

YORKSHIRE

Food, Farming & Rural Network

Appointment of new Chair

We are commencing the process of seeking a new Chairperson for the [Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network](#). A description of the Chair's role is detailed below.

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter before Friday 13th June 2025.

Applications should be addressed to:

Holly Jones
Network Coordinator
Yorkshire Agricultural Society
Regional Agricultural Centre
Great Yorkshire Showground
Harrogate
HG2 8NZ
Email: hollyj@yas.co.uk Tel: 01423 546 251

Role Description

This document outlines the key roles and responsibilities for the Chairperson (and Vice-Chair) of the Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network. These is an unpaid role.

1. Purpose of Role

To provide leadership and advocacy for the Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network (known as 'the Network') and represent the Network, locally, regionally, and nationally.

2. Role and Responsibilities

The Chair will be expected to:

- Provide leadership to the Network
- Chair all regular meetings of the Network, including conferences
- Represent the Network in discussions at local and national level, most notably at the Ministerial meetings
- Develop and maintain knowledge of food, farming and rural issues and delivery arrangements within Yorkshire
- Develop good joint working relationships with public agencies and organisations relevant to the Network's interests
- Encourage effective communication between Network members and between the members and their sectors and help to ensure that the attendance and contribution of members is maintained to a high standard.

3. Time Commitment

It is estimated that the Chairperson's role will involve a minimum time commitment of approximately 20 working days per year to cover:

- 3 x Network Executive meetings and preparation for such meetings.
- Attendance at two National Chairs' Meetings with Defra and preparation for such meetings.
- Communication with Defra and other National Chairs.
- Attendance at the Great Yorkshire Show to meet with senior local regional and national stakeholders where appropriate.
- Attendance at other meetings, events and conferences as appropriate to champion the work of the Network.
- Steer the activities of the Network as appropriate.

4. Skills, Qualities and Experience

- Ability to provide leadership for a diverse Network with a range of interests.
- Act as food, farming and rural champion for rural Yorkshire.
- Think strategically.
- Have a broad experience of, and interest in, food, farming and rural issues (personal or work related) and either live or work in Yorkshire
- Have strong and effective chairing skills with the ability to draw together differing views and interests, guide discussions and reach an acceptable consensus when necessary
- Ability to represent the Network and its views at a local, national and ministerial level and to the media
- Willingness to participate in PR activities to raise the profile of the Network
- Have a thorough knowledge of the broad range of issues affecting farming and rural communities
- Be outward looking and willing to challenge the "status quo"
- Have the time and enthusiasm to devote to the Network
- Review this role description and provide a smooth handover with the next Chairperson.
- Ideally the role will be filled by someone 'independent'

5. Vice-Chair: Role and Responsibility

The role and responsibilities of the Vice-Chair are to support and deputise for the Chairperson as appropriate. The skills, qualities and role of the Vice-Chair should mirror those for the Chairperson as set out above. The Vice-Chair will have an opportunity to act as 'champion' for various issues as agreed.

6. Reporting

The Chairperson will be responsible for reporting into the Senior Management of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society on challenges and opportunities arising as and when appropriate so that support can be provided.

7. Office Support

The Chairperson will be supported by a Network Coordinator, based within the Yorkshire Agricultural Society's Charitable Activities Team. The provision of this support will be reviewed on an annual basis. You can read more about the charity, [here](#).

8. Remuneration

Unfortunately, the Chairperson and Vice-Chair will not receive any direct remuneration for time spent on Network duties, including loss of income.

Travel costs to attend meetings, events and conferences (not including the three Network Executive Meetings) are covered by the Network with prior approval from the Network Coordinator.

9. Term of office for Chairperson

The Chairperson will serve a three-year term and can be re-appointed for a further term.

Process for recruitment and selection

Advertise position (W/c 14th April) 9 weeks

Utilise YAS media to promote role and include industry press.

Applications close (Fri 13th June 2025)

Appraisal and scoring of applications. Agree meeting to discuss.

Shortlisting and selection (W/c 16th June 2025)

Candidates will be shortlisted and interviewed by a selection panel drawn from the Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network Executive.

Interviews (W/c 23rd June 2025)

The selection panel will review all applications to ensure candidates align with the remit of the Network.

On-boarding new Candidate (8th – 11th July 2025)

In-coming Chair invited to participate in activities organised and delivered by the Yorkshire Food Farming and Rural Network.

Formal Appointment (1st October 2025)

The Network Coordinator will inform all candidates of the outcome. The successful candidate will be invited to meet with the Charitable Activities Team prior to the first meeting of the Network Executive to support the newly appointed Chairperson with understanding the current strategic priorities and the activities of the Network Executive.

Ongoing Review and Feedback (On-going, Oct to Dec 2025)

After the Chairperson settles into the role, schedule regular reviews with the Management Team and the new Chairperson to ensure alignment with organisational goals and expectations.