



NUFFIELD Farming Scholarships

Dear Nuffield Farming Scholar,

Happy New Year to all; up here in West Yorkshire we are definitely hoping for a normal year weather wise, we are just not sure what normal means anymore!

In December, we welcomed a new Trustee Board as we met at the Kennel Club in London, including a return, post elections to Lucy and Jenna and new faces Amy and Tony as well as new external Trustees Steven and Jim. As a Board we meet formally four times a year; twice in London, once in Coventry and once in Leeds. Last year we said goodbye to Nic Snell, Jo Speed, Anna Bowen, Tom Macmillan and Chris Taylor, can I thank them all for their dedication and service to Nuffield over their time on the Board.

This year's application window for scholarships opened on Tuesday the 20th of January, please encourage any potentials to sign up to the series of zoom calls run by Charlotte Merson – charlotte@nuffieldscholar.org.

We plan to award six Next-Gen scholarships in 2026; three for dairy and three for Regen, please could you encourage any young person aged between 18 and 24 years old to get applying! The starting point for this year's dairy Next-Gen is in West Yorkshire on Friday 12th June and will encompass the annual Nuffield Dairy Group trip, followed by visits to Scotland, Netherlands, Midlands and the South West. The Regen tour will start on the 8th June and will visit the South West, Wales, Midlands, North and then heading on to East and South East aiming to culminate at Groundswell and finishing on the 3rd July. For those interested and want to find out more, please contact Charlotte on the email above, applications close on 31st January.

The "Tales of a Nuffield Scholar" podcast with Wallace Curry has relaunched in partnership with NFU Mutual Insurance. Episode 1 features NFU President and Nuffield scholar Tom Bradshaw with future episodes showcasing scholars particularly from 2015, 2016 and 2017 year groups who are this year eligible for the Bullock Award for Innovation. Listen to Episode 1 on our new Spotify channel here:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0kh50lovxMXKdfV4l6Bnol...>

The 2026 Nuffield Conference will run from the 18th to the 20th November at the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds where we will have 28 scholars presenting. This year's conference committee is jointly led by Rob Thornhill (allgraze@gmail.com) and Jo Speed (jo.speed@kiteconsulting.com), who welcome any ideas for conference sponsors.

Following on from an amazing 2025 conference in Aberdeen the event has been shortlisted by Aberdeen Convention Bureau for the Aberdeen Ambassador Awards which are held on the 5th of February. Again, thanks to Jenna, Rupert, Lindsay, Claire, Charlotte and the organising committee for an exceptional few days “up north”, setting the Leeds team a hard act to follow.

The latest Bitesize guide “*New entrants and young farmers-making a start in farming*” launched at LAMMA, and is a 34 page [free to download](#) online guide showcasing Nuffield Reports from six scholars; Rona Amis 2010, Ifan Roberts 2024, Gail Lewis 2014, Angus Selby 2018, Michael Blanche 2010 and Robbie Moore 2016. Produced in partnership between Nuffield Farming and the Royal Agricultural Society of England, this guide is a part of a series of short, practical publications designed for farmers and rural professionals. Each guide distils key insights from Nuffield Scholars’ reports into actionable ideas that can be put to work straight away.

Finally, it has been a busy Winter program for myself, attending Nuffield conferences in Ireland and The Netherlands last November and I will also be attending the Nuffield France conference at the end of January. A great reminder of the amazing global network we are part of; it was also great to be joined by Wyn Owen in the Netherlands and Mike Brady in Ireland and looking ahead to Paris. The Nuffield Australia conference is in September but that will need a bigger run up before clearing that one with Mrs Rawson!

Finally thankyou for all the support over my first year as Chair, it has certainly been an amazing experience.

Regards,

T Rawson

Tom Rawson
Nuffield Farming Chair
07881 940219
rawsondairying@outlook.com

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