunch ended up with a guest list of 200 people including presenting scholars, sponsors, Northern Area Nuffields and potentials. On the day a pleasing 60 people attended with a huge thanks to Jo Speed who facilitated an active Q&A with three great presentations from recent scholars Tom Scrope, Ifan Roberts and Laura Eden as well as lots of questions and comments from the floor. With lunch provided several guests were on farm for over five hours!

Massive thanks to one of our biggest supporters, Anne Beckett, who has donated £85,000 to the Trust to fund future Beckett Scholars.

Thanks also must go to those members who have renewed their annual donation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October; this income is obviously hugely important for the future of the Trust and is much appreciated.

The Annual Report will be with members in the first week of November, thanks to Claire Laidler who has done a great job pulling it all together with some really great articles from the regional and study groups.

For absolute clarity, and as a result of discussions at last year's AGM in Belfast, this year in Aberdeen the AGM will be on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 5.30pm to 7pm in room 4 at P&J Live, just before the Welcome Reception**. The Notice for the 2025 AGM and the papers were emailed on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

Another important change is that as with last year, potential Trustee videos and written applications are available online and e-voting is in place. Unlike previous years, you **cannot vote at the AGM**, so please vote as soon as possible with the clear cut off being 10<sup>th</sup> November. If you vote and have not paid your annual donation you will be contacted by the office.

- Applications from Potential Trustees: Sarah Calcutt, Tony Evans, Lucy MacLennan, Jenna Ross and Diana Spellman, [Click here](#).
- The online link for Members to vote to elect new Trustees to the Board is [Here](#).

The Leeds 2026 Conference committee has been formed, so please contact Jo Speed if you would like to be a part of that group. For your diaries, the 2026 Conference will take place at the Royal Armouries, Leeds 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

Finally myself, Jim and the team are looking forward to welcoming you all at this year's conference in [Aberdeen](#).

Regards,

*T Rawson*

**Tom Rawson**  
Nuffield Farming Chair  
07881 940219  
[rawsondairying@outlook.com](mailto:rawsondairying@outlook.com)

You are receiving this email as a Nuffield Farming Scholar. If you do not want to receive any communications from the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust, please email [office@nuffieldscholar.org](mailto:office@nuffieldscholar.org)