

# THE 2018 OXFORD FARMING CONFERENCE

3-5 JANUARY 2018 #OFC18



The Oxford Farming Conference is a three-day event that runs early in the new year within the heart of the city's beautiful university colleges.

The conference makes the city its venue, giving our delegates privileged access to iconic and historic buildings, such as the Oxford Union, Christ Church and Keble College. This year, for the first time, the conference will be split between the University's Examination School and the majestic Sheldonian Theatre.



*“The word ‘conference’ does an injustice to the OFC. It is an experience like no other. As delegates, we see the secret, ancient places within Oxford University’s buildings and experience the best networking, bar none, in the British farming calendar.”*

Matthew Naylor, Farmer, Lincolnshire

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## EXCELLENT REASONS

TO ATTEND THE OXFORD FARMING CONFERENCE:

- 1) HEAR** inspiring and challenging speakers from across the world who have positively embraced change
- 2) AN OPPORTUNITY** to question the Secretary of State for Defra who will be the opening speaker at OFC 2018
- 3) HEAR** from digital pioneers about the future of technology, digital and the habits and opportunities accompanying the millennial generation
- 4) ATTEND** one of two dinners in the grandeur of Christ Church and Keble, arguably the most beautiful of the Oxford University colleges
- 5) JOIN** the unique experience that is the OFC Debate in the famous Oxford Union
- 6) SUMPTUOUS LUNCHES** including a networking event on Friday 5 January featuring street food, showcasing the best of British produce
- 7) THE GREAT BEER DEBATE**, join this “light and hearty” event held in conjunction with the *Oxford Real Farming Conference*
- 8) UNRIVALED NETWORKING** with innovative farmers, industry leaders, press, politicians, retailers, environmentalists, scientists and NGOs
- 9) THE OFC COMEDY NIGHT**, new for 2018
- 10) IMMERSE YOURSELF** in the famous Oxford architecture, its first-class pubs, restaurants and shops

# THEME FOR 2018 – Embracing Change



“*Founded in 1823 the Oxford Union has hosted world leaders in almost every field, including US president Reagan, Sir Winston Churchill and the Dalai Lama; the OFC is privileged to be allowed to use this space for our own, annual debate.*”

Caroline Millar, Chairman OFC 2018

**To grow and prosper post-Brexit, UK agriculture needs to question its approach and its thinking. Core to this is adopting a mindset to embrace and deal with change.**

Farmers have always adopted new approaches to meet society's needs. Many demonstrate huge resilience in adversity.

For 2018's conference, we have a line-up of visionary and inspiring speakers from around the world, many who have tackled personal or professional challenges, and often both.

We will also focus on changes made possible by embracing digital, taking a more proactive approach to farming with the environment at its heart and the approach adopted by leaders of change.

**TO BOOK TICKETS GO TO [www.ofc.org.uk](http://www.ofc.org.uk)**

**TWITTER @oxfordfarming #OFC18**

## SPEAKERS INCLUDE



**Youth food culture pioneer Eve Turow Paul** is a journalist, author of *A Taste of Generation Yum* and an advisor to

Fortune 500 companies, start-ups and independent entrepreneurs on how to connect with and better serve Millennials. She interviews people of the Millennial and Gen Z generations to understand their anxieties, hopes and passions, and explores how they soothe themselves and fulfill many needs through food culture, where young people overwhelmingly spend their discretionary incomes. Her insights will be invaluable for our sector's understanding of food and the opportunities therein.



**Secretary of State for Defra Michael Gove** was born in Edinburgh and brought up in Aberdeen, and has been a journalist since

he left university. In 2016, he helped found Change Britain and served as

Vice Chair of the Select Committee on Exiting the European Union. Relatively new to his post and with a rich knowledge of the EU, his paper is likely to encourage sparky debate.



**Scientist Professor Chris Elliott** is Faculty Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Queens University, Belfast. He is Director of the Institute for

Global Food Security and Chair of Food Safety and Microbiology. Since 1986 Chris has been active in research related to veterinary drug residue analysis and specialised in using immunochemical based screening technologies. The research has widened to include a wider range of toxic chemicals in foods and agricultural commodities such as mycotoxins, phycotoxins and plant toxins. Chris led the UK government's independent review of food systems following the 2013 horsemeat scandal.



## SPEAKERS INCLUDE



**Botanist, author and broadcaster, James Wong** is a Kew-trained botanist, science writer and broadcaster based in

London. Graduating with a Master of Science degree in Ethnobotany in 2006, he has pursued his key research interests of underutilised crop species, ethnopharmacology and traditional food systems through field work in rural Ecuador, Java and China. He is the author of the internationally best-selling books *Grow Your Own Drugs* and *Homegrown Revolution*. He became an RHS Ambassador in 2014. He also writes extensively for the RHS and the scientific press.



**Kenny Ewan is the founder and CEO of We Farm**, a free peer-to-peer service that enables farmers to share information

via SMS, without the internet and without having to leave their farm. Farmers can ask questions on farming and receive crowd-sourced answers from other farmers around the world in minutes. We Farm helps lift farmers out of poverty in developing countries. He set up We Farm to improve livelihoods of farmers, connect millions of farmers across the globe and facilitate peer to peer learning. We Farm was named one of the Top 10 Most Innovative Companies in Africa in 2017.



**Italian politician, Paulo de Castro** is a former Italian Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies. In 2009 he was

elected to the European Parliament, and currently serves as vice-chairman to the parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. Paulo was born and brought up on his family farm near Apulia, Italy. He has also served as professor of Agricultural Economics at the Veterinary Medicine University of Bologna. Paulo will give a European perspective to UK agriculture and trade post Brexit, direct from the heart of the European Parliament.

## OTHER SESSIONS

### Diversified farmer, Duncan

**McConchie** is a rural entrepreneur from Dumfries & Galloway. Duncan and his wife Vicki run the award-winning business Laggan Outdoor. Four generations of McConchies live and work at Laggan Farm and neighbouring Mossyard Farm. The family has tackled succession head on, with parents Kerr and Caroline handing over the business and splitting the 1300 acres into three in 2015 to allow Duncan and his two brothers Murray and John to invest in and grow their own respective areas of the business. Murray continues to farm, while Duncan and John concentrate on their tourism businesses including a current multi-million pound investment in a bespoke wedding venue opening in December 2017. Duncan will talk about what embracing a radical change in the business structure has done for the overall economics of the businesses as well as maintaining positive family relations.

**Norfolk farmer, Tim Papworth.** Tim was critically injured in an accident on the farm in 2010, falling from height in a potato shed. As a teenager, Tim was injured in a farm machinery accident and was off school for a year. The family's farming enterprise provides contract arable services as well as producing potatoes, peas, dwarf beans, cereals, sugar beet, beef and lamb. They own butchery shops and are heavily involved in their local community and organise school visits on their farm and get involved with LEAF's Open Farm Sunday. Tim will talk about facing up to change in the family business, and his changing outlook on life following extreme adverse change imposed upon him by both accidents.



### THE BIRDS & BEES SESSION

A fiery session on 'environmental goods'. Two of four speakers to join this debate are **Tony Juniper CBE**, a British campaigner, writer, sustainability advisor and environmentalist who served as Executive Director of Friends of the Earth and **Mike Green**, Environmental Stewardship Manager for BASF Crop Protection, who was previously the National Specialist Arable Farmland Conservation at Natural England and a consultant with the research and advisory firm, ADAS.



## BOOK TICKETS

To book tickets go to [www.ofc.org.uk](http://www.ofc.org.uk)



THE OXFORD FARMING CONFERENCE  
inform • challenge • inspire