



The Prince of Wales's Food and Farming Summer School

16th-18th July 2014

**Organic Research Centre
Elm Farm, Newbury
and
Duchy Home Farm
Tetbury**

About the event

The Prince of Wales's Food and Farming Summer School has been held since 2007, initially at Duchy Home Farm, Tetbury and Highgrove, then at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester and, since 2013, at the Organic Research Centre near Newbury.

The summer school engages leading individuals from farming, food businesses, research, government and non-governmental organisations in addressing the challenges of producing sufficient food sustainably, to meet not just the requirements of current but also of future generations.

Within the UK, the need to increase food production through sustainable intensification is widely promoted, most recently in the Government's Agri-tech Strategy¹. However, the concept of sustainable intensification is subject to debate². The complexity of the problem is highlighted by the Foresight review³ published in early 2011, which recognized the need to reduce waste, reduce demand for resource hungry products and protect biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as to increase productivity.

The challenge is not just how much food we can produce per acre. Land may not even be the most limiting resource, with soil degradation and water availability key issues in some regions, as well as serious concerns about peak oil and the fossil-fuel-dependence of intensive farming.

We need to plan for energy as well as food security based on renewable resources, with more efficient utilisation of what we already produce. We need to review the role of livestock in food production and human diets, with both health and environmental implications.

¹ *UK strategy for agricultural technologies* (2013) [Full report](#). UK Government Departments for Business, Innovation & Skills; Environment, Food & Rural Affairs; International Development.

² *Sustainable intensification in agriculture. Navigating a course through competing food system priorities* (2012) Oxford Martin Programme on the Future of Food and the Food Climate Research Network. [Full report](#).

³ *Foresight: The Future of Food and Farming Challenges and Choices for Global Sustainability* (2011) [Executive summary](#) and [full report](#).

However, while sustainable food security is a complex issue, a simplified 'increased production whatever else happens' agenda has been picked up by some commentators. This has been used to question whether organic farming and other agroecological alternatives, which offer significant environmental potential, can also deliver against the productivity benchmark.

Yet it is clear from various reviews that there is no single solution. Recent Royal Society⁴, IAASTD⁵, OECD⁶ SCAR⁷, UN⁸, and UNCTAD⁹, reports have recognised that agroecological as well as technological solutions such as GM have relevance, although some have questioned further technological intensification when the majority of the world's food is still produced by resource-poor, low-intensity producers.

Even where a technology-driven sustainable intensification route is the preferred policy option, the continued development of agroecological alternatives has relevance as an insurance policy should the preferred route fail.

The summer school will seek to grapple with the complexity of these issues, providing unique insights in an integrated framework where biological systems, physical resources, economic realities and social, ethical and policy issues and perspectives are brought into contact with each other. The issues will be addressed by leading experts in a discursive approach, where they are not only presenting but also participating in discussions throughout the event.

⁴ *Reaping the benefits: Science and the sustainable intensification of global agriculture* (2009) Royal Society, London. [Full report](#).

⁵ *Agriculture at a Crossroads* (2008) International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology Development. [Exec. summary](#) and [all reports](#).

⁶ *Challenges for agricultural research* (2011) OECD, Paris. [Contents](#).

⁷ *Sustainable food consumption and production in a resource-constrained world* (2011) EU Commission Standing Committee on Agricultural Research. [Full report](#).

⁸ *Report to the UN General Assembly Human Rights Council submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter* (2012) [Full report](#).

⁹ *Wake up before it is too late. Make agriculture truly sustainable now for food security in a changing climate*. Trade and environment review (2013) United Nations Conference on Trade And Development, Geneva. [Full report](#).

Programme (as at 14/04/14)

Wednesday 16th July

10:00 Arrival at Elm Farm, registration, refreshments
(minibuses from Newbury train station from 09:30)

10:30 *Welcome and introductions to participants and to theme* (Prof. Nic Lampkin)

Part 1: Identifying the sustainability challenges

11:00 *Biological challenges*

(Chair: Dr. John Conway, RAU Cirencester)

- Biodiversity and genetic resources (Prof. Janet Dwyer)
- Soils and nutrient (Prof. Christine Watson)

12:30 Lunch

13:30 *Economic and social challenges*

(Chair: Julia Aglionby, Foundation for Common Land)

- Economics and sustainability (Speaker TBC)
- The future of family farms in the UN Year of Family Farms (Speaker TBC)

15:00 Transfer to Leckford Estate, Stockbridge (minibuses)

<http://www.johnlewispartnership.co.uk/about/waitrose/leckford-estate.html>

16:00 *Visit to Leckford Estate (Leaf/Waitrose, led by TBC)*

- Details TBC

18:00 Return to Elm Farm (minibuses)

19:00 for 19:30: Dinner at White Hart Inn, Hamstead Marshall

21:00 *After dinner speaker: Lord Curry of Kirkharle CBE*

22:00 Transfer to Newbury accommodation (minibuses)



2013 Summer School participants at Eastbrook Farm



Organic, free-range piglets at Eastbrook Farm, Bishopstone



Wheat composite cross populations at Duchy Home Farm, Tetbury

Programme (cont.)

Thursday 17th July

07:30 Transfer to Bishopstone (minibuses)

08:15 Breakfast at Royal Oak, Bishopstone

09:00 Food and health (Chair: Prof. Allan Buckwell)

- Food security and sustainable intensification (Prof. Tim Benton)
- Diet, food quality and public health (Prof. Tim Lang)

10:30 Refreshments

11:00 Eastbrook Farm: farm walk (led by Helen Browning)

- Arable weeds: Duchy Originals Future Farming Programme field lab/research (www.soilassociation.org/fieldlabs, with participating farmers)
- Free range pigs
- Conservation grassland
- Dairy cattle, health and antibiotics

13:00 Lunch at Royal Oak, Bishopstone

15:00 Transfer to Duchy Home Farm, Tetbury

*15:30 Visit to Duchy Home Farm, Tetbury
(led by David Wilson)*

- Dairying
- Arable – tillage, diversity
- Forestry (with Geraint Richards)

18:30 for 19:00 Dinner at Restaurant TBC, Tetbury

21:00 Return to Newbury accommodation (minibuses)

Programme (cont.)

Friday 18th July

07:30 Transfer to Elm Farm
(own cars, minibuses for public transport users)

08:00 Breakfast at Elm Farm

Part 2: Finding solutions

09:00 A question of intensity: do we need more technology and inputs? (Panel discussion, Chair Rob Macklin)
What can Precision farming, Integrated farming, Organic farming, Pasture fed livestock deliver?

10:30 Refreshment break

11:00 A question of scale: are larger or smaller farms the way forward? (Panel discussion, Chair TBC)
Does the future lie with smallholdings, medium-scale family farmers or large estates?

12:00 A question of diversity – an end to monocultures? (Panel discussion, Chair TBC)
After decades of mechanisation and specialisation, should we be looking at producing and consuming a wider range of crops including tree species?

13:00 Lunch

13:45 Visit to ORC agroforestry and hedgerows for biofuels trial sites (led by Dr Jo Smith)

14:30 Final session conclusions & actions (Chair: Prof. John Wibberley)

- What key issues have been highlighted?
- What changes will participants make?
- Who will they keep informed about progress?

15:30 Closing refreshments and departure
(own cars or minibus to Newbury train station)

Feedback from 2013 participants

Thoroughly enjoyable, engaging and thought provoking.

Agricultural consultant

I hugely enjoyed the event, the venue was ideal, the speakers were extremely knowledgeable, the farms and farmers inspiring and all the food beautiful. To hear the speakers was enlightening but to then see the 'theory' put into practice on farm with such passion by firstly, Helen Browning then David Wilson and finally HRH The Prince of Wales, re-emphasises the belief that the sustainable route is without doubt the right way to go for the future. I would definitely recommend the course to anyone and would hope to return again at some point in the future.

National Trust Farmer

It was a real pleasure and a privilege for me to participate ... a hugely successful event, warm hospitality and excellent organisation. All the presentations were superb and it was really helpful networking with such an impressive cross-section of people from the food and farming sector.

Defra representative



2013 Summer School participants in discussions with HRH The Prince of Wales at Highgrove and at Eastbrook Farm

Contributors

Julia Aglionby (FFSS Faculty¹⁰)

Julia Aglionby Chair of the Foundation for Common Land, a charity that brings together people managing pastoral common land, and a member of Defra's Sustainable Upland Forum. A chartered surveyor and agricultural valuer by profession, she is committed through bridge building to bring together the interests of farmers and the vast range of other bodies with an interest in the uplands, her experience includes the delivery of multi-partite agreements, advising MPs and peers on uplands issues, speaking and chairing at national and international events and academic research on the governance of common land in National Parks. Julia also has an active and practical involvement in the family's beef and sheep farm in the Eden Valley in Cumbria.

Prof. Tim Benton

Tim Benton is Professor of Population Ecology in the School of Biology, University of Leeds. Since 2011, he has been UK Champion for Global Food Security, acting as ambassador and spokesperson for matters to do with food and food security, and coordinating work across this area between research councils and government departments. His research career has been focussed on the linkage between organisms and environmental changes, and in the agri-environment sphere also focusses on how farming drives ecological dynamics (at field, landscape and larger scales, up to global). He has previously held positions at UEA (postdoc), Cambridge University Press (Science Editor), Stirling University (lecturer and Senior Lecturer), Aberdeen University (Senior Lecturer).

Helen Browning

Helen Browning runs a tenanted 550 ha organic livestock and arable farm in Wiltshire supplying organic meat to supermarkets. The business has also diversified to take on the running of the village pub. Helen Browning was appointed Chief Executive of the Soil Association in 2011 and is leading the SA's efforts to broaden the message on sustainable food production. She was previously Director of External Affairs at the National Trust and Food and Farming Director at the Soil Association. Helen is Chair of the Food Ethics Council and has been a member of several important commissions concerning British agriculture and food, including the Curry Commission on the Future of Farming and Food, the Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission and the Meat and Livestock Commission. She was awarded an OBE in 1998 for services to organic farming.

¹⁰ Food and Farming Summer School Faculty members are regular contributors.

Prof. Allan Buckwell (FFSS Faculty)

Emeritus Professor Allan Buckwell is now Senior Fellow at the Institute for European Environmental Policy, having been policy director for the CLA from 2000-2011. Before that he was Professor of Agricultural Economics at Wye College, University of London, specialising in teaching and research into all aspects of European rural policy dealing especially with the Common Agricultural Policy, trade issues, and technology and structural change in farming and its impacts. During 1995/6 he was seconded to the analysis and conception unit of DG Agri in the European Commission where he chaired a policy integration group on a model for the evolution of the CAP.

Dr. John Conway (FFSS Faculty)

John Conway is Principal Lecturer in Soil and Earth Systems Sciences and Chairman of the Research Committee at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester. He is Programme Director for the MSc in International Rural Development. Having completed a PhD in soil science, his research and consultancy interests cover a wide range of environmental and soil management topics, including major studies on nitrogen losses (an eight-year project on the University's conventionally managed farm at Coates, and a six-year project on the less intensive farming experiment at Harnhill), P & K sources for organic farming and innumerable Agricultural Land Classification and Soil surveys. giving him wide experience of soil conditions across the southern half of Britain. John is currently focused on research into climate change and its impacts on agriculture and land management.

Lord Curry of Kirkharle CBE

Don Curry is Chair of the Board of Waitrose's Leckford Estate as well as Trustee of Clinton Devon Estates as well as of the Lawes Trust, Rothamsted Research. He chaired the Curry Commission on the Future of Farming, whose report, often referred to simply as the Curry report, was arguably the first substantive review of issues relating to the sustainability of UK agriculture. He has continued to engage with the debate on the future of agriculture subsequently.

Prof. Janet Dwyer

Janet Dwyer is Professor of Rural Policy at the University of Gloucestershire, and Co-Director of the Countryside and Community Research Institute. The CCRI has a track record of 25 years of successful rural research and is an established centre of expertise, based currently at Oxstalls campus, in Gloucester. At CCRI, Janet directs and undertakes a variety of research related to agriculture, the environment and rural development. With an MA in biological sciences and a PhD in Agricultural Economics, she has also worked as a policy officer at the Countryside Commission and at the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) in London. Her research centres on European and UK policy and practice

Prof. Nic Lampkin

Nic Lampkin is Director of the Organic Research Centre and an agricultural economist with research interests in development and evaluation of EU agri-environmental and rural development policies and the sustainability assessment of farming systems. As part of this, he has worked on issues relating to the productivity, resource use efficiency and financial performance of organic farming systems, including the development of a Net System Output concept for assessing relative productivity. He is an adviser to the European Commission, Welsh Government and Defra on organic farming policy and regulatory issues. He is author of the *Organic Farming* text book and edits the *Organic Farm Management Handbook*.

Prof. Tim Lang (FFSS Faculty)

Tim Lang has been Professor of Food Policy at City University London's Centre for Food Policy since 2002. After a PhD in social psychology at Leeds University, he became a hill farmer in the 1970s, which shifted his attention to food policy, where it has been ever since. For over 35 years, he's engaged in academic and public research and debate about its direction, locally to globally. His abiding interest is how policy addresses the environment, health, social justice, and citizens. His new book with Geoff Rayner *Ecological Public Health: reshaping the conditions for good health* is published by Earthscan/Routledge.

Rob Macklin (FFSS Faculty)

Rob Macklin is Head of Food and Farming at the National Trust, the country's largest owner of farmland and one of the largest fresh food caterers. The NT also manages dozens of historic kitchen gardens, allotments and other growing spaces, believing that sustainable food production is crucial for conserving the environment and the landscapes we all cherish.

Geraint Richards (FFSS Faculty)

Geraint Richards is Head Forester for the Duchy of Cornwall, a role that has expanded over the years to include managing the 1,800 ha of woodland across the Duchy's estate, woodlands which are scattered from the Isles of Scilly to Herefordshire with much in between. During his early years, the Duchy became one of the first estates to gain FSC certification for its woodlands. The Duchy has also taken an active interest in "continuous cover" or "close-to-nature" forestry. In his capacity as Head Forester, Geraint participates on several committees: Country Land and Business Association, the Soil Association, the British Irish Hardwood Trust, the England Forest Industries Partnership and Woodland Heritage (a charity of which His Royal Highness is a Patron).

Dr Jo Smith

Jo Smith is Senior Agroecology Researcher leading the Organic Research Centre's Agroforestry research programme. She studied for an MSc in Biodiversity and Taxonomy at the Natural History Museum and Imperial College and for her dissertation compared soil macrofaunal communities in organic and non-organic gardens. She went on to complete a PhD on assessing the value of agri-environment schemes for soil biota with the Centre for Agri-Environment Research at the University of Reading, joint with the Soil Biodiversity group at the Natural History Museum. She has been working at ORC since June 2009 and is working on a range of projects investigating the value of agroforestry as a way of reconciling production with protection of the environment.

Dr Christine Watson

Christine Watson leads the Soils and Systems research team at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC, formerly SAC). Her research interests include nutrient cycling and soil management in organic and conventional farming systems. Christine and colleagues continue to run a long-term experiment on organic crop rotations established at Aberdeen in 1991. She is also a member of the management team and teaching staff for SRUC's Postgraduate Diploma/MSc in organic farming.

Prof. John Wibberley (FFSS Faculty)

John Wibberley is an agriculturalist and rural resource management consultant, working in the UK and internationally, especially in Africa. He is visiting Professor at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, where he was Head of Agriculture until 1989. Since 2008, he is a Secretary of State Appointee on Exmoor National Park Authority. Since 2000, he coordinates the Council for Awards of Royal Agricultural Societies, which aims to recognise outstanding contributions to UK agricultural and rural progress.

David Wilson (FFSS Faculty)

David Wilson is Farm Manager of Prince of Wales's Duchy Home Farm at Tetbury. The farm is used to demonstrate organic production methods both as a commercial working farm as well as through a number of research projects. David was a council member of the Soil Association for six years and is now an honorary life member. He is a member of the Royal Agricultural College School of Agriculture Advisory Board and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Farming Committee.

Registration form

Please return completed forms to Gillian Woodward at:
Organic Research Centre, Elm Farm, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury,
RG20 0HR. E-mail: gillian.w@organicresearchcentre.com.
Registration is also be possible at: www.organicresearchcentre.com.

Title: _____

First name: _____

Last name: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

Postcode: _____

E-mail: _____

Landline: _____

Mobile: _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Other special needs: _____

Travel arrangements: I am planning to travel by:

- private transport public transport

Accommodation (not included):

- I would like to reserve accommodation at the Newbury
Travelodge at £100 incl. VAT for TWO nights.
- I would like to reserve hostel-style accommodation at
Elm Farm at £15 per night incl. VAT for _____ nights.
- I have reserved/am planning to reserve accommodation
at: _____ hotel.

Participant fees & payment options

The Food and Farming Summer School is self-funded through participant fees and a limited number of donated bursaries.

The cost of the three-day event, including speakers, course materials, meals/refreshments and minibus transport is: **£500 plus VAT (£600 total) per participant.**

Please note that this does not include accommodation.

Payments may be made by:

Cheque: made payable to 'Organic Research Centre'.

BACS or CHAPS transfer: please e-mail gillian.w@organicresearchcentre.com for account details.

Credit card by phone: Please phone Gillian Woodward on 01488 569298 ext. 554.

Credit card/Paypal on-line: Please visit the event page at: www.organicresearchcentre.com

Bursaries:

If you would be interested in bursaries if available, please indicate this under 'other special needs' on the booking form.

Conditions:

Payments must be made within five working days of submitting the booking form. In the event of cancellation up to two weeks before the event, refunds will be made subject to a 10% cancellation charge. No refunds can be made for cancellations received less than two weeks before the event. If the course is cancelled by us, a full refund of the participant fee will be made, but we can accept no liability for other costs incurred by you.

Company details:

We are registered in the UK as Progressive Farming Trust Ltd, trading as the Organic Research Centre. Company No.: 1513190; VAT No.: GB314 6681 59. Registered office: Elm Farm, Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, RG20 0HR. The Progressive Farming Trust Ltd. is a registered educational charity no. 281276.

Accommodation

Accommodation is not included in the event price.

We have reserved rooms at the Travelodge, Newbury, at a rate of £50 per night for two nights (total £100 including VAT). We also have budget, hostel-style accommodation at Elm Farm at £15 per night plus VAT. If you would like to book this accommodation, please indicate this on the booking form. For residents in this accommodation, breakfast is included and will be provided at the course venues.

If these are fully booked or otherwise unsuitable, there are several hotels in the Newbury area, including the ones listed below which may be serviced by summer school minibuses. Bookings can be made directly via the websites/ phone numbers given, or (often at a discount) via on-line services such as www.booking.com or www.hotels.com.

Chequers Hotel, Central Newbury

6-8 Oxford St, Newbury RG14 1JB

Tel: 01635 38000

www.chequershotelnewbury.co.uk

Hare and Hounds at Speen, West Newbury

Bath Road, Newbury, RG14 1QY

Tel: 01635 521152

www.hareandhoundshotel.net

Hilton Hotel, Newbury South

Pinchington Lane, Newbury RG14 7HL

Tel: 01635 529000 Fax: 01635 247077

www.hilton.com/newburycentre

White Hart Inn (Hamstead Marshall, opp. Elm Farm)

Hamstead Marshall, Newbury, RG20 OHW

Tel: 01488 657545

www.whitehartinnhamsteadmarshall.co.uk

THE ORGANIC
RESEARCH
CENTRE



ELM FARM

Established in 1980 as an educational charity, the Organic Research Centre's focus is on research and knowledge exchange to develop sustainable food and land management systems based on agro-ecological approaches including organic farming and agroforestry.

Funded by government and EU research contracts, charitable grants and donations, a significant proportion of our work is on eco-functional intensification as a means to improve both productivity and ecosystem service delivery.

For more details, see:
www.organicresearchcentre.com

Or contact us at:

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