SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

JOHN ALLEN
John has worked within the agriculture sector his whole life and has almost three decades experience of consultancy. John works extensively across the UK and the EU, as well as having undertaken various projects in the US and Eastern Europe.

John’s areas of expertise include strategic planning, carbon reduction project management, marketing, supply chain management, change management and people management. He works with some of the UK’s leading farmers, as well as major food and dairy processors and retailers.

www.kiteconsulting.com

TIM DAVIES
Tim has more than 30 years of experience as a specialist animal nutritionist, is the main technical lead for Kite on nutrition, works across the Midlands, Scotland and Wales feeding 14,000 cows, and has done collaborative nutritional research in the UK, Europe and USA.

His areas of expertise include specialist dairy nutrition, solving health, fertility and production problems, manipulating milk quality, modelling carbon footprint of livestock, legal work, buying group work and the evaluation of feeds.

www.kiteconsulting.com

ANDY GUBB
Born into a dairy farming family in North Devon, Andy’s love of cows and farming was formed from an early age. Having graduated from Nottingham University in 1990 he moved into dairy consultancy with ADAS before later establishing a successful retail business.

In 2013, together with John Allen, Andy played a key role in the business planning and establishment of a new, partial greenfield dairy unit for 500 cows on his family’s farm, which had traditionally operated as a beef and sheep enterprise.

Andy joined Kite in 2016 as a part time associate consultant, covering the South West.

VICKY HICKS
Vicky recently joined Kite from NMR, having worked on two industry-led research projects covering milk fatty acids, energy balance and ketosis. She graduated from Hartpury College with a BSc (Hons) Dairy Herd Management in 2009 before going on to work for a milk purchaser in the South West and then the NFU at Stoneleigh.

Vicky is a cow enthusiast at heart, with a keen interest in transition cow nutrition. Her focus at NMR was to develop new services using mid-infrared data captured as part of routine milk recording, which has opportunities to combine with genomic data. Now aboard with Kite, she is continuing this work alongside data management projects and nutrition work.

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DUNCAN WILLIAMS
Duncan is based in Exeter, covering the South West of England and focusing on dairy nutrition and technical consultancy. He originates from an arable farm in Essex and, prior to joining Kite was working as a dairy vet; spending time in the USA, New Zealand and China. He has been involved in the implementation of antibiotic monitoring schemes around the country, as well as working with farmer groups to drive down overall use.

www.kiteconsulting.com

MITCH DAVIS
Mitch grew up working in the family cheese making and spray drying business, Davisco Foods International, Inc. Having graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science and Nutrition, Mitch went on to work in most areas within the family business, but with a particular focus on products derived from whey.

Mitch currently manages Davis Family Dairies, LLC; a dairy and beef animal enterprise that employees 140 people and manages over 19,000 animals, with 8,700 cows milked every day.

www.davisfamilydairies.com

PROFESSOR NICOLA SHADBOLT
Having initially graduated from Nottingham University with a degree in Agriculture, Nicky is now Professor of Farm and Agribusiness Management at Massey University in New Zealand. Her research expertise is focused on strategic management and farm business analysis.

Nicky is the Director of the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association and represents New Zealand in the International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN), in dairying. She is also the editor of International Food and Agribusiness Management Review and the Journal of Agricultural Management.

Nicky has been a farmer for more than 30 years, with experience of the dairy, sheep, beef and deer industries.

www.massey.ac.nz

NICK COBB
Nick is a fourth-generation dairy farmer based in Dorset. Over the years the business, JF Cobb & Sons, has evolved from a traditional mixed family farming business, with 450 cows on three farms, to a specialised dairy business with 3,000 cows. They also work alongside other local dairy farms, with a combined total of 4,500 cows over six farms, employing around 100 people. Around half of the milk is sold on an M&S contract.

JF Cobb & Sons has key guiding principles: As a family-owned business they are focused on being sustainable and competitive, they passionately care for their cows; they look after the land and environment; they are proud to produce healthy, nutritious milk and they want to create an interesting and enjoyable place to work.
"Flying high for the future"

JOHN FORREST
John took over the running of the family farm in 1991, managing a milking herd of 120 cows, 500 breeding ewes and 100 acres of cereal crops. Following the foot-and-mouth outbreak and the loss of the farm’s sheep flock, John decided to alter the focus of the farm and specialise in dairy production.

John has steadily grown his business, installing a 50-point rotary parlour in 2004 and increasing herd numbers to 1,500 cows. Cows are milked three times a day and the business sells its milk to Arla.

SIR JOHN CAMPBELL (OBE FSRUC FRAgS)
John is a first generation farmer, having taken over the family farm first tenanted by his father in the 1940s and later establishing his own farm in Peeblesshire, Scotland.

John now runs a successful farm enterprise in the Scottish Borders, employing 220 people and managing 15,000 acres. The business comprises 11,000 breeding ewes (plus followers), 600 suckler cows and extensive egg production facilities. The business supplies 1.5 million eggs to Tesco, Asda and Sainsbury’s every day.

As well as running a farm enterprise, John has been a local council leader for nine years and was the Conservative candidate in his local constituency in the original Scottish Parliament. In 2017, John was knighted in the New Year’s Honours list.

www.glenrathfarms.co.uk

ANGUS WIELKOPOLSKI
Angus started his agricultural career as a contractor before moving into farm management. In the late 1980s he founded St Helens Farm with the help of his wife Kathleen, and the business quickly became the UK’s leading goats milk brand.

The business incorporated milk production, processing and marketing of goats milk, and later expanded to include the production of low fat cheddar and goats cheese. In 2013 the St Helens farm brand, together with its processing facilities, were sold.

Angus is still involved in goat milk production and has established a successful, multinational business focussed on goat genomics and the role that genomic selection can play in the goat milk industry.

www.sthelensfarm.co.uk

DR TORSTEN HEMME
Torsten has experience of working on various dairy farms in his native Germany as well as in Belgium, the UK, USA, New Zealand and Malaysia. In 1999 his educational studies culminated in the completion of a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Göttingen.

Torsten worked as a scientist at Germany’s Federal Agricultural Research Centre before founding the International Farm Comparison Network (IFCN) in 2005. The IFCN now has more than 100 countries and research institutions participating in its work, as well as over 100 companies from the agribusiness sector.

www.ifcndairy.org/about-ifcn-neu
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DAVID CHRISTENSEN
David manages Kingston Hill Farm Ltd, a family owned farming business, made up of dairy and beef farming enterprises in the Thames Valley to the west of Oxford. The family business farms 1,300 acres of rented land, on which 750 cows are milked and a further 600 cattle are reared.

David used to be a Farmer Director of Milk Link and now sits on the Board of Representatives for Arla. He is part of the Prince’s Rural Action Programme for Dairy Farming, as well as acting as a Regional Advisory Board Chairman for the NFU Mutual.

David is a trustee of the Oxfordshire Agricultural Society Trust, a charity that provides financial assistance for training and development to young people in Oxfordshire who are actively engaged in the agricultural sector.