Dear Scholars,

Welcome to the latest Nuffield newsletter, highlighting activities and achievements from Nuffield International and each Nuffield country over the past 12 months.

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Details of contacts in all Nuffield Countries can be found here.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year.
Nuffield International Report

By Kelvin Meadows 2011 Nuffield Scholar and Chair of Nuffield International

It is a great pleasure to report to all of the global alumni and supporters of Nuffield International (NI) about the events of 2017 and all that has been accomplished this past year, as well as announce our four 2018 NI Scholars, with a fifth Scholar on the cusp of being confirmed. I would like to personally congratulate Brian Dougherty and Archie Griffin from the USA as well as Artur Falcette and Mauro Nakate from Brazil for committing themselves to the Nuffield program. I am sure that they will be great additions to the Nuffield family and wish them all the best.

NI has also undertaken a skills audit to identify two outside directors to complement the board skills while providing preservation of corporate memory. These directors will serve a six-year term with the position being reviewed annually. On behalf of the Nuffield International board I am very pleased to welcome Martin Davies and Brendon Smart as our newly selected external directors. We look forward to their contributions and insights.

As the new Chairman of Nuffield International, I would like to thank the board for the opportunity to serve NI over the next three years and look forward to working with the many partners and supporters of the International program. I would also like to recognise the stellar leadership of Roger Mercer who, for the past three years, has chaired this organisation and kept us moving forward as we navigate the challenges of growing an organisation that crosses so many borders.

As an introduction, I am a 2011 Canadian Scholar from Saskatchewan and have just stepped down as the Chairman of Nuffield Canada after holding the position for the past four years. My topic delved into the factors that contribute to a successful farmer owned value chain, including farmer investor relations and expectations, as well as plant capitalisation and board/management composition.

For over 20 years, my wife Shelley and I were pedigreed seed growers as well as owner/operators of a seed sales, cleaning and export business near Moose Jaw. After divesting ourselves of the farm in 2008, Shelley and I moved into value added food processing through an investment in Avena Foods Inc., a Saskatchewan based gluten free oat milling plant, where I served as chair for the past nine years. With the sale of Avena in June we currently own and operate a seed crop inspection business and manage the family owned land development company. We have two grown children who live and work nearby and still have ties to agriculture in what they do.

I am pleased to say that Nuffield International has moved forward on several fronts in 2017.

I would start with the CSC held in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, from the 11-19 March. Close to 80 scholars from ten countries were joined by a variety of guest speakers and alumni to experience Brazil and learn about the culture, the country and the challenges of food production as viewed
through the Brazilian lens. For the scholars, this week was their first opportunity to meet their peers and start their Nuffield journey through listening and contributing to the global conversation generated during the conference. Congratulations to the Brazilian team for a great conference and a great display of Brazilian hospitality.

Nuffield International continued to formalise the organisation with an emphasis on relocating our banking and audit services to the U.K. where we hold our charitable status and make financial and legal compliance easier to manage. Many thanks to Mike Vacher for shepherding the sometimes onerous process of compliance and reporting.

The board has developed a “pathway to membership” document to help aspiring member countries by setting the requirements that will support their move to full country status.

The Nuffield Foundation fund continued to be supported with a gold brick donated by the Jill Willows estate as well as a generous contribution to Nuffield International by the U.K. from the Triennial Conference.

In order to offset the associated costs required to maintain an international program, Nuffield International has created a sponsorship package that seeks to identify companies with an international footprint as well as a shared vision and alignment of values. I am pleased to report the signing of our first two sponsorship agreements with Caterpillar and Syngenta. I especially want to acknowledge Roger Mercer for his efforts in opening the dialogue with Caterpillar.

My last item of note is to inform the alumni that after a number of visits and conversations, Nuffield Zimbabwe has indicated a desire to reconstitute their board and after a seventeen year hiatus, set a goal of naming a scholar for 2019. Jim Geltch and the board have made a commitment in principle to helping Zimbabwe reach their goal and return as a full member country as soon as practicable.

I cannot finish without expressing my admiration for the dedication that our CEO Jim Geltch has put forward on behalf of Nuffield. The challenges of working across so many time zones while managing relationships, scholars and travel is a testament to his belief and commitment to our international program. Thank you Jim for your perseverance and efforts.

Many thanks to all those who give of their time to make all of this possible and, on behalf of the board and executives who support Nuffield International, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year!

I am delighted to confirm that the four NI Scholars for 2018 are Brian Dougherty (Ames, Iowa USA), Artur Falcette (Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil), Steven (Archie) Griffin (Washington, NC, USA) and Mauro Nakata (Sorocaba, Sao Paulo, Brazil). Details below.
Announcing the 2018 NI Scholars

Brian Dougherty (Ames, Iowa)
Currently earning his Master’s Degree in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University, Brian has experience on farm and in the engineering lab. As co-owner of a 170 cow/250-acre dairy near Waukon, IA, Brian has managed animal husbandry and crop production. Brian is investigating the effects of cropping management practices on soil health and nutrient losses to agricultural tile drainage water. Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Pork Producers Association, National Pork Producers Board, and the Iowa Farm Bureau are jointly supporting this scholarship.

Artur Falcette (Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul)
Active in production agriculture, Artur manages Sapé Agropastoril Ltda, a 5,500ha operation that produces soybeans, corn, oats, beef cattle, Brangus genetic production, sugar cane, poultry, dairy cattle and technological tourism with a team of 38 employees. He is also a business partner at a agribusiness management consultancy. He will study how the diversification of production, as well as its integration, is happening in different agribusiness players of the world. His goal of this work is to create benchmarking models for producers of all production scales and scopes. Nufarm Brasil is supporting Artur’s scholarship.

Steven (Archie) Griffin (Washington, NC)
Archie is the assistant manager for Griffin AG LLC, a farming operation that grows corn, wheat and soybeans for storage and marketing along with other value-added crops. Archie’s background includes experience in the small grain breeding department at North Carolina State University, field-based research work with the USDA Agricultural Research Services (ARS), and management of his own sweet corn production and distribution operation. Archie will study farming and technology, looking at the transformational ways crops are sustainably planted, cultivated and brought to market. TIAA-CREF Global Agriculture and TIAA-CREF Global Agriculture II are supporting this scholarship.

Mauro Nakata (Sorocaba, Sao Paulo)
Mauro is a partner in the family tilapia business, consisting of a production farm, processing plant, and distribution arm. In addition to processing the nearly 2,000 tonnes of tilapia per year produced on their farms, they receive product from third-party farmers and a cooperative that the family was instrumental in establishing. Mauro will investigate ways to accelerate the development of Brazil’s fish farming sector, taking into account efficient production systems, genetics, scalability of systems, value-adding and managing water quality. Grupo Bom Futuro is supporting this scholarship. This is the organization’s first Nuffield scholarship.
Brendon Smart, Australian Scholar

Brendon Smart is owner operator and Business Development Manager of Smart Group, a 5,000-hectare property at Keith and 400-hectares at Victor Harbor in South Australia, producing irrigated and non-irrigated crops of lucerne seed, cereals, pulses, export fodder, vegetable seed and extensive livestock.

The business is run by a board, with three non-family members, independent chair and part-time CEO. And has been awarded the South Australian Premiers Food and Fibre Award, Field Crops, for excellence, innovation and leadership. The business has endeavoured to be at the leading edge of technology either as innovators or early adopters. This pursuit would have been less fruitful if not for the global network of Nuffield and Brendon’s constant interaction with it.

Brendon is a 1990 Nuffield Scholar, Nuffield Life Member, Past National Chairman and Chairman Nuffield International Triennial Conference held in Australia in 2011. He has a long career in agri-politics at state, national and international level, holding office for many years mainly with pasture seeds and cereals. He is Past Board Chairman of Seedmark Pty Ltd and Seedco Pty Ltd. He is Member of Adelaide University Agriculture Advisory Board, Past Chairman of Patoa Farms NZ Pty Ltd and Brimbago Asset Co.

Brendon has lectured at Macquarie University, Sydney, the Rabobank EDP Course on Agri-Business Structures and Human Resource Management, and Fellow Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Brendon is married to Robyn and they have three sons. He is a keen pilot with a private pilots license, night VFR spanning 32 years.
Nuffield International announces two New External Directors

Martin Davies, 2006 UK Scholar

Martin Davies
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Martin Davies is a 2006 Nuffield Scholar and will become Chief Executive Officer of Westchester Group Investment Management in January 2018. Since 2014, he has been Chief Executive Officer of Westchester Group, Europe. Prior to this role he was Head of Farmland Investment at Insight Investment Management, a subsidiary of Bank of New York Mellon.

Martin has 25-years’ experience in farm, rural business, agricultural investment, company board and governance management. As a Nuffield Scholar, Martin studied the impact of bio fuels on UK arable farming. He has a BSc in Agriculture from the University of Reading and other professional qualifications include professional status at the Institute of Agriculture Management, agricultural valuer with Central Association of Agricultural Valuers. Martin is also a qualified agronomist and fertiliser advisor.

He has been a Director of the Oxford Farming Conference since 2014, and was appointed Chair for the event in 2017.


Martin also runs a small farmland holding in Wales.
Nuffield International welcomes new Global Strategic Sponsors, Caterpillar® and Syngenta®

With the continued growth of Nuffield International (NI) and its engagement of agriculturalists from around the world, Global Strategic Partnerships are being developed to build the foundation for NI and the work being done to further the mission of inspiring people to make a difference in the world of agriculture. As a Global Strategic Partners, investors help build awareness of the Nuffield program, connect with Scholars around the world, become part of the dissemination of Scholar reports and findings, and contribute to expanding the thought leadership Nuffield Scholars are known for. The intention is that Global Strategic Partners are an active part of the Nuffield International family, creating new resources around the world for both organizations. We are excited to welcome two new Global Strategic Partners in 2018. Caterpillar® and Syngenta® have both formalized their connection to Nuffield, and more news will be forthcoming from these organizations in the future.

About Caterpillar
For more than 90 years, Caterpillar Inc. has been making sustainable progress possible and driving positive change on every continent. A world leader for construction and mining equipment, engines, locomotives, and gas turbines, Caterpillar helps customers develop infrastructure, energy and natural resource assets. From their role in the creation of the first combines all the way through to the current portfolio of material handling equipment, developing agriculture – and the people in the industry – has always been a core part of the Caterpillar mission. You can explore more about Caterpillar, their corporate overview and their agricultural products on their website here.

About Syngenta
Feeding a rising population in a sustainable manner is where Syngenta puts their focus. With world class science and innovative crop solutions, they are working to transform how crops are grown to enable millions of growers make better use of available resources. The Syngenta Good Growth Plan showcases their six commitments to address critical challenges the world faces to achieve food security while supporting sustainable natural resources, healthy ecosystems and thriving rural communities. Learn more about Syngenta and their Good Growth Plan through their website

Having these Global Strategic Partners work with NI around the world will bolster all three organizations, and lines up with the values and mission each partner has developed. Feeding a growing world means more than simply developing new science, technology and techniques to produce it. We must also develop the people who are growing the food and meeting the duty of care for animals, the environment, and our larger communities. We look forward to expanding our relationship with Caterpillar and Syngenta, and our other Global Strategic Partners such as Global Dairy Farmers and Agribenchmark to ensure that Nuffield Scholars remain at the forefront of agricultural production and development around the world.
Nuffield Australia Report
By Andrew Fowler, 2000 Scholar and Nuffield Chair

2017 was a great year for our organisation, awarding another 24 scholarships to 2018 Scholars from a diverse range of industries. Please click here to review the 2018 Australian Scholars.

We also increased the number of Global Focus Programs to six with three groups travelling in March-April (Africa, Brazil and Chile groups) and three groups travelling in May-June (China, India and Japan groups). These three later GFPs participated in the Nuffield Triennial Conference in the UK, which was an excellent event. The Global Focus Programs continue to go from strength-to-strength with 60 Nuffield Scholars participating from a number of countries this year. As an organisation we are striving to manage the increased numbers by streamlining administrative processes and providing relevant information in a timely manner for all involved. In addition to the Nuffield Australia management team, I would particularly like to thank all our GFP hosts involved in the GFPs. Their tireless work and dedication to produce rich and stimulating programs on a voluntary basis is a real credit to each and every host involved.

Our 2017 National Conference was held in the Northern Territory in September and I wish to thank those who worked hard to produce a great program. In particular my thanks to Han Shiong Siah, (2015 Scholar and Chair of Nuffield NT), 1986 Scholar and Life Member Ashley Severin and his partner Lyndee, Jonathan Shaw (2005 Sch) and Dan Richards (2016 Sch). Holding the conference in Darwin was a great opportunity to focus on the people who make Nuffield work in the North. I also want to thank those scholars to attended from overseas including the Netherlands and UK.

I wish to acknowledge the inaugural 2018 Nuffield Alumni funded Scholarship supported by the late Max Jelbart OAM, 1991 Scholar and Life Member. Sadly, Max passed away in 2016 but made an outstanding contribution to Nuffield and the Alumni over many years. With funds received from Scholar donations, a sizable donation from the Jelbart family in honour of Max, and support from Australian Processing Tomato Growers, we awarded this 2018 Alumni Scholarship to Andre Henry from Victoria. Andre will investigate alternative uses for crop residues, focusing particularly on engineering and potential practical on farm implementations.

The 2018 Contemporary Scholars Conference will be held in The Netherlands in March and I’m sure that all our Australian Scholars are looking forward to meeting all the 2018 Scholars from other Nuffield countries. I’m confident it will be another exciting and diverse program.

Finally, I would like to thank all Scholars and their families for participating in Nuffield activities and events in 2017. I would also like to thank the Board members and management team including Jodie, Nicola, Lauren and Annette for their efforts over the past year and I wish everyone a healthy and happy Christmas.

I hope to see many of you at our National Conference in Melbourne, Victoria, in mid-September 2018.
Nuffield Canada Report
By Kelvin Meadows, Chair and 2011 Scholar

Nuffield Canada held another successful Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, Ontario, on November 23rd and 24th and once again we partnered with the AgEx Conference which is aimed at increasing the visibility of both programs.

Our evening dinner was capped off with presentations from our three reporting scholars Tim Smith, Clair Doan and Tony Balkwill. There was also an opportunity to present our four incoming scholars who represent the grain, beef and viticulture industries. Our 2018 scholars are Shelley Spruit (sponsored by Glacier Farm Media), Ellen Crane (sponsored by Nuffield Alumni), Gavin Robertson (sponsored by Nuffield Alumni) and Josh Oulton (sponsored by Nuffield Alumni) who then had the opportunity to meet and hear from other alumni about their experiences and how the Nuffield opportunity can change their world perspective.

Our AGM had attendance from across Canada. As well as conducting required business, we had the opportunity to award Jim Halford, Art Petkau and Kelvin and Shelley Meadows with the William Morris award in recognition of their contributions to Nuffield Canada.

Once again, Nuffield International CEO Jim Geltch was kind enough to attend our annual event and we thank him for his remarks and participation during the AGM. This year’s discussions revolved around how we can continue to grow our program while identifying and surfacing strong candidates to fill the available scholarships on offer. It was noted that Canada would continue to support the Australian-led Global Focus Program by hosting one of the tours in early April. This AGM also saw Kelvin Meadows stand down as Chair of the Canadian board to take on the role of International Chair while incoming director Ian McPhadden will replace him as the new Chairman in Canada.
The afternoon finished with a tour of the parliament buildings and an opportunity to experience the nation’s capital during Canada’s 150th birthday.

Due to the size of our country, agriculture in Canada is always a mixed bag when it comes to the vagaries of weather and yields and this year was no different. The bigger concerns for an export driven country are distance to market as well as the outcomes of trade talks such as NAFTA and the crippled TTP discussions. Also, the proposed changes to national policy around small businesses taxation has many in the agricultural sector worried about how they will pass on family farms or wind down their businesses to support retirement after a lifetime of risk and hard work. The third issue is the same one that many countries face and that is access to qualified labour. The continued market driven consolidation of farming enterprises has not dampened opportunity and there continues to be strong employment demand across all sectors of agriculture with an emphasis on skills to support automation. I believe that Nuffield has a part to play in shaping the discussion around food production and wish to congratulate this year’s new scholars who are willing to open themselves to the challenge.

I would like to close by thanking our Executive director Shannon McArton for her commitment to the program as well as the alumni board and committees that support the Canadian program and continue to make it a success.

**Welcoming Incoming Chair Ian McPhadden**

Ian McPhadden has been involved in developing Saskatchewan agricultural economy for many years. After studying agriculture and geology at the University of Saskatchewan, Ian worked as a geologist for a number of years until the opportunity came for him to take over the family farm. He ran a successful grain operation until his retirement in 2006. Ian was selected as one of Canada’s Outstanding Young Farmers in 1988 and later served as chairperson for the national organization. In 1990, he was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship to study and report on farming practices in Australia and Europe. He served as a director with the Canadian Nuffield Association and now currently serves as Chairman for the Canadian chapter. Ian served as CEO for Prairie Malt and has been involved in numerous producer groups including the Pulse Growers and Canola Growers Associations. He sat on the Ag West Bios board of directors from 2001-2009 until taking on the roll of president. Ian was a participant in the Canadian Agricultural Lifetime Leadership program (CALL) from 2000-2002. He was part owner of a John Deere dealership and a founding director of a pulse processing plant. For over 25 years Ian has hosted students from around the world through the International Agriculture Exchange Association (IAEA). Ian continues to be a strong voice for the agricultural community and looks forward to his new role with Nuffield.
NEWS UPDATE FROM NUUFFIELD FRANCE
By David King, International Liaison, Nuffield France
On behalf of newly elected French Chairman Victor Leforestier

AGM, 2017

Nuffield France held its AGM in Paris on 16 November 2017. Outgoing President Benoit Presles reported on progress over the past year, and there was a lot of feedback from members on how to move forward. There have been contact with a number of potential investors throughout 2017, allowing the association to grow its budget from 54,000€ in 2017 to 68,000€ in 2018 with the ambition to reach 90,000-100,000€ by 2020.

Recent recognition by the French Government of Nuffield France as “an association of general interest” will enable companies which donate to the association to obtain tax relief of 70 percent – a great stimulus for future investors.

In addition to its three regular sponsors, Crédit Agricole, France Génétique Élevage, and Bio 3G, six other investors have come on board in 2017.

Nuffield France is recruiting a bilingual, part time person for the daily management of the association, to find resources, to represent the President at certain events and to communicate especially through social media. This person would be shared with UNIAGRO, the association of French agronomists.

A new Bureau was elected at the AGM, including:

1. President: Victor Leforestier
2. Treasurer: Vincent Chouanard
3. International Relations: David King
4. Relations with Partners: Frédéric Thibault  
5. Internal and External Communications: Laure Figeureu-Bidaud

Photo: Scholar Benoit Presles receiving a medal from the President of the Chambers of Agriculture upon his retirement

Four commissions were set up to obtain ideas from members and make proposals on:

1. Approaches to partners  
2. Accompanying scholars, mentoring, reporting  
3. Communications and events (new presentation of Nuffield France and its network, events to meet each other)  
4. International relations

2018 Scholars Selected

Twelve applications were received. The jury interviewed five candidates and three were selected to receive scholarships. The three successful candidates were:

Vincent GALLARD  
An agronomist specialising in animal husbandry and the dairy sector, whose passion for farming and for dairy products started on his family’s mixed crop and livestock farm. He works as a milk advisor in a cheese plant. He hopes to simplify and reduce the risk of dairy farmers wishing to start or develop a direct sales activity. His topic is ‘Inventory of manufacturing processes adapted to a mobile dairy facility’. He says today, starting an activity of direct selling of dairy products requires a significant investment in equipment that is not used very much. Milk processing would be carried out as a mobile service delivery, without taking away from producers their marketing functions which is a real vector of economic and social development
of the profession. The study will assess the suitability for rapid processing of various dairy and cheese products. Meetings with producers throughout the world who are involved in direct sales will help to build and evaluate the economic feasibility of this model of innovation.

Julien HÉRAULT

Julien is manager of advisory services in farm equipment and specialises in training and consulting. He provides services to farmers, agricultural contractors, concessionaires and builders. The focus of his work is on managing the costs of mechanization, improving the quality of the work of the machines and increasing overall performance. For the last ten years, he has also been farming a 50-hectare cereal enterprise which serves in part as a testing ground for carrying out multi-year trials and machine comparisons.

His topic is ‘Reducing the costs of mechanisation: how to reach an optimum level of investment in agricultural equipment?’ To better manage the costs of mechanisation, he will try to develop a tool or process to better estimate the minimum level of capital required without compromising the performance of the farm machinery.

Guillaume MILARD

Guillaume is an agricultural graduate from the LaSalle Institute of Beauvais (2010). He has been interested in direct seeding for about 15 years, and then in direct seeding into a cover crop (soil conservation agriculture). He has been following this practice since he started farming in 2011. This year he took over as head of the arable side of the family farm, where cereal crops have been direct sown for 12 years. His Nuffield topic is: ‘Towards the certification of conservation agriculture?’ He would like to strengthen the technical arguments to successfully promote this new form of agriculture through a comparative study of the carbon footprint and the nutritional quality of the grain produced under conservation agriculture.

Faced with an ever more open and competitive market, farmers need to differentiate their products and communicate about them. “Our production systems are innovative because they regenerate soil life by increasing carbon sequestration. I therefore wish to work on two technical aspects as future bases of communication and perhaps certification: the carbon footprint and the nutritional quality of grains produced by comparing the traditional tillage system with the conservation agriculture system”.

Presentation of Scholar Reports

For the second consecutive year, the AGM was followed by presentations of the scholar reports of the previous year. This is an opportunity to open Nuffield France to other interested organisations, companies, government departments, and the media.
The presentations by the 2016 scholars, and the debate that followed with an audience of 60 people were excellent. They included:

- Maxime Monard spoke about optimising the use of effluent from livestock operations on the farm and in its environment;
- Laure Figeureu-Bidaut’s presentation was about increasing the sustainability of the family farm through diversification into small fruit production (raspberries);
- Sylvian Haurat focused on the development of new technologies in dairy farming (calving detectors, continuous milk analysers, ruminal thermometers)

**Photo: New Chairman of Nuffield France Victor Leforestier**

**Partnership with the Pierre Sarrazin Foundation for Innovation in Agriculture**

Nuffield France and the Pierre Sarrazin Foundation share the same values of creativity, and sharing knowledge and so it was natural that they should come together at the annual awards ceremony for innovations of Pierre Sarrazin on 29 November 2017 to present the Nuffield Scholars for 2018 and host a joint conference on “Thinking out of the box to liberate energy and creativity”. Much attention is being given to innovation as existing systems of agriculture and food production appear very fragile in the face of new challenges such as climate change and the need to reduce farm inputs.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Jim Geltch, CEO of Nuffield International to Paris for this event.
Nuffield Ireland News December 2017

By John Tyrrell, Executive Secretary, and Geoff Dooley, Chair

2018 Scholars

In September, we selected five scholars for the 2018 scholarship programme – Tommy Heffernan, Karol Kissane, Klaus Laitenberger, Joe Lyng, and Colm O’Leary. There were almost 30 applications, and there was a three-stage selection process. These new scholars have already participated in two briefing sessions (October and December) to prepare them for their scholarship journey. There will be a further briefing with industry and policy makers before the Contemporary Scholars Conference.

Tommy Heffernan

Tommy Heffernan is a veterinary consultant based in Co. Wicklow. Married to Julie, they have four young children. He is originally from Co Kerry. After qualifying in 2002 from UCD, he located to Wicklow where he worked for 15 years in a large mixed veterinary practice. Over the last five years his main focus has been on farm animal medicine and performance. Completing a grad cert in dairy herd health and becoming a master cowsignals trainer during these years. His topic is ‘Cowsignals and people signals’ i.e. what are the signals for success in our dairy farms?

Karol Kissane

Karol grew up on a suckler farm in Asdee in North Kerry. He worked away from the farm for 10 years in Banking and Financial Services where he qualified as a Chartered Accountant and a Chartered Tax Advisor. Karol is married to Caroline and they have two young children. After taking over the farm, Karol converted it to dairy in 2013 receiving “new entrant quota”. In 2017 he calved down 100 cows and plans to calve 125 cows by 2019 at which stage the current milking platform will be fully stocked. Karol is chairperson of the Asdee discussion group. His study topic will be How do we make dairy farming attractive to the next generation?

Klaus Laitenberger

Klaus lives with his wife Joanna and children in North Leitrim. He was born in South Germany and ended up in the West of Ireland in 1999. He worked as the Head Gardener at the Organic Centre in Rossinver for seven years. He moved on to the position of Head Gardener in Lissadell House in Co. Sligo to carry out an extensive garden restoration project. He completed the MSc in Organic Farming in Scotland. Together with his wife they self-published a number of Irish Gardening Books (e.g.
Vegetables for the Irish Garden). After Lissadell he lectured at the MSc Course in Organic Horticulture at UCC and currently works as an organic farm and garden inspector for the Organic Trust. The title of his Nuffield Study is to “Evaluate the growing and marketing potential for alternative and lesser known food crops for the Irish climate.”

Joe Lyng
Joe grew up on a sheep and beef farm in Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny. He studied Food & Agri-Business Management at UCD. He completed an MSc in Food Business Strategy at the Michael Smurfit Business School, UCD. He was accepted onto the Pure Ambition Graduate Program with Glanbia, and is currently a ruminant business manager. Alongside his job with Glanbia, Joe farms at home with his cousin and two uncles. Since the abolition of quotas they have grown from 60 cows to 260, while phasing out the beef and sheep enterprises. Joe’s study will explore “Value in the market for grass-fed dairy product”.

Colm O’Leary
Colm comes from a family dairy farm near Blarney in Co. Cork. He graduated from UCD Dairy Business in 2013 and as part of his degree Colm spent six months working on a 1200 cow dairy farm in New Zealand. He now farms in partnership with his parents. They are milking 150 crossbred cows. Colm is a member of Macra na Feirme’s Ag Affairs committee since 2016. For Colm’s study topic, he intends to explore the subject of animal welfare. As a farmer, Colm cares deeply about the welfare of his animals. Improving animal welfare on farms can play a role in improving health and profitability.

Nuffield Conference
Our Annual Conference took place in Dublin on 6th October. There were 130 delegates, including nine scholars from other countries. The returning 2016 scholars, and one 2015 scholar, presented their study reports. We also received an excellent report from the 2017 scholars about their GFP experiences, key messages and main issues that they learned. The new 2018 scholars gave a short introduction about themselves and their study topic.

Returning Scholars Tom Dinneen, Roberta McDonald, John Joyce, Maeve O’Keeffe, Peter Farrell, Ailbhe Gerrard and Ray Hunt, celebrate after presenting their study reports.

Our Keynote speaker was Tom O’Mahony, CEO of Origin Enterprises plc, which is a leading Agri-Services Group, with revenues of over €1.5 bn, providing value added services, technologies and inputs that address the requirements of primary food producers. It has operations in Ireland, UK,
Poland Ukraine and Romania. Tom provided an insight into Origin’s Development, the context for their Investment Decisions, and Strategic Priorities, and gave valuable personal perspectives on Leadership.

Jim Geltch attended and addressed the conference about the work of Nuffield International, and its ambition for the future. The conference was followed by a dinner where 100 delegates and guests attended, and awards presented to two scholars (Johnny Butterly and John Finlay) to mark 20 years since their scholarship award. We also awarded an Honorary Scholarship to David Baker, to recognise his contribution to Nuffield.

**GFP visit to Ireland 2017**

In April, we hosted the ‘Brazil GFP’ group for their visit to Ireland. During the five-day visit they:

- Visited to the National Dairy Research Centre in Moorepark, Co Cork,
- Had a tour of the world renowned Coolmore Stud in Co Tipperary,
- Had a presentation on Ireland’s Aquaculture industry from an expert in the sector,
- Visited a rapidly developing farmhouse cheese business,
- Met an innovative vegetable and tillage farmer (Nuffield Scholar Julian Hughes) who grows flowers, carrots, pumpkins and other cereal crops & vegetables on a 250 ha enterprise,
- Visited Scholar Kevin Nolan, Tillage farmer, who also leases other land on a long term basis (farming in total about 700 ha) and used precision technology and new methods to develop his business,
- Visited Country Crest, which is the largest grower and supplier of onions and potatoes and supplies retailers. It also has a prepared foods division.
- There were visits to the Rock of Cashel (former seat of the High Kings of Ireland) and New Grange and Stone Age monument which was built about 3,200 BC.
- Visited a brewery (Smithwicks in Kilkenny) - strictly for research purposes,
- Attended a BBQ arranged by Joe Leonard (Nuffield Board member) for meeting with local farmers and guests.
Nuffield Ireland Board

Following a review of the Constitution and Governance of Nuffield Ireland, the members adopted a new Constitution in January 2017. At the same time, a new Board was elected, including new Chairman, Geoff Dooley, and Board members Karen Brosnan, Jonathan Tighe, Brian Rushe, Joe Leonard, Amii McKeever and David Murphy. Geoff Dooley succeeded outgoing Chairman Bill O’Keeffe who had filled this role since 2012.

The Board has formed four sub committees to with responsibility for (1) Scholar Management, (2) Scholar Recruitment & Selection, (3) Communications & Events, and (4) Governance, Ethos and Finance. The sub committees provide the opportunity to involve more members of our Alumni in our work, and prepares them for possible future participation on the Board.

Later in the year, at the AGM in December, Mary Webb was elected to the Board as Treasurer, to succeed Jonathan Tighe, who retired by rotation.
The Netherlands Report

By Annechien ten Have – Mellema, 2014 Scholar and Chair

Being the Nuffield NL chair since October, this is my first chairman’s report for Nuffield international. My name is Annechien ten Have – Mellema, farmer in the north of The Netherlands with a piggery, arable and a biodigestor.

I am a 2014 Scholar who studied the value chain of pig meat. In particular, how can we produce in special market concept: Challenges and threats?

I am very excited to see how Nuffield The Netherlands, as the youngest country in the Nuffield family, develops and more and more professionalizes. Our group of 24 Nuffield Scholars in The Netherlands are all very involved into Nuffield. It was great to see that more than half of our group participating in the 2017 Triennial Conference in the UK. In 2018, Nuffield The Netherlands will organize and host the Contemporary Scholars Conference, and it will be great to see how this program comes together.

We have selected six 2018 NL Scholars from a nice wide range of professionals. One special scholarship is for Yvon Jaspers. Yvon is the Dutch presenter of ‘farmers seeks a wife’, a television program that will start with its tenth season next year and that has been watched by almost six million people. The Scholars were announced at the Nuffield NL autumn congress. We were happy and proud to welcome Nuffield International CEO Jim Geltch and Chair Kelvin Meadows and 2016 UK Scholar Robbie Moore as international speakers and also several international guests.

2018 Scholars

Chris Antuma runs an organic production farm on the sandy soils in Eastern Netherlands with his family. They grow herb roots like Valerian and Echinacea. The extracts of these are being used in natural products preventing cold, flu and restoring natural sleep. They also produce vegetables red onions and red beets. Outdoor production in our temperate maritime climate is basically only possible in the summer season. A welcome addition to our activities would also be some kind of (indoor)production or processing activity for the winter season.

Edwin Michiels, with his wife, run a mixed farm in Limburg. Pig farming is combined with arable farming and growing flowerbulbs. They have consciously chosen to produce their pigs within an animal welfare concept owned by an animal protection NGO and VION. Edwin is chairman of the Supervisory Board of Vitelia (a medium-sized cattle feed cooperative), member of the Supervisory Board of Royal Cosun (sugar beet cooperative) and board member...
at LTO Arable Farming (Dutch farmers association). He will investigate whether there are better ways to close the mineral cycles between animal husbandry, arable and horticulture.

**Kees Hemminga** with his father runs a dairy farm in the northern part of the Netherlands. Before this, he studied business administration and worked at the Dutch dairy cooperative FrieslandCampina. He has a broad interest in dairy on both the farm level and on a global scale. Kees will study global trends and developments that affect the Dutch dairy industry, and how to manage this on the farm. As an entrepreneur I find it very important to get a greater insight in global trends in order to position my own business more effectively.

**Rick de Vor**, from Snelrewaard (Utrecht region) in the Netherlands is a dairy farmer with 115 cows. On this farm they grow corn and silage for cows on 38 hectares. Their ground is a clay on peat soil that every year a couple of millimeter descents. That’s a problem for their environment and this is the main reason he will research the soil decrease in peat ground and how it’s possible to minimize the decrease of the soil so there is less output of CO2 and that there are less problems with high water.

**Robert Nijkamp** together with his family, a farm with slower growing broilers and dairy cows. At this moment there are 40 dairy cows with 23 ha pasture and three poultry houses equipped with winter garden. These houses accommodate 70,000 broilers with the “Beter Leven” (Better Life) label. After his Bachelor degree Modern Animal husbandry, Robert worked as a Sales- and Nutrition Manager for pigs and poultry for a feed production company. Robert will focus research on the usage of the data available on farm - together with the blockchain technology – in order to make the connection between farmers and consumers.

**Yvon Jaspers** presents the popular TV Show ‘Farmer wants a wife’ since 2004. Beside her TV activities, she writes columns in trade magazines and leads conferences and workshops about the relationship between the agricultural sector and the Dutch public. Her TV show about romance at the countryside draws millions of viewers each week. Yet her ambition to show the real life and challenges of the farmers community in the Netherlands is met with much less enthusiasm. Therefore, Yvon wants to visit inspiring examples all over the world and learn from these best practices that successfully tell their positive ‘farm and food’ stories to a big audience.
In November we announced our five 2018 Scholars Andy Elliot, Solis Norton, Turi McFarlane, Simon Cook, Kate Scott.

The 2018 Awards Ceremony was hosted in Parliament by the new Minister of Agriculture, Damian O’Connor in his first few days in office. Having the Minister able to present the awards had special significance given both his father and brother are Nuffield alumni.

A second highlight of the Awards evening was hearing the progress of the current scholars. Each shared their preliminary insights on their research topic. With greater emphasis on scholars studying topics that will add value and offer solutions to some of the challenges facing the primary sector, there was strong interest from those attending. The value of this has been reinforced with MPI Director General, Martyn Dunne requesting a presentation from the scholars to MPI staff in the new year.

Having shared information and experiences with the 2017 scholars, the 2018 scholars will have a two-day New Zealand and Industry sector briefing in Wellington on 7/8th December. This is to ensure they understand the global positioning, strategy and key markets of our primary sectors, as well-informed ambassadors of NZ and Nuffield.

**New Entity**

The New Zealand Rural Leadership Trust has now been operating for 6 months, managing the Nuffield Scholarships and the Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme. The transition to a standalone entity has taken time, but the organisation is now well set up to meet opportunities and challenges for the future. The legal and accountancy advice required has been significant and I wish to acknowledge the generous support of Mark Tavendale of Tavendale & Partners (legal) and Andrew Hawkes & team at KPMG Christchurch office (accounting) and encourage alumni to support them for any future needs.

The office at Lincoln University has been retained with myself and Lisa Rogers, our Programme Coordinator based there. The Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme is still delivered using Lincoln University venues and facilities.
Investing Partners

Our Strategic Partners are now contributing to leadership pathways by supporting both programmes and are actively involved in the development of leaders for the sector.

During the year, FMG and Agmardt have recommitted to a three-year partnership with the Trust, while Dairy NZ and Beef+Lamb NZ have continued their support.

For our organisation, the value of these industry partners comes in many ways with the National Advisory Group (representatives of the four organisations) providing regular industry insights, developments and views on future leadership needs to help us better shape the programmes. In addition, they have provided meeting space, special project support & Nuffield selection specialist HR support.

Our Programme Partners have grown in number, and their support is equally valuable providing marketing and speaker support to the programme.

Associate Director appointment

The Board recently invited alumni from the last 5 years to expression interest in the Associate Director role being vacated by Dan Shand in November. After considering the five applications, Mat Hocken was selected and will take on the position in January 2018 for 18 months. This is part of our commitment to provide ongoing leadership development opportunities to scholars, with governance a key goal for some.

Upcoming Events

Dave Hurst and his team have finalised the exciting programme for the 2018 Nuffield NZ Biennial Conference in May 2018 in Tauranga and surrounds. They are confidently anticipating a great turnout! You will be receiving information and regular updates over the next few months.

The programme will begin at 2pm on Thursday 10th May to accommodate presentations from the eleven scholars, including the six 2017 scholars with their reports “hot off the press”!

Highlights and Key Activities of 2017

- Nuffield International GFP New Zealand leg hosted in Central & Central Otago in April
- NZ Rural Leadership Trust established on 1 June as an independent charitable entity.
- Richard Green’s stellar contribution acknowledged by Board at his farewell in June
- 2020 Nuffield Triennial Conference organising committee convened
- Nuffield NZ Biennial Conference programme announced
- Mat Hocken appointed as Associate Director for 2018-19
- Recent scholars active in presentations and industry roles (see updates in this e-newsletter)
- Ongoing commitment to a further three-year Strategic Partner agreements with Agmardt and FMG
programme features some interesting field visits reflecting the agri-food and business strengths of the Bay of Plenty region.

The 2020 Nuffield Triennial Conference organising committee has been convened under the chairmanship of Michael Tayler with Murray King, Jane Mitchell, Steve Wilkins, Desiree Whittaker (Reid), John Wright, Rebecca Hyde, Anne Hindson and Lisa Rogers on the planning committee. Other alumni will be brought in to assist with specific activities as required.

This event will be a major undertaking so thanks to the team that have taken on the challenge.

We plan to hold the 2020 Nuffield NZ Biennial Conference in conjunction with the Triennial but with a separate programme.

Thank you for your support during the year. We particularly value the role you play in identifying and encouraging applications from potential and successful new Nuffielders. You are our most powerful and respected advocates.

The 2018 calendar is as follows:

- 10-12 May - Nuffield New Zealand Biennial Conference 2018, Bay of Plenty
- 13 May - Thought Leadership Workshop and Nuffield New Zealand AGM
- 1 June - Applications open for the 2019 Nuffield Scholarships
- 13 August - Applications close
- September - Nuffield Australia Conference, Melbourne
- 1 November - Award Function - 2019 Nuffield NZ Scholars, Wellington

I look forward to seeing you all in May, in Tauranga for the conference.
**Nuffield UK Report, by Mike Vacher Director**

**Message from Julian Darling, Nuffield UK Chair**

“It is so good to be part of a growing Nuffield Family with ever increasing ‘reach’ around the World. ‘Nuffield UK’ was pleased to host the 2017 Nuffield International Triennial Conference which shone a spotlight on British Farming and include seven themed days of visits, a major Conference Day ‘Farming Fit for Food’ and five sector field tours throughout the United Kingdom. We look forward to contributing in whatever way we can to the continued growth and success of Nuffield International. With all good wishes for 2018 and beyond.

Details of the Nuffield Triennial Conference can be found [here](#).

![Above: 2017 Nuffield Triennial Conference](#)

**2018 Scholars Announced**

The UK Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust has announced the appointment of 19 new Scholars to commence their travels and research in 2018. They include:

1. **Adam Banks** (Lincolnshire, East Midlands) ‘Insects as Food: Opportunities and challenges to farming insects for human consumption in the UK’
2. **Mark Dewes** (Warwickshire, West Midlands) ‘Can UK agronomy learn from best practice abroad to better serve arable farmers with advice and crop protection inputs?’
3. **Neil Eastham** (Yorkshire, Northern) ‘How can UK dairy farmers use genomics to breed a better herd?’
4. **Charlotte Evans** (Northamptonshire, East Midlands) ‘Point of care diagnostics: What can we learn from the medical industry?’
5. **Jonathan Gill** (Shropshire, West Midlands) ‘How do we embrace automation in agriculture?’
6. **Martin Gott** (Cumbria, Northern) ‘The prevalence and importance of indigenous bacterial cultures in raw milk cheese’
7. **Richard Harrison** (Kent, South East) ‘Where next for soft fruit in the UK? Addressing the yield gap and providing a path to 500 t/ha’
8. **Caroline Kealey** (Lincolnshire, East Midlands) ‘Investigate developing and existing technologies for carcass grading and payment that can improve UK meat quality through producer/processor incentivisation’
9. **Angela Kirkwood** (Yorkshire, Northern) ‘Growing the British pig industry’
10. **Katy Mayne** (Shropshire, West Midlands) ‘Agriculture & the natural environment - developing cross sector relationships to benefit future policy’
11. **James McIntosh** (Scotland) ‘Explore new ways in which eggs can be marketed to maintain a steady increase in egg consumption’
12. **Emily Norton** (Norfolk, Anglia) ‘Breaking the silos - best practice in global agricultural policy for farm business innovation’
13. **Barry O’Boyle** (Northern Ireland) ‘Can Farm subsidies be revolutionised after Brexit to drive Innovation?’
14. **Tom Ormesher** (Sussex, South East) ‘Water for business growth, regulation, markets and stewardship’
15. **Alexandra Parker** (Surrey, South East) ‘Where corporate meets family in business’
16. **Christopher Rose** (Norfolk, Anglia) ‘On-farm anaerobic digestion: maximising use and enhancing the value of CO2, heat and nutrients’
17. **Jenna Ross** (Scotland) ‘Riding the slime wave: Gathering global data to enhance slug control in the UK’
18. **Angus Selby** (Surrey, South East) ‘Can Institutional Investment Capital Provide Opportunities for Family Farmers and Young Farmers in the UK?’
19. **Joseph Towers** (Lancashire, Northern) ‘Procurement of Asparagopsis taxiformis for trial in UK dairy system for methane reduced dairy products’

Above: From the 2017 Annual Conference
NUFFIELD IN BRAZIL UPDATE
By Sally Thomson, Honorary Ambassador, Nuffield Brazil

Four years ago, I thought that Nuffield had such an obvious fit in Brazil that we would achieve four scholarships in that first year. It was far from that simple, but we have stayed committed to the adage of “if you want to go far, go together” and focused on building awareness, confidence and eventually buy-in to the Nuffield brand.

In May 2017, Association Nuffield Brazil was created, and we have secured four scholarships for Brazilians to participate in the 2018 Nuffield International Scholarship program. This is not just bringing one of the world’s leading agricultural capacity building programs to a key global food producer / exporter. It is providing a tried and tested example of creating industry good by building social capital in an emerging and significant global economy.

Photo: Scholars participating in a debate

Photo (L-R): 2017 Scholars Kathryn Stack, Thato Moagi, Carla Borges and Murilo Bettarello
Expanding the Nuffield footprint in this meaningful way is a great challenge to be involved with, and we are grateful for the support of Nuffield International and our Brazilian volunteer base to stay committed to this goal. The value and enjoyment of receiving Nuffield Scholars from other countries in Brazil cannot be over-stated – the intellectual stimulation, warm conversations and the lasting impression that Nuffield Scholars give to show that we are genuine proposition. The enthusiastic commitment of our Brazilian volunteers to try new approaches and develop our skills along the way has been great fuel for our engines.

Photo (L-R): Marina Scheffer Bortoli (Grupo Bom Futuro), Sally Thomson, José Maria Bortoli (Grupo Bom Futuro) and Roger Mercer

Hosting the 2017 Contemporary Scholars Conference, the first time to hold the event in an emerging economy, was a great success for both Brazil and Nuffield International. Nine days in Brasilia plus four post-CSC tours with only one scorpion bite, means we all got through it quite lightly! Thanks to Nuffield International for giving us the chance, and thank to all from being part of the journey so far.

Photos: (L): Farm visit as part of the first family weekend. (R) CSC farm visit to Verni Wehrmann

In the words of Fabiano Paganella, Chair of Nuffield Brazil:

“The improvement and evolution of agribusiness depends on the evolution of the people who work in it. The Nuffield mission contributes to this. Develop people to make a difference in the world of agriculture. We are very pleased to formalise Nuffield’s presence in Brazil and the network of people who are helping in this process of structuring and growth. The recognition of companies and people related to Brazilian agribusiness by Nuffield has been increasing and we have become better known every day because of our proposal to make a difference for agriculture”.
Nuffield USA was officially established in 2016 as a non-profit Delaware corporation. It is my honor to serve as the President of the Board of Directors, which includes Jean Lonie, Vice-President; Jim Geltch, Secretary-Treasurer; Bill Northey, Bart Ruth, Kelvin Meadows and Kyle Amos.

Nuffield USA funded its first Scholar in 2017, Georgie Cartanza, a poultry producer from Dover, Delaware. In 2018, two Scholars, Brian Dougherty, an agricultural engineer and farmer from Iowa, and Archie Griffin, a farmer from North Carolina will be the Nuffield USA Scholars.

2017 was largely a year devoted to funding development and introducing Nuffield to a wide range of agricultural organisations, agri-businesses, agricultural policy makers and farmers. I made six trips to Iowa to develop funding from Iowa agricultural commodity organisations, which resulted in four investing in the first Iowa Nuffield Scholar, Brian Dougherty. In addition, a strong relationship with Iowa State University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences has emerged which should be helpful in getting the Nuffield brand in front of Iowa’s agricultural interests as well as helping to surface potential Nuffield candidates. Jim Geltch joined me on two of these trips, including the Nuffield US candidate interview day in November.

Our other Scholar for 2018, Archie Griffin, is funded by TCGA, a part of the TIAA organisation.

In addition, I attended the World Food Prize Week, held annually in Des Moines, Iowa, to celebrate the accomplishments of Iowa’s Nobel Peace Laureate, Dr. Norman Borlaug and to address global food issues. Three current Nuffield Scholars (representing the UK, Australia and Ireland) also attended the World Food Prize week along with a Scholar from New Zealand.

Jean Lonie, Jim Geltch and Kyle Amos spent a week in Texas to introduce the Nuffield Program to a wide range of interested agricultural audiences. They covered over 1,500 miles and visited 35 counties in our largest state in the continental US (only Alaska is larger).

I visited California two times, once with Jim Geltch and one alone to pursue the same mission as we all did in Iowa, Texas, Washington, DC, New Orleans, Boston and other parts of the country. In all, nearly 100 individual face-to-face meetings with potential investors and supporters were made in 2017 by Board members.

As President, it was my honor and privilege to host two Global Focus Programs groups for week-long visits – one in Delaware in March and another in Iowa in June. In addition to the educational
and experiential aspects of the GFP for Scholars, it serves as an effective vehicle or platform for USA agricultural communities and interests to learn about Nuffield. The level of engagement and the keen intellect of the Scholars that come through on GFP trips always impresses the Americans they interact with, which leaves a very positive impression about Nuffield.

Board member Bill Northeys, Iowa’s Secretary of Agriculture believes it’s really important that a GFP group come back to Iowa in 2018 and another Iowa GFP experience is scheduled for 2018. Jean Lonie developed a list of other US States for 2018 GFP visits in concurrence with Nuffield USA, Nuffield Australia and Nuffield International. Those states include Iowa, North Carolina, Texas, Oregon, California and Alabama.

A critical part of the GFP experience is the visit to Washington, DC. Scholars visit with the Executive Branch of the US Government (primarily the USDA), on Capitol Hill to visit with Senators, Congressmen and Congresswomen and their staffs to lean about the Farm Bill, and to visit agricultural farm and trade organisations to understand the relationship to the development of agricultural policy. Each year the GFP groups are combined into two different larger groups that meet in Washington in March or June. I hosted the two groups in 2017.

Nuffield USA initiatives with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) have resulted in NASDA providing guidance, contacts, planning and helping host future GFP Washington experiences, beginning in 2018. NASDA is based in Washington, DC and represents all 50 state departments of agriculture to federal agencies in Washington. Jean Lonie and I attended the NASDA annual meeting and spoke to each of the four regional sections of NASDA, explaining Nuffield, asking state secretaries of agriculture to consider hosting GFP groups and to help identify potential Scholars for their states.

The 2019 Contemporary Scholars Conference will be held in Ames, Iowa, at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center, near the Iowa State University. Jim Geltch and I made site visits and the planning has begun. A day’s program at the World Food Prize Building in Des Moines will be a part of the CSC, along with tours to farms and agribusinesses.

Outreach to other states and regions will continue in 2018, ensuring we continue to strengthen the Nuffield presence in states where investors are involved as well as states hosting GFP groups. In addition, we will introduce the Nuffield mission to potential investors in the US with a national or even international footprint. Jean Lonie is exploring the potential of a major agricultural media partner to provide national exposure of Nuffield to agricultural and related audiences.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues on the Nuffield USA Board for their enthusiasm and continuing commitment to Nuffield USA and the Nuffield International mission. I also have gratitude to our first investors and all those who are considering investing. A truly team effort has emerged within Nuffield USA and its investors and supporters. As a result, real dividends from that spirit of cooperation are beginning to emerge.
UN Committee on Food Security
By Wayne Dredge, 2014 Scholar

In October this year Nuffield was represented at the 44th UN Committee on Food Security (CFS) held at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, Italy. CFS is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together on matters relating to food security and nutrition. Using a multi-stakeholder, inclusive approach, CFS develops and endorses policy recommendations and guidance on a wide range of agricultural, food security and nutrition topics.

Nuffield International partnered with the ETG Farmers Foundation and the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) to host a side event at CFS along theme of What Todays Young Agricultural Leaders need to meet tomorrows Sustainable Development Goal Challenges. Sarah Singla (Nuffield France), Thato Moagi (Nuffield International, South Africa), Robert Arvier (Nuffield Australia) and Willem Van Der Schans (Nuffield Netherlands) represented Nuffield along with four other young leaders from China (Stuart Oda), Tanzania (Freddy Leonce), Zimbabwe (Gloria Gusha) and Canada (Tiare Boyes). The event was chaired by Mr Luis Fernando Ceciliano Piedra who is the special minister council to the UN Rome based agencies for Costa Rica and Moderated by Dr David Bergvinson, the current Director General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics.

For over two and half hours the panel of young farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs answered questions from the floor to a packed room that related to challenges currently faced by the next generation of farmers in achieving a world without hunger.

Above (L-R): Thato Moagi (NI scholar), Stuart Oda and Tiara Boyes at the CFS side event

This was the third consecutive year that Nuffield has been represented at CFS and the Private Sector Delegation of global agribusiness leaders was particularly pleased to so many young, energetic and entrepreneurial people being engaged in such high-level policy dialogue. The Director General of the Global Dairy Platform, Mr Donald Moore, and the Director General of the IAFN, Robynne Anderson, both commented that they hope to see more Nuffield Scholars and other youth leaders from the agricultural sector become involved in future years. To this end NI encourages any past or present scholars who have an interest in becoming involved in CFS or other UN related policy events to please email Jim Geltch or Wayne Dredge for further information.
Africa and Southern Caucuses Tours - 2018

1) 2018 East African Agribusiness Tour
Wayne Dredge (Convenor)

The itinerary for 2018’s African agribusiness tour is presently being finalised and will be circulated early in the new-year. The tour, which begins in Nairobi, will touch ground in Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Zambia to conclude at the most quintessential of African landmarks, Victoria Falls.

The highlights will include visits to some of Sub-Saharan Africa’s fastest developing agricultural enterprises and most advanced research institutions. Presentations from global experts on food security, nutrition, conservation, future agricultural technology, product procurement and food manufacturing will be interspersed throughout the 24-day tour.

Places are still available and any people wishing to learn more are encouraged to contact Mr Jim Geltch before the final cut off for new participants on February 28th.

2) Proposed tour of the Southern Caucuses in 2018
Simon Appleby (Convenor)

The South Caucasus, incorporating the lands between the Black and Caspian Seas (Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan) is the Cradle of Wine, with archeological remains of winemaking dating as far back as 8000 years ago. It is believed that wild grapevine varieties were first domesticated in this region, with over 600 autochthonous vine varieties in the two countries, and that pre-Christian civilisations had a deep connection with viticulture and winemaking as part of religious ritual. Armenia is the oldest surviving Christian nation on earth, with Georgia having converted soon afterwards in the 4th century, and the two countries offer a unique opportunity to experience ancient wine culture in a comfortable and friendly environment.
Nuffield Caucasus, a Georgian non-profit organisation, is the regional affiliate of Nuffield International and is promoting the Nuffield Farm Scholarship Programme in Georgia and Armenia to stimulate the professional development of the nascent agroindustries of the region. To assist funding Georgian and Armenian Scholars whose employers are not sufficiently financially resourced to underwrite their scholarships, we are running a two week Wine Heritage Tour of Georgia and Armenia in Summer 2018 to raise some funds and to expose Nuffield Scholars and their associates to the rich cultural heritage of these two fascinating countries.

The proposed itinerary will include:

**GEORGIA**

- Iberieli winery, Guria. Subtropical high rainfall region producing Chkhaveri in kvevri. Exports most production to Japan.
- Winery Khareba, Imereti. The largest commercial winery in Western Georgia, producing sparkling and still whites, and reds both Kvevri and western style.
- Visit to a Kvevri maker in Imereti; terracotta egg-shaped vessels buried underground, and used for vinification and storage of wine for the past 8000 years.
- Bagrationi 1882, Shida Kartli. The largest producer of sparkling wine in Georgia.
- Chateau Mukhrani, Mtskheta-Mtianeti. Former home of a Georgian prince and the Romanov family, and a premium producer of cool climate reds and whites, including some rare varieties. Bordeaux winemaker.
- State Research Centre for Agriculture Ampelography collection, Jigura, Mtskheta-Mtianeti. 437 Georgian grapevine varieties in the collection.
- Shavnabada Monastery winery, Kvemo Kartli (outskirts of Tbilisi). Small scale kvevri winery, reds and whites.
- Sarajashvili Brandy Distillery, Tbilisi. Makers of Churchill's favourite brandy.
- Manaveli winery, Manavi, Kakheti. Commercial-scale kvevri winery and distillery.
- Pheasant's Tears winery, Sighnaghi, Kakheti, American-owned kvevri winery.
- Telavi Wine Cellar, Telavi, Kakheti. One of the largest wineries in the country, Australian viticulturalists consult here.
- Lukasi, Tsinandali, Kakheti, small-scale premium western-style winery.
- Schuchmann Wines, Kisiskhevi, Kakheti. German-owned winery exporting kvevri and western wines to Whole Foods chain in USA, and EU markets.
- Georgian Wine and Spirits, Telavi, Kakheti. Large scale French-owned winery, Bordeaux winemaker.
- Alaverdi Monastery winery. 1007 year old winery, producing kvevri reds and whites.
ARMENIA

- Armenia Wine, Aragatsotn. Large scale, newly built winery under German management with Bordeaux consultants. Dry reds and whites, native and European varieties, port-style wines and brandy.
- Karas estate, Armavir. Large scale newly built winery, owned by Argentinian-Armenian billionaire. 2000 Ha territory, 400 Ha under vine. Argentinian winemakers and viticulturalists. Dry reds and whites, native and European varieties.
- Alluria winery, Armavir. Natural winemaker, producing charismatic wines from rare red grape varieties.
- Van Ardi winery, Aragatsotn. Small winery owned by American-Armenian family, producing quality wines from native reds and whites.
- Semina Consulting, Yerevan. Contract vinification for many private clients, owned by Italian-trained Armenian winemaker. Also has own label, Keush sparkling wines.
- Maran winery, Yerevan. Owned by the pioneer of modern winemaking in Armenia, and the leading authority on grapevine varieties of the Armenian plateau, Avag Harutyunyan. produces reds and whites from native varieties from Areni. Also produces pomegranate wines and owns the Green Dragon distillery (eau de vie).
- Armenian ampelography collection, >300 native varieties.
- Ararat Brandy Distillery, owned by Pernod Ricard. Major distiller exporting to CIS.
- Old Bridge, Areni. Small scale artisan winery, native and Georgian reds.
• Areni Cave visit; the world’s oldest winery, dated to 6200 years old, in pristine condition with scores of terracotta Karas containers and other relics in excellent condition.

There will be extensive involvement with the Georgian National Wine Agency, the Vine and Wine Foundation of Armenia (both state bodies), as well as the Georgian Wine Association, the Kakheti Wine Guild, the Georgian Wine Tourism Association and the Armenian Winemakers Association. We also will have some officials from the Australian Trade Commission as well as the Australian, French and Dutch Ambassadors to Georgia attending the tour, so high-level access to officials involved in substantial foreign investment projects will be part of the experience.

![Vineyard in Georgia](image)

Above: Vineyard in Georgia

The participants would experience scenery and environments from lush subtropical rainforest, fertile valleys ringed by jagged mountains, ancient monasteries, the high Armenian plateau and the rugged semi-desert highlands of Vayots Dzor. Tbilisi is a charming mix of east and west, with mostly 19th century architecture and narrow cobblestone laneways, cafes, tea houses and mansions. Yerevan is a grand Soviet city made of pink volcanic rock, with broad treelined boulevards, parks and gardens.

Participants can expect memories to last a lifetime as they enjoy legendary Caucasus hospitality, extraordinary cuisine, and fabulous wines and brandies. The rich history of winemaking in this region will help participants put their own operations into perspective as part of an 8000-year old journey marrying art, science and culture. Sampling wines from unfamiliar varietals and vineyard inspections may stimulate participants to experiment with native Caucasian varieties in their own operations, and there will be many opportunities to interact with winemakers using the 8000-year old kvevri/karas methodology for those curious about the approach.

It is anticipated that the tour will involve seven days in Georgia and four days in Armenia in June/July 2018. More details to follow in the New Year.
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