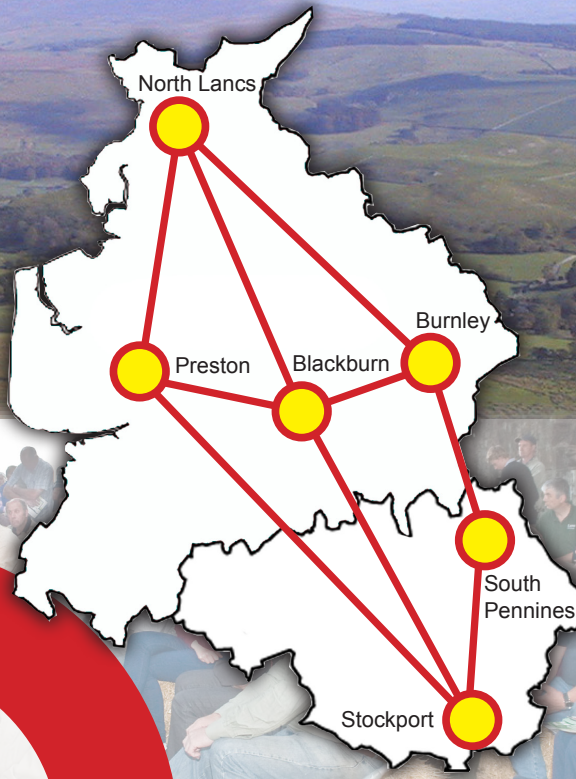


Lancashire and Gt. Manchester FARMER NETWORK

join today



Contact Details:

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The European Agricultural
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Myerscough
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Opportunities for all to succeed

What is the Lancashire and Greater Manchester Farmer Network?

The Lancashire and Greater Manchester Farmer Network is a new farmer-led Network that has grown out of the successful farmer groups that were established through the Northwest Livestock Programme.

The aim of the Network is to bring farmers together and support them in developing their knowledge and skills, enabling them to keep abreast of new developments in farming and improve the performance of their farming businesses.

How will it be run?

The Lancashire and Greater Manchester Farmer Network is led by farmers for farmers. The management committee is made up of two representatives from each of the existing farmer groups and a chairman elected from the group. The committee members will act on behalf of the groups they represent to develop a programme to meet the interests of the group.

Initially Myerscough College will support the Network by providing management and administration services and expertise in planning and organising a comprehensive programme of meetings delivered by industry specialists. This will include on-farm demonstration events, farm visits and training sessions.

The AGM will take place in the summer of 2014 and members of the Network will have the opportunity to elect the management committee and chairman.

At present the Lancashire and Greater Manchester Farmer Network is made up of six farmer groups: Blackburn and Darwen; Burnley and Pendle; North Lancs Beef and Sheep; Stockport; South Pennines; and the North West Pig Group. If there is not an existing group in your locality please let us know and if there is sufficient interest we will support new groups in an area to become established.

What will it deliver?

Each group will plan and deliver a programme of six meetings each year and membership will entitle you to attend meetings of other groups if you wish.

Any ideas for topics or speakers can be contributed through your group representative.

The benefit of groups working together in a Network allows access to industry specialists and cost-sharing between groups where possible. Myerscough College will act in a supporting role to provide links to the relevant industry specialists.

When, where and what is planned?

Group	Usual meeting day and autumn / winter venue	First meeting planned
Burnley and Pendle	Second Tuesday of month (if not on farm usual venue tbc at September meeting)	10th Sept: On-farm grassland improvement demonstration with James Bretherton and Townson Tractors demonstrating the Greenmaster, courtesy of A.Weare at Gisburn Cotes Hall Farm, Sawley BB7 4LH 4-6pm
Blackburn and Darwen	Third Tuesday of month (if not on farm usual venue is: The Boatyard, Riley Green, Nr Blackburn PR5 0SP)	17th Sept: Improving cattle fertility with local vet from Farm Vets Northwest, 7-30pm at The Boatyard.
Stockport	Third Wednesday of month (if not on farm, usual venue is: The Midway Hotel, Stockport, SK1 2NX)	18th Sept: On-farm TB Update in the Edge Area with AHVLA vet courtesy of the Wainwright family, Towers Farm, London Road North, Poynton SK12 1BY 7-9pm
North Lancs Beef and Sheep	Last Tuesday of month (if not on farm usual venue is: Lancaster Auction Cafe)	24th Sept: Rationing winter feed for sheep and cattle with Debby Brown, Lancaster Auction, 7pm
South Pennines	Last Wednesday of month (if not on farm usual venue is: Oddfellows Club, Denshaw)	25th Sept: Alternative winter feed options with Debby Brown, Oddfellows Club, Denshaw 7pm
North West Pig	Any Saturday in response to demand	October: Labelling + marketing with Peter Gott, Myerscough College 10.30am – 2pm. Date tbc. Contact us for more details

What does it cost?

Farm membership - costs £60+VAT per year and payment is due by the 31st September 2013. Membership covers up to two people from an individual farming business to attend meetings and one vote at the AGM.

Associate membership - non farming individuals may become members at the same cost of £60+VAT per year, but with no voting rights at the AGM.

The cost of the first meetings and of the services provided by Myerscough College will be subsidised by funding from Defra through the Rural Development Programme until the end of December 2013.

How do I join?

Complete the membership form enclosed in this leaflet and return it to us at Myerscough College or alternatively bring it along to the first meeting of your local group with your payment.



What do you think?

“Being a member of the group has had real benefits. After one of the first meetings of the monitor farm group looking at the benefits of aeration and hearing what other farmers had to say I was convinced that an aerator would be a good investment for my farm. The land that I have used it on has been noticeably drier, even after last year’s wet summer.”

o David Garner, Ormskirk

“The regular group meetings give me the opportunity to get off the farm and learn about how I can do things differently. Even if I only learn one new thing or make a small change to my business, if it helps me to do my job more easily and efficiently then it is time well spent. It opens your mind to new ideas and possibilities.”

o Michael Holmes, Burnley

“Instead of carrying on always doing things the same way, attending the meetings has given us new and different perspectives and views. This means that we go away and make small changes to the way we work, allowing us to do our job better”

o Jonathan & Janet Tomlinson, Egerton

“Farming is very insular, it is far easier and more beneficial to discuss and question industry experts at the regular group meetings, than trying to read about the different topics in the farming press”.

o Gordon Oliver & Mary Hamnett, Stockport

“Seeing and hearing how other people do things, especially on farm visits, gives us the courage to try something different. You read about these new ideas but until you actually see it for yourself you aren’t sure about trying it.”

o Matthew Lee & John Evans, Bolton

Sponsorship

The Lancashire and Greater Manchester Farmer Network is looking for sponsorship to support its activities.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor please contact Kathleen Lowe at Myerscough College on 01995 642 322 or email klowe@myerscough.ac.uk

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

(Please complete in capital letters)

TRADING NAME: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: HOME _____ MOBILE _____

CPH: _____ EMAIL: _____

FARM ENTERPRISE (please tick all that apply)

Beef Sheep Dairy Pigs Poultry Other

GROUP THAT YOU WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF (please tick):

Blackburn and Darwen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burnley and Pendle	<input type="checkbox"/>
North Lancs Beef and Sheep	<input type="checkbox"/>	South Pennines	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stockport	<input type="checkbox"/>	North West Pigs	<input type="checkbox"/>

Not in your area? Please suggest a venue (or contact us): _____

Declaration:

I confirm that I would like to join the LGM Farmer Network as a: (please tick)

Farmer Member – must be engaged in farming activity, up to two people from the farm business can attend

Associate Member – open to anyone, but no voting rights at AGM

I agree to pay the annual membership fee of £60 + VAT@20% (Total = £72) by:

(please tick) Cheque made payable to Myerscough College.

Debit/credit card (please call us on 01995 642 206 to make payment)

Signed:..... Date:

On receipt of your application form and payment we will send you the programme of meetings planned for 2013/2014 for all the farmer groups.

Please return completed form (with payment) to:

**Michelle Fare, Rural Business Centre, Myerscough College, Bilberron,
Preston, PR3 0RY Tel: 01995 642 206 Email: mfare@myerscough.ac.uk**
or hand in at first farmer group meeting