



GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

TUESDAY 14 – FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026

The Yorkshire Agricultural Society is delighted to announce that the dates for the 2026 Great Yorkshire Show are Tuesday 14 - Friday 17 July.

The Show, one of the largest agricultural events in the country, will continue to be held over four days, with capacity capped at 35,000 people a day.

Tickets will continue to be sold in advance only and visitors are encouraged to buy sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment.

As part of our farmer ticket initiative to give farmers great access, our online farmer tickets will continue to provide further flexibility for those wanting to attend.

Membership numbers will continue to be limited and a renewal reminder will be sent with the next newsletter in January 2026.

Tickets and membership will go on sale in November this year.



GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

TUESDAY 8 - FRIDAY 11 JULY 2025



We celebrated another fantastic sell-out success for the 166th Great Yorkshire Show in July, bringing the best examples of farming, food and the countryside to visitors from across the UK.

It was the first Show since taking on the role of Show Director for Rachel Coates who said: "The incredibly high standard of entries across all the sections and the sheer breadth of classes across everything from children's competitions and cheese to shoeing and shearing makes me very proud of how we showcase the very best of rural life. We are indebted to everyone who comes together to deliver this amazing spectacle."

The event got off to a flying start, with a wedding in the Forestry section and a competition to find Britain's Fittest Farmer.

Peri Dunford and Mark Jones who are both involved in the Forestry section, chose the Show as the perfect place to tie the knot a year on from Peri's successful proposal to Mark during the 2024 pole climbing competition. Accompanied by logging horses Stig and Tyne, they were married in the woodland.

Britain's Fittest Farmer competition, run by Farmers Weekly, featured challenges including a truck pull, wheelbarrow runs, sandbag showdown, tyre flips and beer keg heave. Paul Harrison won the male under-40s heat, Emily Meakin the female under-40s and Richard Scott the male over-40s.

Defra Minister Daniel Ziechner held talks with members of the Society's Future Farmers of Yorkshire and visited the Field Nurse stand as well as other organisations at the Show.

Five National Championships took place, with Aberdeen Angus, Longhorn and Charolais cattle and Kerry Hill and Zwartble sheep all vying for their respective titles.

There was also a visit to the cattle lines by 46 German organic beef farmers, organised by Eggs-Port, the cattle embryo and semen supply and shipping business.

As always, the Show featured new elements for 2025, with a return to the GYS Ariat Stage for the ever-popular fashion show which, for the first time, featured clothing available on the Showground, a new **Machinery Ring** and new classes for **British Miniature Horses** and **Suffolk Punch**. Also a first was a competition for shepherds aged between 15 and 18. The winner of the **Great Yorkshire**



Show and National Sheep Association Northern Region Shepherd of the Future contest was 15-year-old Izzy North.

The **Supreme Beef Championship** went to a group of Simmental cattle belonging to the Barlow Brothers. Simmental Denizes Trixie-Bell 16 has triplet heifer calves in a one-in-800,000 chance and also took the Simmental breed championship.

Five dairy cows were put forward for the **Supreme Dairy Championship**. Judge Meurig James chose J and K Robinson and the Coates family's Holstein Junior Cow, Futureproof Sidekick Squaw as Champion.

A Texel yearling owned by Charlie Boden from Stockport was crowned **Supreme Sheep Champion**, while **Supreme Pig** went to Large White Tedfold Viking 1 owned by Oliver Giles of West Sussex.

The **Price Equine Supreme In-hand** title went to Miss S Roberts' small hunter brood mare Kings Mistress with Foal at Foot.

The **Blythwood Dairy Pairs** honours went to a pair of Holsteins, one the Supreme Dairy winner from earlier and the

other Oliver Greenhalgh's Below Tropic Elm, with Ayrshires Andy Rimmer Holmeswood El Clover and Ian Hutchinson's Tontine Pixie Stella, in reserve.

The **Blythwood Beef Pairs** recognise both Continental and Native Breeds. The Continental winners were Charolais, while the Native title went to a pair of Herefords.

The Charolais were with Miss E Pendlebury's heifer, Jessops Ugogirl and Mr and Mrs M Alford's bull Hollywell Unclebob, while the Herefords were Moralee1Pippa and calf owned by the Harrison family and Beth Hutchinson's bull, Vodka.

The **Supreme Goat Champion** was a British Saanan named Wensleydale Silver owned by Emily Turner, of Wensleydale. In Pigeons, breeder Richard Henderson, of Malton, won **Best In Show** for a second successive year with another of his English Nun breeds, a five-year-old breeding pigeon.

Top showjumping class, the **Ripon Select Foods Cock o' the North**, proved a nail-biter once again. With three of Yorkshire's Whitaker showjumping dynasty and last year's Wetherby-based winner, Richard Howley, among the six in the jump off against the clock, the honours went to William Whitaker on Millfield Quickstep.



RECORD-BREAKING CHEESE AUCTION

The Show's popular Cheese Auction broke the record for the amount raised for charity this year with a huge total of £12,502 which will be split between two charities, Samaritans and Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

It is the largest amount ever raised by the Cheese Auction at the Show, thanks to a match-funding contribution by HSBC in support of Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Chief Steward of the Cheese and Dairy Section, Caroline Bell, said: "We're incredibly grateful to our generous cheesemakers for donating their award-winning cheeses, and to our brilliant auctioneers who bring such energy to the event. A heartfelt thank you as well to the public who joined in with such enthusiasm."

Alison Lumley of Samaritans Rural Initiative said: "Thank you for such a generous donation to Samaritans of Yorkshire and Humberside Rural Initiative which we will use to support our work with farming communities. Samaritans understand that farmers are especially likely to experience isolation and loneliness, whilst coping with the many challenges that farming presents."

Clare Deacon, Regional Fundraiser at Yorkshire Air Ambulance said: "Yorkshire Air Ambulance were delighted to be chosen as a recipient of the very generous bids at the cheese auction. The Great Yorkshire Show is a highlight of our fundraising calendar. Not only are we incredibly grateful for the donation, it helps raise awareness too."

Samaritans can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by calling free on 116 123

CELEBRATING DEDICATED SERVICE

Without our fantastic team of dedicated volunteers and supporters, the Great Yorkshire Show would not be the success it is.

The event is truly a team effort with nearly 8,000 people coming together to deliver it every year.

The YAS Awards are one way we can recognise and show our appreciation to retiring stewards, committee members and other dedicated supporters for their professionalism and their important roles in ensuring the high standards of the Great Yorkshire Show are maintained.

This year, the awards were presented to: Paul Parker, Ian Gill, Erica Spencer, John Furness, Garry Harland, Madge Moore, and Andrew Schofield BVSc MRCVS.

The Society and Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) make an award each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the Yorkshire rural community and this year's went to Kate Dale.

Kate was recognised for serving the Yorkshire Agricultural Society with distinction for 14 years, having been instrumental in the excellent work of the Yorkshire Rural Support Network and the Women In Farming Network.





CHAMPIONING FARMING AT THE SHOW

The Yorkshire Agricultural Society supports the industry all year round but our work is probably most visible at the Great Yorkshire Show where so many initiatives are highlighted.

One prime example was our **Navigating the Budget** event, examining the options for farm businesses following the proposed changes to agricultural property relief (APR) and business property relief (BPR), changes that would affect inheritance tax. This was a repeat of the roadshow that brought an expert panel in front of more than 300 farmers at venues across Yorkshire in April and May.

The **Innovation Zone** organised by the Farmer Scientist Network returned for a third year to highlight groundbreaking innovations designed to make farm businesses more efficient and profitable. The overall winner of the Innovation Awards was DeLaval Plus, an AI platform that extracts herd data and turns it into easy-to-understand insights.

The **Discovery Zone** teaches children about growing food and how to eat healthy produce and primary school pupils from across the region took part in our annual Vegetable Box competition, which this year had the theme, Wonderful Worms. The competition, where the youngsters grow produce from scratch, was won by Marsden Junior School in Huddersfield.

Our annual **Future Farmers** Breakfast Meeting, sponsored by Krone, attracted a record attendance of more than 200 people. A high-profile panel included Baroness Minette Batters, who is leading a Defra report on farming profitability. Other speakers were Robbie Moore, farmer, MP and Shadow Farming and Rural Affairs Minister, Tom Richardson, Commercial Director of Warrendale Wagyu and Krone UK MD Marcus Oliver.

Our **Women in Farming Network** held a summer social at which guests heard from two brilliant speakers, Nuffield Scholar Lucia Slack and RABI's Sally Conner.

The group is part of the Yorkshire Rural Support Network which is taking farming-focused first aid training to venues in Holmfirth and Leyburn this Autumn.

There was a focus on health and wellbeing at the Show and **Field Nurse** – a charity the Society supports to take its free health check service into livestock marts – delivered 460 free health checks at their trailer, up from 165 in 2024.

Since the show, the YAS team has been promoting our work to the wider Yorkshire farming community, by having a presence at Driffield, Ryedale and Kilnsey Shows.

We'll next be at Masham Sheep Fair on the weekend of 27-28 September.

CONSERVATION RECOGNITION

The Yorkshire Agricultural Society's 16th annual Tye Trophy award saw Farmers' contributions to conservation and environmental improvement celebrated.

The competition covers farms in seven regions in the North, with a regional winner from each and one overall trophy winner.

Taking the trophy this year were Colin and Alan Price of Long Bank Farm, Keasden, near Clapham, who were the North Yorkshire regional winners.

Their mixed farm runs 40 dairy Holsteins and 200 sheep and has been organic since 1999. They work closely with the RSPB to manage the farm for breeding waders and have been involved with the 'Clapham Curlew project' since its inception in 2021.

Numbers of curlews, lapwings and oyster catchers on the farm have increased year on year since.

Congratulations also to our other regional winners:

Jane Lane, High Chapel Farm, Orton, Penrith (Cumbria); Catherine Thompson, Holme House Farm, Holme-on-Spalding-Moor (East Yorkshire); Graham and Sarah Whitewell, Carter Fold Farm, Waddington (Lancashire); Stuart Johnson and family, West Wharmley Farm, Hexham (Northumberland); David and Helen Rhodes, The Mill, New Hall Farm, Ardsley, Barnsley (South and West Yorkshire); and Mark and Jane Gray, Broom House Farm, Witton Gilbert, Durham (Tyne Tees).

To nominate a farm for the 2026 Tye Trophy, email: helens@yas.co.uk

NEW CHAIR AND PRESIDENT APPOINTED



The Yorkshire Agricultural Society is excited to welcome a new Chair and President this year. Businessman Paul Russell is our new Chair, and Nick Lane Fox our new President.

Paul, who is CEO of Malton-based Russells, has been involved with the Society for more than 20 years. He is a long-standing member of the Council, having initially contributed as a member of the Great Yorkshire Show Trade Stand Committee, and has served on the Society's Audit and Investment Committee and as Chair of the Remuneration Committee.

Paul, who succeeds Rob Copley as Chair, said: "It's a huge honour, first and foremost, but also, equally, a big responsibility. I am a passionate supporter of all that the Society does and I'm keen that we keep maintaining a great Show and also talk about all the things we do aside from the Show all-year round to support and promote farming. The diversity of what the Society offers, since I started 20-odd years ago, has developed enormously."

Paul has a degree in Engineering with Business Studies and his career has included a decade at ING Finance where he took up various roles, progressing to Director of national accounts.



In 2001 he joined Russells, becoming the fifth generation of his family to run the business which dates back to 1849 and has been exhibiting at the Great Yorkshire Show for almost as long as the Show has been held.

Nick Lane Fox becomes our new President, taking over from Geoff Brown MBE.

The Society has long established links with the Lane Fox family, dating back to its very start. Official notes show that GL Fox MP of Bramham Park was among the founder members at the Society's inaugural meeting in York in 1837.

Nick studied Agricultural Economics at Newcastle University, before joining the Army, where he served for 10 years. He then returned to his family's estate at Bramham Park where he contracted the in-hand farming and forestry, developed Bramham Horse Trials and brought the Leeds Festival to the Estate.

He became a Horse Steward in 1984 and has been Chief Steward of the Main Ring since 2001. Nick was elected on to the Society's Council in 2005, elected as a Trustee of the Society in 2009 and was Chair of Trustees from 2010 to 2021.

FOND FAREWELLS AND NEW LEADERS



A fitting farewell has been afforded to Operations Manager Nigel Morgan who completed his 20th Show this year.

Nigel was given a well-deserved salute by the Yorkshire Volunteers Band in the Main Ring to mark his retirement from the role in which he has served with great distinction.

Nigel ensured the Society delivered a safe and efficient show, including the traffic management for the event, whilst leading on biosecurity, the Show's Animal Gathering Order among many other responsibilities.



The Society welcomes three new faces to steer the work of its farming networks. Jill Gray, who farms in Calderdale, succeeds Laurie Norris as Chair of the Yorkshire Rural Support Network.

South Yorkshire farmer Joe Seels has been appointed to succeed Nick Grayson at the end of his term as Chair of Future Farmers of Yorkshire, and Tango Fawcett, a farmer from Tadcaster is the new Chair of the Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network, following nine years' service in the role by Madge Moore.

NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION



The first group of younger farmers to complete the Society's Goodall Agri-Development Pathway were celebrated at the Great Yorkshire Show when they were awarded with commemorative plaques.

The programme has supported their professional development, setting them up for the next steps in their careers.

The Pathway is a fully-funded training programme to develop farming's next generation. It boosts young people's skills and experience. Designed in consultation with farmers and supported by experienced industry professionals, the Pathway aims to help young people improve their

performance and prepare for enhanced responsibilities as their careers in agriculture evolve.

This exciting opportunity is open to those aged between 23 and 40 who work in farming and allied industries in the North of England.

For any questions about the Pathway prior to an application, please contact the Charitable Activities team at the Yorkshire Agricultural Society by emailing education@yas.co.uk

To apply to take part in the 2026 Pathway please visit: yas.co.uk/farmers for an application form.

The deadline for applications is 1 December 2025.

PLENTY TO COME THIS AUTUMN

Our support for all those who work in agriculture continues in the months ahead.

Future Farmers is offering G.R.I.P. (Goals, Reality, Insights, Planning) training to help give you confidence and structure to achieve your ambitions in the year ahead on 16 October and 4 November at the Showground.

This is followed by a Pathways to Farm Entry skills workshop covering farm tenancies, shared farming and contracting on 23 October and 6 November. Full details at yas.co.uk/futurefarmers

Save the dates for our Women in Farming Autumn Gathering at Lodge Farm, Cundall near York on 14 October and the Future Farmers and Farmer Scientist Network Autumn Debate at the Showground on 29 October.

Looking further ahead, the Yorkshire Agricultural Society has reviewed the way it supports and promotes farming, food and countryside and after careful thought, has decided that Springtime Live 2025 was our last.

Organisers would like to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has been involved in Springtime Live over the last 12 years, including public, exhibitors, stewards and staff.

The Society is now looking at new ways of delivering on our charitable aims to promote and support farming, food and countryside and as such, two exciting new projects will be launched in 2026.

Look out for announcements over the coming months and in the meantime, thank you as ever for your support.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for being a member of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society.

Your membership not only gives you benefits for the Great Yorkshire Show and a discount in Fodder – the Great Yorkshire Food Hall but it also helps to fund our year-round work.

Visit yas.co.uk for more information about what we do.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE 2025

The Yorkshire Agricultural Society's Harvest Thanksgiving Service will this year be held at York Minster on Sunday 5 October at 11am.

YAS President, Nick Lane Fox warmly invites all members to join us and the parishioners of York Minster for this special service celebrating the fruitfulness of the land and the skill of our farmers. The Rt Revd Dr Flora Winfield, Bishop of Selby will be our preacher. 50% of the service collection will be donated to RABI on behalf of YAS.



York Minster, Deangate, York YO1 7HH is a ten-minute walk from York Railway Station.

There is no parking at the cathedral, but free parking is available at Park & Ride sites around the city, with the nearest stop a short walk away in Museum Street: york.gov.uk/ParkAndRide

Random bag searches may be carried out when you enter the cathedral. Wheeled bags and bags larger than hand luggage are not permitted.

Lunch

Following the Service, you are welcome to join us for lunch at the York Minster Refectory, 2 Deangate, York YO1 7JA, a one-minute walk from the Minster.

A traditional two-course Sunday lunch will be served at a cost of **£34.00** a head payable in advance, plus drinks. All prices include VAT & 12.5% service.

To attend the service and / or lunch, please contact the YAS Reception Team on 01423 541000 or email info@yas.co.uk

Lunch bookings must be confirmed no later than **18 September** and paid for in advance.

MAIN COURSE

Roast Sirloin of Yorkshire Beef. Served with duck fat roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, seasonal vegetables and pan gravy

Loch Duart Organic Salmon. Served with fricassee of baby potatoes, cider braised salisfy, Granny Smith apple, coastal pickings and hazy cider velouté

Vegetarian

Carrot and spiced marmalade Wellington

DESSERT

Tiramisu bread and butter pudding, with espresso caramel, cocoa nib and coffee bean tuille with marscapone ice cream

English Brie, with damson and orchard apple chutney and artisan crackers

WINE

Red • Nero d'Avola, Sicily

Glass £9.50 / Bottle £33.75

White • Grillo, La Segreta Sicily

Glass £9 / Bottle £32.60

Please confirm any dietaries upon booking. Please note that the restaurant will endeavour to sit groups on their own tables, but this is dependent on numbers and diners may be required to sit at one long table.



THE GREAT
YORKSHIRE EVENTS
CENTRE

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SHOWGROUND

SEPTEMBER

Sat 13 - Sun 14	Harrogate Health and Healing Festival	The Pavilions	01423 873259
Sat 27 - Sun 28	Le Creuset Factory to Table Sale	The Halls	lecreuset.co.uk/en_GB/factory-to-table
Sat 27	Yorkshire Baby Show	The Pavilions	hello@yorkshirebabyshe.co.uk

OCTOBER

Fri 3	Pro Truck Auction	The Halls	protruckauctions.co.uk
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NOVEMBER

Sun 2	Harrogate Toy and Train Collectors Fair	The Pavilions	info@dalesmandiecast.co.uk
Mon 3	Autumn Lights Harrogate	The Halls	autumnlights.co.uk/harrogate
Sat 8	Northern Illustrated, Children's & Detective Fiction Fair	The Pavilions	pbfa.org/fairs
Fri 14 - Sat 15	North of England Woodworking and Power Tool Show	The Halls	exhibitions@dhpub.co.uk
Fri 14 - Sun 16	Decorative Antiques and Art Fair	The Pavilions	info@cooperevents.com
Weds 19 - Thurs 20	British Potato Industry Event	The Halls	britishpotato.co.uk/industry-event
Thurs 27 - Sun 30	The Great Yorkshire Christmas Fair 2025	The Halls	ukgrandsales.co.uk

DECEMBER

Sat 6 & Sat 13	Christmas Party Night	The Pavilions	01423 544 544
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Note: The information is correct at time of publication. Please check with the organisers to verify details prior to planning your visit. Thank you.

YORKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

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