

## Emerging Leaders 2019

Janelle Anderson

*Scottish Enterprise Rural Leadership*



Janelle is from a farming family based in Aberdeenshire. Their farming enterprise includes breeding cattle, a small flock of sheep and forestry. Having completed her Bachelor of Technology Degree in Agriculture in 2000, she currently works as Regional Events Manager for the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs based at Thainstone Agricultural Centre and also manages the SAYFC Agri and Rural Affairs Group.

Janelle is a director of the Royal Northern Agricultural Society, having been the society President in 2017. She is also past chairman of the North East Farm Management Association (2017/18) and currently secretary of the North East Aberdeen Angus Breeders Club. As well as having a long association with SAYFC as a member, from club to national level, she is also a trustee of John Fotheringham Memorial Trust and Willie Davidson 75<sup>th</sup> Fund which promotes health and safety amongst young farmers.

Since being selected to represent Scotland at the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth Conference in Calgary in 2006, Janelle has kept a close link to the RASC, attending conferences in New Zealand and Zambia on behalf of the Royal Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland, who hosted the conference in Scotland in 2010 where Janelle was their Next Generation Leader.

Janelle is honoured to be attending the Oxford Farming Conference on behalf of the Scottish Enterprise Rural Leaders and is looking forward to meeting the other delegates.

James Beary



**Twitter:** @FarmerBeary

38-year-old James (Jim) is an upland tenant farmer from the Peak District, producing prime lambs on contract for Tesco. James also grazing cattle in higher tier stewardship and rears Holstein dairy heifers on his upland farm, trying to adopt regenerative farming techniques and balance food production with nature.

James also runs a winter gritting enterprise, which helped him build capital initially, resulting in the tenancy of his farm.

James' studied at Harper Adams university and is a former Farmers Weekly columnist. He is a member of the NFU Sheep Farming Board and winner of the 2014 British Farming New Entrant award.

## Emerging Leaders 2019

### Clive Bailye

**Picture to follow**

**Twitter:** @TwbFarms

Clive is managing partner of TWB Farms, which is a large and heavily diversified combinable crop farm and contract farming business with eight years of zero-till/cover crop/conservation agriculture experience.

Since graduating from Harper Adams University, Clive has managed the farm business through significant change and expansion, from the 250-acre mixed dairy farm, to a large successful and diversified arable business it has become today.

In 2016 Clive was awarded the title of FCCT Soil farmer of the Year and alongside TWB Farms he is also the founder/owner/director of AgriWebMedia Ltd (The Farming Forum), Store Monitor Ltd (crop sensor tech company) and Farm Marketplace Ltd (online farm ecommerce).

Other hobbies and interests of Clive's include clay pigeon shooting (national level), motor racing (international level) and flying (PPL(H)). He is married with two children, William (7) and Henry (5).

He feels he has a lot to offer the future direction of UK agriculture and wants to be a driver of change rather than a passenger.

### David Bell

*Scottish Enterprise Rural Leader*



**Twitter:** @Dave\_Bell`\_

David has a progressive mixed farming and contact business, which combines a focus on performance, with a demand for quality. He carefully integrates his farming practices, balancing livestock and crop husbandry with protection and enrichment of the local environment in order to ensure a long-term sustainable future.

David is a primary producer of high-quality food and drink in the East of Fife – providing homebred, grass-fed lamb and Aberdeen Angus beef to Marks and Spencer, Aldi and McDonald's through his business' successful partnership with Scotbeef Ltd.

They supply The Edrington Group with spring barley through their partner Simpson Malts and it is used to create whisky brands such as Highland Park, The Macallan and The Famous Grouse. The winter barley is transported to Tennent's brewery in Glasgow to create the famous lager.

David's business also has a strong association with Branston, with the majority of their potato crop going onto the shelves in Tesco stores, but David and his family are equally proud to supply the local corner shop in their area.

## Emerging Leaders 2019

Becci Berry

**Picture to follow**

**Twitter:** @Becciberry

Established in 1950 by the Berry family as a mixed farm, the business now sits at over 1000 acres with a dairy herd of 180 cows milked on an all year-round system. The farm is part tenanted from national trust and the partnership own approx. 300 acres of arable land.

In 2010 Becci's late husband was diagnosed with cancer and she decided to take on the farm and continue to run it. Her passion lies within the dairy industry with that the business has improved many aspects of health yield and fertility in this time. The family have cross bred for almost 15 years with the aim of producing the right cow for their system.

Over the past few years Becci has been an active participant in many discussion groups both dairy and arable. Last year she was Chairwoman of the White Horse Discussion Group and Becci has hosted several study and knowledge exchange days and values them immensely.

Farming and agriculture are at an exciting turning point in the UK and Becci is keen to be more involved in encouraging others to keep moving forward and share the help and encouragement she has received over the past seven years on her steep learning curve.

Richard Black

*Scottish Enterprise Rural Leader*

**Picture to follow**

**Twitter:** @Lindores

Richard is a mixed livestock and arable farmer from Braeside of Lindores farm in North East Fife, Scotland. The 650-acre farm currently produces store cattle from a mixed Aberdeen Angus and Simmental cross suckler herd, finished lamb from its flock of Mule/Texel ewes and produces malting barley, recently contracted to the local distillery.

After graduating from the Scottish Agricultural College in Aberdeen, Richard took time out to travel round the world before returning back to the family farm. He is now married with two young children.

In recent years after reviewing the current assets and focusing on how to maximise them, the business branched out and diversified into luxury holiday accommodation. This compliments the onsite Lindores Equestrian training centre that runs from March to October and then the commercial shoots that run from October to February.

Richard completed the Rural Leadership Programme in 2016/17 and is keen to grow the mixed farm business in the coming years.

In his spare time, Richard enjoys a bit of shooting and skiing in the winter months.

## Emerging Leaders 2019

Tom Clarke

**Picture to follow**

**Twitter:** @Tom\_Clarke

Tom is a 'reformed' Management Consultant and an accidental fourth generation farmer with a degree in Economics & Politics and an MBA.

Tom worked in journalism, public policymaking and management consultancy before returning to take on the family farm when his father suddenly died of cancer in 2009.

The farming enterprise is 790-acres of fenland around Prickwillow, near Ely in Cambridgeshire. It is all arable, with milling and biscuit wheat taking up around half of the area each year. Sugar beet is the next biggest crop, and they also grow beet on nearby land under annual cropping licences. The business has a joint venture with another neighbour growing potatoes, mostly bagged for chipping.

Tom has been co-opted onto the NFU Sugar Board, with the existing members of the Board selecting him for a one-year term, following his participation in the Sugar Industry Programme scheme. Once Tom's one-year co-opted term is up, he intends to stand for election for a three year term to continue the work and hopefully take on a bigger role within NFU Sugar. He has also been keen to represent the industry more widely, for example, taking part in Countryfile Live on behalf of UK growers.

On a more local level Tom supports Prickwillow Fenland Drainage Museum with their activities and in October every year they jointly host the Prickwillow Ploughing Festival. The event gets 2,500-3,500 paying visitors through the gates over the weekend from far and wide and have raised more than £25k each for Cancer Research UK and the Prickwillow Engine Trust.

He also hosts school visits to the farm in conjunction with Ely Museum's Education officer, and most recently had a day with around two dozen Home-Schooled Children and their parents who learned all about farm machinery and operations, farm wildlife and how the fens are drained.

Mark Edgecomb

**Picture to follow**

Mark was born in South Devon, not raised on a farm, although his grandfather was a farmer. He completed a degree in Agriculture with Crop Management at Harper Adams in 2003 and his working career so far has involved positions within Velcourt based in Lincolnshire, Kent and Dorset. In 2014 Mark attended the Worshipful Company of Farmers Leadership course at the RAC.

He began his current role in July 2007 as Farm Manager at Woodsford Farms. The business is approximately 4,694-acres of predominantly arable, spread over 26 miles and six blocks of land. Cropping includes wheat, oilseed rape, winter and spring barley, maize (forage and combined), naked oats and wholecrop rye.

Mark is responsible for the day to day management of the business which can include budgeting, reporting, administration, agronomy, procurement, buying, selling, negotiation amongst other things. Whilst the business focuses on the growing of crops, mineral extraction, housing development, river management, property management, stewardship of SSSI for butterflies and general PR work also take up a great deal of Mark's time.

Outside of work Mark enjoys sport, walking, and spending time with his wife and three daughters. Over the last four years. Mark and his wife have built up a breeding flock of 250.

## Emerging Leaders 2019

Colin Ferguson

*Scottish Enterprise Rural Leadership*



Twitter: @sw\_farmer

Colin Ferguson is a young dairy farmer from Galloway in the south west of Scotland. A partner in his family business with his parents and brother, they operate 800-acres across two units managing 410 dairy cattle supplying Arla Foods at Lockerbie. The business has expanded in the last 18 months to acquire the second dairy unit which is currently undergoing modernisation and investment. Technology is something Colin is passionate about and the recent development allows technology to play a bigger part in animal husbandry and business management with constant recording and monitoring.

Colin has a BSc in Agricultural Science from SRUC, and firmly believe in stepping away from the farm to look at the opportunities available both locally and internationally. This is something he has experienced first-hand travelling to New Zealand with SAYFC on a two-week study trip focused on agricultural practices, sustainable business after support and the use of innovation and technology.

He is actively involved in farm education, knowledge transfer and supporting the industry to have a voice. He currently sits on the NFU Scotland Next generation group as their regional representative, was a panellist at the Oxford Farming Conference debate at the Royal Highland Show in 2018, will be a speaker at the Women in Agriculture Conference in November 2018 and is due to host his first on farm visit in November welcoming the 2018 Agri Academy from Wales, supported by Farming Connect.

Colin is a Scottish Enterprise Rural Leader as well as an SAYFC Cultivating Leader, a past District Chairman, Secretary and West Regional Agricultural and Rural Affairs Representative for SAYFC and currently sits as a director for Wigtown Agricultural Society.

Colin is also a part time DJ and has played for the last 3 years to several thousand people at the Royal Highland Show.

Jock Gibson

*Scottish Enterprise Rural Leadership*



Twitter: @edinvalefarm  
@macbeths

Jock is 1 1/4 generation farmer, inheriting the family farm after the death of his parents three years ago. He is an engineer by trade but for the last 10 years has been running the MacBeth's butchery business which mainly supplies hotels and restaurants, but also households up and down the country. The main supplier to the butchery is the family farm.

Edinvale Farm is a 100-acre hill farm and Jock rents an additional 190-acre on a seasonal basis for grazing, silage and barley. Jock along with his wife Fiona and three children, run 60 Highland and Shorthorn suckler cows and finish all the young stock for the butchers shop. Jock is aiming to be calving 80 cows on the enterprise and is particularly interested in improving soil health and rotational grazing practices.

Jock is actively looking at further commercial opportunities both in terms of entering into contract farming arrangements and also diversification strategies he can look at on farm.

As a new entrant into farming, Jock has been fortunate to develop personally and professionally as a result of sitting on the Quality Meat Scotland board and being part of the Scottish Enterprise Rural Leadership Programme (SERLP). Jock feels he is now in a position where he would like to give back to the industry.

Particularly interested in succession planning within the industry, he feels that there are a lot of enterprises that have not got proper plans in place. Jock has experience of being at the receiving end of not having a proper succession plan in place and the difficulties that arise.

## Emerging Leaders 2019

### Sarah Hawthorne



**Twitter:** @hawthorne231

Sarah Hawthorne is a farmer's wife and daughter who was raised in east Norfolk on a predominately arable farm with potatoes being the main crop. As soon as she could drive, Sarah was able to spend her school holidays working at Greenvale AP as a potato sampler alongside the firm's agronomists.

Having attended local schools, Sarah went on to further education at Harper Adams University where she graduated with a degree in Agricultural Business Management and Marketing. Her dissertation project looked at ways that schools could incorporate agriculture into the national curriculum. Sarah passes her BASIS exam in 2016 and also holds BASIS Seed Sellers and Foundation BASIS qualifications.

She is currently employed as the Marketing and Sales Manager at DSV UK (an international plant breeding company). She has been working for DSV UK for nine years and her job on a daily basis involves speaking to growers and delivering information on traits and genetics for different products within their portfolio.

Prior to working at DSV, Sarah spent her work placement year whilst at university at Anglia Farmers where she was part of the arable inputs team.

When Sarah is not at work she loves to spend time with her husband Tom on his family farm in Nottinghamshire.

Sarah is very passionate about encouraging women in agriculture and love to attend Women in Agriculture events and like to help other young ladies who wish to establish successful careers in farming.

### Harry Heath



**Twitter:** @HarryJamesHeath

Harry Heath is a Pig / Arable producer based near Newport in Shropshire. From an early age it obvious to all that Harry's passion lay in farming. He achieved a 2:1 when studying a degree in Farm Business Management at Newcastle University in 2009. Since then, he manages his families farm which comprises of 200ha of combinable crops and a breeding and finishing pig enterprise selling 14,000 pig per year.

In 2012/13 Harry completed the Professional Managers Development Scheme. Within farming, Harry is fiercely passionate about improving the production efficiency and welfare of livestock both on his own farm and on others. With this in mind, Harry Co-Founded Farm Vision in 2014, an agricultural technology business focused on developing cutting-edge sensors predominantly in the field of precision livestock farming.

From the new Agriculture Bill to Brexit to Climate Change, Harry looks forward to both the opportunities and challenges in producing food in a very changing agronomic landscape.

Outside of farming Harry enjoys playing Tennis, Shooting and spending time with friends and family.

## Emerging Leaders 2019

### David Hill

**Picture to follow**

**Twitter:** @thehillscountry

David is involved with the management of three rural estates having had a background working for a large international firm and latterly the CLA as an agricultural adviser. He graduated from Harper Adams with a degree in Land Management and is a Chartered Surveyor.

Two of these estates are small residential/sporting estates of around 300-400-acres each on the River Kennet with large houses and renowned fishery businesses.

The bulk of David's time is spent looking after the Eling Estate on behalf of the Gerald Palmer Eling Trust Company. This is just under 5,000-acres just north of Newbury comprising four let farms of approximately 1,000-acres each. The land is predominantly arable although one of the farms is an organic dairy farm, milking around 400-450 cows. Otherwise on the Estate is an in-hand forestry enterprise extending to 1,100-acres of mixed woodland all of which is open to the public as well as 110 let cottages.

David became involved with the Eling Estate in February and has now taken over fully from the previous agents with the task of driving the Estate forward and managing it through what will undoubtedly be a difficult number of years for an agricultural estate.

David is married, a father of two young girls who want for nothing more than to ride ponies. His interests outside of agriculture are cycling and photography.

During his time with the CLA David became deeply engaged with agricultural policy sitting as a stakeholder both with DEFRA and in Brussels which he feels has given him a great insight into the direction and thinking of policy makers, which will undoubtedly help to steer the Estate through the coming changes in policy and will help engage with their agricultural tenants in a proactive and productive manner.

### Richard Hinchliffe

*BASF Real Result Circle*



**Twitter:** @dikesmarshfarm

Richard Hinchliffe is an arable farmer in Yorkshire. He joined the family farming partnership after completing his NDA in Arable Mechanisation Riseholm. He then went on to complete his education by studying part time for his Higher National certificate in Arable Management at Bishop Burton College. Richard went on to pass his BASIS and FACTS qualification and carries out the agronomy on the farm.

The farms soils range from Blacktoft series silts through to some very heavy Foggathorpe series (Magnesium) clay. The land that Richard farms is only around 2-3m above sea level. The entire farm is under drained and the water is pumped into the River Don that runs alongside the farm and is embanked for flood protection. Water management is a very important aspect of farming on the low laying, flat, fertile soils that Richard farms so he was pleased to be elected onto the Black Drain Drainage Board in 2014. For the 2019 harvest Richard is growing wheat, oilseed rape, winter faba beans, spring barley and linseed.

Richard is a recent Nuffield Farming Scholar and he travelled to the United States, Australia and Argentina to further study herbicide resistance.

## Emerging Leaders 2019

Chris Leslie

*BASF Real Result Circle & Scottish Enterprise Rural Leader*



**Twitter:** @Deerdaft

Chris farms 380-acre in hand with agronomy and spraying on a further 1,730-acre. The enterprise grows cereals, pulses oil seeds and carrots as well as oats which are sent to Quaker for porridge oats.

Chris is the Director of Scottish Borders Produce growing Vining Peas throughout the Lothians and is BASIS and FACTS qualified.

He has a young and exciting young family emerging around him as well as having had to develop a sustainable farming business in a very difficult agricultural climate.

Chris believes the Emerging Leaders will consolidate his existence as a rural leader and help to further develop him as a person by expanding his mindset to be more inclusive of others within the industry and how they can better integrate with each other.

Teresa Meadows

**Picture to follow**

**Twitter:** @CerealEA

Teresa works as the Knowledge Exchange Manager for AHDB in the Arable team covering the East Anglian region. Through this role she work with farmers and growers to increase their productivity, yields and performance through business, technical and personal development. In order to achieve this, Teresa facilitates and manages the Monitor Farm programme, the Strategic Farm for the East, Arable Business Groups for farmers to benchmark their costs and a number of local events including the agronomy series, popular tyres and traction workshops and joint events with organisations such as NFU and CSF.

Having grown up on a sheep and beef farm and worked in the agriculture sector in a farm advisory capacity since that time, Teresa has a strong interest in farming, the arable sector, water quality and the environment. She has enjoyed developing her expertise in the technical areas of arable farming, from slug control to milling wheat production and has more recently been fascinated by what we can learn from social science, particularly in relation to the agricultural sector, through an involvement in a number of projects and studies.

Teresa is actively involved in FCN and the local ploughing match committee outside of work, runs a volunteering charity in the cloud forests of Ecuador and is Tower Captain of a local bell ringing band.

Teresa believes being a part of the Emerging Leaders Programme is going to be a fantastic opportunity to discuss and share challenges and opportunities on the horizon with peers across the sectors and consider the next steps under the leadership of the Conference.

## Emerging Leaders 2019

Jon McCosh

*Scottish Enterprise Rural Leader*



For a person who now describes himself as a farmer, Jon has had an unusual route into the industry.

Jon invested five years working as a chartered surveyor and land agent in Carlisle; then returned to Scotland in 2010 to set up his own Rural Surveying and Land Agency business. Since then, Jon has become more involved in the management of the family estate set up a property development business with his wife Eilidh in 2011 and finally took over the full time management of the estate in April 2015.

Jon and his family live near Biggar in south Lanarkshire and in his spare time enjoys shooting, cricket, beekeeping and time out with his two children and wife.

Joe Stanley



**Twitter:** @JoeWStanley

Joe farms in partnership with his parents on a third-generation mixed arable and beef farm in the Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire. He originally studied History at Durham University before working outside of agriculture for several years.

Since returning to the farm in 2009, he has completed a graduate Diploma in Agriculture at the RAU Cirencester, completed the NFU and Openfield's Cereal Development Programme, trained as an NFU 'Farming Ambassador' and is currently Ashby NFU Vice-Chair.

In 2017 Joe began writing as an 'Opinion' columnist in Farmers Weekly and is also a regular contributor to numerous other trade publications.

The home farm consists of 550-acre of combinable crops and 200-acre of pasture, which supports a pedigree herd of beef suckler Longhorns. Major diversifications are 'Blackbrook Genetics', exporting Longhorn bloodlines globally and the 'Blackbrook Gallery' of 19<sup>th</sup> century farm animal portraiture.

Aylett Roan

*Scottish Enterprise Rural Leadership*



**Twitter:** @AylettRoan

Aylett Roan works alongside her husband Stuart and family on their dairy, beef & sheep farm near Dalbeattie in Dumfries & Galloway. Since 2011 their cows are milked by two Lely robots.

In 2015 the family diversified and created Roan's Dairy. It was set up to sell the milk they produce on the farm direct to the consumer. On the back of this Aylett and her sister in law created The Udder Bar, a pop-up Milkshake bar that attends festivals, agricultural shows, weddings, fairs, etc. throughout the year.

She found her passion for farming at an early age which led her to study Agriculture and, after many years of working in different aspects of agriculture she found herself office bound at SFQC (now Acoura). Aylett was a manager there for several different schemes.

As her passion is agriculture she looks for ways how we all can move forward and work within the industry to help educate others and to give a better understanding of farming as a whole. Because of this belief, Aylett sits on the Women in Agriculture for Scotland committee. She is committed to encouraging, supporting and inspiring women and men to have a life in agriculture. She believes you can do anything you want to do and has a can-do attitude.

Aylett and Stuart have two sons, Fergus and Fraser. Their youngest has a keen interest in farming and they hope to leave a worthwhile legacy for them both to continue if they choose to do so. Aylett is Scottish Enterprise Rural Leader, completing the programme in 2018.

## Emerging Leaders 2019

### Jimmy Stobart

**Picture to follow**

**Twitter:** @farmerandhisdog

Jimmy farms in the Eden valley, Cumbria in partnership with his Thomas and they are both self-confessed grass obsessed.

The brothers have been practicing rotational grazing for the last five years, and are constantly trying to improve their system and are always keen to try new ideas. Jimmy along with brother Thomas currently run 900 ewes and 200 head of cattle, 150 of which are wagyu that are contract reared.

Alongside the farm Jimmy also runs a shearing contracting business that shears 35,000 sheep throughout Cumbria, this has also given him opportunity to travel and shear in other country's including New Zealand, France, Norway and Scotland.

The brothers are keen to diversify the business and recently installed a fishing lake on farm with plans to open a campsite to run alongside it next year.

Away from the farm Jimmy's interests include playing football, squash, shooting and classic cars.

### Willie Thomson

*Scottish Enterprise Rural Leader*



**Twitter:** @wjtweatrig

Willie Thomson is an arable farmer from east Lothian, farming a mix of crops on owned, rented and contract farmed land. All the machinery on Willie's farm is share with another local farming family.

Willie is the Chairman of the management group of the QMS Lothian's Monitor Farm Programme and is heavily involved in NFUS holding the past role of branch Chairman and currently holding the role on the local regional brad as Vice-Chairman of the NFUS Combinable Crops Committee.

Willie is married with two young daughters and completed the Scottish Enterprise Rural Leadership Programme in 2010/11.

## Emerging Leaders 2019

Stephen Young

*Scottish Enterprise Rural Leader*



**Twitter:** @saos\_stephen

Stephen is a partner in the family dairy farm near Dunblane, milking 170 autumn calving cross bred cows on a grazing system as part of a joint venture with a new entrant couple who are keen to build equity and their own business. This collaboration allows Stephen to work as a Project Manager for SAOS, who are a development organisation owned by Scotland's agricultural co-operatives and play a role in developing co-operation and collaboration within farming, food and drink.

Stephen graduated in 2001 from Aberdeen University with a degree in Rural Business Management and worked for a diversified farm tourism business, Cluny Clays, before joining Farmer co-op Borders Machinery Ring as assistant manager and moving to SAOS in 2013. In 2018 he graduated with a master's degree in Management of Co-operatives from St Marys University, Nova Scotia.

In his current role Stephen works with co-op staff and directors to improve performance as well as encouraging new collaborative groups. Also facilitating two monitor farms and benchmarking groups where farmers work together to share knowledge and technical skills to improve profitability.

Married to Isla with a son (Fergus, 2) hobbies include playing sport (badly!) and is an Edinburgh rugby season ticket holder.

For more information on the OFC Emerging Leaders programme please contact [info@ofc.org.uk](mailto:info@ofc.org.uk) or to arrange an interview with any of the 2019 delegates please contact [marketing@ofc.org.uk](mailto:marketing@ofc.org.uk)

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