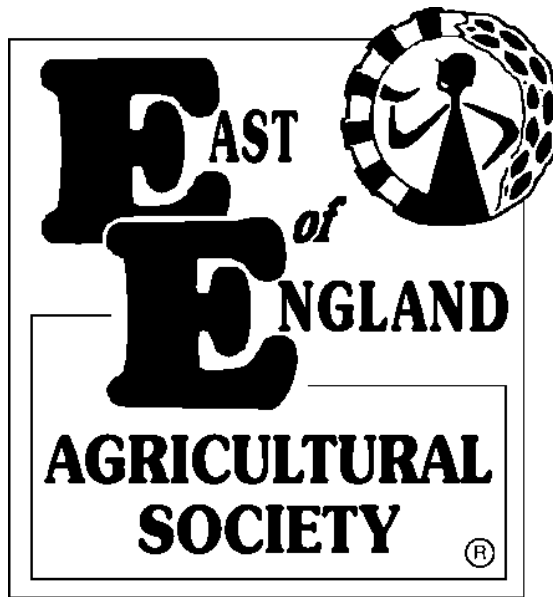


# FARM & RURAL BUSINESS AWARDS 2017

## Farms Competition



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ENTRIES CLOSE  
FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE

JUDGING BEGINS WEEK COMMENCING  
MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017

AN ENTRY FORM IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS SCHEDULE

**EAST OF ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FARMS BUSINESS AWARDS 2017**  
**FOREWORD**

The Chairman and Members of Council of the East of England Agricultural Society take pleasure in inviting competitors to enter the 2017 Farms and Rural Business Awards.

***The objective of the competition is to recognise the achievements of local farm businesses.***

Judges, appointed by the Society, will inspect all farms entered in the competition in accordance with a timetable drawn up after the closing date. First stage judging and the Young Farmer section will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Championship judging will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. **We request all entrants keep these days free.**

Classes will be arranged by farm size with separate sections for arable and livestock farms.

Judges will assess the whole farm as they see it on the day, giving consideration to the objectives of the business, management practices, cropping/ livestock husbandry, environmental measures, infrastructure and use of technology. Entrants will be questioned on their farming policies.

Entrants will have a maximum of two hours with the judges to include an inspection of the farm and crops/livestock. Competitors are encouraged to take the opportunity to promote their farming system and practices to the judges and explain why they do what they do.

**This is not a tidy farms competition.** Our judges are looking for outstanding and innovative farmers, with the attitude and expertise to succeed. The judges will not focus on the challenges that competitors may have, but instead consider the steps put in place to overcome them.

All judges will offer constructive feedback to competitors individually with a written report.

When judging the **Countryside Management Award**, judges will seek to recognise farmers who consider conservation as key to their farming activities, paying attention improvement of wildlife and landscape features as well as farming practices which provide environmental benefits.

The **Young Farmer Award** is open to those aged under 35 year olds and is aimed at recognising the younger generation of the farming industry. The class will be judged separately to the main section but will use the same criteria.

Entrants are reminded that as a competitor, a complementary ticket to the Farm and Rural Business Awards presentation is included. This will be held at the Societies Peterborough Dinner, held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the East of England Showground in Peterborough. Additional tickets are available to purchase for partners, fellow directors, farm managers, staff and friends.

Entry to this competition is free and open to farm businesses located within a 50 mile radius of the East of England Showground.

**The Chairman and Committee of the Farm Business Awards would like to thank the following companies for their kind sponsorship of the 2017 Farm Business Awards**



Honey Pot Lane, Colsterworth, Grantham, Lincs, NG33 5LY

Contact: Rob Sanderson

Telephone: 01264 321440

Mobile: 07836 538490

Email: [robsanderson@openfield.co.uk](mailto:robsanderson@openfield.co.uk)

Web: [www.openfield.co.uk](http://www.openfield.co.uk)



Camgrain Stores Ltd, London Road, Balsham, Cambridge, CB21 4HH

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Web: [www.camgrain.co.uk](http://www.camgrain.co.uk)



Unex House, 132-134 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 8PA

Contact: Alex Bragg

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Website: [www.savills.co.uk](http://www.savills.co.uk)

# FARM BUSINESS AWARDS

- \* Please note that entries are limited and will therefore be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.
- \* Additional classes may be added at the discretion of the organisers, where there are sufficient entries.

## 1. CLASS AWARDS - Judged Monday 19<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

This is the main competition which applicants are to be judged, (details are on page 5 titled schedule of marks)

The winner of each class will receive a £50.00 cash award, and will also receive certificates. The Reserve in each Class will receive certificates.

## 2. COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT CLASS AWARD- Judged Monday 19<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

This section is optional but we like to encourage farms to detail their environmental practices, (details are on page 5 titled schedule of marks)

A certificate will be awarded to the farm making the best contribution to Conservation, having regard to good farm management in each Class.

## 3. YOUNG FARMER AWARD - Judged Monday 19<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

This class is open to under 35s, and is aimed recognising young people in the industry. Please note that entries into this class are limited and will therefore be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. Additional classes may be added at the discretion of the organisers, where there are sufficient entries submitted

A certificate and glass award will be awarded to the reserve and overall winner.

## 4. SUPREME CHAMPIONSHIP AWARD- Judged Thursday 22<sup>rd</sup> & Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>

The winner of the Supreme Championship Awards will receive £250.00 cash award, and will also receive a Perpetual Challenge Trophy awarded by the East of England Agricultural Society

## 5. SUPREME COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT AWARDS- Judged Thursday 22<sup>rd</sup> & Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>

The Winner will receive a Perpetual Trophy; also the Winner and Reserve will each receive certificates.

# SCHEDULE OF MARKS

## MAIN COMPETITION & YOUNG FARMER COMPETITION

### Business Management

- Achievement of Business Objectives
- Farming systems and their suitability to the farm
- Cropping, stocking, rotations and diversification
- Marketing strategy
- Sustainability

400 points

### Resource management

- Effective use of available land and resources
- Efficient use of machinery, plant & buildings (owned, leased, contracted etc)
- Staff management, skills and training

250 points

### Enterprise management

- Crops – establishment, varieties, weed and disease control, yield potential
- Livestock - breeding policy, health plan, performance, housing, etc.
- Enterprise interactions

150 points

### Countryside Management

- Policy
- Achievement in establishing/conserving/maintaining wildlife habitats
- Design and siting of modern buildings
- Maintenance and use of traditional build
- Overall management of farm with regard to traditional landscape, i.e., hedges, ditches, ponds, small woodlands, etc.
- Environmental protection

100 points

### Public engagement

- Educational visits and interaction with local schools

100 points

TOTAL /1000

# COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT AWARD

## General impression and conservation objectives

- Objectives for management
  - General appearance and management of the landscape and buildings
  - Management of archaeological and historical features.
  - Plans for future developments
  - Participation in voluntary schemes
- 200 points

## Wildlife and habitats

- Hedge, tree, and woodland management /creation
  - Field margins
  - Ditches, ponds and wetlands
  - Grassland and unimproved meadows
  - Habitat management and creation
- 250 points

## Farming operations

- Cropping diversity, rotations
  - Cultivation methods and timing
  - Animal health, stocking, grazing and pollution
  - Siting and management - environmental benefits
- 300 points

## Environmental protection

- Soil and water protection
  - Pesticide and nitrogen use- timing, monitoring and thresholds
- 250 points

TOTAL /1000

These schedules of marks are given to the Judges to use as a guideline when inspecting farms.

## **COMPETITION RULES**

1. Competitors do not have to be members of the East of England Agricultural Society, but are encouraged to join. Details of membership and membership application forms are available from the membership department.
2. Farms entered, or part of a farm entered, must be within the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire and/or a fifty mile radius of the East of England Showground. If any part of the farm is within the region then the whole farm must be entered. A farmer residing in the region may not enter a farm that is wholly outside the boundary. Competitors must enter all land occupied within the region where this is farmed as one unit. Any land leased out shall not be included in the Competitor's total acreage.
3. Where competitors are connected with more than one farm or holding, which is farmed as a separate company or unit, each holding or farm may be entered separately or as one unit, if geographically adjacent. Where this applies, it is not necessary that all farms are entered. However, the appropriate sections of the entry form must be completed to give Judges an overall picture of the business and management structure related to the farm entered.
4. In the event of a farm winning the Supreme Championship for the third time in a period of ten years, including the year of the Competition, the entrant will be awarded a "Special Trophy" to record the achievement. The entrant will also be asked to stand down from entering the Competition for a period of at least three years.
5. Judges are appointed by the Society and the inspection of farms will take place during the week commencing Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016. A Steward, appointed by the Society, will accompany the Judges.
6. Young Farmer Award, entrants must be 35 or under on the first day of judging, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016.
6. The Judges will be asked to make the awards in accordance with the Foreword and Schedule of Marks.
7. No information regarding marks or positions, other than winner or reserve in each class, can be given to competitors. However, the Society will endeavour to send competitors copies of the Judges' comments on their farm after the results have been published.
8. All results will be announced at the East of England Agricultural Societies annual Peterborough Dinner, which is held in November.
9. Competitors are required to provide with their entry form a farm map, Ordnance Survey or similar, covering the area of the farm entered and, if available, a plan showing the location of the farm.
10. All questions of the eligibility of a competitor or any dispute arising out of the competition shall be dealt with by the Council of the Society whose decision shall be final.
11. Compliance with Conditions. All competitors on entering the competition agree to abide by the Competition Conditions set out previously and to the Articles of Association, By-Laws and Regulations of the East of England Agricultural Society, in so far as they apply to the Farms Competition (a copy of the Articles of Association, By-Laws and Regulations can be obtained from the Chief Executive upon request).

**PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING WEEK CLEAR FOR JUDGING:  
19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2017**

**MONDAY & TUESDAY**- Class Judging & Young Farmer- all farms entered in the main competition will be judged.  
**THURSDAY & FRIDAY**- Supreme Countryside Management and Supreme Champion Classes will be judged