

New Chairman of the Farming and Food Futures Group

We are pleased to announce that John Lee will be the new Chairman of the South West Farming and Food Futures Group.

This follows a formal interview selection process of a panel chaired by Sir Harry Studholme (SW RDA Board Member and Chairman of SW CoRE) and including Anthony Gibson (Regional Director of NFU) and John Mortimer (Regional Director of CLA).

John Lee, a Farmer from Devon and is formerly President of CEJA, the European Farmers organisation and currently Chairman of the Governors of Bicton College. John has led the introduction of the Rural Enterprise Gateway, which has been acknowledged as an example of best practice across the country in helping rural and land-based businesses develop and adapt to change.

John's appointment is effective from 1st March 2006 and his first task will be to complete a review the region's structures relating to Sustainable Farming and Food (SFF), including the Farming and Food Futures Group (SFF steering group) and the role of the Topic Leads.

We would like to extend our thanks to Tim Carson for his support and involvement in progressing the Sustainable Farming and Food Agenda over the past year.

The new Chairman is looking forward to his new role and wishes to meet with all Topic Leads on a one-to-one basis at the earliest possible convenience.

On behalf of

Tim Render



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE SOUTH WEST

Harry Studholme



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