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## Wolds Fresh Start Academy to tackle succession

A Fresh Start Academy for the Wolds, being launched at Bishop Burton College, aims to help tackle succession in the region's farming community.

"As statistics show the average age of the UK farmer is not far off retirement, succession has become a serious issue within the agricultural industry," says business consultant Peter Caley, based at Brown & Co's Brigg office. "Launched in early March, the Wolds Fresh Start Academy is backed by Defra and aims to help 20-30 local young farmers establish and develop their careers in farming.

"Given the state of the industry over the past decade, many young farmers have been encouraged to consider alternative careers. Those returning to work on the family farm after employment in another industry, or straight from college or university, often find it a very difficult period. They can return full of enthusiasm, energy and ideas but lacking in practical hands on experience."

There are many potential issues to address including affordability, conflict with other family members, tenancy succession and differing attitudes to risk.

"There is a danger that the energy, enthusiasm and ideas of the younger farmer coming into a business can be wasted by the time they take responsibility and control of the business later in life," warns Peter Caley.

An appreciation of these issues has driven the launch of a 'Fresh Start Academy' for East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire, coordinated by Brown & Co, together with other local businesses and associates. Local agricultural specialists and professionals will help the new entrants to farming attending the academy to develop skills in areas such as writing a business plan for funding, financial and management accounts, tendering for a tenancy, securing a succession tenancy and employment law.

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“For the younger farmer the opportunities in the next ten years will potentially be far greater than those in the previous ten,” says Peter Caley. “Having the confidence and skills to go for some of these opportunities is going to be important to keep the industry driving forward.”

Those interested in applying to join the academy should contact Peter Caley on 01652 654833 or 07768 642223.

Fresh Start Academies are a nationwide initiative backed by Defra and led by the agricultural industry. The Wolds Academy will be supported by Bishop Burton College, Brown & Co, HSBC Agriculture, Yorkshire Agricultural Society, Andrew Jackson, Driffeld Agricultural Society, Smiths Gore, Dee-Atkinson & Harrison, David Turner Ltd and East Riding Federation of Young Farmers Clubs.

## **ENDS**

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### **Notes to editors**

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