



The countdown is on to our first-ever Yorkshire Farming Conference, a brand-new event taking place on Wednesday 28 January at the Great Yorkshire Showground.

Agriculture's big topics will be in the spotlight at the event during a series of talks and workshops between 9am and 5pm. Speakers include high-profile industry names, including Cumbrian farmer and best-selling author James Rebanks.

Farmers will be able to claim BASIS and NroSo (CPD) points at the event and visit a bustling trade show throughout the day featuring dozens of industry organisations.

Allister Nixon, CEO of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society said: "Everyone who works in farming and allied industries is invited to join us for a day of inspiration, insight and connection. The conference will celebrate and strengthen the future of farming across Yorkshire and beyond by bringing people together to discuss ideas, trends and best practice that can shape farm business decisions."

The conference theme is 'Every Field, Every Farmer' to reflect its inclusive spirit. Talks will be pitched for everyone in farming regardless of the size of their businesses or how long they have been in the industry, and there will be plenty of time for networking.

The conference sees the Society's farming networks collaborate to deliver a landmark event for the first time – Future Farmers of Yorkshire, Farmer Scientist Network, Women In Farming, Yorkshire Rural Support Network and Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network.

Together, our networks and the farmers who guide them have collaborated on a conference programme to focus on topics that cover everything from farming smarter and policy implications to strengthening supply chains and diversification.

The conference schedule has been put together in the spirit of celebrating the people, families and businesses behind British farming and there will be sessions looking at the power of mentorship, the world of livestock showing and wellbeing support.

For the first time in one place, the conference will showcase the breadth of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society's work, from supporting education and development, and promoting innovation, to helping Yorkshire farmers meet challenges and seize opportunities.

Tickets for the Yorkshire Farming Conference are available to purchase online in advance only and are priced £25 + VAT. A discount is available for group bookings of 10 or more. For full details, visit yorkshirefarmingconference.co.uk



GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

TUESDAY 14 - FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026



Motorbike stunt riding team The Bolddog FMX is set to take centre stage as the Main Ring attraction at the Great Yorkshire Show in 2026.

Managed by one of Europe's top freestyle motocross riders, Dan Whitby, the team uses one of the largest, most sophisticated FMX landing ramps ever seen anywhere in the world. Riders will use the ramp to perform tricks flying 35ft in the air when they take to the Main Ring once a day. The team last appeared at the Show in 2019.

Dan said: "We can't wait to be back at the Great Yorkshire Show in 2026! Expect to see an electric performance with a gravity defiant array of FMX tricks and back flips."

Ticket prices:

Adults £36.50, Children (aged 5-18) £13 and Families (2 adults and up to 3 children) £89. To book tickets, visit greatyorkshireshow.co.uk

Don't forget: Members get access every day to the Great Yorkshire Show, no need to book. You also get access to a members car park on a first come first served basis and 5% off in Fodder, our shop and café, all year round (T&C's apply).

YAS Membership prices: Single £95 and Joint £155.

For Membership, see yas.co.uk/members

GOLD CREST BADGE HOLDERS

We would like to remind members that we are reviewing the protocol around our gold YAS-crest badges as part of a security audit and in preparation for new legal requirements for event organisers.

As such, 2026 is the final year that a Gold Crest Badge will entitle the holder to admission to the Great Yorkshire Show. Future access to the Show for existing badge holders, from 2027 onwards, is being reviewed.

In keeping with our approach last year, badge holders attending the 167th Great Yorkshire Show on 14-17 July 2026 will be asked to supply their contact details again.

Upon entry to the Show, Gold Crest Badge holders will receive a form inside a stamped addressed envelope for filling in their details and returning to the Yorkshire Agricultural Society before the end of 2026. Thank you if you kindly supplied your details last year, no further action is required.

The Society respectfully requests that Gold Crest Badge holders are appreciative of the reasons for this review, which is necessary to ensure compliance with our legal requirements as a responsible event organiser.

SOCIETY'S TRIBUTE TO MARGARET CHAPMAN

It is with great sadness that we share news of the death of Margaret Chapman, a much-loved member of the Great Yorkshire Show family and former Yorkshire Agricultural Society President.

Margaret died at home in November and is a huge loss to the Show, to the Society and to the cattle industry.

A highly dependable and knowledgeable fixture of the Great Yorkshire Show's cattle section, Margaret became the Show's first female cattle steward in 1975, a senior cattle steward in 1985 and Chief Cattle Steward in 2008, before serving as Society President (2021-2022), an honour she was incredibly proud of.

Brought up on the family dairy farm in Bishopthorpe, York, Margaret worked alongside her father, Frank Chapman, in the pedigree cattle export business, a career which took her to many of the world's most off-the-beaten-track countries.

The Chapman family's history with the Great Yorkshire Show dates back to 1910, when Margaret's great-grandfather, Joseph Andrew Chapman showed Dairy Shorthorn. In the early 1970s, Margaret first started stewarding at the Show as an assistant ring steward and in 1985, she was one of only two females to be invited to the then all-male pre-show dinner.

Margaret served as Chief Cattle Steward with great distinction for over a decade, each year organising hundreds of exhibitors, around 50 stewards and dozens of judges, and coordinating the Grand Cattle Parade in the Main Ring and overseeing various cattle breed National Shows. Margaret introduced the Blythwood Pairs Trophy, awarded to the best pairs of cattle in the beef and dairy sections, and hosted many Royal visitors, including the late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Allister Nixon, CEO of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society said: "What Margaret contributed over many years is nothing short of phenomenal. The success of the Great Yorkshire Show is in its people, and Margaret embodied everything that the Show stands for and celebrates: integrity, dedication and a passion for showcasing the very best of British agriculture. Margaret will be sorely missed."



PIG SECTOR MISSION FOR NEW SCHOLAR

A pig veterinary technician is embarking on a prestigious Nuffield Farming Scholarship, sponsored by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, to help guide best practice for efficient pig production.



East Yorkshire-based Nicola Bowers will study how litters of piglets can be best managed in flexible farrowing systems to further support animal welfare.

Since 1980, the Society has sponsored Nuffield Farming Scholarships which provide the opportunity to study and travel abroad, meet like-minded people and explore cutting edge developments in agriculture.

Nicola said: "The pig industry has weathered countless challenges, yet it continues to adapt and evolve. Through my Nuffield Scholarship, I hope to contribute to that evolution, helping ease the transition into the future and ensuring the resilience and sustainability of the sector I've come to love."

As part of her studies, Nicola plans to visit commercial farms and research facilities where flexible and free farrowing have been adopted in the UK, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Italy, France and Spain. She hopes to visit New Zealand too, where the pig sector set a five-year target to fully transition to flexible farrowing by 2025.

Nicola's Nuffield Farming Scholarship is also sponsored by AHDB. Her findings will be published in 2027.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships are just part of our year-round work as a charity to support farmers and champion agriculture. For all our latest news and events, see yas.co.uk/farming-news where you can also sign up to receive digital newsletters.



Colin Price of Long Bank Farm, Keasden, near Clapham. Colin and Alan Price were the overall Tye Trophy winners 2025

TYE TROPHY 2026 NOMINATIONS

This is a final call to nominate farm businesses for the Yorkshire Agricultural Society's prestigious Tye Trophy. Presented at the Great Yorkshire Show, it recognises farms where commercial success goes hand-in-hand with conservation and environmental improvements.

The Tye Trophy is judged across Cumbria, East Yorkshire, Lancashire, North Yorkshire, Northumberland, South and West Yorkshire, and Durham, Tyne and Wear. The overall winner enters the national Silver Lapwing Award.

Nominations close on Wednesday 31 January and should be sent to helens@yas.co.uk. Please include the nominee's full name, address and contact details.

WE NEED YOU!

The Yorkshire Agricultural Society is calling out to members to join its governing body and help shape its future. Formed in 1837, the Society is steeped in tradition and is looking to build on strong foundations to drive it forward.

The Society is governed by its Council which meets four times a year, elects Trustees and council advisors, guiding YAS in all activities and events, including the Great Yorkshire Show and its charitable support of the farming community and educational work with schoolchildren.

Any member can be nominated to stand for election for a three-year period and this will be voted on by members in each area of Yorkshire: North, East, South, West. To make a nomination, please fill out the enclosed nomination form or contact Helen Slater on: 01423 546201 or email helens@yas.co.uk



WHAT'S ON AT THE SHOWGROUND



JANUARY

Weds 21 – Thurs 22	The Ripon Show	GYEC	eventbrite.co.uk
Weds 28	Yorkshire Farming Conference	GYEC	yorkshirefarmingconference.co.uk

FEBRUARY

Thurs 5 – Sat 7	Harrogate Quilting and Sewing Show	GYEC	info@grosvenorshows.co.uk
Fri 6 – Sun 8	Decorative, Antiques and Art Fair	Pavilions of Harrogate	cooperevents.com/harrogate
Sun 8	What's Cooking 2026! (Trade only)	GYEC	0191 482 4242
Sat 14 – Sun 22	Harrogate Indoor Funfair	GYEC	indoorfunfair.org
Sat 21 – Sun 22	Rock, Gem and Bead Show	Pavilions of Harrogate	07712 276041
Fri 27	Yorkshire Ladies Links Conference	Pavilions of Harrogate	yorkshireladieslinks.co.uk

MARCH

Sat 7 – Sun 8	Fusion Art Fair	GYEC	info@fusionartfair.co.uk
Fri 20 – Sun 22	Yorkshire Motorhome and Campervan Show	GYEC	01778 391123
Sun 29	Harrogate Toy and Collectors Fair	Pavilions of Harrogate	info@dalesmandiecast.co.uk

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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