

SCHOOL FARMS NETWORK CONFERENCE 2021

Growing People, Plants and Animals

Friday 2 and Saturday 3 July 2021

online

Day 1: Friday 2 July (3.5 hours)

Time	Activity	Details
11.45	Login registration	Time for all participants to log in and introduce themselves through the chat function
12.00	Welcome from the Royal Agricultural University and Social Farms & Gardens/SFN	
12.10	Opening keynote address	Lord Don Curry CBE Former student Briony Balcombe
12.40	Q&A	Questions/comments can be shared through the chat facility
12.50	Refreshment break	School Farm tour will play during break
13.10	Workshop Sessions A: 1A Routes to university and agricultural careers 2A Incubation projects 3A A Meaningful Curriculum -Life Affirming Education for students with SEN through Farming and Gardening	Full workshop details below. <i>You will be asked to make your workshop choices when booking your conference ticket</i>
13.55	Refreshment break	School Farm tour will play during break
14.15	Workshop Sessions B: 1B A farmer's view on delivering the BTEC level 1/2 in Animal Care – one way to approach it 2B Beekeeping in schools 3B How can live and virtual farm sessions enhance learning and engagement for all?	Full workshop details below. <i>You will be asked to make your workshop choices when booking your conference ticket</i>
15.00	Plenary Q&A	Questions/comments can be shared through the chat facility
15.20	Closing inspirational video	
15.30	Close	

Day 2: Saturday 3 July (3 hours)

Time	Activity	Details
09.15	Login registration	Time for all participants to log in and introduce themselves through the chat function
09.30	Welcome from the Royal Agricultural University and SF&G/SFN	
09.35	Opening keynote address	Lottie Matthews, Farm Manager, North School Farm, Kent.
09.55	Workshop Sessions B: 1C Spring on the farm - lambing & calving 2C Pigs from start to finish 3C Fundraising for school farms	Full workshop details below. <i>You will be asked to make your workshop choices when booking your conference ticket</i>
10.40	Refreshment break	Farm tour film or open discussion facility
11.00	School Farm Awards Ceremony OR "Starting out in School Farming" – A series of presentations and panel discussion suitable for anyone new to school farming	Participants can select which option they attend on the day
11.55	Diversity: school and community farms as steppingstones into the agricultural industry	
12.10	Open discussion on the needs and future of school farms	
12.30	Conference close	

Session A workshops (Select one when booking)

	Theme	Who	Summary
1A	Routes to university and agricultural careers	Dr Ksenia Frolova, Royal Agricultural University	In this session we will explore the study pathways that can take a student into university (spoiler alert, it's not just A-levels!), the variety of study options available at university and the range of careers this could lead into. We aim to support you and the progression of your students and highlight the different career options that a student may be interested in if they enjoy working with their school farm. We'll also leave plenty of time for questions, making this the ideal session if you want to know more about careers, studying at university or the RAU specifically.
2A	Incubation projects	Keeley Smith Gloverspiece Mini Farm, Droitwich	Starting out in keeping poultry, including ethics and sourcing, and learning outcomes
3A	A Meaningful Curriculum -Life Affirming Education for students with SEN through Farming and Gardening	Amanda Cameron (retired Principal of Walton Hall Academy, Eccleshall) + Amy Cameron (Amanda's daughter and also a science teacher)	The presentation will include an overview of how Walton Hall Academy developed its grounds to incorporate a small farm and a commercial garden centre. It will cover the pitfalls of keeping various types of animals (some fairly exotic), practical considerations, sources of funding, the range of accreditation offered and the "value added" therapeutic benefits of keeping animals and growing plants. There will be a short film about the farm and garden centre capturing the voice of the students who reflect on their experiences and opportunities.

Session B workshops (Select one when booking)

	Theme	Who	Summary
1B	A farmer's view on delivering the BTEC level 1 / 2 in Animal Care – one way to approach it	Chris Holloway Teacher & Farm Manager, Warriner School, Banbury	Starting with a brief introduction to the types of students & school logistics here that has dictated the way that the course deliver has been moulded. Going on the talk about coursework and its management, teaching delivery including the use of workbooks and other more commonly available resources and where to find them. Practical issues like PPE and H&S, dealing with student disability, and other constraints to working with animals, and possible suggestions for visits and guest speakers. To include plenty of time for questions at the end of the session.
2B	Beekeeping in schools	Ms Shepherd , Churnet View Middle School, Leek	Practicalities of keeping bees in a school and working with children, links to the curriculum, problems, and benefits

3B	How can live and virtual farm sessions enhance learning and engagement for all?	Tabitha Salisbury Public Engagement Programme Coordinator, Linking Environment & Farming, Kenilworth	Understanding the benefits that Farmer Time can have in supporting school farms as both a school and as a farm – highlighting the opportunities that others have already found from the initiative and how a simple approach can often be a highly valuable tool for learning. The sessions will include one of our Farmer Time Farmers who has been with us throughout, to talk about the benefits the sessions have had for the young people (and teachers!) he works with. Additionally, we will seek to highlight the opportunity this pairing can have for the school farm too.
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Session C workshops (Select one when booking)

	Theme	Who	Summary
1C	Spring on the farm - lambing & calving	Jemima Pearce Farm Education Assistant, Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre, Tenterden	Bringing new life onto your farm can be a daunting task but teaching about the life cycle as well as meat production is an invaluable experience for people of all ages. In this talk you will follow lambing, calving and AI breeding on our school farm, and I will talk about the positive effects of lambing and calving, as well as addressing any sticking points. The talk will be a mix of videos I have taken throughout the year and verbal interactions with lots of opportunities for questions.
2C	Pigs from start to finish	Tracey Bretherton Youth Co-ordinator, British Pig Association Junior Pig Club, Cambridge	Junior Pig Club are passionate about all things farming and believe in passing on decades of knowledge to the next generation. Our farm to fork, or Conservation projects help teach children about routine, responsibilities but more importantly how to care for animals. In previous projects teachers have also commented on how it has helped with behaviour and wellbeing. Pigs on a small school farm take up very little space and are one of the easiest animals to keep. We believe the project can enhance all aspects of school curriculum but also play a major part in teaching children about the food we eat.
3C	Fundraising for school farms	Donna Ashlee Assistant Principal, Brockhill Park Performing Arts College, Hythe	A pre and post Covid look at fundraising - how to raise funds, big and small, for your school farm, using your school farm, grants and other ideas. Many of the ideas have been tried and tested.