



**Kent County** Agricultural Society

Registered Charity No. 1001191

### **INAUGURAL FARM EXPO EVENT HAILED GREAT SUCCESS**

FARM Expo, a new farm machinery, supplies, and services event, has been hailed a success after attracting more than 2,500 visitors.

The event, which was organised by the Kent County Agricultural Society, took place at the Kent Showground on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Visitors got the opportunity to see the latest farm machinery from the impressive range of national and international manufacturers and service providers that exhibited at Farm Expo.

Keynote speakers Nick von Westenholz, Clive Bailye and Stephen Carr also gave seminars focusing on the future of agriculture, Brexit, and the Agriculture Bill currently moving through parliament.

James Forknall, Chairman of the Kent County Agricultural Society, said he was delighted the first Farm Expo event went so well.

He added that the society's aim was to grow it to be the biggest event of its kind in the South East.

Mr Forknall said: "Farm Expo was very well received by all who attended. We were really pleased that the first event attracted so many people; it goes to show there is a great demand for a dedicated farm machinery event in Kent.

"I'd like to thank all the exhibitors, speakers, and visitors who made it such a special day.

"We're already planning next year's event on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020, which will be even bigger and better."

Haynes Agriculture, Kent's oldest farm machinery supplier, kicked off their 100-year celebrations at Farm Expo, with a special edition centenary tractor.

Adrian Woods, Operations Director, Haynes Agricultural, said: "We've had a great day and it's been very good to see our loyal customers turn up.

"It's been a great start to our centenary campaign, we've unveiled our new tractor which is a remake on the Model F which we first sold in 1919 for £120. The one out there today is £115,000, that shows you how times have changed."

Agronomy and crop protection specialists Agrovista won the Best Trade Stand for Services award on the day.

Rob Purvis, of Agrovista, said the team were really chuffed to win.

"We've been here at Farm Expo all day and seen a lot of farmers," he said.

"It's been a busy day and we've had a really good time."

The first Farm Expo had over 100 trade stands representing 130 brands. Crawfords Ltd won the award for Best Trade Stand for Machinery and Spaldings won for Best Trade Stand for Agricultural Products. The day offered visitors the opportunity to see and hear about the latest developments in the agricultural industry and will be returning in 2020.

For more information about Farm Expo go to <https://kentshowground.co.uk/farmexpo/>.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to the Editors:**

A new event for 2019, Farm Expo offers machinery, supplies, and services for the agricultural industry. With trade stands, seminars, debates, and networking opportunities, Farm Expo looks towards the future of farms, farming, and rural enterprises. Organised by the Kent County Agricultural Society and free to attend, Farm Expo is a key date in the agricultural calendar.

**About the Kent County Agricultural Society (Registered Charity Number: 1001191):**

The Society has been supporting education and improvement in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and related industries since its foundation in 1923. It provides grants to Kent Young Farmers Clubs and offers university scholarships to students wishing to study in related fields. The Society also provides free education on farming to young children through the 'Farming in the Classroom' initiative and the Living Land event.