



*Based at the home of The Yorkshire Agricultural Society,  
Regional Agricultural Centre,  
Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, HG2 8NZ*

## **Terms of Reference V1**

### **1. Aim**

To bring together farmers, vets and industry supporters to improve knowledge transfer within a social, but informative, group for forward-thinking farmers.

### **2. Purpose**

The purpose of the group is:

- To provide forward-thinking farmers with a platform for networking.
- To promote a holistic view of the food and farming industry and address key challenges facing farmers.
- To encourage knowledge transfer between farmers and effective dissemination of information from industry leaders in order to promote new thinking and best practice amongst farmers.
- To explore trends, investigate innovation and encourage debate and discussion in order to enable members to effectively plan for the future of farming.
- To inspire committed young people into a farming career with the prospects of real financial benefits, a real awareness of their self-worth and the worth of their profession.

### **3. Role**

#### **3.1 Communication and Sector Engagement**

- Establish a network of forward-thinking members from a wide-range of industry sectors across Yorkshire.
- Create a platform for engagement between industry leaders and group members to enable farmers to develop their understanding of the industry as a whole and to allow them to make their voices heard when it comes to implementing change.

- Promote good practice examples and learning constructively from challenges from across the region and beyond.

### **3.2 Leadership and Representation**

- Champion the activities of the Future Farmers of Yorkshire.
- Inform and advise the YAS council, the government's Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), other public sector organisations and government departments about farming and rural issues across the region and beyond.
- Work with other partnerships across wider geographic boundaries where there is a common agenda.

### **3.3 Programme Activity**

- The Management Team will identify priority issues to explore in response to discussions with the wider Network.
- Varying forms of activities and engagement will be considered based on opportunity and need, linked to the priorities established by the Management Team.
- The Management Team will be expected to use their existing contacts and networks to communicate the activity of the Network.

## **4. Geographical Coverage**

The geographical coverage of the group is Yorkshire.

## **5. Membership and Governance**

### **5.1 Management, Chair & Vice Chair**

- The Future Farmers of Yorkshire shall be administered by three officers within the Management Team: The Chair, Vice-Chair and the Manager.
- Appointments for the Chair and Vice Chair will be advertised to the Management Committee and the wider group. The Management Team will have the opportunity to nominate candidates as part of this process.
- The Chair and Vice Chair will serve for a minimum term of three years.
- The Management Team may co-opt up to three individuals, in an advisory and non-voting capacity if it feels will help fulfil the aim of the group.
- The Management Team may appoint any other member of the wider network to become a member of the Management Team to fill a vacancy.
- Members of the Management Team may serve for a maximum of two terms of three years.

### **5.2 Duties**

- I. The duties of the Chair shall be to:
  - Chair meetings of the Management Team and the wider Network.

- Represent the Network at functions/meetings as required.
  - Act as the spokesperson of the Network when necessary.
- II. The duties of the Vice Chair shall be to:
- Deputise for the Chair as required.
- III. The duties of the Manager shall be to:
- Help deliver the strategy and aims of the Network as agreed by the Management Team.
  - Keep a membership list.
  - Prepare in consultation with the Chairperson the agenda for meetings of the Team and the wider Network.
  - Take and keep minutes of all meetings.
  - Collect and circulate any relevant information to the wider Network.
  - Supervise the financial affairs of the Network.
  - Keep proper accounts that show all monies received and paid out by the Network.
  - Act as an initial point of contact for people interested in the activity of the Network.

### **5.3 Meetings**

- All notification of meetings and meeting papers will be circulated to the Management Team members by email.
- The Management Team shall meet at least twice a year or as needed.
- At least two officers of the Management Team must be present for a Management Team meeting to take place.

### **5.4 The Future Farmers of Yorkshire Network**

The Future Farmers of Yorkshire is open to any individual that wishes to learn more about the group's associated activities and programmes. Members of this wider network may be called upon from time to time to take part in consultations and events that are applicable to their knowledge, interests or skills.

How will the members of the Future Farmers of Yorkshire benefit?

Alongside workshops, seminars, debates, supply chain and farm visits arranged by the Management Committee, members will also receive regular activity updates via e-newsletters and social media posts.

Members cite the following as reasons for attending:

- To make new business contacts
- Knowledge transfer
- A social occasion to meet like-minded people
- To gain ideas for their own businesses
- An opportunity for farmers and vets to interact
- Meet farmers facing similar challenges
- To see what the future holds for farming

## **6. Resources**

The Group will seek to secure resources to:

- Undertake its roles as set out at section 3, detailed above.
- To deliver chosen programmes and activities.

## **7. Review**

The Terms of Reference and operations of the Future Farmers of Yorkshire will be reviewed annually. The annual review will consider any amendments and revisions needed to improve the:

- Terms of reference.
- Purposes and roles of the Future Farmers of Yorkshire.
- Membership and performance of the Future Farmers of Yorkshire.
- Communication and engagement.
- Activity programme.

## **8. Alterations to the Terms of Reference**

Any changes to this Terms of Reference must be agreed by at least two-thirds of those members present and voting at either of the biannual meetings.

## **9. Dissolution**

The Group may be wound up at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members present and voting at any biannual meeting.