

Farmers need to lead the agenda on the environment

Farmers need to lead the agenda on the environment, rather than responding to pressure from others according to Produce World Director of Agriculture Andrew Burgess. Speaking at the annual NFU conference said that proactivity by farmers will provide a platform for growth and stability.

Andrew was speaking at workshop session on the second day of the conference. The theme of the workshop was 'Where will the environment take us in the future?'. He emphasised the importance of environmental action for the future of farming, and gave some examples of ways in which both government and industry is willing to pay farmers for taking action to preserve the environment.

However, he also made the point that positive environmental action makes good economic sense, regardless of external payments.

He said: "We need to continue to identify opportunities and mechanisms for payments, but I am a firm believer that the on-farm cost-benefit of environmental management should be net positive without the need for external support.

"There are many win-wins in working with nature and many lose-lose situations through working against nature. Equally there are many case studies and demonstration farms where this can be proven, both in the short-term in yield benefits and long-term through building resilience."

Andrew is a member of the NFU's Horticulture and Potatoes Board. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Associate Fellow of the Royal Agricultural society and is a Trustee for LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming). Andrew's family are fourth generation vegetable farmers and majority shareholders in Produce World which grows and supplies high quality vegetables to major retailers, food service outlets and food manufacturers.

Notes to Editors

Hi- res images available

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

About Produce World Group

The Produce World Group grows and supplies quality fresh vegetables. It is the largest supplier in the UK, providing produce into major retailers, food service and food manufacturing customers.

Crops supplied by the Group include potatoes, carrots, parsnips, onions, leeks, and garlic. As well as conventionally grown vegetables, the Produce World Group is a leader in the organic category.

The company works with its expert grower partners to grow the widest range of top quality fresh vegetables. It owns leading organic grower Taylorgrown, and its expert agronomy and procurement team adds value along the supply chain by working with individual growers, grower cooperatives and joint venture partners. Crops are washed, graded and packed at Produce World's sites across the East of England. In addition to its headquarters in Peterborough, the Group has sites in Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire.

The company has a values-driven culture which is celebrated every year by its Pride of Produce World Awards. In addition, these values are manifested through the four pillars of its sustainability programme 4Life. They are Responsible Sourcing, Environmental Stewardship, Workplace Culture, and Community Impact.

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