



New President for Royal Agricultural Society of England

Adel MacNicol is the new President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. She takes up the post immediately.

Adel who grew up as part of a farming family in Northamptonshire, is the widow of Ian MacNicol, who died while "in harness" as Chairman of Trustees at RASE. Ian was also a former President of the CLA.

Commenting on the appointment, RASE Chairman of Trustees, Hugh Oliver-Bellasis said:

"It is wholly fitting that Adel should take up the role as our President which she will hold until 1 October 2009. Since Ian's death, she has stoically assumed the mantle of running the Stody Estate in North Norfolk. We are delighted that she has so graciously and readily agreed to take up the position and we all look forward to working with her in the months ahead."

The Stody Estate comprises of 4,000 acres and contract farms a further 1,800 acres from a neighbouring Estate. Alongside the usual combinable crops and sugar beet, they also cultivate daffodils, root vegetables, peas and potatoes. Complementing the arable side, there is also an outdoor pig unit, a pedigree herd of Aberdeen Angus as well as several small sheep graziers.

Adel shared Ian's enthusiasm and commitment to conservation with farming to the full, and early in 2008 became one of the first larger entrants into the 10 year Higher Level Environment Scheme. Indeed, the Glaven Valley runs through the centre of the Estate and it was, in part, the improvement work on this unspoilt chalk stream, together with the innovative initiatives in the company of other farmers and extensive

educational programme, which led to the Estate winning the 2008 Natural England's award for the Future of Farming in the Eastern Region.

As well as offering a comprehensive expanse of permissive paths and 'free roam' areas for dog exercise, Stody's Rhododendron and Azalea Gardens are renowned in East Anglia and beyond, attracting scores of visitors as the gardens are open throughout May when the blooms are at their most impressive.

Outside of her Estate commitments, Adel is also Chairman of Premier Livestock Auctioneers in Somerset. As well as being a Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk, Adel has broken new ground as one of the early Lady Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers. Fiercely passionate about education, Adel is a Governor of the famous Gresham's School.

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Notes to Editors:

About Royal Agricultural Society of England:

Since 1838, The Royal Agricultural Society of England has played a leading role in the development of British agriculture and a vibrant rural economy through the uptake of good science, the promotion of best practice and a coordinated, impartial approach to wide-ranging rural issues. Today the Society's work includes support for business and social welfare in rural communities, education, and world famous shows and events

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