

# Can Livestock Contribute to UK Food System Resilience?

Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022

## Participants



### **Mr Jonty Armitage**

Jonathan leads Strutt & Parker's national team of farming consultants who provide technical farming and management services to a wide range of clients. He has a degree in Agriculture from University of Reading and is a qualified Chartered Surveyor and Professional Fellow of the Institute of Agricultural Management. He re-joined Strutt & Parker in 2021 having spent 14 years running Strutt & Parker's farming consultancy in the East Midlands and nine years, after that, leading the Agribusiness team at Bidwells.

Jonathan is a highly experienced farming, rural business and property consultant and manager and has been advising private individuals, family trusts and investment funds on farming and rural property businesses matters for over 30 years. He has some unique experience of leading strategic change and has acquired a considerable breadth of knowledge in these roles which is key for our clients entering a significant period of uncertainty for Agricultural businesses.



### **Mr Wil Armitage**

Wil is married with two great adult children.

He is an Organic Dairy Farmer milking 900 cows in three herds over 3000 acres of Organic land, growing Grass, Clovers, Lucerne, Oats, Peas, Fodder Beet, Diverse Whole Crops, Cover crops and Herbal Leys. Lots of Cows, Plants and Wildlife.

Farming in Partnerships and Contract Farming Agreements.

Nuffield Scholar 2013 ' The Vital Role Of Soil For Food Integrity.

RABDF Gold Cup Winner, Highest Yielding Herd of Cows, Farming Partnership of the Year, RABDF Council member.

Speaker at; Oxford Farming Conference, Bio Farm Ireland, Australian Dairy Conference, You Don't Know What you Don't Know.



### **Mr David Barton**

David is 55 and married with two children. He is a Farmer on a Cotswold family mixed farm third generation.

Suckler beef breeder/finisher supplying premium retailer. Farming in a sustainable regenerative way. Arable and environmental management.

Diversification:

Holiday cottage.

Beef lamb and pork local retail.

Other work interests:

Chair of the National Farmers Union (NFU) Southwest Livestock board

Vice Chair of the National NFU Livestock board.

Member of the TB partnership (DEFRA)

Previous AHDB Strategic Beef and Lamb Farm.



### **Dr Chris Brown**

Chris worked in Government before joining the Meat and Livestock Commission as Beef Strategy Manager.

He moved into retail as an Agriculture Technologist with Marks and Spencer. After joining ASDA as Agriculture Development Manager, with a remit to develop ASDA's strategies and activities across all sectors of agriculture, Chris's role was extended to Head of Ethical and Sustainable Sourcing.

Chris was appointed to his present role in 2019 covering supply chain sustainability including natural capitals, greenhouse gas emissions, seafood production, commodity sourcing and agricultural development. He is a member of the BBSRC Bioscience for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Strategy Advisory Panel and a Commissioner for the Yorkshire and Humberside Climate Commission.



### **Ms Helen Browning**

Helen has a very mixed organic farm in Wiltshire, with dairy, beef, pigs, cereals and is now also experimenting with [agroforestry](#).

Her products are sold through the Helen Browning's Organic brand in retailers, big and small, as well as through her mini hotel/dining pub on the farm.

Her book '[PIG; tales from an organic farm](#)', written with her partner Tim Finney, tells more about the trials and tribulations of their farming and food life.

She has been Chief Executive of the Soil Association since 2011, after a long involvement with the charity in a variety of exec and non-exec roles. Helen is a Commissioner for the Food Farming and Countryside Commission and sits on the BBC's Rural Affairs Advisory Committee. Up until recently, Helen was a trustee of the RSPB, a member of the Food Ethics Council and sat on the National Food Strategy Advisory Panel.

Prior to rejoining the Soil Association, Helen was Director of External Affairs for the National Trust.

She has had a number of roles in agri-politics over the years, including the Government's Policy Commission on the Future of Farming and Food ('the Curry Commission') and chaired the England Animal Health and Welfare Implementation Group. Helen was awarded an OBE in 1998 for her services to organic farming.



### **Mr Justin Coleman**

Justin is responsible for the Agri Business operations of Moy Park including laying and rearing of grandparent, parent and broilers, hatcheries and our feedmills.

Since joining the business in 2014 as Agriculture Development/Improvement Manager, Justin led the innovation and continuous improvement amongst Moy Park's agriculture supply base by working with their Agri team, customers and farming community to deliver a sustainable, secure and best in class performance. In 2015 Justin became General Manager Agriculture Development, then in 2016 Director of Business Ballymena with leadership of the Ballymena Business Unit Improvement Team consisting of Commercial, Agriculture, Operations, Supply Chain and Finance. Justin has extensive international experience working with farmers supplying retail customers prior to joining Moy Park, as General Manager-Produce, East Africa with Finlay's Horticulture Kenya Ltd.



### **Mr Julian Cottee**

Julian has worked for ten years in sustainable food systems as a social entrepreneur, academic researcher and consultant. He is currently a Senior Consultant at 3Keel LLP, a BCorp sustainability consultancy firm, where he advises private sector, government and NGO clients. His work on the future of protein and livestock systems spans alternative feed futures, questions concerning the 'right size' of the UK livestock herd, agroecological systems, and corporate innovation and investment in alternative proteins. He previously worked at the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute and Said Business School.



### **Mr Tom Curtis**

Tom is a founding Partner of 3Keel, a sustainability risk management and innovation firm, based in Oxford. 3Keel is a certified B-Corp, committed to making the business case for a future that works for people, environment, and economy. 3Keel is ranked top of the Financial Times' list of 'Leading Management Consultants for Sustainability'. Tom's professional background is in forestry and mixed estate management, and he maintains an interest in practical land management through involvement on the organising committee for Food and Farming Consultations at St George's House, and through work with the Soil Association Land Trust, where he is Chair of Trustees.



### **Professor Bob Doherty**

Bob is both Dean of the School for Business and Society at the University of York and Principal Investigator of a five-year programme called 'FixOurFood'- transformations to Regenerative Food Systems from the Transforming Food Systems UK Strategic Priorities Fund, which will run from 2021-2026 <https://fixourfood.org/>. Bob was also Principal Investigator of 'IKnowFood' from 2016-2019, which was a Global Food Security Programme from the BBSRC on food systems resilience. He is also co-investigator on the STFC Food Network. Bob was seconded in April 2019-March 2022 into the UK Government Department, DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) as a policy fellow to work on Food Systems policy development.

Before moving into academia in 2003, Bob spent 14 years working in the agrifood industry. First, eight years working in Animal Health for Coopers Pitman Moore, then five years as Head of Sales and Marketing at Divine Chocolate Ltd. Bob's Grandma and Grandad on his mothers' side were dairy farmers in Slaidburn, North of Clitheroe in Lancashire where Bob spent most of his summers.



### **Mr David Edwards**

David is Director of Food Strategy at WWF-UK and sits on WWF's Global Food Leadership Team. Prior to joining WWF in 2018, David served for 10 years as Assistant Director of HRH The Prince of Wales' International Sustainability Unit, having worked previously both as a development consultant in Africa and as a research executive with KANTAR-TNS advising major food and drinks companies. He is a Trustee of [Food Foundation](#) and [SUSTAIN](#).



### **Mr Simon Fairlie**

Simon is co-editor of *The Land Magazine*, and author of *Meat: a Benign Extravagance* (Permanent Publications, Chelsea Green, 2010). He runs a micro dairy with Jersey cows and pigs at Monkton Wyld Court, a community based near Lyme Regis in Dorset. He is also an importer and distributor of Austrian scythes. He has recently published a memoir entitled *Going to Seed* (Chelsea Green, 2022).



### **Mr David Gardner**

David was a professional farm manager with the Co-operative Farms where he was involved in the management of dairy, cereal, vegetable and fruit farms. He spent six years as the CEO of the RASE where he set up Innovation for Agriculture, a consortium of sixteen Agricultural Societies working together to bring new innovation to the farming community. He is currently a Director at Waldersey Farms on the fens, the Chairman of the Farm Carbon Toolkit, a Trustee of Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust and a Trustee of the Frank Parkinson Agricultural Trust. He also helps to shape and organise the George's House consultations. His interests are broad across all sectors of agriculture, renewable energy and the environment.



### **Mr Mike Gooding**

Through his 30-year career Mike has worked in agricultural finance and accountancy, commercial farming, farm and veterinary R&D, and worked with some of the World's leading retail and food brands, and provided leadership in developing sustainability programs.

RCMG is an independent consultancy focused on all aspects of food production, farming, the natural environment, and wider society, working with businesses and individuals to create and execute strategies that deliver meaningful benefit for the future of humanity.

He sees challenging ourselves as individuals and business leaders to do better and adopt change as a positive strategy, as the only approach to our sustainability challenges.



### **Mrs Shelagh Hancock**

Shelagh has more than 30 years' experience in the food and agricultural supply sectors. Prior to joining First Milk as CEO in 2017 she held several senior executive positions in UK dairy food companies including at the farmer-owned co-operative Milk Link and Glanbia Foods and in a family-owned business, Medina Dairy. She originally trained as an animal nutritionist and worked for more than 10 years in the agricultural supply sector.



### **Ms Vicki Hird**

Vicki is an award-winning expert, author, strategist and senior manager who has been working on environment, food and farming issues for over 30 years. As Head of Sustainable Farming at Sustain, Vicki manages the farm team, policy, research, and related advocacy and provides comment and guidance on these issues. She has run many NGO campaigns on food and farming and published books and reports, with her recent book - 'Rebugging the Planet', published in 2021 - a homage to insects and other invertebrates, why they are so essential to our ecosystem and what we can do to help them.



### **Mr Alastair Johnston**

Alastair has over 25 years of experience working and advising companies within the red meat, grazing livestock and dairy supply chains throughout the UK. Alastair has worked alongside policy makers in London and Brussels on several pieces of legislation relating to red meat and livestock. Currently working across several UK based supply chains looking at the carbon footprint efficiencies and sustainability of dairy and red meat products and developing specific targeted programmes to ensure the supply of protein in the form of red meat and dairy with the focus on achieving Net Zero.



### **Professor Michael Lee**

Michael is an expert in sustainable livestock systems, defining their role in securing global food security at the same time as protecting environmental health (Livestock's role in human and planetary health). He graduated with first class honors in Animal Science from University of Wales, Aberystwyth in 1997 and gained a PhD in ruminant nutrition (protein and energy metabolism) from the University of Aberdeen in 2001 followed by Post graduate certificate for teaching in higher education from Aberystwyth University in 2012. He worked for the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research from 2001-2008 (with his first post-doc on ruminal lipid metabolism), before the merger with Aberystwyth University where he stayed as a Principle Scientist and Senior Lecturer in animal nutrition and rumen biochemistry until moving to the University of Bristol, School of Veterinary Science (Bristol Veterinary School) in 2013 as a Reader in Sustainable Livestock Systems. In 2015 he took a joint appointment between Rothamsted Research and the University of Bristol as Head of Site at North Wyke and was promoted to Chair in Sustainable Livestock Systems later that same year. He has published over 250 research articles and papers including recent articles in Nature and Science. He was awarded the Sir John Hammond Memorial Prize in 2015 for services to Animal Science. In August 2016, he was elected as Vice President of the European Federation of Animal Science Livestock Farming Systems Commission and in August 2019 became President of the commission. In April 2018 he was elected as Vice President of the British Society of Animal Science and will also take on the Presidency in April 2021. Professor Lee was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Harper Adams University in Shropshire, UK in November 2020.



### **Ms Siobhan McShane**

Siobhan was an Intern at St George's House from 2018-2019. She has returned to act as Rapporteur for a number of consultations since then. She currently works as Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Officer and Higher Education Officer for Lewisham Virtual School.



### **Mr Duncan Nelles**

Duncan farms in the Coquet Valley in a five-member family Partnership.

The farm consists of 530 hectares of good and marginal land. The farm has been organic since 2005. The main farming enterprises are sheep and suckler cows. There is also Christmas turkeys. They also work with organic arable farms to graze high legume leys as part of their rotation.

Tourism is part of the business as well with B&B and holiday cottages on the farm.

The river Coquet is a SSSI and the farm is involved in several environmental schemes and is looking at potential options for tree planting within the farm.



### **Ms Sue Pritchard**

Sue is the Chief Executive of the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission. Sue leads the organisation in its mission to bring people together to act on the climate, nature and health crises, through fairer and more sustainable food systems, and a just transition for rural communities and the countryside. Sue's background is in combined research and practice in leadership and organisation development for systems change, working with leaders across public, private and not for profit organisations, especially on complex partnership projects. She is a Trustee of CoFarm Foundation and is an independent Governor at Royal Agricultural University. Living on an organic farm in Wales, Sue and her family raise livestock and farm for conservation.



### **Mr Adam Quinney**

Adam has been involved in the livestock industry for many years. In that time while running his farm at home, a suckler beef cattle herd and a sheep flock with his wife Sarah, he has been NFU vice president and chair of the Beef and Lamb sector at AHDB. He presently is involved in several charities helping the next generation of farmers make their way.



### **Mr Matt Ryan**

Matt is Nestlé UK & Ireland's Regeneration Lead. Nestlé is a major buyer of agricultural commodities in the UK. Around 2% of the UK's wheat yield and 1% of its fresh milk is bought by Nestlé every year to produce a wide range of products from confectionery to breakfast cereal. Matt is leading efforts to transition Nestlé's supply of ingredients to regenerative agriculture, which seeks to work with nature to produce food in a way that systematically improves the quality of the environment and reduces reliance on synthetic inputs. Grazing livestock play a central role in truly regenerative farming systems and when managed appropriately can deliver overwhelmingly positive outcomes for ecosystems. Matt's background is in water resources management and prior to working at Nestlé has acted as a consultant for clients in the mining, development, energy and natural resources sectors.



### **Mr Ian Smith**

North Yorkshire born, Ian grew up on a small family combinable crop, potato, sugar beet & beef farm. Attended Newcastle University gaining a degree in Agriculture.

Travelled for a year, then was fortunate to gain a Trainee Farm Manager role with what was then CWS Agriculture (Coop Farms). As a young enthusiastic agriculturalist CWS was a superb introduction into broad acre farming in Essex, dairy, sheep, potatoes in North Yorkshire & large dairy and arable in Gloucester. He then left to work for a large privately owned Estate in north Essex focusing on root crops. In Essex life change a lot, getting married and having two of his three children.

He had a short spell working on a College Farm in Gloucester, this job refocused his desire to work within a diverse commercial mixed Estate, which prompted him to apply for his current role in north Bedfordshire as Managing Director of Bedfordia Farms Ltd.

As MD he is responsible for the business's profitability and development. The farming business is part of the Bedfordia Group which operates in two main areas Farming and Property. He reports directly to the Chairman and owner, in conjunction with the Farms Board.



The Estate totals 2,400 ha's, with a combination of rented, contracted and owned land. The Farming business operates in four profit centres of Property, Arable, Pigs (operating business sold mid October 2022) and Grain Services.

Over the Estate there are a variety of commercial property interests that include solar pv, wind turbine, light industrial, office lets, industrial lets (AD), storage lets, equine letting, fishing lets, grazing and shooting. Outside of work, he has three children, two at University, one doing GCSE's. He enjoys running with the occasional triathlon and watching rugby.



### **Mr Mark Southern**

Mark previously worked for Barclays Plc for 35 years and was Managing Director & National Head of Agriculture and now has a portfolio of roles:-

- Chair and Trustee of Farming Community Network (FCN) – a national charity
- Non-Executive member - Rural Payments Agency
- Non-Executive Director - Environment Agency
- Chair and Advisor - FixOurFood - (University of York)
- Trustee - Institute of Agricultural Management
- Advisor - UK Food Valley Greater Lincolnshire LEP
- Lay-Canon - The Chapter at Lincoln Cathedral
- Co-Chair – Green Finance Institute – Finance for Farming

Mark is an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers, Fellow of IAGRM, Associate of Royal Agricultural Societies and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts



### **Mr Callum Weir**

Callum leads WWF-UK's work on agriculture, which has involved developing research, policy solutions and influencing strategies on topics such as nature-positive approaches to decarbonising agriculture, sustainable livestock feed and the emerging agri-carbon market.

Before joining WWF, Callum managed a mixed organic farm in South Cambridgeshire, which focused heavily on engaging the public on agriculture and promoting rare breed livestock. Prior to that, Callum worked as an agricultural commodity trader.

Callum studied Agriculture at Nottingham University, and has recently completed a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics at SOAS.



### **Mr Ian Wheal**

Ian, Founder and CEO Breedr. Ian is a technology entrepreneur with a background in management consulting, technology start-ups and international business development and geographic expansion. He was previously Global Strategy Director Head of Product & Global Sales at Adstream a technology company with 570 employees, setting up Adstream's USA operations and reaching \$20m of revenue after two years. Ian was founding CTO at Mush, a mum's social networking app which exceeded 200,000 users after two years and holds an MBA from London Business School and a BEng in computer science. Ian is also a born and bred livestock farmer from South Australia giving him a unique insight into the opportunity for technology-based solutions in the agriculture and livestock sector.



### **Professor John Wibberley**

John has been married to Jane since 1969; two sons, six grandchildren. Own business since 1989. Professor of Comparative Agriculture & Rural Extension, visiting at University of Reading (School of Agriculture, Policy & Development), and Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester where he was until 1989 Head of Agriculture. Works UK & overseas; much interest in Farmers' Groups for Agricultural Progress. Nuffield study was on family-worked dairy farms (7 countries). John serves on Boards, Trusts, RASE Council, was a Secretary of State appointee to Exmoor National Park (2008-2016); chairs FCN (Farming Community Network) in Devon.



### **Mr Richard Williamson**

1988 to 2014 – Velcourt Limited Farms Director and Shareholder. Executive responsibility for c30,000 acres of land with enterprises including cereals, dairy, beef and sheep. Estate Management activities and Commercial Director responsibility.

2014 to 2021 – Managing Director, Beeswax Dyson Farming. AUM £600m, 35,000 acres, Farming, Property, Energy. T/O £40m

2021 to Today – CEO, Fruitcast. Agtech Start up company. Managing Director, Williamson Orchard Limited. Strategic Changemaker for Land Based Business.

## After-Dinner Speaker



### **Lord Deben**

The Rt. Hon John Gummer, Lord Deben, set up and now runs Sancroft, a Corporate Responsibility consultancy working with blue-chip companies around the world on environmental, social and ethical issues. Lord Deben is Chairman of the Committee on Climate Change and Valpak Limited. He was the longest serving Secretary of State for the Environment the UK has ever had (1993-97). His sixteen years of top-level ministerial experience also include Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, Minister for London, Employment Minister and Paymaster General in HM Treasury. He has consistently championed an identity between environmental concerns and business sense.

## Guest Observers



### **Julia Buzan**

Julia is a PhD student in Psychology and Behavioural Science at the London School of Economics, an Analysing and Challenging Inequalities Scholar at LSE's International Inequalities Institute, and a Cumberland Lodge Fellow. Her research explores how contexts of poverty and inequality shape decision-making. Specifically, her PhD investigates how seemingly 'irrational' behaviour may be adaptive within contexts of poverty, using longitudinal data and experimental methods to better understand the relationships between previous experiences of adversity, current decision-making, and life trajectories.

Prior to joining the LSE, she worked as a Senior Research Associate with Innovations for Poverty Action and the World Bank's Gender Innovation Lab in Côte D'Ivoire. She also previously served as a Consulting Director at Vera Solutions where her team supported the design and implementation of data systems for social impact organizations in India and across Southern Africa. Julia holds an MSc in Psychology of Economic Life from LSE, and a BA in Political Science from Yale University.



## **John Coggin**

John is a part-time PhD student in the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University and a Fellow at Cumberland Lodge.

Alongside his doctoral studies, John serves as a senior advisor for the NC Rural Center, a rural economic development charity in the United States, where he consults on fund development, strategic planning, and organisational effectiveness initiatives. He joined the Rural Center team in 2016 as the founding director of its policy advocacy programme.

Prior to the Rural Center, John worked in philanthropy and community relations for PNC, one of the largest main street banks in the United States, and in civic engagement and programme development for the Institute for Emerging Issues, a university-based policy think tank.

John received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Communication and Interdisciplinary Studies from North Carolina State University and a Master of Theological Studies in Religion, Ethics, and Politics from Harvard Divinity School. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Harvard Alumni Association and on the Parochial Church Council for St John's Carrington Church and Community Centre in Nottingham.