

NETWORK NEWS

The newsletter of the National Farm Attractions Network

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National
Farm
Attractions
Network

2014 conference and trade show to be largest ever

The 2014 NFAN Conference and Trade Show, taking place in Harrogate on February 11th and 12th, is shaping up to be the largest ever such event with a comprehensive programme of activities for members.

Book online
now!

Taking place at a new venue - the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate - delegates can meet and network with fellow operators, learn from a packed conference programme and meet key suppliers from the industry all under one roof.



Conference speakers include Tom Percy, from York Maze, Mike Bennett, from Yorkshire Wildlife Park and Gary Richardson, from Countryside Learning, as well as a number of 'best-in-class' case studies in catering and from the 2014 Farm Park of the Year winner.

As a pre conference event, delegates

can visit Cannon Hall Farm. The award-winning attraction welcomes more than 250,000 visitors each year. The family run farm includes a £400,000 adventure playground (with the biggest Tube Maze in Europe), recently expanded tea rooms and an award winning butchery.

NFAN Chairman Matt Heast said: "NFAN continues to go from strength to strength and we hope the 2014 conference will again provide two thought-provoking days with plenty of time for networking.

"2013 has been an exciting and full year for NFAN with the launch of our new website and our involvement in the implementation of the Industry Code of Practice."

Alongside the annual conference, NFAN will run its popular trade exhibition, showcasing key suppliers from the farm attraction industry.

Thank you to Gold Sponsors: **S. Gregory & Co, Marsh & Company** and **Davies & Co**, as well as additional supporters Agility Marketing, Timberplay and The Partners Group.

The Programme

10th February

Daytime: On your way to Harrogate, NFAN has arranged free entry for you to visit Yorkshire Wildlife Park. This is a great opportunity to see how this former farm park has been transformed.

Evening: Join other delegates for an informal meal in the hotel bar.

11th February

Daytime: Open Day to Cannon Hall Farm, South Yorkshire. Departure at 9am from the Majestic Hotel.

Evening: Informal Awards Dinner. Find out who has won all the NFAN Awards this year.

12th February

Main Conference & Trade Exhibition.

TRADE SHOW EXHIBITORS

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Tornado International Ltd.
TYG Tickets
Timberplay
Veqtor
World of Rides
Zone Leisure

Listings correct at time of publication

Code of Practice workshops a big success

THE series of free workshops on the Industry Code of Practice (ICoP) run by NFAN in October were a huge success – so much so that an additional event was held in December to cater to the overwhelming demand from those wishing to attend.

The event provided guidelines on how children should interact with animals as well as guidance on how HSE agencies should inspect premises.

Delegates at the workshops were both farm park operators and HSE agents, providing a platform for discussion, debate and a deeper understanding for all involved.

Two workshops were held at each venue, one in the morning and another in the afternoon, the programmes at each including the HSE's perspective on the ICoP and its enforcement, the animal health aspects of Zoonoses from the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratory

Agency, the operator and farm park industry view and photographic examples of good and poor practice.

Tours of the various venues were also included as part of each workshop, with an additional tour of Willows Farm Village Magical Santa's Grotto and Christmas for the December event.

A NFAN Code of Practice video is currently in production and is due to be unveiled at the 2014 conference in Harrogate in February.

Member offers from Booker and Regency

FOOD wholesaler Booker, a NFAN trade member, has announced a 5% retrospective discount scheme for all NFAN members, payable twice annually on all non-tobacco purchases (excluding VAT).

Over the past six months Booker has paid over £18,000 in rebates to NFAN members. To benefit from the scheme, members simply need to speak to their local Booker manager (see the Booker trade listing on the NFAN website for further details). Membership of Booker is free.

Booker has a wide range of products on offer throughout its 172 branches in England, Scotland and Wales. Major brands and Booker's own label ranges are available and deliveries can be arranged, with no delivery charge for orders over £100, excluding VAT.

Booker's range, services and branch locations can be viewed at www.booker.co.uk

Additionally, buying group Regency Purchasing is offering its cost saving service free of charge to NFAN members. Regency already works with a large number of visitor attractions in the UK, including farm parks, and can save clients money in several key areas of expenditure. These include food, ice cream, coffee, soft drinks, utilities and more.

On average, Regency can demonstrate real savings of between 10% to 15%. For further details members can contact the company on info@regencypurchasing.co.uk



The October workshops were held at Odds Farm Park in Buckinghamshire, Cantref Adventure Farm in Brecon, Wales, and Walby Farm Park in Cumbria, while the additional event, held in December, was hosted by Willows Farm Village in Hertfordshire.

The workshops were held to help farm park operators gain a clearer understanding of the Code of Practice and to enable them to judge if they are adhering to the code and what more they could or should be doing to do so.

New NFAN website launched

AS many members will already have discovered, the NFAN now has a brand new website at www.farmattractions.net

Launched in November, the site has a clear and concise layout, is easy to navigate and includes online booking for all future events.



All members should have received their own password which provides them with a saving for all 2014 NFAN events and gives them access to the Committee's full contact details, as well as specialist articles providing top tips and information. Over the next year, we shall be bolstering our resources for members through the website and any member who hasn't a password, should call the NFAN office. For farm members seeking information

about suppliers, all the trade members are listed and can be filtered by category, whilst farms are listed geographically.

We trust members will find the new website a huge improvement on the previous site and we'd welcome any feedback on content and other elements.

TO ALL MEMBERS

Please look out for our newly introduced NFAN membership stickers. These can be used at your farm or office to show your membership to NFAN and are available from the NFAN office.

Planning permission changes - less red tape

FOLLOWING the end of the consultation period in October 2013 for the government document '*Greater Flexibility for Change of Use*' covering certain agricultural buildings, retail and residential, new adopted guidance is due to be released this April.

The two specific areas that may be applicable to farm attraction operations are as follows:

- **Agricultural to Residential** – to create a 'Permitted Development Right' to assist change of use and the associated physical works from existing buildings used for agricultural purposes to a residential use. It is proposed that permitted development right would allow up to three additional dwelling houses to be converted with an upper threshold of 150sq metres for a single dwelling house.
- **Agricultural to New Schools and Nurseries** – to create a 'Permitted Development Right' to allow a building used for agricultural purposes of up to 500sq m to be used as a new state funded school or nursery providing child care. This will very much support working parents in rural communities by allowing for new schools and nurseries, meaning families can continue in their rural communities. Further information on the consultation document can be found at www.gov.uk/dclg

Additionally, in relation to the European Rural Development Grant Aid for 2014-2019, DEFRA has announced that 5% (£177m) of the new rural development programme funding for 2014-2019 will be channelled through the local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) for rural growth supporting, for example, new rural businesses, tourism activities, renewable energy and broadband investments.

If any members would like further information on the above, please contact Barry Davies on 01536 524808 or email info@daviesandco.co.uk

2014 Farm Hub Workshops

IN addition to our successful Annual Conference, Open Day and yearly Roadshow, did you know NFAN also organises FarmHub Workshops offering specialist advice?

This Spring, you'll be able to attend a workshop entitled 'How much?' This interactive event will explore the costs each delegate is paying across a number of key product areas from utilities and insurance to food and beverage.

Additionally, in the Autumn, we are holding a workshop entitled 'Tough at the Top.' Aimed at business owners, the day will offer practical help for farm park operators and will cover a number of different areas including dealing with challenging staff and planning capital spend.

The full event programme will be announced at the Annual Conference in February.



Tourism award for Farmer Palmer's

GREAT news from one of our farm park members! Having been shortlisted for the Dorset Tourism Awards 2013, Farmer Palmer's near Poole came out as a winner, receiving the bronze award in the final.

"We won bronze up against the Tank Museum (which has benefited from huge lottery funding) and the winner, the National Trust. Not bad for a cute farm park in Dorset," says a delighted and clearly very proud Sandra Palmer-Snellin.

Sandra also tells us that they have just fired up a new Bio-mass boiler, which uses self-loading wood chips and is now heating the venue's buildings - making it the hottest farm park in Dorset! And looking further into the future, the farm is building a new milking demo/theatre barn as it has grown out of the real Farmer Palmer milking demo theatre it has been using to date.

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COMES AROUND ...
AGAIN AND AGAIN ...**



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**National
Farm
Attractions
Network**

31-33 Victoria Street,
Kettering, Northants.,
NN16 0BU.
Tel. 01536 513397
www.farmattractions.net

NFAN committee

Chairman

Mr. Matthew Heast
Mead Open Farm
Tel. 01525 852954

Treasurer

Mr. Barry Davies
Davies & Co.
Tel. 01536 524808

Mr. Andrew Wolfe
Willows Farm Park
Tel. 01727 822106

Mr. Neil Milbourn
Walby Farm Park
01228 573056

Mr. Steve Vinden
Odds Farm Park
Tel. 07841 562559

Mr. Richard Waring
Rand Farm Park
Tel. 01673 858904

Mrs. Louise Possegger
Springbarn Farm Park
Tel. 07711 069555

Mr. Colin Evans
Cantref Adventure Farm
Tel. 07977 120533

Mr. Richard Powell
Park Hall Countryside Experience
Tel. 01691 671123

Mr. Phil Pickersgill
Innovative Leisure
Tel: 07860 868104

Ms. Lesley Knight
Rupert Oliver's Ideas Factory
Tel: 07762 124325

All general enquiries should be directed to the NFAN office using the contact details above.

NFAN volunteer regional representatives

North East

Ann Darlington, Hall Hill Farm, Lanchester, County Durham, DH7 0TA
Email: ann@hallhillfarm.co.uk Tel. 01388 731333

North West

Neil Milbourn, Walby Farm Park, Walby Grange, Crosby on Eden, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA6 4QL
Email: neil@walbyfarmpark.co.uk Tel. 01228 573056

West Midlands

Frank Cartwright, Ray's Farm Country Matters, Billingsley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 6PF
Email: frank@raysfarm.com Tel. 01299 841255

South East

Liz Strain, Hand Made Places. Email: liz.strain@handmadeplaces.co.uk

South West

Sandra Palmer-Snellin, Farmer Palmer's Farm Park, Wareham Road, Organford, Poole, BH16 6EU
Email: info@farmerpalmers.co.uk Tel: 01202 622022

Scotland

Gillian Alexander, Heads of Ayr Farm Park, Alloway by Ayr, KA7 4LD, Scotland
Email: gillzi1@aol.com or info@headsofayrfarmpark.co.uk Tel. 01292 441210

Helpline - free advice for NFAN members

PLEASE remember that our experts earn their livings through the expertise you are using. Please limit your free calls to one per annum. Thereafter, the experts can advise you further, subject to their terms of business. You will find them all prepared to offer special rates for NFAN members.

Planning legislation and business rates

Barry Davies, Davies & Co. (Chartered Surveyors)
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Email: info@daviesandco.co.uk www.daviesandco.co.uk
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Contact Ben Young
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