

Careers

Management course trains new generation of farmers

- Get more from your farm business
- Developed by farmers for farmers
- Bursaries available for applicants

Applications are open for a unique training course developed with farmers to develop the skills needed when managing a farm business.

Intended for individuals entering farm management or about to start running the family farm, the two-week Farm Management Development Programme is delivered by Bishop Burton College at its Riseholme Showground Campus, near Lincoln, Lincolnshire.

Key topics covered include all aspects of farm business planning and management. Fully residential, the course takes place during a week in November, followed by a week in February. Numbers

are limited to 12 participants and those attending are usually in their 20s or 30s.

Industry experts

It involves input from industry experts, field trips, a case study and interaction with other group members – as well as guest speakers. Participants have the opportunity to undertake an assessment module accredited by the Royal Agricultural University.

Harry Middleditch, a 25-year-old assistant farm manager for DF Middleditch & Son, completed the course last year. His family farms 400ha acres of combinable crops, plus a flock of pedigree Hampshire Down sheep and 100 Poll Dorset ewes.

"I arrived home with a new outlook on agriculture as a sector as well as a broader understanding of management. The

course has made me rethink my business and how to take it forward in this ever-changing time within the industry."

The fee for attending the course is £3,800, including all accommodation and food. Funding support may be available from the Princes Countryside Fund, the Chadacre Agricultural Trust, the Hadleigh Farmers Agricultural Association and the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society.

Supporting agriculture

Hadleigh Farmers Agricultural Association secretary Cathy Leney said she was keen that local applicants considered applying. She added: "As a charity ourselves we have a remit to support agriculture and other local charities which we hope we do very well."

"Two years ago, we set up a specific bursary for CPD courses linked with the Worshipful Company of Farmers course at Cirencester and this course at Bishop Burton. We part fund the courses as we believe that it is important that the candidates also raise some of the money themselves."

Andrew Ward MBE, of Roy Ward Farms, is one of the farmers who helped to develop the course. It covers topics such as business evaluation, marketing, business planning, costs of production, people management, leadership and communication.

Mr Ward said: "Agriculture is changing at an alarming rate and we have to be flexible and focused to keep up. The farm management development course will prepare you for that and help you in your early years of running a profitable farming business."

The closing date for applications is 28 July. For full details, visit <http://bit.ly/FarmManagementCourse> or email Rhonda Thompson at rhonda.thompson@bishopburton.ac.uk

The course made me rethink my business and how to take it forward.



Course delegates Harry Middleditch (left) and George Halsall (right) with course lecturer Chris Leney, partner at agricultural business experts Brooks Leney (centre).



Platt Hall, Reaseheath student accommodation

Reaseheath secures £15m to expand its student offer

Cheshire-based Reaseheath College has secured £15m in funding to increase the number of courses it offers, expand its student accommodation and enhance its reputation.

Reaseheath is one of the country's top agricultural and horticultural colleges – and a national leader in niche courses such as food engineering, agriculture and animal management. The money was made available from the education division at Santander Corporate and Commercial.

The 330-hectare land-based college, mainly located on the outskirts of Nantwich, offers campus facilities with a full working dairy farm, parklands, an equine centre and a licensed food factory.

The funding was provided following an initial refinancing package of £14.5m in 2017.

Reaseheath chief finance officer Graeme Lavery said: "The series of new capital developments that we have underway are important for the ongoing success of the college in providing high quality facilities for our learners and employer partners with whom we work in equipping students for their future careers."