



### **Fresh Start moves to RASE - and gets a new Project Manager**

The Fresh Start initiative, the all-industry project designed to encourage new entrants into farming and related industries, is to come under the wing of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and establish new offices at Stoneleigh.

Concurrent with the move, founding Project Manager, Steve Lindsay, is to retire from Fresh Start. He will be replaced by Alison Rickett, who has been representing the National Trust on the Fresh Start Stakeholder Group for the past three years.

“This is all excellent news for the Fresh Start Initiative and provides us with some assurance that the project, which has helped 28 Fresh Start Academies around the country get started, can continue its work. Through the Academies, Fresh Start regional co-ordinators and the professionals working with them have been able to touch the lives of literally hundreds of potential new entrants and young farmers,” said Denis Chamberlain, Fresh Start National Chairman.

“The move to RASE is just right for the Project. We will be on the same site as the NFU, National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, Farming and Countryside Education, Lantra and a number of other key industry organisations.

“While we are all sad that Steve Lindsay is leaving after putting in so much hard work to help establish Fresh Start, we are delighted to welcome Alison Rickett, who will be working alongside Steve for the next few weeks”.

Fresh Start was established following the Curry Commission Report in 2004. Since its inception it has been supported by a grant from Defra which will continue into 2010. Initially funded by Barclays Bank and, later, by the NFU Mutual Trust, it has received Defra funding for core costs, promotion and administrative assistance.

“The continued support from Defra is a great vote of confidence in what Fresh Start has been able to achieve in such a short time. It will enable us to continue to grow the Academies, engaging with new entrants on appropriate entrepreneurial training and mentoring. It will also provide the resource for a

further series of initiatives engaging older farmers in preparation for their exit strategy, managing succession and planning for ultimate retirement,” said Denis Chamberlain.

--Ends--

**For further information:**

Denis Chamberlain                      Chairman, Fresh Start      07860 680800

**Notes for Editors:**

Alison Rickett

For the past four years, Alison has been Project Manager and Rural Skills and Training adviser to the National Trust. She has been involved in the co ordination and management of the Barclays Skills and Training project for 1500 tenants, working with NT’s in-house farm advisory team and other staff and new entrants. Before that Alison ran an agricultural training group for 7 seven years

A farmer’s daughter, she worked on the family tenant farm. She was awarded her, HND Agri at Writtle, worked in the agrichemical industry for East England trials team, and worked as a freelance market researcher and farm office work during the early years of bringing up children