



Call for applications for Oxford Farming Conference Directors

Are you interested in the future of farming?

The Oxford Farming Conference is the premier international conference on the future of agriculture.

Taking place early in January every year, it sets the agenda for the year ahead for an entire industry. Its speakers are of the highest calibre, including leaders from the agricultural industry worldwide, the heads of international food retail businesses, international politicians, successful young farmers, and scientists at the forefront of their field. Its audience brings a wealth of innovative ideas and expertise to the debates.

The Conference has extended its reach from the main event in January to include a summer Arable Conference at the Cereals Event in June, the OFC/RASE Practice with Science Award, annual market research and online streaming of the conference.

The Conference is designed and run by the Oxford Farming Conference Council of nine members, and its expert secretariat, as a team. The Council Members are drawn from a range of agricultural and food industry areas. Members serve for three years and are replaced in rotation.

We are now inviting expressions of interest for joining the Council for the 2016-2018 Conferences; applicants **MUST** have attended the conference in the past for their application to be considered.

Those selected as members will be invited to attend one Council meetings in November and December 2014 (prior to formal appointment) and will then be expected to attend approximately eight Council meetings each year (some are teleconference meetings) and the Oxford Farming Conference itself for their three year term in office.

New directors will be expected to join the 2015 Conference at their own expense; subsequent Conference attendance will be paid for by the OFC.

Council members are expected to make a commitment to delivering the conference and it is important that prospective applicants appreciate the time

commitment being made. The positions are wholly honorary but reasonable expenses are reimbursed. Successful candidates will be expected to attend the 2015 Conference (6-8 January 2015). Full details of the expenses policy can be obtained from the secretariat by emailing info@ofc.org.uk

The Council, as a team, needs a breadth of experience across the public, private, voluntary and non-governmental sectors in the agri-food and land management areas. Every year we will select applicants based on their skills, contacts and also their complement to the Directors already on Council.

We are particularly interested in individuals who can demonstrate one or more of the following:

- A track record of successful innovation in agriculture or horticulture
- Experience of developing agricultural policies and strategy
- Highly effective communication and media skills
- Broad and effective network of contacts across the public, private and academic sectors. EC, world and food chain contacts would be of particular use
- Creative ideas and concepts for the future development of the OFC

More information about the Conference is available at www.ofc.org.uk and more details about the Council can be obtained from the Secretary on 0845 6520 945 or email info@ofc.org.uk. The secretary will also supply contact details for other Directors should you wish to talk through the role in more detail.

If you are interested in being considered for appointment to the Council please provide evidence of any of the above areas of expertise on the attached form and attach a copy of your CV. You are not expected to have experience in all areas! **CLOSING DATE: 14 June 2014.**

The OFC believes creating an inclusive and diverse culture supports the attraction of talented people, improves effectiveness and enhances the success of OFC. While criteria such as gender or ethnicity are important, we also value diversity of experience, skills, knowledge and expertise, as can be seen by the existing members of our council listed on our website. Our Board brings together people with different experience and backgrounds, and sometimes divergent opinions, but with shared goals.



Oxford Farming Conference Council Application Form 2016-18

Email (preferably) or post your application to: OFC Secretariat, Killington Hall, Killington, Carnforth, Lancashire LA6 2HA. Email: info@ofc.org.uk

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Mobile:

Email:

Current job title:

In 150 words or less please give details of your expertise and achievements under each relevant heading. **Please attach your CV (on no more than two sides of A4) and a recent photograph**



1. In which years have you attended the Oxford Farming Conference?

2. What are the three main reasons you attend the OFC?

3. Which three things would you like to change at the OFC and why?

a. Describe your record of successful innovation in agriculture/horticulture

b. Describe your recent experience of developing agricultural strategy over the past five years

c. Please provide details of your communication and PR skills

d. Please give evidence of your broad and effective networks of contacts that you can draw on as speakers, including any links you have with overseas organisations or influential individuals.

e. Please provide creative ideas and concepts for the future development of the OFC

f. Please set out why your skills and experience are particularly valuable to the Oxford Farming Conference 2016-18