



SUFFOLK  
AGRICULTURAL  
ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDED 1831

# SUFFOLK FARM BUSINESS COMPETITION 2024




in partnership with







SUFFOLK  
AGRICULTURAL  
ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDED 1831



The competition aims to find the best farms in Suffolk. The three categories are divided as follows:

Class	Description	Cup
1	Farms up to 250 hectares (1-618 acres) 	F W Barker Perpetual Challenge Cup and Tankard
2	Farms between 251-500 hectares (619-1235 acres) Kindly supported by Barker Gotelee 	Cranworth Perpetual Challenge Cup and Tankard
3	Farms 501 hectares and over (1236 acres) Kindly supported by Hutchinsons 	King George VI Memorial Challenge Cup and Tankard
<b>Class 4 New for 2024</b>	<b>Specialist Agricultural Contractor</b> An individual or company delivering a service to Suffolk farm business who is based in Suffolk. (N.B. not Stubble to Stubble Contract Farming Agreements). e.g. Niche services, baling, grazing, shearing, drainage, beet groups or similar.	

In each category there are further Certificates awarded for:

<b>Best Crop</b> kindly sponsored by 	<b>Best Livestock Enterprise</b> kindly sponsored by 
<b>Best Farm Diversification</b> kindly supported by 	<b>Best Conservation</b> kindly sponsored by 

Prizes:

As well as the cups and tankards, detailed above, certificates are also presented to the first three in each category.

The Cups are held for a period of one year and the tankards are for retention.

Entry:

The competition is open to both farmers who own their own enterprise and to contract farmers. This may include an owner using a contractor to carry out operations and/or a contractor who wishes to enter their whole business, which is the land he either owns or hires as a base and the contract farming operation radiates from it.

### Judges:

The judges of the 2024 competition come are all farmers with a range of farming enterprises and other business interests including many diversification projects and reside outside of Suffolk.

### Judging Days:

The Judges will visit all farms on either **Monday 17 June or Tuesday 18 June**. Competitors must make arrangements for someone to be available to meet the judges on either of these days. Competitors will be advised in writing the week prior to the competition of the date and time the judges will be visiting. The judges will be escorted by two stewards.

### Judging Criteria (Class 1, 2, 3 and 4):

In evaluating the competitors farms, the judges will take account of the following areas:

#### **1. Business Management**

The focus of the judging must be the whole business and its overall management which will include enterprise management (crops, livestock and other enterprises), buying and marketing policies, employment, machinery investment, use of capital, health and safety and buildings investment.

#### **2. Sustainability of Business and Land Occupation**

- General business plan including product development, business integration and long-term investment.
- Approach to stewardship of the land and environment for the future.

#### **3. Social/Community Involvement**

This may include employment activities, involvement with local education, facilities for clubs, public land use and access and other roles – public or personal, i.e. stewarding at the Suffolk Show.

### Presentations:

An Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday 24 October where winners of the Suffolk Farm Business Competition will be announced. The Dinner will take place at Trinity Park and all competitors will receive complimentary tickets for two guests to the event, with the opportunity to book additional places.

### **How to Enter**

Please complete the form below and return to the Suffolk Agricultural Association.  
Entry is free.

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Farm(s) entered: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Class entered: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm Holding Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Details of Farm**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Hectares</b>	<b>Livestock</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Wheat		Cattle – Dairy	
Oats		Cattle – Beef	
Barley		Sheep – Breeding Ewes	
Sugar Beet		Sheep – Lambs, etc	
OSR		Sheep – Other	
Peas		Pigs – Breeding Sows	
Potatoes		Pigs – Finishers	
Roots		Pigs – Other	
Beans		Poultry	
Other Crops		Other	
Permanent Pasture			
Temporary Ley			
<b>Total Hectares</b>		<b>Total Livestock</b>	

Please advise of any environmental schemes in which you participate

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please give details of any community involvement

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Is any of the land entered part of a contract farm arrangement or farm business tenancy?

---

Please give details of farm diversification

---

---

---

I have read and agree to abide by the rules of the competition and am a member of the SAA

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Helen Fomenko, Suffolk Agricultural Association, Trinity Park, Felixstowe Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP& 8UH

*Closing date: Monday 3 June*

### **RULES OF THE COMPETITION**

1. The competition is open to farms within the County of Suffolk.
2. Competitors must enter all the land under one Holding Number, which they occupy within the County.
3. All land entered must have been farmed by the Competitor at least since Michaelmas immediately prior to the Competition.
4. Entries must be submitted to the Association by Monday 3 June.
5. The Judges will be appointed by the Association and the inspection of farms will take place in June.
6. Final Judging of each class will be undertaken by two Judges, each residing outside the County.
7. The Judges shall decide the number of prizes in each class and, in the absence of sufficient merit, all or any of the prizes may be withheld.
8. The Challenge Cups are offered as Perpetual Trophies and these, along with the Certificates, will be presented at the Awards Dinner. Each winner will hold the Cup for a period of one year.
9. Any question of eligibility or dispute or protest arising out of the Competition shall be dealt with by the Council of the Association, whose decision shall be final.



**Savills** is proud to support the 2024 Suffolk Farm Business Competition. We are deeply involved in the rural economy at every level and offer a wide range of services for landowners, farmers and rural businesses from agency and estate management to tax planning and valuation. With rural teams in Ipswich, Chelmsford and Cambridge, we offer a truly local service to our clients in East Anglia which is only strengthened by our national and international network of offices. As one of the world's largest real estate firms, Savills also offers a broad spectrum of services across all property sectors globally. [www.savills.co.uk](http://www.savills.co.uk)



As one of East Anglia's leading providers of legal services to the farming community, **Barker Gotelee** holds Suffolk's agricultural heritage close to its heart. Our agriculture and estates specialists work locally and nationally to provide solutions for all your rural property and business needs. From advice on buying and selling farmland through to succession planning, we provide a comprehensive range of legal services. Contact us, we are here to help. [www.barkergotelee.co.uk](http://www.barkergotelee.co.uk)



**Hutchinsons** are delighted to be working in Partnership with The Suffolk Agricultural Association in supporting the 2024 Farm Business Competition. Hutchinsons takes a dynamic, forward thinking approach to supporting grower clients in the production of quality crops and food in a sustainable and responsible manner. Long term grower and agronomist relationships, based on mutual understanding and trust, ensures agronomy advice is combined with local knowledge and experience. Decisions taken are based on sound business principles, practical implementation and what is right for individual growers. [www.hlhtd.co.uk](http://www.hlhtd.co.uk)



**Origin Fertilisers** is a national manufacturer with a strong local presence in East Anglia and the widest range of fertiliser products and services on the market. Our core strategy is the development of science-led, innovative products and services which cover soil fertility, nutrient use efficiency and crop productivity whilst also protecting the environment. With protected ureas, phosphates, micro-nutrients and over 16,000 prescription quality prescription blends, our sites in Ipswich and Great Yarmouth will be able to source all your needs. [www.originfertilisers.co.uk](http://www.originfertilisers.co.uk)



**Stanfords** operate the Colchester Livestock Market, East Anglia's only weekly livestock market selling prime and store cattle, prime and store sheep. We are committed to the agricultural community providing professional advice on all matters ranging from sales to compulsory purchase, valuations, planning, family succession and internal partnership and company advice and a wide range of other general advice to rural landowners. Residential sales and lettings. Stanfords are pleased to sponsor this competition and support farmers in Suffolk and surrounding areas. [www.stanfords-colchester.co.uk](http://www.stanfords-colchester.co.uk)



**Oakbank** are a leading supplier of seeds, plants and advice for the creation of wildlife habitat on farmland. This covers Countryside Stewardship, SFI, ELMS and other funding streams. We also have an excellent Woodland management team and a team of experienced and skilled advisors that can help you to develop and execute projects on both your farmland and woodland. Please get in touch with us and discuss your plans. [www.oakbankac.co.uk](http://www.oakbankac.co.uk)



**Ashtons Legal** is delighted to be sponsoring the Farm Diversification Award. Ashtons is strongly embedded in the regional agricultural community and has supported numerous clients through the diversification process. We are very proud of our involvement in recognising and rewarding the competition's strong and varied entries. Our agricultural client base across East Anglia continues to expand and the firm also has a strong regulatory and transport arm to the expertise on offer. Legal reviewer, The Legal 500, describes Ashtons as having "very strong competence in all areas of the law affecting farmers and landowners". If you'd like our help, we would be delighted to hear from you. [www.ashtonslegal.co.uk](http://www.ashtonslegal.co.uk)