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Institution of Agricultural Engineers

Landwards Conference 2024

Why we need Agricultural Engineers

Date: Wednesday 6th November 2024 – 10.30am-2.00pm

Location: Rothamsted Conference Centre, Harpenden AL5 2JQ

Theme

Improving the contribution that agricultural engineering can make to sustainable food production

Abstract

Population growth, climate change, renewable energy, sustainable food production, all things we hear all around us every day. The challenges are clear, but it's evident that working in silos is not going to achieve the results we need. These topics are inherently linked to each other and will require a collaborative systems based approach to solve.

Our conference this year will not focus on the challenges, but on how we can achieve the solutions. By encouraging the thought process between the different stakeholders, we intend to highlight what engineers working in agriculture need to focus on for the future.

The event will culminate in a panel discussion, where our speakers will answer questions from the audience and give you a chance to put your views forward. We hope the conference will be of interest to a broad spectrum of people, including students, academics, technologists and industry engineers as we explore the future and ensure that through agricultural engineering we secure food safety for all.

Cost: £100 + vat to IAgrE Members – £150 + vat for non-Members and £40 + vat for students

Booking: <https://iagre.org/events/2024-conference>

How to get to Rothamsted

By Car - Harpenden is about 7 miles north of the M25 London Orbital Motorway and close to Junctions 9/10 of the M1. From the M1: – Take J9, follow the signs to Redbourn
– Go past the Hertfordshire County Showground on your right
– At the roundabout take the first exit (left) and follow the B487 until the next roundabout
– At the roundabout take the first exit (left) onto the A1081, Rothamsted Enterprises is signposted on your left.

By rail - Harpenden is 28 minutes by train from London St Pancras International (adjoined with London Kings Cross). Taxis are available on arrival at Harpenden station. Rothamsted Enterprises is approximately 10 minutes' walk from the station. Please follow directions below.

By Air - The closest international airports are Luton, Heathrow and Stansted.

From Luton, take the coach or Dart to Luton Airport Parkway train station and take the train line direct to Harpenden. From Heathrow take a Piccadilly Line underground train towards Cockfosters to St Pancras International and take the train line direct to Harpenden. From Stansted, travel by train into London and then onto St Pancras International. Alternatively, take the coach from Stansted to Luton Airport, take the bus or Dart to Luton Airport Parkway train station, then take the train to Harpenden.

Luton Airport is 20 minutes from Rothamsted.

London Gatwick Airport is a 1-hour 15mins train journey from Harpenden station.

London Heathrow and London Stansted airports are approximately an hour's drive from Rothamsted Enterprises (dependent on traffic conditions)

Parking - There is plenty of free parking at Rothamsted. Please follow the signs for visitor's car parking. Please report to the Conference Centre reception on arrival unless otherwise directed.

The Programme

09.30 am	Arrival – registration – refreshments - networking
10.00 am	Introduction Mark Moore – President IAgrE
10.10 am	Setting the scene Kate Halliwell, Chief Scientific Officer, Food & Drink Federation <i>Highlight the challenges</i>
10.40 am	Political View Jelte Wiersma - CEMA <i>What do policy makers want from Agricultural Engineering?</i>
11.10 am	Food Retailer View TBC <i>What do food retailers want from Agricultural Engineering?</i>
11.40 -12.00 noon	Break for refreshment
12.00 pm	Agronomist View Kieran Walsh – Agronomist, Grounded Agvice <i>What do agronomic service providers want from Agricultural Engineering?</i>
12.30 pm	Livestock Sector View TBC <i>What does the livestock sector want from agricultural engineering?</i>
1.00 - 2.00 pm	Lunch & networking
2.00 pm	Farmers View James Price – Perdiswell Farm, Oxfordshire <i>What do farmers want?</i>
2.30 – 3.30 pm	Panel Discussion Andy Newbold, Editor of Landwards, will chair the discussion <i>An opportunity to quiz our speakers</i>
3.30 pm	Close and thank you Mark Moore, President IAgrE