



February 2015

Produce World investing in the fresh produce stars of the future

Produce World Group, the UK's largest grower and supplier of fresh vegetables, is teaming up with the University of Lincoln to launch an Agri-Food Trainee scheme to find the future stars of the fresh produce industry by offering paid-for work experience and a university degree.

The scheme is offering students the opportunity to gain a foot-hold in the sector by working for Produce World across all aspects of the business, while studying for an industry-leading qualification in Food Manufacture (BSc Hons Degree). There is an additional benefit that they will have no student debt at the end of the course.

To take part in the scheme, student candidates will need to have achieved 3 A-Levels (BTEC equivalent) at grade C or above, and be able to invest three to four and half years in completing the degree university course alongside working at Produce World.

In order to complete the course at the University of Lincoln's Holbeach site and work for Produce World across its sites in Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, candidates will be required to live locally and have access to a car.

Produce World Group's HR Director David Frost believes the scheme is a fantastic initiative that will bring talented young candidates with fresh ideas into the industry. He said: "Produce World is a fantastic place to work and we are constantly looking for ways to build the future of the industry.

"The Agri-Food Trainee scheme offers a brilliant opportunity to launch a career in the fresh-produce sector, while gaining an industry-leading qualification with no student debt at the end. Preparing the business leaders of tomorrow and discovering the next generation of talent is of paramount importance to us and this scheme aims to do just that".

In addition to the Agri-Food Trainee scheme, Produce World Group aims to get more people working and into the fresh produce industry through the "Tasty Jobs" scheme, an innovative welfare-to-work scheme designed to attract young job hunters into food manufacturing. The group has "Tasty Jobs" representatives across all its sites, with the "Tasty Jobs" team at Produce World Yaxley helping seven people get back into work, one of whom joined Produce World on a permanent basis at its Yaxley site.

The winning candidate will be working on a salary of £14,000 per annum and will gain their degree at The National Centre for Food Manufacturing on the University of Lincoln's Holbeach campus in South Lincolnshire.

The course will follow the format of distance learning with attended study blocks, with the trainee starting in September 2015.

Interested candidates can apply to be on the Agri-Food Trainee scheme by downloading an application form at <http://ncfmholbeach.blogs.lincoln.ac.uk/2015/02/11/a-world-of-opportunity-for-the-budding-stars-of-the-future/> Applications must be submitted to shagreen@lincoln.ac.uk by the 31st March 2015, with interviews being held during April 2015.

-Ends-

Produce World Group Website: www.produceworld.co.uk **Produce World Group Twitter:** [@produceworld](https://twitter.com/produceworld)

About Produce World Group

Produce World Group is one of the largest expert growers and suppliers of high quality fresh vegetables in Europe. It is a privately owned business, founded by the Burgess family in 1898, and the family ethos and values remain in place. The Produce World Group business is customer and category focused and it is an industry leader in sustainable and responsible agronomy, growing and lean supply chain management.

Its sourcing is a combination of produce from its own farming division Burgess Farms, joint-ventures, and collaborative working with dedicated grower groups, supplying a variety of root vegetables, potatoes, brassicas, alliums, and organic produce to leading retailers, food service and manufacturing customers.

Produce World Group is the UK's only fresh produce company that regularly donates produce to Fareshare, which enables the charity to plan more effectively each year. In October 2014 the Produce World Group was recognised for its work with Fareshare and Feeding the 5000 for redistributing this produce to help tackle food poverty across the UK by winning the CRTG Best Food Waste Initiative of the Year award. The Waitrose Way Awards also recognised this work, with the Produce World Group being highly commended for its entry into the Treading Lightly – Waste award category. In addition, the Produce World Group was highly recommended in the Champion British award category for its work with the BBC primetime TV programme Harvest, which aimed to raise consumer awareness of how the nation's food gets from field to fork.

Produce World Group is leading the way in sustainability, research and innovation in the agriculture sector. In late 2013 the Produce World Group, in collaboration with other commercial organisations and academic institutions, was awarded funding through Sainsbury's Organic Grant to look at innovative pest controls to improve the growth of organic brassicas. Through Agri-Tech Catalyst funding support, the group is working with Cranfield University to build on the success of the 'Soil-for-Life' project, which aims to inform on-farm decision making and drive innovation in soil management.

Media Enquiries:

For further information, please contact Peter Crowe or Jack Melling at the Produce World press office on 01223 272800 or email peter.crowe@war.uk.com / jack.melling@war.uk.com