



*Working for British Dairy Farmers*

# MANIFESTO



*Proud past, bright future*

*"We believe every UK dairy farmer has the right to a profitable and rewarding future"*

## Proud history, bright future

Since our humble beginnings in 1876, we have been dedicated to the interests of dairy farmers and their livestock.

We held the Dairy Show at Olympia for almost 100 years, featuring award-winning livestock and implementing ground-breaking economic milking trials. We went on to roll out the national dairy diploma programme, and hosted events and farm walks to improve technical skills. In the turbulent years after deregulation, we identified and lobbied for policy change and showcased innovation, while providing opportunities for farmers to meet, learn and debate.

Throughout these years, our capabilities and potential have remained the same. We are the sole UK charity focused on

the unique needs of milk producers. We are the only national dairy membership association with the freedom and capacity to lobby. We have maintained unique relationships up and down our whole supply chain, giving us far-reaching impact. And we are the only dairy organisation holding a Royal Warrant, with the influence and access to funding that brings.

Times have changed and like our members, we have taken a long, hard look at our activities. This has meant a switch to areas where we can offer genuine and sustained value – on our own or with others. We believe these changes offer exceptional value to RABDF members. We hope you agree.

*"We will help create a profitable dairy farming sector by influencing and empowering change. Be a part of RABDF's next chapter"*

### Membership benefits\* from 2017 include:

- **Brand new Dairy-Tech event** – free tickets worth £20 each & additional tickets at 15% discount
- **All RABDF farm walks and the Gold Cup open day** – free entry worth £10 per event
- **RABDF Policy Conference** – 25% discount
- **Women in Dairy Conference** – 25% discount for WID members
- **Total Dairy Conference** – 10% discount
- **Milk Digest** – member-only newsletter featuring advice, news and updates
- **"Have your say"** – raise issues and ideas at Council and parliamentary level through the APPG
- **Support for the industry** – RABDF membership supports the whole British Dairy Industry

\*Terms and Conditions apply – see website for full details

*"Times have changed, and we have switched our focus to areas where we can offer genuine and sustained value – alone or with others."*

## **We are committed to influencing and lobbying on the biggest issues**

We know that having your voice heard is sometimes the most important priority.

We will influence and lobby government and policymakers through our joint secretariat of the Dairy All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) with Dairy UK, our Royal associations, our new Policy Conference held in conjunction with The Trehane Trust, and our extensive reach into the dairy supply chain.

Our concerns for the next few years include continued access to skilled overseas labour in a post-Brexit UK, and working with vets, the supply trade and the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance to help reduce use of antibiotics throughout dairy farming in a supported and responsible manner.

Our collaboration with specialists such as our HR consultant and University of Bristol will add weight and credence to our arguments.

## **We believe in developing young talent**

We will not only encourage and develop the next generation of professional dairy entrepreneurs, but will draw in fresh talent with new ideas.

2017/18 will see a step-up in this area with the launch of the Young RABDF Board, which will run in parallel with the main Council and develop specific offers for dairy industry professionals aged 16 to 27. Included in this will be opportunities to gain board experience, bring issues to the Dairy APPG and run parallel sessions at the RABDF Policy and Women in Dairy conferences.

Our annual agricultural and vet student awards will continue, and we will work with the National Land Based College, incorporating 30 agricultural colleges across the UK, to evolve our dairy-specific education packages for school leavers and entrepreneurs.

*"We have maintained unique relationships up and down our whole supply chain, giving us far-reaching impact"*

## **We pledge to improve business resilience**

A profitable sector needs constructive, collaborative support and membership organisations that work together to deliver efficiency, increase access to resources and improve reputation.

We organise a range of technical on-farm events with a difference. These are held in conjunction with selected partners such as AHDB and will be evolved to drill down further into the crucial areas affecting profitability such as youngstock and replacement strategies, grass management and employee development.

Held at a range of locations across the country, these events are already very popular, regularly attracting between 100 and 150 visitors.

Our highly successful Women in Dairy initiative, managed alongside Promar and AHDB, will continue with a growing number of regional groups and the annual Women in Dairy Conference each September.

Also watch out for our relaunched flagship RABDF/NMR Gold Cup competition, which will return with renewed vigour! Held up as one of the most prestigious events in the dairy farming calendar, recent years have seen The Gold Cup open day at the winning farm attract upwards of 1,500 visitors.



"We believe these changes offer exceptional value to RABDF members. We hope you agree"

### Detailed member benefits\*

**Membership runs annually from 1 April until 31 March**

Feature or benefit	Adult or Women in Dairy	Young (16-27)	Corporate
Annual Cost	£45	£25	£450
FREE Dairy-Tech tickets (worth £20 each)	2 per member	1 per member	10 per member
15% discount on extra Dairy-Tech tickets (worth £20 each)	✓	✓	✓
Entry to on-farm events and Gold Cup open day (£10 for non-members)	✓	✓	✓
25% discount for RABDF Policy Conference (full cost £150)	✓	✓	✓
25% discount for Women in Dairy Conference (full cost £50)	✓ (WiD only)	✗	✗
10% discount for Total Dairy Conference <a href="http://www.totaldairy.com">www.totaldairy.com</a>	✓	✓	✓
Member-only 'Milk Digest' newsletter	✓	✓	✓
10% discount on stand space at Dairy-Tech (up to £300)	✗	✗	✓
Other Benefits	"Have Your Say": Opportunity to raise issues for debate at Council with escalation to All-Party Parliamentary Group		
	Member-only access to new reports and insight papers		
	Supporting RABDF activity will benefit the whole sector		

\*Terms and Conditions apply - see website for details

RABDF can be contacted on **02476 639 317** or **office@rabdf.co.uk**  
[www.rabdf.co.uk](http://www.rabdf.co.uk)

See reverse for member application form





INTRODUCING



*"We are the sole UK charity focused on the unique needs of milk producers"*

## We will identify and showcase ground-breaking innovation

New ideas should not just come from other farmers or dairy sectors in other countries; they should come from completely different industries.

The brand new mind-expanding one-day **Dairy-Tech** event held in February at Stoneleigh will be a concept the dairy industry has not experienced before. It will focus on the science and technology of dairy farming, and the cutting edge tools to support a wide range of systems.

For example, satellite mapping offers new opportunities to chart nutrients, water, grazing cover and damage. Drones have the potential to monitor welfare and fertility. How could these applications be applied on your farm –

and at what cost benefit?

What innovations could improve the way we manage slurry to separate and re-use water, nutrients, fibre and sand bedding?

How can a better understanding of the complexities of genetics make a step-change in your herd performance?

These and other new developments will be showcased at **Dairy-Tech**, including low-cost ways of automating farm operations and supporting herdsmen in their cow management duties.

A 'Dragons Den' corner will also offer visitors the chance to road-test and review a range of new innovations as well as provide budding inventors with a chance to sell their concepts.



[www.dairy-tech.uk](http://www.dairy-tech.uk)

"We are here to support the industry  
– and support you"

## Meet the Council

**Chairman** **Mike King**, Bristol

**Vice chairman** **Peter Alvis**, Bristol

**Policy director** **Tim Brigstocke**,  
Herefordshire

**Jon Brierley**, Northamptonshire

**Robert Craig**, Cumbria

**Tim Downes**, Shropshire

**Lyndon Edwards**, Monmouthshire

**Ian Macalpine**, Lancashire

**John Owen**, Carmarthenshire

**Guy Trehane**, Dorset

**Di Wastenage**, Devon

**William Westacott**, Kent

**Willie Whiteford**, Cumbria



Dairy House,  
Unit 31 Abbey Park,  
Stareton, Kenilworth,  
Warwickshire CV8 2LY

 @RABDF

 @theRABDF

**Tel:** 02476 639 317

**Email:** [office@rabdf.co.uk](mailto:office@rabdf.co.uk)

**Web:** [www.rabdf.co.uk](http://www.rabdf.co.uk)

# Application form



**YES!** I would like to join the **RABDF**

## Your Details

Title: Mr  Mrs  Ms  Miss  First Name: .....

Surname: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Telephone: .....

Mobile: .....

E-mail: .....

Company Name: .....

Occupation: Farmer  Farm Manager  Stock person  Vet  Processor

Retailer  Trade Supplier  Student  Retired

Number of milking cows ..... Total annual milk production: ..... ltr

## Membership Type

Membership: Annual £45  Young £25  (16-27) D.O.B. ....

WiD £45  Corporate £450 per year

## Cheque

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... (made payable to RABDF)

## Credit/Debit Card

Visa  Mastercard  Delta  Switch

Card Number: .....

Security Number: ..... (last three digits on the signature strip) Expiry Date: .....

Signed: .....

Date: .....

**Return completed form to: RABDF, Dairy House, Unit 31, Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LY**

Please tick here if you would like to receive information from RABDF

Please tick here if you would like to receive information from carefully selected third parties

# JOIN US!

Membership of the RABDF runs from  
April to March each year

