

The Agricultural Economics Society Marks 100 Years at its Centenary Conference in Oxford

One of the world's oldest applied economics societies gathers to reflect on its past and debate its vision in facing the challenges in an uncertain future.

The Agricultural Economics Society (AES) — founded on 24th March 1926 at a meeting in Oxford — will mark its centenary at Wadham College, Oxford, exactly one hundred years after its inaugural gathering at the university. A new history of the Society has been published. HRH The Princess Royal, who has a long and close connection with farming and food issues, will be the Society's special guest.

The Society plays a vital role in encouraging the next generation of agricultural economists. To mark the Centenary the AES is launching a series of funded Centenary scholarships to support doctoral research, core skills development, and professional progression — investing in the expertise on which future policy and practice will depend.

The Centenary conference programme reflects the breadth and depth of the Society's interests and expertise. Professor Alan Matthews (Trinity College Dublin) will deliver the Presidential Address on *Agricultural Policy in an Age of Upheaval*. Keynote speakers include Professor Jill McCluskey (Washington State University) on *How Science, Technology, and Environmental and Health Concerns are Transforming Food Markets* and Professor Thomas Hertel (Purdue University) on *Bridging the Divide Between Agricultural Economics and the Sustainability Sciences*.

Discussions will include global challenges for agricultural economics; an exploration of economic and 'food systems' approaches to sustainability; changing agendas for rural policy; and the economics of animal diseases. Presentations will reflect on the history of the Farm Management and Farm Business Surveys, which the Society's founders helped to establish in 1936, and continues to underpin agricultural policy in the UK today; as well as the wide range of activities of agricultural economists, from measuring consumer preferences to farm business performance; and from the design of agri-environmental policies to the impact of climate change on agri-food systems.

Outreach has long been central to the Society's mission. The Society's publications seek to communicate research and analysis to other professionals through the *Journal of Agricultural Economics* and - jointly with the European Association of Agricultural Economics - through *EuroChoices*, which bridges academic research and agricultural policy audiences, and now in its 25th year.

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For further information, please contact:

www.aes.ac.uk

Notes to Editors: A full conference programme is available on request. Spokespeople are available for interview.