



## **BIFGA NEWSLETTER 168**

**August 2024**

### **URGENT – UK FARM ASSURANCE REVIEW – A CALL FOR EVIDENCE FROM FARMERS – DEADLINE 31 AUGUST**

Farmers and growers still have the opportunity to take part in the review of UK Farm Assurance. The online survey (which can be found at <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/promaraf-2021/the-uk-farm-assurance-review>) should only take 10 -15 minutes to complete, and we would urge all farmers and growers to take part. The closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024.

So-called voluntary farm assurance is very much a “lack of fairness” issue, as it seems that the costs (financial, wasted time, stress, etc) fall disproportionately on primary producers, compared to others in UK Food Supply Chains.

BIFGA’s views on the ever-increasing burden of Farm Assurance have been well-known for more than 25 years. We used to be something of a lone-voice, but recently it seems that other organisations have now realised that the demands made of farmers and growers have gone much too far. Farm Assurance schemes generally, have become over-the-top; unwieldy; very expensive; time-consuming; stress-inducing handicaps to British Producers, and are no longer fit for purpose. We have also suggested an alternative, inexpensive, self-certification, “Grown to British Government Standards”, Scheme.

If you are a farmer or grower (whether or not you are currently a member of a farm assurance scheme), please do use this opportunity to make your views known.

### **THE 36<sup>th</sup> BIFGA TECHNICAL DAY TOUR – THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024**

The 36<sup>th</sup> BIFGA Technical Day Tour was held in the West Kent area on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024, and our grateful thanks are due to our very kind hosts:

Mr and Mrs Teacher, Hadlow Place Farm, Three Elm Lane, Golden Green, Hadlow, Kent TN11 0BW, and, Mrs A Browning, Moatlands Farm Ltd, Friars Farm, Maidstone Rd., Matfield, Kent TN12 7LG

We would also like to thank all of the speakers, as well as the following sponsors, whose generous support helped to make it such a successful event:

**Controlled Atmosphere Services Ltd**, Unit 1 Hayle Farm, Marle Place Road, Horsmonden, Kent TN12 8DZ  
Mobile 0798 0869733 Email: [trevor@controlledatmosphereservices.com](mailto:trevor@controlledatmosphereservices.com)

**Energy Renewals Ltd:** 18 Keep Hill Rd, High Wycombe HP11 1DW. Tel: 07818 401 095  
Website: [www.energyrenewals.co.uk](http://www.energyrenewals.co.uk)

**Engage CropSolutions**, Unit 5 Town Lane Ind. Estate, Charnock Richard, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 5XG  
Tel: 01257 226590 Email: [mark.horner@engagecropsolutions.com](mailto:mark.horner@engagecropsolutions.com) Mobile: 07502 300 477

**Gullands**, 16 Mill Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6XT Tel: 01622 689700 Email: [info@gullands.com](mailto:info@gullands.com)  
Website: [www.gullands.com](http://www.gullands.com)

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**Lambert and Foster Ltd:** 77 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6DS Tel: 01892 832 325 Contact: Jon Booth Email: jon.booth@lambertandfoster.co.uk Tel: 07974 722479 Website: ww.lambertandfoster.co.uk

**Lambert and Foster (Bloomfields) Ltd:** 77 Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6DS Tel: 01892 831600 Email:tom.ogden@bloomfieldsltd.co.uk Website: www.bloomfieldsltd.co.uk

**N. P. Seymour;** Avon Works, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2PT. Tel: 01580 712200 Email: claire@npseymour.co.uk Website: npseymour.co.uk

**RootWave,** 8 Brook Business Park, Brookhampton Lane, Kineton, Warwickshire CV35 0JA Tel: 01952 6800789 Mobile: 07880 7866460 Email: tom.archer@rootwave.com website: www.rootwave.com

**The Fruit Grower ACT Publishing UK Ltd.,** Lion House, 21 Church Street, Maidstone, Kent ME 14 1EN Tel: 01622 291618 Email: chris.tanton@actpub.co.uk

**UKCA Ltd,** Unit 4, Hoads Farm, Moat Lane, Seddlescombe, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0RY Tel: 01424 813268 Mobile: 07843 478363

**Voxx Machinery,** Little Crewden, Grave Lane, Marden, Kent TN12 9DA Tel: 01622 831147 Mobile: 07305 045501 Email: voxx@voxxmachinery.co.uk

**Weatherbys Hamilton LLP;** Unit 2 Newbuildings Place, Dragons Green Rd, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 8GQ. Tel: 01403 915599. Email: gbaxter@weatherbyshamilton.co.uk Website: www.weatherbyshamilton.co.uk

Please reciprocate and support these companies whenever possible.

### **THE 36<sup>th</sup> BIFGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**

The 36<sup>th</sup> BIFGA AGM was held via Zoom on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The current members of the BIFGA General Committee were re-elected: Tom Barnes, John Breach, David Budd, Charnee Butcher, Reuben Collingwood, Colin Corfield, John Dench, Henry Dobell, Nicholas Dunsby, Jon Hatch, Jessica Kedge, Peter Kedge, David Knight, Alastair Large, Judith Perry, Alex Radu, Charles Ramus, Ian Scaman, Richard Stogdon, Nick Swatland, Viv Tanna, Chris Tanton, Mark Tully, Edward Wheeler, Ryan Williams, and Charles Worsfold. BIFGA is very well served with its present committee, however, we would be pleased to co-opt additional members if other members would like to join us.

At the BIFGA General Committee meeting, held via Zoom immediately after the AGM, on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024, office holders were re-elected as follows: Chairman – John Breach; Vice Chairman – Colin Corfield; Deputy Vice Chairman – Chris Tanton, and Treasurer – David Budd.

### **BIFGA SUMMER FARM WALK – WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**

The BIFGA Summer Farm Walk was held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at New House Farm, New House Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7BL by kind permission of John and David Hinchliff.

We started the visit with presentations from: Iain Hawthorn of Oxbury Bank plc, **One City Place, Queens Road, Chester, CH1 3BQ** (our main sponsors for this event); Amanda Karlstrom from NIAB (kindly sponsored by worldwide Fruit Ltd.); Nigel and Annette Bardsley from the National Fruit Show; and, James Simpson, of British Apples and Pears Ltd. All sectors of the supply chain were represented, including five of the major supermarket chains.

The presentations were followed by a tour of some orchards and blackcurrant plantations.

The evening was rounded-off with an opportunity to see some of the vintage/classic vehicles on display, whilst enjoying an excellent BBQ.

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## **ENTERING FRUIT AT THE NATIONAL FRUIT SHOW 2024**

If you have ever thought about entering some fruit in the Competition Classes at the National Fruit Show, but are unsure how to go about it, please see the attached Competition Schedule and Guide for Competitors. If you are still unsure after looking through the Schedule and Guide, Annette Bardsley (the National Fruit Show Vice-Chair), and winner of many Classes over many years, has offered to give “first-timers” some help. You can contact Annette by email: [annette@bardsleyuk.com](mailto:annette@bardsleyuk.com), or via Eileen Haffenden, the National fruit Show Manager: Eileen Haffenden [eileen@nationalfruitshow.org.uk](mailto:eileen@nationalfruitshow.org.uk), tel: 07983 534442.

## **BIFGA PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

The BIFGA General Committee has agreed to repeat the BIFGA Photography Competition, at this year’s National Fruit Show. With the increased use of smart phones with cameras, we are hoping that our members will have lots of opportunities to take some super photos. The theme for the competition is “**Fruit and Farming**”. Entries must be received by the Secretary on, or before, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Following an initial round of judging, the best 12 photographs will be displayed on the BIFGA stand at the National Fruit Show, to be held at the Kent County Showground, Detling, Kent on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Visitors to the BIFGA stand will then be able to vote to determine the overall winner, who will receive a gift voucher for £50. For further details, please contact the BIFGA Secretary.

## **BIFGA QUIZ – SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

Please make a note of the date in your diary, and think about getting a team together. The event will be again held at the Staplehurst Village Centre, High Street, Staplehurst, TN12 0BJ. As usual, we would be most grateful to receive donations of raffle prizes. Tables can be booked for up to 8 people, but individuals, or couples can join other tables on the night. Further details to follow in due course.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 666A    | Richard Smith, Haynes Agricultural Ltd., Orchard Place Business Park, Seven Mile Lane, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8LW |
| 667F    | Mr M Gaskain, Gaskains Ltd., Norham Farm, Selling, Faversham, Kent ME 13 9RL  |
| 516A G1 | Susan Tong, Crop Technology Centre, Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Rd., Faversham, Kent ME13 8XZ                           |
| 668A    | Jon Clark, Fruit World International Ltd., 77 Garnsgate Rd, Long Sutton, Spalding. Lincs PE12 9BU                   |

Please remember that we are always keen to find new members (Full, Associate, and Group), and we would appreciate any help that existing members can give in encouraging more to join.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Please note that annual subscriptions are now due, and if you have not already paid, please do so as soon as possible to help keep down administration costs.

With best wishes  
John Breach  
BIFGA Chairman

# **BRITISH INDEPENDENT FRUIT GROWERS’ ASSOCIATION**

Secretary: Judi Perry Email: [secretary@bifga.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bifga.org.uk)