






Inspiring the Next Generation of Sheep Farmers
Speaker profiles

<p>Marc Jones</p> 	<p>After returning from a HCC scholarship to New Zealand where he studied ‘How New Zealand is changing its lamb production systems for its changing markets’, Marc restructured his family’s 1,200-ewe flock to create a profitable system based on good grassland management and forage crops. He was awarded the NSA Cymru/Wales 2010 Young Achiever and Farmers Weekly 2014 Young Farmer of the Year. Marc also works for ADAS part time, providing consultancy to sheep farmers in Wales, is a member of the NSA Cymru/Wales Committee and part of the Sainsbury’s lamb development group.</p>
<p>Kevin Harrison</p> 	<p>Kevin is farm manager on a sheep/arable farm near Bath, with the majority of time spent on the 800-ewe sheep flock. He does not come from a farming background but had built a successful career in farming with a focus on progressive sheep enterprises. Kevin says: “You get out what you put in. Hard work, being 100% committed to the success of the business you work for and gaining the trust of your employer can lead to great benefits both financially and as a lifestyle.” Kevin is NSA Marches Region Chairman and represents English sheep farmers on the NSA UK Policy and Technical Committee.</p>
<p>Andrew Foulds</p> 	<p>“My career started with three ewes in my father’s churchyard at the age of 17,” says Andrew, who now finishes 20,000-30,000 store lambs a year and runs 2,500 ewes, while owning just 40 acres of land. He expanded by taking keep wherever he could in Suffolk and Norfolk, often through farmers he met while working for the NFU, and now has a variety of rental agreements. Andrew describes himself as an OAP who is spurred on daily by his ambitious stepson George and two other young shepherds who won’t let him stop! He is a long-term NSA and NFU supporter and the current NSA Eastern Region Chairman.</p>
<p>Eileen McCloskey</p> 	<p>Eileen is from a hill farm in the Sperrins, Northern Ireland, where the family runs sheep and suckler cows. She successfully completed a degree, masters and PhD before taking a job in Scotland in 2010 as a SAC livestock lecturer. She then returned to Northern Ireland as sheep technologist with CAFRE, where she works with students and farmers to get new technologies out into the sheep industry. “My current role involves development and delivery of technology projects which rational is based on current research,” she explains. Eileen is also an active NSA Northern Ireland Region committee member.</p>
<p>David Coates</p> 	<p>The son of a tenant farmer with no capital behind him, David suggested a share farming agreement in 1984 to John Henderson, who provided land and buildings. David poured in energy and time, summering and wintering people’s cattle to save enough money for a 600-ewe flock and 90 sucklers. Things changed again in 2003 when he moved the share farming agreement to a different farm (running sheep and store cattle) and will change again next year when his son joins the business. “Things will change again but it’s exciting, because we have the ability to alter and have proved it can work,” he says.</p>

Our hosts

<p>Abbey Home Farm</p> 	<p>Will and Hilary Chester-Master are the managing partners in a family partnership which decided to convert Abbey Home Farm from conventional to organic production in 1991. John Newman has been farm manager of the 650ha unit since autumn 1992 and will take provide the conference's farm walk, focusing on the sheep enterprise but also explaining how output from the various elements of the farm (sheep, beef, dairy, pigs and vegetables) are sold to the farm shop/cafe and off the farm. The farm was Organic Food Awards Producer of the Year 1999 and the shop was Organic Retailer of the Year 2000. Both the farm and the shop were highly commended in the 2001 Organic Food Awards and shop was awarded a national Environmental Award for the second time in January 2012. www.theorganicfarmshop.co.uk</p>
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Event facilitators

<p>Joanne Briggs</p> 	<p>Part of Joanne's role as NSA Communications Manager is leading NSA Next Generation, the organisation's dedicated activity for young people in the sheep sector. She has overseen the first ever NSA Next Generation Ambassador Programme, which started at the beginning of this year, and will officially open applications for the 2015 Ambassador Programme at this conference. Joanne says she has learnt as much as any of the NSA Next Generation Ambassadors when they've come together for five personal development and business skills delivery sessions through the year. www.nsanextgeneration.org.uk</p>
<p>Phil Stocker</p> 	<p>Phil joined the NSA in 2011, taking the role of Chief Executive for the UK's specialist membership organisation for those interested in sheep and sheep farming. Phil's vision is that people involved in keeping sheep are enthusiastic, knowledgeable and aspire to best practice – and that those people not involved in farming are aware of the contribution sheep make to society and of the core aspects of the sector. NSA Next Generation is a crucial part of that vision and Phil will facilitate the conference's morning session looking at different routes into the sheep sector. www.nationalsheep.org.uk</p>
<p>Chris Lloyd</p> 	<p>Chris and his team at Eblex have been keen supporters of NSA Next Generation since its inception and have been instrumental in helping to deliver the Ambassador Programme. Chris's long involvement in the sheep sector and current role as Eblex Industry Development Manager means he is well placed to both encourage young people and give them the skills to run profitable sheep flocks. Chris is also a past Nuffield Scholar. He will facilitate the conference's afternoon session, which will examine the opportunities and barriers for young people in the sheep sector. www.eblex.org.uk</p>