



Growing together™

Spring Conference & AGM

Stratford Manor Hotel CV 37 0PY

Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th January 2018

NFU Conference Centre CV8 2TZ



sponsored by



BULRUSH

Spring Conference & AGM

16th & 17th January 2018– Stratford Manor Hotel &

NFU Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth

- 16:00** **AGM**
Presentation of Accounts
Reports to the AGM
Elections
Review Action Plan
- 19:00** **Pre-Dinner Drinks**
- 19:30** **Annual Dinner & Awards Presentation**

Wednesday 17th January

08:30 **Registration**

09:15
Welcome.

Minette Batters, Deputy President NFU

Minette runs a diversified, mixed farming business that includes horse livery, a wedding and corporate events venue, and a catering business specialising in home grown produce, and now employs two full time and up to 20 part time staff. Minette co-founded the campaigning initiative the 'Great British Beef Week'



Technical Seminar

Environment, Marketing & Labour issues

Chair–Lyndon Mason (Cut Flower Centre, Lincolnshire)

9:10-9:40 Albert Grimm

*Jeffery's Greenhouses,
St Catharines, Ontario, Canada*

“Using greenhouse climate to improve shelf life and garden performance”

Albert emigrated to Canada in 1988, and he lives with his family in southern Ontario, the heartland of Canadian greenhouse production. For nearly 20 years, he has been working as head grower for Jeffery's Greenhouses, a major producer of annual bedding plants in St. Catharines.



9:30-9:50 Peter Kamp

Priva bv, De Lier, Netherlands

‘Top crop monitoring’

Peter has had a long and distinguished career within the horticulture sector. He taught climate control and energy management in horticulture for ten years, has published a variety of articles for the industry including the book *Environmental Control in Greenhouses* (with co-author G J Timmerman) and worked as a consulting engineer for Westland Energy. Also he has been guest-lecturer on Climate



Control and Energy Management at the Higher School for Horticulture in Den Bosch and Delft.

Since 2007, Peter has worked for Priva BV as ‘Innovator Crop Systems’ where he conducts research in new automation systems for horticulture and indoor farming.

Q&A Discussion

11:10—11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 12:00 Albert Grimm

Jeffrey’s Greenhouses, Ontario, Canada

“Vendor managed inventory and production management”

Albert continues his explanation of their working methods and how working with VMI has helped their production and sales.



12:00 - 12:20 Amy Gray

NFU Horticulture

Current labour supply statistics

Amy is the NFU’s policy adviser for the horticultural sector with a particular focus on fruit, protected edible and ornamental plant production. She is an expert on the political, commercial and economic aspects affecting growers in this sector and advise members accordingly.

Amy leads on a number of policies/projects within the team, including the NFU’s labour monitoring tools, crop protection, plant health/biosecurity, environment, waste, and the team’s horticultural communication activities, amongst others.



12:20 - 12:50 Sam Zubaidi

Concordia Ltd

Labour supply issues and resolving problems for the season.

Sam is Operations and Development manager for Concordia, the UK's longest running seasonal labour provider. He provides strategic oversight for the operations team, as well as handling business development. Sam's mission is to build continuous development and improvement into Concordia's DNA, to ensure they remain the UK's labour provider of choice.



12:50 - 13:10 Q&A Discussion– Labour issues

13:15 - 13:55 Lunch

Horticulture Week is delighted to launch the new Horticulture Week Business Awards 2018, supporting, encouraging and broadcasting excellence among the businesses that make up the UK horticulture industry. This event will bring together all aspects of the industry into one leading Awards scheme, bringing suppliers and customers together under one roof.



Technical Updates

Chair– Chris Need, Need Consulting Ltd

14:00 - 14:20 Dr Tim Pettitt

University of Worcester

Pathogen testing for water.

Tim has 30 years' experience (from both the commercial and research), working on epidemiology, monitoring and control of soil- and water-borne



oomycete diseases on a wide range of host plants from all sectors of UK horticulture as well as tropical commodity crops. Tim recently joined the University of Worcester's plant pathology research group from working at the Eden Project in Cornwall.

14:20—14:40 Sabatino Urzo

RHS Plant Trialling

Plant trialling at RHS— Past, Present & Future

Sabatino Urzo is Trials Manager for the Royal Horticultural Society responsible for the overall management of the Trials Programme in place within the RHS. He received the BSc degree in Plant Production; MSc in Management and Design of Green Areas and Landscapes, having also studied Garden Design and Floral Displays in Greenwich, London. He comes from an agricultural family and has worked as horticultural lecturer before moving to the UK where he trained in horticulture at the Chelsea Physic Garden. Recently he has been involved in designing the new trials gardens at Wisley and RHS Bridgewater in Manchester.



14:40—15:00 Dr Jill England

ADAS

What's happening at the Bedding & Pot Plant Centre this season.

Jill England is a Horticulture Consultant and plant physiologist with RSK ADAS Ltd. Prior to joining ADAS in 2007, Jill studied at Hadlow College and Greenwich University (Commercial Horticulture), and at Wye College. Jill specialises in ornamentals research and consultancy, and is an auditor for the BOPP Continual Development Standard and the Growing



Media Initiative. Jill's recent research projects include leading the Bedding and Pot Plant Centre work programme, and investigating role of environment factors in the expression of Pansy Mottle Syndrome.

15:00—15:20 Dr Gerard Clover

Head of Plant Health RHS

“Plant health threats to UK horticulture: Xylella and the RHS response.”

Gerard Clover, RHS Head of Plant Health, is responsible for managing the RHS's team of plant pathologists and entomologists and for developing the Society's research programme to identify and control pests and diseases, undertake surveillance and share knowledge with members.

Prior to joining the RHS in 2013 he managed the New Zealand Plant Health & Environment Laboratory, the government reference laboratory for plant pests and diseases, and led the development of phytosanitary policy for imported plants.

His personal area of expertise is the detection, characterisation and management of virus and virus-like diseases. He is the supervisor of a CASE student with the University of Cambridge who is investigating the interaction of virus infection and plant-associated insects. He is also the supervisor of an MRes student with Royal Holloway who is seeking to identify the most important pests and diseases affecting UK gardens.



15:30 Q&A Discussion followed by tea & depart



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