

**Thursday 27th November 2008**

**Time: 10.00 — 4.30**

**Chairperson: Dr Peter Carruthers**

## **Farmers Building a Future Through Collaboration**

This conference will focus on sharing good practice between farmer-led groups and networks throughout England and will provide a forum for discussing the future options for supporting farming through farmer-led groups. Mutual support and collaboration is increasingly important in the farming sector. By **bringing together members of successful groups with stories to tell with individual farmers and representatives from less established groups** the conference will provide scope for learning & inspiration.

Regional and national policy makers and funders will be invited to the event so they can learn first hand how public and institutional funding can deliver rural development objectives by supporting groups and their initiatives.

**Farmers Building a Future Through Collaboration**

**Arthur Rank Centre**

**Stoneleigh Park**

**Coventry**

**Warwickshire**

***A Conference to Develop Farmer Networking in England***

## **Programme**

### **Morning Session**

**Welcome and address by Chairperson, Dr Peter Carruthers**

*Chairman: Farm Crisis Network*

*Expert Advisor: Commission for Rural Communities*

Presentations:

**Farmer Collaboration and Cooperation and the Rural Development Programme**

*Geoff Brown, The Carnegie UK Trust*

**Farmer-led Rural Development** *Paul Harper,*  
*Network*

*Cumbria Farmer*

**UTASS: local solutions for local problems** *Richard Betton, Upper Teesdale*  
*Agricultural Support Service*

**Establishing local and national networks – lessons from the Commoners Federation** *John Thorley, Commoners Federation, National Sheep Association*

**Workshops:**

**Local network groups - making the money stack up** *led by Richard Betton, UTASS*  
*and Paul Harper, Cumbria Farmer Network*

**Making a success of collaborative marketing** *led by John Strak, Mey Selections*

**Collaborating to supply the public sector** *(Leader TBC)*

**The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach - building on strengths in the farming community:** *Led by Val Ponder, National Farmers Network*

**West Midlands Rural Hubs - RDA stimulated rural development - led by Henry Lucas, Warwickshire Rural Hub & Cathy Meredith, Herefordshire Rural Hub**

**Lunch and Networking**

**Afternoon Session**

**Workshops:**

**Morning workshops will be repeated**

### **Feedback by Key Listeners:**

Key Listeners will be selected from policy Makers attending the conference. During this session delegates will reconvene and Key Listeners will report on the key messages of the day and the lessons they will take back to their organisations.

### **Tea and Networking**

This conference is being organised by the National Farmers Network in partnership with the Royal Agricultural Society of England and The Carnegie UK Trust

### **Booking and Further Information**

To book you place at the conference please complete and return the enclosed booking form. For further information on the conference please contact Val Ponder:

Tel: 01159655970

Email: [valerie@ponder517.freeseve.co.uk](mailto:valerie@ponder517.freeseve.co.uk)

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation is available at the Stoneleigh Park Lodge, close to the Conference venue. We have arranged a special Conference bed & breakfast rate of £70/head for delegates. If you would like to take advantage of this rate please book with the Stoneleigh Park Lodge directly and you must mention the Farmers Building a Future Through Collaboration Conference when making your booking.

Stoneleigh Park Lodge:

Tel: 02476690123

Email: [info@stoneleighparklodge.com](mailto:info@stoneleighparklodge.com)

[www.stoneleighparklodge.com](http://www.stoneleighparklodge.com)



**Conference**

**Farmers Building a Future through collaboration**

*A conference to develop farmer networking in England*

Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Coventry, Warwickshire

27 November 2008; 10.00 am – 4.30 pm

**Delegate Booking Form**

**Conference fees:**

*There are three delegate rates:*

Government agency personnel: £100 per person

Representatives of national farming organisations: £55 per person

Farmers and farmer-led group representatives: £20 per person

*(Bursaries may be available for farmers, please contact Val Ponder for details: Tel: 01159655970 email: [valerie@ponder517.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:valerie@ponder517.freeserve.co.uk))*

Please complete this form, enclose a cheque for the correct amount made payable to 'National Farmers Network' and send to:

Susan Harper, Cumbria Famer Network Ltd, The Old Stables, Redhills, Penrith CA11 0DT

Closing date for bookings: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any special dietary needs or other needs (e.g communication or mobility)?

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please state which payment rate applies to you:*

Government agency

National farming organisation

Farmer / Farmer-led group