

**Defra/Agricultural Economics Society one-day conference, 12 December 2013**

**Rural Development Programme – Delivering Value for Money**

**Defra, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR**

10.00	Registration	
10.30	Morning session - welcome	Chair: Michele Pittini, Senior Economist, Defra
	Policy overview – targeting funding to deliver real benefits to the environment, boost the competitiveness of our farming industry and grow the rural economy	George Eustice MP, Minister for Farming, Food and Marine Environment
10.45	Assessing value for money for RDP measures – development of an evaluation methodology	Iain Jenkins/Regina Trenkler-Fraser, Ekos
	The role of Producer Organisations and farmer co-operatives in supporting a competitive farming sector and policy implications for the RDP	Sion Roberts, European Food and Farming Partnerships
	The costs and benefits of CAP Greening and the implications for the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMs); and developing auctioning pilots to deliver improved value for money	Alistair Rennie, Defra
12.30	Lunch	
13.30	Afternoon session	Chair: James Jones, Chair AES Executive
	The Impact of RDP grants on farm performance – do they offer value for money?	Stuart Platt, Defra
	The development of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) skills strategy and implications for the next RDP	Tess Howe, AHDB
	Improving the Monitoring & Evaluation of the next Scottish RDP	Richard Murray, Head of Rural Science and Analysis, Scottish Government
15.00	Panel discussion – reflections on the day and questions from the floor	Mario Deconti      Defra Tess Howe          AHDB Dominic Curran     HMT Brian Revell        Harper Adams University
	Chair's closing remarks	