



News from your Nuffield Farming Board

February 2024

Committees and Groups: Our new Trustees are settling well into their roles and getting involved in various Committees and Working Groups the board have set up, including the Fundraising Committee and the Alumni and Sustainability Working Groups. These groups are working with scholars on specific projects. The Sustainability Working Group of Jim Baird, Tom MacMillan and Hannah Senior have been reviewing sustainable travel ideas for the 2024 Belfast conference and have pulled together a sustainable travel planning guidance document which has been shared with current travelling year groups and will be shared on the Nuffield website. They are also planning the 2024 Greener Future Award. You will recall from the 2023 Conference in Exeter, that Amy Jackson and Theeb Partheeban shared exciting plans for the Reputation and Public Outreach Group to develop a diversity training package; this is progressing well with funding in place and plans to roll the training out this year.

2025 Scholarships: Trustee Anna Bowen did a very successful launch evening (23/1/24) on Zoom with Charlotte Merson for potential new scholars, which coinciding with the open date for applications. An impressive 40 people registered and 35 attended, and there was a buzzing Q&A session afterwards. The evening was also recorded to share more broadly for recruitment.

Director: Our new director, Rupert Alers-Hankey, has had a very busy first 6 weeks in his new role, hitting the ground running and focussing on getting the new office set up working with and alongside Claire Laidler, Lindsay Woods, Charlotte Merson, Claire Bragg and Kendra Hall and Frankie Harding-McDuff from Reverberate PR.

Rupert has also taken the opportunity of his 'fresh pair of eyes' to look at operations right across the Trust resulting in some quick wins and ideas already being implemented including a new 'donate' tab being set up on the Nuffield website to facilitate donations. More information next week.

Sponsors: Rupert updated the Board on progress meetings with both current and potential new sponsors securing future relationships and support for Nuffield Farming, with resounding positivity and support received to date for both sponsoring current scholars and future sponsorship opportunities. Friends of Nuffield was discussed widely to continue to nurture and foster existing and new relationships with both alumni and external friends to sponsor and support Nuffield.

The Alumni Working Group: Wyn Owen, David Rose and Jenna Ross are very keen to hear from alumni and year representatives with videos and snippets of what you are up to at the moment and any engagement ideas to bring alumni together more often. All would be gratefully received.

Next-Gen Scholarships: Plans are well underway for the Next-Gen Scholarship for 18–24 year-olds being piloted in Northern Ireland this year, which was launched last November and closed at the end of January. We were delighted to receive 11 applications, of which 8 were interviewed this week. Two candidates will be selected to start a 30-day programme working on UK dairy farms hosted by Nuffield dairy scholars, as well as joining the Nuffield dairy tour which is being held in Wales this year. These young scholars will be hosted, transported and looked after by Nuffield

Scholars as well as receiving a small bursary to cover their costs incurred. These scholars will also be recognised at the Belfast conference as part of the scholarship.

The 2024 Annual Nuffield Farming Conference in Belfast: This is going to plan with an exciting programme of speakers and activities including the welcome buffet at the Europa Hotel, conference at the Assembly Buildings and the dinner at the Titanic suite, Titanic Belfast. We are planning to have 28 presenting scholars covering a variety of topics. Planning is also well underway for the 2025 conference being held in Aberdeen.

Nuffield Selector: You will have seen our request from the Nuffield newsletter (24/11/23) seeking an independent academic Selector replacement for Richard Soffe on the Nuffield Selection Committee as Richard's term sadly comes to an end. Richard has been a much-valued independent member of the Selection Committee. We have been delighted to receive a great deal of interest from the academic community for this position with 22 applications. The successful candidate Professor Jo Price has been appointed. She will start by shadowing the current panel at this year's interview, taking over from Richard for the 2025 interview process.

Away Day: Trustees are now planning their annual Away Day scheduled in June with focus areas including all the Nuffield communications, financial and fundraising strategic planning and alumni engagement, alongside other strategic planning elements.