SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE®
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Royal Agricultural University

# Agricultural Leadership Development Programme 2027

**Week 1**
Sunday 17th January 2027
Friday 22nd January 2027

**Week 2**
Monday 1st February 2027
Friday 5th February 2027

**Week 3**
Monday 1st March 2027
Friday 5th March 2027



## Programme Overview.

**Applications Close on 7th September 2026.**

www.soc-ag.org aldp@soc-ag.org 01174 521 134

The Agricultural Leadership Development Programme develops high-impact leaders, equipping them to grow, transform their organisations, shape strategic thinking, and strengthen the credibility and long-term resilience of agriculture.



## Programme Aim.

To develop a cohort of professionally credible, strategically capable leaders equipped to operate effectively across business, policy, research and public discourse, while delivering tangible value to their organisations and the wider agricultural sector.

## Programme Outcomes.

The Agricultural Leadership Development Programme is designed to deliver outcomes across three interconnected levels:

- individual capability
- organisational value
- and sector impact

Completion of this course may be recognised for Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) towards the RAU's MSc in Business Management.

## 1. Professional Leadership Capability

Participants will develop the capability to:

- demonstrate enhanced professional judgement, self-awareness and leadership clarity
- apply strategic thinking to complex agricultural challenges
- communicate with confidence across media, policy and stakeholder environments
- operate effectively within UK and international agricultural systems
- lead with credibility beyond their immediate role

## 2. Organisational Value

Participating organisations benefit from individuals who are better equipped to:

- bring back strategic insight into policy, trade, research and sector direction
- strengthen organisational engagement with government, industry bodies and stakeholders
- enhance credibility through confident external representation
- contribute to innovation, resilience and forward planning
- apply learning through the 2027 Challenge, generating ideas aligned to business and sector priorities

## 3. Sector Leadership & Professional Standards

The programme supports:

- the development of a more professional, credible and confident leadership cohort
- stronger collaboration across industry, policy, research and the supply chain
- more effective engagement between the sector and government institutions
- wider recognition of agriculture as a skilled, professionally led sector

## 4. Strategic Insight & Sector Contribution

Through the 2027 Challenge: Research for Resilience, participants develop:

- nationally significant, evidence-informed research priorities
- proposals tested against economic, political and delivery realities
- practical insight into how leadership, policy and research intersect
- outputs with the potential to inform future sector strategy and investment decisions

## 5. Long-Term Impact

The Agricultural Leadership Development Programme is intended to contribute to:

- a pipeline of leaders capable of influencing sector resilience to 2035
- stronger alignment between organisational strategy, research priorities and policy direction
- improved sector confidence in public narrative and external engagement
- enhanced leadership capability embedded within participating organisations

## Overall Outcome

The Agricultural Leadership Development Programme aims to produce a cohort of professionally credible, strategically capable and well-connected leaders who:

- deliver measurable value within their organisations
- support sector-wide progress
- help position UK agriculture as a modern, professional and resilient industry

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# Programme Overview.

## Week 1
## Royal Agricultural University
## 17th - 22nd January 2027

Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS, UK

The opening week is hosted at the Royal Agricultural University (RAU), one of the UK's leading specialist institutions for agriculture and land-based education, providing an academically grounded and sector-connected environment for the programme.

This week focuses on leadership foundations, self-awareness and sector context. Participants will undertake psychometrics and structured leadership development, alongside sessions exploring personal leadership journeys from senior figures across agriculture and beyond.

The programme combines workshops, small group exercises and debate-led dinners, creating space to challenge assumptions, test perspectives and build cohort cohesion.

Engagement with industry through events such as LAMMA provides practical grounding, while dedicated media and communication sessions begin to develop participants' confidence in external representation.

## Week 2
## Brussels & Netherlands
## 1st - 5th February 2027

Week 2 provides an international and systems-level perspective, exploring how policy, trade, research and innovation interact to shape agriculture.

Participants will engage directly with European institutions, gaining insight into policy development and decision-making, before travelling to the Netherlands to explore world-leading examples of agricultural research, innovation and supply chain integration.

Visits to organisations such as Wageningen University and commercial R&D facilities will highlight how science, industry and investment align in practice. Sessions on trade, infrastructure and markets further broaden understanding of global agricultural systems.

## Week 3
## Westminster, London, UK
## 1st - 5th March 2027

The final week focuses on leadership in action, with an emphasis on policy engagement, public narrative and strategic influence.

Participants will gain insight into government, investment and policy processes, including engagement with speakers from Defra and exposure to the UK's political environment. Media training is deepened through a press-focused session, ensuring participants can communicate complex ideas with clarity and authority.

The week culminates in the 2027 Challenge panel, where groups present their proposals for The 2027 Challenge: Research for Resilience in a commissioning-style environment.

Alongside this, the programme closes with reflection, leadership commitment and alumni engagement, reinforcing long-term impact and network strength.

## The 2027 Challenge: Research for Resilience

Across the programme, participants will work in groups of five to develop a commissioning-ready research proposal addressing a critical barrier to long-term resilience in agriculture.

Each group must:

- Define a single, clearly scoped research question or programme
- Demonstrate why this issue matters now (national or international relevance)
- Set out what research is needed, by whom, and over what timeframe
- Explain how the outputs would be applied in practice (policy, industry, or farm-level impact)

The proposal should be framed as if submitted to a major research funder, government body, or industry organisation operating within a defined agricultural system (e.g. national, regional, or international).

The Challenge culminates in a commissioning-style panel, where each group delivers a 10–15 minute presentation followed by Q&A, pitching their proposal as if competing for real-world funding.




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# Programme Directors.



## Professor Nicola Cannon

Professor Nicola Cannon, Professor of Agriculture, Royal Agricultural University, where she is involved in teaching, research, and policy engagement in sustainable farming systems. She holds a BSc in Agriculture from the University of London, a PhD in Plant Sciences from the University of Reading, and a PGCAP in Higher Education from The Open University.

Her career spans research, consultancy and senior academic leadership. She has served as Interim Dean at Qingdao Agricultural University in China and Deputy Rector at the International Agriculture University in Uzbekistan.

Earlier roles included Research Officer in precision farming at Cranfield University, farm adviser and company director with East Anglia Food Link, and Technical Expert for the United Kingdom Accreditation Service.

Professor Cannon's research focuses on sustainable cropping systems, soil health, nutrient efficiency and regenerative agriculture. Recent projects include evaluating war damage to farmland in Ukraine, developing urine-based fertilizers, advancing UK-grown soya, and contributing to the Farm Soil Carbon Code.

A Practitioner of the Society of Agriculture, Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Societies and Nuffield Scholar, she is also a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and recipient of the Farmers Club Agricultural Educators Award. She has a wide range of external roles including the Expert Group for Organic Production (EGOP) for DEFRA, vice chair of Burford Farming Club and co-ordinator of Cotswold Arable Study Group. Previously she has co-ordinated and run HRH Prince of Wales Food and Farming Summer School and worked with celebrity chefs on a range of projects.

## Angus Chalmers, BSc(Hons) Agriculture FSAg

Since 2005 Angus has owned and run RDP, an integrated communications business specialising in Agri-business and Animal Health.

An accomplished communicator and leader, delivering strategic thinking with a deep understanding of the wider agricultural industry alongside a strong network of contacts.

Following a degree from Seale-Hayne and an early career with Grant Thornton LLP and ADAS, Angus has grown RDP into a well-respected communications agency delivering outcome led solutions to many of the largest corporate businesses within the sector.



A graduate of the Institute of Agricultural Management Leadership Course 2012, Company Secretary to the Oxford Farming Conference and advisor to The Henry Plumb Foundation, he is a passionate but pragmatic advocate of UK agriculture.

He is married with 3 grown up children and lives on a smallholding in Gloucestershire, which acts as a practical foil for the day job!


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# Delegates.

## Harriet Cherry

Harriet Cherry is Agricultural Relationship Manager at Wildfarmed, where she has helped grow the farmer community from 10 to 130 farms, supporting growers as they move towards regenerative practices through practical advice and premium contracts.

Alongside this, Harriet has spent nine years helping to build Groundswell, her family's regenerative agriculture festival, into a 10,000-person event for those passionate about the future of food and farming.

Previously, she served as Agricultural Researcher to the former Prince of Wales, an experience that gave her a deep and lasting appreciation for the communities that make up rural life in the UK.

Harriet lives in London with her husband and makes frequent trips back to the family farm in Hertfordshire.

## Charles Clack

Charles Clack is the Estate Manager for the Watlington Estate in West Norfolk, UK and founding director of Regency Rural Limited. Charles is responsible for the day-to-day operations, strategic/longer term planning and financial control of most areas of the estate including the farms, contract farming, residential and commercial property, shoot and maintenance teams; and reports directly to the owner. The estate also has a wildlife reserve.

Not from a farming background, Charles has had a variable route into farm and estate management and has both arable and livestock experience, including having previously kept his own suckler herd of pedigree cattle. Charles particularly enjoys the strategic, long-term planning of the estate and the overall business management aspects of the business.

Charles is optimistic about the future of farming in the UK and believes that opportunities will become available for those who are technically competent and willing to manage risk.

## Glenn Cuddy

Glenn Cuddy is currently serving his third year as Deputy President of the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU). As a member of the leadership team, he represents the interests of farmers across Northern Ireland, contributing to the development of policy, strategic direction and industry engagement on behalf of the organisation.

Glenn sits on the boards of the UFU, Countryside Services Ltd and a Pig Marketing Group. Alongside his industry responsibilities, he farms in partnership with his wife and two sons on their mixed farm in County Tyrone, where they run pigs, cattle and sheep.

A UFU member for nearly 35 years, Glenn has been actively involved in agricultural representation throughout his career. His leadership journey began within the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster, where he held a variety of roles that helped develop his leadership and advocacy skills.

He later progressed to positions including Group Chair, County Chair and Chair of the UFU Pigs Committee, gaining valuable experience representing farmers and contributing to policy discussions across a range of farming sectors. Through these roles, Glenn has developed a strong understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing agriculture and remains committed to supporting the interests of farmers and the wider industry.

## Filipe Corrêa Figueira

Filipe Corrêa Figueira is Chief of Staff at Iberocrops, an Iberian agricultural operator managing around 1,500 hectares of permanent crops, where he leads strategic and operational coordination, systems and controls.

He is also a farmer in his own right: since 2021 he has run the family business in Arraiolos, Alentejo - 40 hectares of irrigated pistachio and 55 hectares of holm-oak montado, under certified organic production.

He trained as an agronomist at the University of Lisbon and holds a master's in Corporate Finance and Financial Markets from Nova SBE, having previously worked in agricultural financial control and in private-equity-backed farm management.

He writes opinion columns on agriculture and public policy for the Portuguese press and coordinated the environment policy office of a youth of a parliamentary party.

Outside work he has climbed Aconcagua and Kilimanjaro, volunteers at the Setúbal food bank, and is a father of two daughters.


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## D-J Gent

D-J Gent is an Agriculture Manager working on Water Reform. He leads the Environment Agency's contribution to the management and delivery of the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). His team delivers the administration of grants for Landscape Recovery projects and supports the development of new incentives, including the Sustainable Farming Incentive and Countryside Stewardship.

He holds a master's degree in Environmental Science and a Diploma in Strategic Leadership and Management, and has 26 years' experience at the Environment Agency. His formative years were spent working in fisheries and managing chalk streams. He has also worked on the Water Company Price Review (PR19) and River Basin Management Plans.

D-J is a Practitioner (PSAg) member of the Society of Agriculture, a Chartered Environmentalist through the Institute of Fisheries Management, and a Chartered Manager with the Chartered Management Institute.

He is also an Area Duty Manager for incident response in Wessex.

Outside of his professional role, D-J and his wife farm Wiltshire Horn sheep on the edge of Salisbury Plain.

## George Heyworth

George Heyworth works within his family's mixed organic arable and livestock estate business, Bradwell Grove, in Oxfordshire. He studied Agribusiness at Newca

stle University and previously worked in management accountancy at Haysmac LLP before returning to the family business.

His day-to-day responsibilities span property management, forestry, environmental schemes and diversification, alongside the estate's organic arable and beef enterprises. He has a particular interest in combining profitable farming with nature recovery, including agroforestry, woodland management and opportunities to add value to farm produce.

Through the programme, he hopes to further develop his leadership skills, broaden his understanding of the agricultural industry and learn from the experiences and perspectives of fellow participants.



## Bradley Humber

Bradley Humber has strong family connections to agriculture, although he did not grow up on a family farm. After completing his A levels, he began working on a dairy farm without a clear career path in mind. He later secured an unconditional place at Harper Adams University, where an interest in crop production developed during his first year and went on to shape the direction of his studies.

After graduating, Bradley moved into an Assistant Farm Manager role, spending five years working hands-on across all aspects of combinable crop production while also completing his BASIS and FACTS qualifications.

In 2022, he joined Fisher German as an Agribusiness Consultant and has since progressed to Associate level. He now manages the day-to-day operation of estates and Contract Farming Agreements, with a particular focus on regenerative agriculture and the integration of environmental schemes.

## Matt Jeffrey

The Revd Matt Jeffrey is Chief Executive of The Arthur Rank Centre, a national charity supporting rural churches, farming communities and rural life. Passionate about the countryside and the people who sustain it, he works to strengthen relationships between church, farming and community, helping rural places to flourish amid changing social, economic and environmental challenges.

Drawing on experience in ministry, leadership and organisational development, Matt leads the charity's programmes, partnerships and communications, with a particular focus on rural mission, leadership development, and supporting churches in their engagement with farmers and agricultural communities. He is committed to building strong relationships across denominations, organisations and sectors, creating practical collaboration that benefits rural people.

Matt has also served as a Trustee of the Farming Community Network (FCN) for the past four years, reflecting his commitment to the wellbeing of farmers and farming families. A regular speaker, writer and facilitator, he combines strategic insight with a deep appreciation of rural life, championing the vital role of faith, community and agriculture in shaping the countryside's future.


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## Rob Minty

Robert Minty is the Forestry and Conservation Senior Manager at Elveden Farms Ltd, part of the Elveden Estate, spanning commercial forestry, conservation, agriculture, rural infrastructure and visitor-facing operations. He sits within the senior management team and reports to the Managing Director, with responsibility for delivering safe, compliant and commercially resilient operations across multiple business units.

His remit sits at the intersection of rural land management, environmental sustainability and commercial performance—overseeing certified forestry, leading practical delivery of lowland heathland and priority habitat management, and ensuring work aligns with long-term schemes and measurable outcomes. He also holds regulatory, governance and Health & Safety responsibilities, alongside budgeting, cost control and reporting to the Board/ Trustees.

Across the business there are 218 members of staff, and Robert works closely with colleagues to strengthen capability and accountability, improve operational efficiency, and ensure environmental delivery is matched by clear commercial discipline and long-term profitability.

## Ben Regan

Ben Regan is joining the course from Hugh Lowe Farms, a soft fruit business, and LJ Betts, a leafy salad business, both part of his family's farming group in Kent. The group also includes a propagation arm, Blaise Plants, and an arable enterprise, Regan Partnership. Together, the businesses produce around 6,000 tonnes of berries, 3,000 tonnes of babyleaf salad and more than 20 million heads of wholehead salad each season. He and his sister represent the fifth generation of the family involved in the business.

His day-to-day responsibilities include board-level reporting, procurement, logistics strategy, packhouse operations and green energy projects. However, he only rejoined the business in March. Prior to this, he spent 12 years as a shipbroker in the dry cargo sector, most recently in a senior chartering role managing the transportation of around 3 million tonnes of cargo annually, principally Southern African minerals, Middle Eastern fertiliser and South American grains. This included significant volumes of agricultural products imported into Rotterdam.

## Ana Reynolds

Ana Reynolds is Managing Director of Oakbank. She and her team work with estates and farms across the UK to design and deliver habitat creation and natural-capital-focused projects, integrating nature-based solutions with productive systems. Drawing on a background that spans law, data analysis, international marketing, research and hands-on experience from a mixed family farm in Northamptonshire, Ana brings both strategic insight and practical understanding to land management.



## Emma Watson

Catherine McCosker is Head of Emma Watson is the owner and Managing Director of Gasson Associates, a business providing full farm management services and consultancy advice to a diverse client base across the UK. She joined Gasson Associates as a graduate after leaving university in 1998 and has progressed through the company over the years to lead the business. Today, the company employs 19 people and offers bookkeeping services alongside management and consultancy expertise. Working with a varied client base throughout the UK, she helps manage and develop farming businesses, combining practical agricultural knowledge with strategic and financial management expertise. She prides herself on providing sound, practical farming advice alongside guidance on areas such as grant schemes, investment opportunities, cashflow management and succession planning. Equally comfortable discussing spray nozzle selection and livestock worming regimes as she is financial strategy and business planning, she brings a well-rounded and pragmatic approach to agricultural consultancy.

In addition to her professional role, she farms on the outskirts of Banbury in partnership with her husband, with a focus on suckler cows and agroforestry.


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## Guy Webb

Guy Webb is Principal Asset Manager, Farmland, at the Church Commissioners for England, one of the UK's largest institutional landowners. He is responsible for an 82,000-acre let farmland portfolio across 40 estates, forming part of a £11.6 billion endowment fund. His role focuses on delivering sustainable income and long-term capital growth through strategic asset management, acquisitions, financial modelling, portfolio underwriting, and the development of renewable energy opportunities.

Prior to joining the Church Commissioners six years ago, Guy spent six years with Savills, working across Scotland and Kent. During this time, he gained extensive experience in estate management, valuation, agency, farm and estate sales, renewable energy projects, natural capital initiatives, and institutional client management. His responsibilities included managing The Crown Estate's Southeast holdings.

Since joining the Church Commissioners, Guy has progressed from Senior Asset Manager to Principal Asset Manager, reflecting his expertise in institutional land management and strategic portfolio stewardship. He looks forward to sharing insights from managing large-scale rural assets, while learning from fellow participants and contributing to collaborative discussions on the future of the rural sector.




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# Programme Details Week ONE

## Sunday 17th January 2027

**17:00**
Arrival & Check-in

**18:00**
Welcome and icebreakers

**18:45**
Drinks Reception

**19:15**
Welcome Dinner

After-dinner speaker – Professor David Main, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Royal Agricultural University

**Accommodation**
Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS, UK



## Monday 18th January 2027

**09:00**
Morning Briefing

**09:30**
Psychometrics and Self Awareness with Julie Bricknall, Inspired Mindset

This interactive workshop uses Johari's Window, personalised DISC reports and resilience activities to help participants understand their behavioural styles, strengths and preferences, improve working relationships, and identify opportunities to adapt their approach.

**12:30**
Lunch

**13:30**
My Leadership Journey with guest speaker Dame Fiona Reynolds, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire

**14:30**
Leadership Workshop & Small Group Exercises

This interactive session encourages participants to explore their understanding of leadership, share different perspectives, and consider a range of leadership styles and approaches.

**16:30**
How innovation occurs, how it drives change across businesses and industries, and the role UKRI plays in enabling this with guest speaker Guy Woolley, Chief Operating Officer UK RI

**17:30**
Close

**19:00**
Dinner sponsored by MorePeople – Debate with Guy Moreton, Founder & Chairman MorePeople and Ryan Bainborough: UK Agriculture Must Rethink What Leadership Looks Like

**Accommodation**
Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS, UK

## Tuesday 19th January 2027

**09:00**
Morning Briefing

**09:30**
Leadership Workshop with Professor David Main, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Royal Agricultural University. (TBC)

**11:30**
My Leadership Journey with guest speaker David Webster, Chief Executive, Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)

**12:00**
Lunch

**13:30**
My Leadership Journey with guest speaker Gavin Lane, President, Country Land and Business Association

**14:30**
Leadership Workshop & Small Group Exercises with Professor David Main, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Royal Agricultural University. (TBC)

**17:00**
Briefing on LAMMA

**17:30**
Close

**19:00**
Sponsored Dinner - Debate with Graham Redman, Editor of the Nix Farm Management Pocketbook, The Andersons Centre.

## Wednesday 20th January 2027

**08:30**
Morning Briefing

**09:00**
Leave for LAMMA

**10:30**
Visit to LAMMA the UK's premier farm machinery show, connecting farmers across a range of sectors with pioneering companies offering cutting-edge agricultural machinery, technology and equipment.

**16.30**
Leave LAMMA, Return to the Royal Agricultural University

**19:00**
Dinner sponsored by HCR Legal LLP – Debate with Rory Hutchings, Partner, Head of Agriculture and Estates Team, HCR Legal LLP: Will AI replace my job?

**Accommodation**
Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS, UK


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# Programme Details Week ONE

## Thursday 21st January 2027

**09:00**
Morning briefing & Professional Photography Session

**09:30**
Interactive workshop on building and protecting brand value – yours, your companies, your sector and that of UK agriculture with Angus Chalmers

**12:30**
Lunch

**13:30**
Leadership across diverse organisations and influencing national policy with guest speaker Professor David Knowles FREng, Chief Executive, Henry Royce Institute

**14:30**
Interactive Leadership Workshop – Building the story, inside the newsroom, and what of AI with Angus Chalmers

**16:30**
Roundtable discussion on The Challenge 2027: Research for Resilience

**17:00**
Close

**19:00**
Dinner

**Accommodation**
Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS, UK

## Friday 22nd January 2027

**09:00**
Morning Briefing

**09:30**
Leadership Workshop with Professor Nicola Cannon.

**11:30**
Reflective Leadership: Learning, Adjourning, Growing with guest speaker Louise Manning, PhD, FIFST, FRSB, ARAgS, NSch, Director, LJM Associates Ltd

**12:30**
Lunch

**13:30**
Reflection and work on the 2027 Challenge: Research for Resiliencee

**14:30**
Briefing for Brussels

**15:00**
Close

**Accommodation**
Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6JS, UK




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# Programme Details Week TWO

## Monday 1st February 2027

**08:30**
Morning briefing

**10:00**
Visit and presentation: British Agriculture Bureau with guest speaker Robin Manning, Director, representing UK farming interests in Brussels and specialising in EU–UK agricultural policy and trade

**12:30**
Lunch

**14:00**
Visit to European Parliament

**15:30**
My Leadership Journey with guest speaker from CEJA

**16:30**
My Leadership Journey with guest speaker Dr Louise Sutherland, Director, Ceres Agri-tech

**19:00**
Dinner

**Accommodation**
Courtyard by Marriott Brussels EU, Brussels

## Tuesday 2nd February 2027

**08:30**
Depart for the Netherlands

**10:30**
Visit to Wageningen University – Innovation in Practice.

Participants will visit the Netherlands Plant Eco-phenotyping Centre (NPEC), a state-of-the-art facility using climate chambers, high-tech greenhouses, sensors, cameras and drones to measure how plants respond to different environmental conditions.

The tour will demonstrate how advanced phenotyping helps researchers and businesses identify promising crop varieties more quickly, supporting sustainable agriculture, climate resilience and future food security.

NPEC Tour

**12:30**
Lunch

**13:30**
To be confirmed

**14:30**
An introduction from the Director and/or Industry Chair explaining how ZLTO supports farmers in the southern half of the Netherlands.

An overview of their work, including the 16 EU Horizon collaborative European applied R&D agri-tech projects they are involved in, covering areas such as data, climate, environment, and healthy foods.

A closer look at two projects to demonstrate the work being undertaken and key findings. Suggested areas include soils and climate change adaptation, both of which are particularly topical in the UK.

Finish with an opportunity to meet some of their leading local farmers for group and/or one-to-one networking and discussion.

**16:30**
Work on The 2027 Challenge: Research for Resilience

**17:00**
Close

**19:00**
Dinner

**Accommodation**
Hotel Asteria, Maasheseweg 80a, 5804 AD Venray, The Netherlands

## Wednesday 3rd February 2027

**08:30**
Morning Briefing

**09:00**
Welcome and Safety Briefing

**09:15**
Corporate Overview: Who We Are with Mark Cox

**10:00**
Sustainability at the Core: Feed the Future

**10:45**
Research Platforms Bringing Sustainability to Life

**11:30**
My Leadership Journey with guest speaker Mark Cox

**12:00**
Lunch

**13:00**
R&D Facilities Guided Tour

**15:30**
Wrap-up and Key Takeaways

**17:30**
Arrive back at Hotel Asteria

**19:00**
Dinner with Invited Guests
(To be confirmed)

**Accommodation**
Hotel Asteria, Maasheseweg 80a, 5804 AD Venray, The Netherlands




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# Programme Details Week TWO

## Thursday 4th February 2027

**08:30**
Depart

**10:00**
Port of Rotterdam Visit – Infrastructure & Food Security the Port of Rotterdam plays a crucial role as a gateway for agricultural bulk commodities such as grains and oilseeds. These products are imported from global production regions, stored and often processed within the port, and then efficiently distributed throughout Europe via an extensive inland logistics network.

**13:00**
Lunch

**13:45**
Welcome to Cefetra. An introduction to Cefetra, its business and its role within the agricultural supply chain. We would also welcome some insight into the organisation's approach to leadership and the leadership styles adopted across the business.

**14:45**
Rotterdam and the Netherlands as a Global Commodity Trading Hub: Demystifying the Role and Business Model of Trading Firms with guest speaker Dr Wouter Jacobs, Executive Director, Erasmus Commodity & Trade Centre (ECTC)

**16:15**
Close

**19:00**
Free evening

**Accommodation**
Double Tree by Hilton Rotterdam

## Friday 5th February 2027

**09:00–11:00**
Strategic Integration and discussion

**11:00**
Analaysis of different leadership styles - how does this link to EU targets?

**12:30**
Lunch

**13:30**
Close

**Accommodation**
DoubleTree by Hilton, Rotterdam Centre, Leuvehaven 80, 3011 EA Rotterdam, The Netherlands






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# Programme Details Week THREE

## Monday 1st March 2027

**09:00**
Morning briefing Influence in Westminster

**09:30**
Leadership in Natural Capital – Agricultural Investing for Impact with guest speaker Carl Atkin-House, Managing Director, Head of Natural Capital Strategy, Climate Asset Management.

**11:00**
How to Inform Policy: Insights from Inside and Outside the Civil Service with guest speaker Harley Stoddart, Head of Climate Mitigation Science at Defra.

**12:30**
Lunch

**13:30**
My Leadership Journey with guest speaker Emily Norton, Chair Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board

**14:30**
Depart for U.S. Embassy

**15:00**
Visit to U.S. Embassy, London and presentation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture with Steve Knight, Senior Advisor & Agricultural Specialist and Alexander Baych, Agricultural Attache.

**15:15**
Walking tour of the building

**15:45**
Roundtable discussion

**16:30**
Depart

**19:00**
Dinner Sponsored by Buccleuch - Debate with Adrian Dolby, Head of Agriculture: Farming Roadmap 2050 - Growing England's Future, Does the Farming Roadmap set the correct course?

**Accommodation**
The Farmers Club, 3 Whitehall Court, St James's, London, SW1A 2EL, United Kingdom

## Tuesday 2nd March 2027

**09:00**
Morning Briefing

**09:30**
Media Day

**12:00**
Lunch

**13:00**
Boat trip to the Tower of London

**14:00**
My Leadership Journey with guest speaker Brigadier Anna Kimber, Deputy Governor at HM Tower of London

**15:00**
My Leadership Journey with guest speaker Andrew Meredith, Editor of the Farmers Weekly

**18:00**
Return to the Farmers Club

**19:00**
Free evening

**Accommodation**
The Farmers Club, 3 Whitehall Court, St James's, London, SW1A 2EL, United Kingdom

## Wednesday 3rd March 2027

**09:00**
Morning briefing

**10:00**
Houses of Parliament & House of Lords Tour

**12:15**
Drinks Reception & Lunch

**15:15**
Return to the Farmers Club – Tea and Coffee

**15:30**
My Leadership Journey with guest speaker George Eustice, Managing Director of Penbroath and former secretary of state for DEFRA

**16:30**
My Leadership Journey with guest speaker Karen Mercer

**17:30**
Close

**19:00**
Dinner

After Dinner speaker – "Manifesto for change" with guest speaker Mark Suthern

**Accommodation**
The Farmers Club, 3 Whitehall Court, St James's, London, SW1A 2EL, United Kingdom

## Thursday 4th March 2027

**09:00**
Final Preparation Session: The 2027 Challenge: Research for Resilience

**12:30**
Lunch

**13:30**
The 2027 Challenge: Research for Resilience Presentations

**14:30**
Panel Feedback & Discussion with Mark Suthern, Nicola Appleton, Kate Russell, Corrina Urquhart, Richard Wilbourn and Ben Hadingham

**15:30**
Cohort Reflection

**16:30**
Close

**19:00**
The Agricultural Leadership Alumni Dinner & John Alliston Memorial Lecture, One Great George Street

**Accommodation**
The Farmers Club, 3 Whitehall Court, St James's, London, SW1A 2EL, United Kingdom

## Friday 5th March 2027

**08:30**
My Leadership Breakfast with guest speaker Didi Wheeler, Chief Executive and Club Secretary, the Farmers Club

**10:00**
My Leadership Journey with guest speaker Dr Johnny Wake DL FRASE ARAgS, Managing Partner of Courteenhall Estate in South Northamptonshire

**11:00**
Leadership Declarations

**12:00**
Programme Reflections

**13:00**
Close

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www.soc-ag.org events@soc-ag.org 01174 521 134

# About the **Society of Agriculture.**

SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE®
Lead.Connect.Grow.

**The Society of Agriculture is the UK's independent professional body for agricultural excellence.**

We bring together expertise from across farming, consultancy, rural business and the environmental sector to support professional standards, strengthen leadership and encourage collaboration across the industry.

## Who is the Society of Agriculture for?

The Society of Agriculture is for everyone working across the agricultural industry — from farming and food production to advisory, research, education, land management, agri-business and rural enterprise.

## Why join Society of Agriculture?

If you are committed to developing your agricultural career, business or professional network, membership of the Society of Agriculture gives you:

- Recognition as part of the UK's independent body for agricultural professionalism and leadership
- Access to a collaborative professional community across the sector
- Career-long development opportunities, mentoring and thought leadership
- Independent strategic insight and guidance
- Networking through national and regional events with trusted experts and peers
- A platform to help shape the future of agriculture through shared expertise and innovation

## Why work with a Society of Agriculture member?

Choosing a Society of Agriculture member means working with a trusted professional who:

- Operates independently, with expertise grounded in evidence-based insight
- Is committed to continuous professional development and high standards
- Connects you with the wider networks and knowledge shaping UK agriculture
- Provides clear, impartial guidance to help you make strategic decisions with confidence
- Upholds professional values of integrity, collaboration and innovation

## Our Mission.

We serve as the independent professional foundation for agricultural excellence, connecting trusted expertise across the sector, championing fresh thinking, leadership and collaboration, and helping to secure a strong, resilient future for UK agriculture.

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