



SHOW DIRECTOR'S REPORT GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW 2026



The 167th Great Yorkshire Show took place on Tuesday 14 – Friday 17 July and attracted unprecedented demand, with tickets for Wednesday selling out two weeks before the Show opened. In response, 2,500 extra tickets were made available for each show day, and all 150,000 tickets, which were available to purchase in advance only for the successive sixth year, sold out the day before the gates opened to visitors.

We are proud that agriculture remains at the heart of the Show and so it was really pleasing that we sold out of Farmer Tickets too. First introduced in 2016 to offer discounted, flexible any-one-day access to the Show to farmers, more Farmer Tickets than ever before were purchased this year – online and in-person from selected farming outlets, again available only in advance.

Show week brought four warm-weather days, making for near perfect conditions, the ideal setting for the very best of British agriculture to be celebrated, with 8,500 animals exhibited in pursuit of prized rosettes, while the present and future of the industry was showcased in the machinery lines, upgraded machinery demo ring and the Agri-Innovation Village – expanded for 2026 and hydrogen-powered in a GYS-first.

Machinery took centre stage on the President's Lawn, drawing lots of attention and used as a location for media interviews and VIP visits, featuring New Holland's CR11 – 'the world's biggest

combine' courtesy of Russells, John Deere's 6R Series tractor with combination drill and 6M Series tractor with trailed sprayer thanks to Ripon Farm Services and Krone's BiG M 450 self-propelled mower. Nearby, in the Main Ring, The Bolddog FMX wooed visitors with their high-flying jumps as they made their first appearance at the Show since 2019.

Once again, the Show enjoyed the welcome prestige of hosting national livestock shows, this year for Charolais cattle and Zwartbles sheep.

This was a poignant show for all of us who knew the late Margaret Chapman, our former Chief Cattle Steward who gave so much to the Show throughout her life. As a fitting tribute, the Blythewood Pairs competition was renamed the Margaret Chapman Pairs for this year's Show and beyond. Margaret introduced the competition to the Show in 2008.

Elsewhere, it was fantastic to see record entries in both Woodcrafts and Showjumping, and the latter served up real drama. Everyone around the Main Ring was on the edge of their seats for the Ripon Select Foods Cock O' The North. The world-class action, featuring the best showjumpers around, saw a tense finale as the much-decorated local hero John Whitaker, on Equine America Unick du Francport, took the trophy at the age of 70 – and claimed his seventh Cock O' The North victory. John narrowly beat nephew James who was riding Just Call Me Henry.

The Show is an important way for town to meet countryside, and so it was fantastic to see another show-first as Harrogate BID took over a whole avenue of the Showground, attracting local businesses to fill a 'Harrogate High Street'.



Among other new additions this year was the Hardy & Free photography exhibition, displayed on Wednesday to Friday in the building next to the Ariat GYS Stage. Created by award-winning photographer Carolyn Mendelsohn, it explored the relationship between 12 contemporary women and the natural world, including myself, which was a real honour.

[More details here](#)

Politicians visited the Show to connect with farmers.

High-profile guests included the DEFRA team. Secretary of State Emma Reynolds said she was "hugely impressed" by the Show after taking a tour with Farming Minister Steven Morgan and Paul Kissack, Defra's Permanent Secretary. Other guests included The Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Jo Ropner, The Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell, DEFRA Shadow Minister Victoria Atkins, Baroness Anne McIntosh, Members of the EFRA Select Committee, York and North Yorkshire Mayor David Skaith and MPs Robbie Moore, Katie White, Tom Gordon, Anna Dixon, Sir Julian Smith and Graham Stuart.

Celebrity guests joined us to highlight different sections of the Show and team up with TV presenter Christine Talbot for twice daily chat shows followed by meet and greets with fans at the Ariat GYS Stage. We were joined by Kelvin and Liz Fletcher of ITV's *Fletchers on the Farm* on Tuesday, Peter Wright of Channel 5's *The Yorkshire Vet* on Wednesday, Jules Hudson of BBC's

Escape to the Country on Thursday and Harriet Cowan who featured in Clarkson's Farm on Friday.

It was fantastic to see the Show continue to innovate. In the Cheese & Dairy Show, three new digital-first classes were introduced to appeal to the wider food and hospitality industry across the country.

The classes produced a lovely winner's story. Show debutants Jess Waterton Bailey and Pam Knighton (pictured) of Graze by Posh Cheese won the digital-first Best Display of Cheese for a cheese celebration cake which recreated the same multi-tiered seven-cheeses cake that Jess' mother-in-law Pam made for her son Josh and Jess' wedding two years ago.



A new award to the Best Young Farmer from across Yorkshire Young Farmers Clubs, was presented on the Young Farmers Pavilion and was coordinated by the Yorkshire Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, with support from the Yorkshire Agricultural Society and backed by a donation from Baroness Anne McIntosh of Pickering.

New entertainment saw Boot Scootin' Cow Girls from The Dance Studio Leeds get visitors joining in with line dancing performances on Friday on the Sheep Shearing Stage, interspersed with energetic performances from Knaresborough's award-winning Knot Another Choir.

There was a fresh publicity push to promote the free shuttle buses between Harrogate bus Station and the Show, including a double decker bus being brought onto the Showground for a photoshoot on the Monday before show. Backed up by digital communications to visitors pre-show, more than 20,000 visitors used the service during the Show, double the numbers of visitors who used the shuttle bus last year.

The GYS App, launched ahead of the 2025 Show, was downloaded more than 37,700 times this year, up from 20,000 last year, giving visitors a great way to navigate the Showground and plan their day.

Highlights of the Show were brilliantly brought together in video episodes on the Show's YouTube channel, [take a look here](#) where you can watch farmers Joe Seels, Rebecca Wilson and Charlotte Ashley tell the story of the Show through their own eyes.



I've thoroughly enjoyed my second show as Show Director. It has been a fantastic week, and it was so lovely to meet and catch up with so many stewards, staff and visitors who make the Show the grand occasion that it is.

COMPETITIVE CLASSES

The Supreme Beef Championship went to an Aberdeen Angus cow, Blelack Princess Carina, with calf at foot, owned by Devon-based Mr and Mrs Mike Alford. Reserve went to Mary Cormack's British Simmental heifer, Cade Kathleen's Rockstar. The Charolais National Show was won by heifer Brailes Violet owned by Mr and Mrs M Alford of Cullompton, Devon, and reserve going to Mr T Atkinson's bull, Goldstar Ulysses.

The Dairy Supreme title went to first-time GYS exhibitor Duncan Horsley and his Holstein Intermediate cow, Bartinney Duplo Swizzle 2. Reserve went to Ian Collins' Senior cow, Churchroyd Bronte Wildeyes 51. Duncan Horsley also took the Margaret Chapman Dairy Pairs with the same cow and with junior cow Inglevieview Sc Ruth. The reserves are Ayrshires Middle Mae Km and Harperfield Victoria, both owned by D Lindsay.



The Margaret Chapman Beef Pairs saw the Native champions picked out as Herefords, with Miss E Hodge's bull, Rm 1 Blade, and Mr S Hartwright's cow, Spartan 1 Victoria's Secret. The Continental pair were British Simmentals, with Mr JHVG Wood's bull, Denizes Nugget 22, and cow, Popes Princess Lumi. The Champion Beef Group title went to a group of British Limousin, with AWJ Farms' cow Whinfellpark Rebecca with calf, and heifers Whinfellpark Verdani, and Whinfellpark Vaila.

The Supreme Sheep Champion went to a Kerry Hill yearling gimmer shown by Ellie Owens from Leominster, Herefordshire. Reserve went to a Texel belonging to Eammon Vaughan of Staffordshire, who went on to win the Overall Sheep Pairs Championship with a pair of Texels. Reserve Pairs Champion went to Cheviots presented by the Stones family from Marrick in Richmond, North Yorkshire. The Zwartbles National Show champion was a shearling ewe owned by Mrs H Jackson from Dumfries, with an ewe from Peter and Susanne Addison in reserve.



Teenager Rosie Garth from Bentham was named GYS and National Sheep Association Shepherd of the Future 2026, who turned out in the sheep rings with a Beltex gimmer lamb for the final

sheep handling round of judging, following a questionnaire and stock judging. In reserve was Rachel Twiddle from near Northallerton.

In Sheep Shearing, the Open Champion Shearer of Yorkshire was Antony Rooke, the Senior Champion was Daniel Copley and the Open Championship winner was Gethin Lewis, while Michael Longton of Lancaster won the finals of the Sheepdog Trials with his six-year-old dog, Max.

In Pigs, a three-year-old Large Black shown by Jack Holroyd of Preston was crowned Supreme Champion. Reserve was a Duroc, shown by Hayley Loveless from Dorset. The British Pig Association's Pig of the Year Final was won by Acaster Stonebow 204, a Berkshire shown by Alyssia Horsley from near York. Reserve Pig of the Year was Portbredy Jean, a Large White owned by Hayley Loveless from Dorset.



Dalestone Britney, a British Saanen owned by Mark Bond from Catterick was crowned Best Goat in Show. In Pigeons, where entries were up by 140, the Supreme Champion was a four-year-old English Long Faced Tumbler hen from Sean Morrow of Durham.

In Hives and Honey, retiring Chief Steward Ivor Flatman from Wakefield took the Best in Show trophy – our grateful thanks go to Ivor for his service to the Show as Chief Steward. Supreme Champion Beekeeper went to Josephine Anderson from Hebden Bridge. In the Junior section, where entries doubled this year, the prize for the best exhibit went to Eme Williams from Barnsley.

Equine had nearly 2,000 entries and 40 different types competing. As well as John Whittaker's victory in the Ripon Select Foods Cock O' The North, the Price Equine Supreme In-hand title went to North Yorkshire breeder Jane Strickland, of Appleton Wiske, with her home-bred Irish Draught mare, Appleton Aristocratic Lady. Reserve went to Mr D Shand's two-year-old Sport Horse filly, Achilty Miss Isabella.

The Ridden Hunter Championship went to seven-year-old bay gelding, Full Cry, owned by Ms J Day of Cheshire and ridden/handled by Robert Walker. Reserve was Waterfall, an eight-year-old chestnut gelding owned by Mrs S Tennant of Fraithorpe, Bridlington and ridden/handled by Leon King.

In the Cheese & Dairy Show, the Judy Bell Memorial Trophy for Supreme Champion Cheese went to Shepherds Purse and their Organic Yorkshire Blue – one of four top honours won by the artisan cheesemakers near Thirsk. The David Hartley Memorial Trophy for Supreme Champion



Dairy Product went to Longley Farm's Luxury Jersey Butter, which was also awarded Best Yorkshire Product – two of six top prize rosettes for the Holmfirth-based business.

In Forestry, the Great Yorkshire Pole Climbing championship saw last year's winner retaining his title. Tree-surgeon, Dan Whelan, from Shropshire, raced to the top of the pole in 9.16 seconds.

Owing to Avian Flu restrictions, there was no poultry section for a second successive show.

DISPLAYS, DEMONSTRATIONS & TRADE STANDS

The newly expanded Agri-Innovation Village showcased groundbreaking and cutting-edge farming technology, including a unique modular biomethane refuelling station and the new T7 280 New Holland biomethane powered tractor courtesy of Bennamann. On display for the first time at a UK farming show was Toyota's hydrogen powered Hilux prototype, developed with hydrogen fuel cell technology in the UK.

The Agri-Innovation Village was hosted by the Farmer Scientist Network at the Yorkshire Agricultural Society and sponsored by the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and Greene Tree. It is bigger and better than ever thanks to support from event partners Harrogate-based energy management company Energy Oasis and the Royal Agricultural Society's Farm of the Future team.



The Village's focal point was a teepee hosting daily industry talks, while the Soil Doctor drop-in clinic for farmers proved more popular than ever before.



There were hands-on activities for families in the Discovery Zone, organised and run by YAS and alongside a picnic area sponsored by Nestle for the first time. Children could find out more about how their food reaches their plates, met animals, tried cookery and crafts workshops, including a Mini Fodder veg patch and farm shop. Schools who were finalists in our School Veg Box Competition displayed their entries in a newly designed showcase area for the public to enjoy,

and a new workshop explained sustainable farming.

The story of the countryside was brought to life in the Countryside Arena, with daily displays of decoying woodpigeons, gundogs, ferrets, fly casting, falconry and more. Back for a third year, the Countryside Voices Stage held daily talks exploring countryside issues such as health and wellbeing, the health of rivers and conservation.

Eye-catching displays in the Garden Show included Holden Clough Nursery's featuring a Mini Austin, whose show displays have earned them 27 consecutive medals including numerous Premier Gold awards at the Harrogate Flowers Shows.

Among the other award-winning nurseries was Tynings Climbers whose displays have earned them 10 RHS Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medals, while Wack's Wicked Plants from Malton unveiled a new carnivorous plant, *Sarracenia* 'Yorkshire Sunset'. There was a packed programme of talks and demos on the Potting Shed stage too, and daily appearances by internationally celebrated floral designer Jonathan Moseley.

The vast scope of work involved in managing Yorkshire's forestry was told in the Forestry section with demos including sawmilling, chainsaw carving, horse logging, hedge laying and chipping.



Thursday's Cheese Auction, when visitors can bid for exhibitors' cheese, was a huge success. Led expertly by auctioneers Ted Ogden and Sam Bardley, lots went for as much as £400 with the auction raising more than £8,000 in total, to be shared between two charities, Field Nurse and Saint Michael's Hospice in Harrogate.

The Ariat GYS Stage hosted twice daily, 30-minute Fashion Shows, featuring eight brands of clothing, ranging from luxurious cashmere to practical outdoor wear.

In the Art Show, 13 talented exhibitors displayed their work. Visitors voted for York-based Joss Cole as their favourite artist, winning the Les Packham Prize.



There were over 1,000 trade stands at the Show, with the **Best Agricultural Trade Stand Award** going to - for a second successive year - Lely Center Longtown which supports farms across the North with robotic solutions. Coars Ltd / DeLaval were named as the runners up.

Fodder enjoyed a prime spot, with a stand in the entrance to the Great Yorkshire Food Hall and reported increased GYS footfall.

Among the new trade stands for 2026 was Mother's Ruin 1751 who hosted a premium pop-up bar next to the Ariat GYS Stage and offered limited edition Great Yorkshire Show Gin and Rum.

The field to fork journey was expertly joined up at the Great Yorkshire Food Theatre and the Game Cookery Theatre. The line-up featured talented, high-profile names, from Michelin starred chefs to MasterChef and Great British Menu contestants such as Andrew Pern, Adam Degg, Ruth Hansom, Neil Bentinck, Aled Williams, Kurtus Auty, Olayemi Adelekan, Dale Spink, Owen Diaram and many more.

EVENTS FOR FARMERS

The Future Farmers of Yorkshire network's Breakfast Meeting, supported by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, looked at 'Facts or Fads: What Food Trends Mean for Farmers'. The discussion looked at the impact of food trends on farmers, from the use of GLP-1 medications for weight loss leading to higher demand for high protein foods to the demand for quick-cook convenience foods and a return to cooking from scratch, and how they could plan for the future.



Panellists were Rufus Pilgrim, MD of RS Cockerill, tenant farmer Eden Hill who sells meat direct to the public, Vanessa Adamson, AHDB's Retail and Consumer Insight Manager and George Roach, third-generation poultry farmer and Director of Oakland Farms Ltd who shared their own experiences of how longer-term trends could be addressed.



Groups of Future Farmers joined a roundtable discussion with the EFRA Committee and took part in a podcast with Farmers Guardian. The Society's Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network, Farmer Scientist Network and close partner, Deliciously Yorkshire, hosted politicians for tours to meet farmers and businesses from the region.

Field Nurse, a charity working closely with the Society's Yorkshire Rural Support Network and a YAS grant recipient had a busy show. Based near Brown Gate, its nurses carried out 300+ free health checks and 405 people took a grip test – a reliable marker of good health – or asked for advice on physical health.

Rural women were brought together by the Society's Women In Farming Network at a social event in the Agri-Innovation Village. To celebrate the UN's International Year of the Woman Farmer, County Durham farmer Emma

Lawson and successful farm shop owner Jenny Hutchinson were in conversation, sharing the benefits of their experiences on stage, chaired by Kate Bush, Trading Director for Specialist Lines at Geo, who sponsored the get-together.

Younger farmers who have completed the Society's Goodall Agri-Development Pathway enjoyed a celebratory reception, while the current Pathfinders met industry stakeholders to broaden their horizons further.

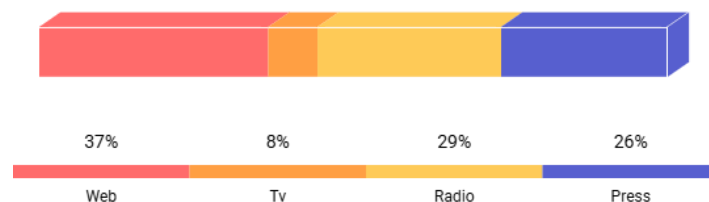
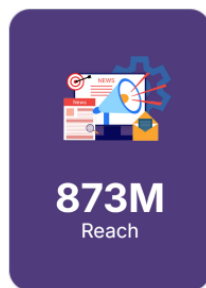


PRESS COVERAGE & SOCIAL MEDIA

We are absolutely delighted to have generated media coverage across key print nationals over the four days including The Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, The Times and Farmers Guardian, while hosting and co-ordinating content schedules with broadcasting crews across ITV Calendar, BBC Look North, ITV Fletcher's on the Farm, Blue Peter and BBC Radio 4 Farming Today.

Coverage before and during the Show generated 1,780 articles and broadcasts across regional, national and trade media, exceeding £5.42 million in equivalent advertising spend, reaching 873 million people.

Extensive coverage also appeared in key regional media, including The Yorkshire Post, BBC Radio York, Your Harrogate radio, lifestyle magazines including Yorkshire Life and Living North, and many more.



We created a TV advert that had 1.6m Impressions and reached 571,000 people on social media, and we took over 9 digital advertising screens in Leeds city centre to drive tickets sales.

We commissioned a camera crew and farming content creators Joe Seels, Rebecca Wilson and Charlotte Ashley to capture behind the scenes footage of the Show for the GYS YouTube channel. Two films went out, on Tuesday and Friday evenings. We also co-ordinated content creation by influencers across gardening and food, reaching millions of followers across all social platforms.

The GYS YouTube channel attracted 52,300 views and this number continues to grow. The YouTube footage complemented the work of the GYS Media Team's social media output which, inclusive of YouTube views, generated a phenomenal 9.8 million impressions with content covering all aspects of the Show and attracting nearly 8,500 new followers.

These figures exclude social media content published by other show supporters, media, visitors and sponsors which means total reach is far wider. For example, a video from sponsors Nestle was shared to its 18.2m global LinkedIn followers.

GYS YouTube episodes are available at: youtube.com/user/GreatYorkshireShow



GYS STAGE & CELEBRITIES

Packed audiences filled the Ariat GYS Stage as farming/TV celebrities took to the stage to reflect on their career journeys and all things farming and GYS with TV presenter Christine Talbot. Followed by Meet & Greet/book signings, each chat show attracted 300+ visitors with standing room only for almost every slot. Our special guests brought media attention to different sections of the Show and specifically attracted visitors to the Show from as far afield as Australia, Bermuda, Sweden and the US, to see Peter Wright and Jules Hudson.

- **Tuesday:** Kelvin and Liz visited Woodcrafts in the Forestry section where they tried spoon carving and the Sheep section to present prizes in the Zwartbles classes.
- **Wednesday:** Peter Wright met schoolchildren on a tour of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society's School Veg Box Competition area and joined Chief Garden Steward Martin Fish and international floral designer Jonathan Moseley on the Garden Show Stage.
- **Thursday:** Jules visited the Mountain & Moorland equine classes and New Holland's CR11 combine harvester on the President's Lawn with David Hurst from Russells.
- **Friday:** Harriet Cowan, a qualified nurse, took a health check at the Field Nurse trailer and visited the Beef Young Handler classes to present winners' rosettes.



Other famous faces at the Show included TV star Patrick Grant as a special guest of British Wool, and guests on the Vertu Motors Stand included Yorkshire County Cricket Club's Men's and Women's teams, England rugby player Ellie Kildunne and Coronation Street actor Alan Halsall.

AWARDS

Seven students studying for land-based careers at universities and colleges across the North of England had their efforts recognised in the **Best Agricultural Student Awards**.

- Matilda Joy, Askham Bryan
- Tom Ledingham, Bishop Burton College
- Alfie Wright, Craven College
- Amy Swann, East Durham College
- Gerard Duarte Dos Santos, Leeds University
- Rachel Jolly, Myerscough College
- Toby Russon, Newcastle University



The **Long Service Awards** recognise those who have worked for the same employer for at least 35 years. The employer must be a member of the Society. Six people with a total of 212 years working in agriculture were recognised:

- **Janet Wintringham** has worked at BATA based near Malton for more 35 years. Janet has been the main contact for new members, kept the membership register, recorded share capital and dealt with share payments. She also managed credit control.
- **Mark Hunton** joined Church Farm Enterprises in 1991. He has worked the dairy and arable farm for 35 years and has taken over the spraying, drilling and combining. He is responsible for feeding the cows and young stock and turns his hands to everything from machinery repairs to building maintenance.
- **Robert Kennedy** started working in the Dalton Estate Woodlands dept in 1990 as a woodman. He has looked after the Dalton Estate, managing and maintaining the mainly broadleaf woodlands as part of the forestry team, building extensive knowledge of woodland planting, maintenance and management and has become skilled with chainsaws, forwarders and winches.
- **David Kirby** has been a trusted, reliable and invaluable member of the RE Phillips & Son team for 36 years. Able to put his hand to anything, he has been a tractor and combine driver, ploughman, maintenance man, pig helper, cattle bedder, shepherd and more.
- **Joanne Bedford** celebrates 35 years with Longley Farm. She began her career helping wherever she was needed, including washing vans on Saturday mornings, before finding her home in Cottage Cheese. As Supervisor, she has played a key role in the department's success and development over the years.
- **Jeanette Revely** was aged 20 when she started a client base, having let Bishop Burton College with a distinction in Agricultural Business and Finance. She assists many farm clients, including Howard Raines for whom she has continuously worked for 35 years.



The Yorkshire Agricultural Society's **School Veg Box competition** challenges primary schools in Yorkshire to grow healthy produce from scratch. This year its theme was Waste to Grow. A record 31 primary schools across Yorkshire entered the competition, with 10 finalists invited to display their boxes in a newly designed and relocated showcase area in the Discovery Zone.

Chapel Haddlesey School near Selby was named the Champion growers. Their entry was

led by a dedicated garden club group made up of pupils from Years 2, 5 and 6. After being revealed as winners, they sang a song they had written about the competition theme to encourage recycling.

The competition is headline sponsored by Asda, with further support from MYGroup, Wormganix, Grow to School, Yorganics, Cone Exchange and Pink Pig, and with RHS Harlow Carr's Suzie Orger and Tom Wiltshire, and Society staff, Council Member and Trustees taking on judging duties.

Farsley Springbank Primary, Leeds, who won Best Diary for the care they had taken to document their growing journey. Richard Taylor Primary, Harrogate won Best Decorated Box.

The **Doncaster Cup** for the best exhibit in the Garden Show went to Holden Clough Nursery of Bolton-by-Bowland, Lancashire for their display featuring a Mini Austin. The President's Choice Award went to Garth Cottage Herbs from Newby Wiske, Northallerton for their 'Fifty Shades of Mint' display.

The Royal Yorkshire Regiment's **Best Soldier of 2026** went to a soldier who has delivered an "exceptional contribution" to the 1st Battalion of the Royal Yorkshire Regiment, Pte Lewis Andrewartha.



The **John Boddy Award for Forestry** celebrates and rewards excellence in forestry creation, design and management in Yorkshire with this year's theme focused on management for resilient woodlands. The Award is organised and judged by the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, Royal Forestry Society and the Forestry Commission and the 2026 title was won by Bramham Park near Wetherby where woodland Management has been overseen by Darryl Stubbs of DS Forest Management for more than a decade.

The **RABI/Yorkshire Agricultural Society Outstanding Contribution Award** went to a farmer whose work has helped bring greater visibility and understanding to modern farming. Tom Carlisle, known as The Dales Farmer, is a farmer, educator and advocate. Working in the Yorkshire Dales, Tom has built a significant audience by sharing the realities of day-to-day agricultural life, offering an honest and accessible insight into the challenges, responsibilities and rewards of farming.

The **GYS Innovation Awards** showcased some of the very latest technology for agriculture, with the Overall Award going to Bennamann for its scalable solution to upgrade biogas produced on farms into transport grade biomethane fuel. Its biocycle upgrader can output 140,000kg of biomethane annually, with 1kg being similar to 1l of diesel. Bennamann's innovation also picked up the award in the Engineering category.

Other GYS Innovation Award winners were:

- **Agri-Tech Start Up:** SealStop Valve by SealStop, a simple, portable and affordable alternative to address overflowing water containers caused by unattended hosepipes.
- **Digital Innovation:** TwoCan Mentor is a structured cross-industry mentoring programme built specifically for food, farming and horticulture.
- **Practical Farm Innovation:** Worsley Plant's MB Crusher C50 crushes and recycles inert materials directly on site using either an excavator or a backhoe loader.

The **Tye Trophy** recognises conservation and environmental work on commercial farms across the North. The overall winners were Cumbrian farmers Ian Bell and Rebecca Dickens of Brampton, who work closely with the RSPB on their land and nearby fell, having created more than 30 ponds. Regional winners were:

- **Cumbria:** Ian Bell and Rebecca Dickens of Hallbankgate Farms, Brampton.



- **East Yorkshire:** Martin Stringer, Thorney Bank Farm, Nunburnholme.
- **Lancashire:** Dave and Edwina Miller, Stoneyfold Farm, Preston.
- **North Yorkshire:** Charles and Gilda Brader, Thixendale Manor Farm, Malton.
- **Northumberland:** Shaun Maw, Beaumont House Farm, Hexham.
- **South and West Yorkshire:** Alastair Trickett, Fortshot House Farm, Leeds.
- **Durham, Tyne and Wear:** Rachel and Edward Jewson, East Knitsley Grange Farm, Consett.

Volunteer stewards, committee members and supporters were recognised for their outstanding contribution and service to YAS when they are presented with a **Special Award**:

- **Edwin Thorpe** began stewarding in 1990, covering what was then the Jubilee Area when stewards would speak to traders pre-show and peg out the stand areas as required. Edwin has been a Trade Stand Steward every year since and he also carries out stewarding duties at Driffild and Ryedale Shows, Bramham Horse Trials, among other events.
- **Jimmy Fitton** began stewarding in 2009 as a Dairy Cattle Steward in the Ayrshire Section before becoming a Cattle Ambassador. He is an Ayrshire Society judge and committee member of the North of England Ayrshire Society. Jimmy has also been Chief Cattle Steward at Gargrave Show for 30+ years.
- **Norman Jackson**, a retired veterinary surgeon from Easingwold, has been a valued Cattle Steward at the Great Yorkshire Show since 2012. With a lifetime of knowledge around cattle, Norman brought calm authority, good humour and great attention to detail to his role.
- **Richard Jackson** has stewarded 44 shows since starting in 1978 as a teenager, only missing shows for the Foot and Mouth and Covid years and the funeral of his father. He started alongside his father working within a predominantly East Riding base of stewards. Once his father stepped up to become a senior Steward, Richard also stepped up.
- **Henry Chadwick** has given many years of dedicated service to the Yorkshire Agricultural Society, both as a former member of Council and as a member of the Trustees. He has also served on the Showground Sub-Committee and the Executive Committee, bringing professional, business and rural experience to the Society's work. During the Show, Henry has served as a Liaison Steward, helping the Society promote its charitable objectives.
- **Kate Mallender** who has completed her 34th consecutive year as one of the Show's official photographers. Kate began at the Show in 1992 photographing livestock competition winners. More than three decades later, she still photographs the Show's highlights while coordinating coverage across all 21 sections, making sure her team captures everything from championship winners to royal visits.
- **John Fenton** is an arable farmer who is passionate about working hand-in-hand with nature. In East Yorkshire, he has helped conserve almost 50 miles of centuries-old hedgerows and the world's most northerly chalk stream. His environmental stewardship was recognised in 2010 when he won the Tye Trophy for his work at Yokefleet Farms near Goole. He served as head judge of the Tye Trophy competition from 2011-2025, as well as a Member of Yorkshire Agricultural Society's Council from 2013-2021.
- The **Rev Canon Leslie Morley** was appointed Honorary Society Chaplain to the Society in 2009. He has played a key role in the Show, the Society's annual Plough Service, Harvest



Festival and Church on Show, and has been a great supporter of the Farming Help charities. Leslie was at the forefront of the Yorkshire Rural Support Network, which was started by the Society in response to Foot and Mouth. He has helped countless farming families across the county, visiting them personally or liaising on their behalf with Government agencies and the Farming Help charities.

CLOSING ACT

One of the final acts of the 167th Great Yorkshire Show was the President's Handover in the Main Ring, where Nick Lane Fox handed over to Rodrica Straker at the end of his 12-month term. A huge thank you to Nick for his services to the Society as President and over many years.



Rodrica, from near Beverley, studied Land Economy at the University of Cambridge before qualifying as a rural practice, chartered surveyor.

After a brief spell in the industry, Rodrica returned to the family business in East Yorkshire which involves a holiday park, farming and forestry, and the Burton Constable Foundation charitable trust.

Rodrica co-managed with her late husband their family farm in Northumberland. She continues to work full-time between both businesses. Rodrica is also involved in various charities and rural organisations.

It has also been announced that HRH The Princess Royal will take up the honour of becoming the Show's President at the end of the 2027 Show. The Princess Royal has been a regular visitor to the Show, first attending in 1992, and will become the first royal President of the Show since HRH The Duchess of Kent in 1972.



Images are available to view and download via our online library:

<https://media.yasdigital.com/gys-image-library/>

The 168th Great Yorkshire Show will be held on Tuesday 13 – Friday 16 July 2027