

Farming Futures

Katie Zabel, Project manager, Forum for the Future

- What does climate change mean to you?
- What is Farming Futures?
- What's the message?
- Who is the audience?
- What's happened so far?
- Success to date
- What have we found?
- What's happening in 2008
- Your ideas?

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What does climate change mean to you?

- Agriculture contributes 7% of UK green house gas emissions:
1% carbon dioxide, 37% methane, 67% nitrous oxide
- Impacts vary geographically but likely to experience:
 - increasingly warmer weather (1 – 5 degrees C by end of century)
 - warmer, wetter winters
 - hotter, drier summers
 - more extreme weather events (storms and higher summer temperatures)
 - fewer frosts and cold winters
 - sea level rise (up to 80 cm this century)
- More information www.farmingfutures.org.uk and UKCIP
- Concerns over: water, GHGs, pests and diseases, supply, energy costs

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What is Farming Futures?

- Communications collaboration between Forum for the Future, ARF, NFU, CLA, Agricultural Industries Confederation and Defra
- Funded by Defra's Farming for the Future team
- Secured £250K to communicate opportunities, risks and responsibilities of climate change
- Communication and day-to-day management by Forum for the Future on behalf of the partners
- Partners provide technical expertise and communications support
- Re-launched at the Oxford Farming Conference on 3 January 2008
- Website www.farmingfutures.org.uk

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Hilary Benn learns about Farming Futures at the Royal Show July 2007

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What's the message?

- Climate change is creating opportunities and risks for farmers and land managers, and supply chains
- Farmers and land managers play a crucial role by being part of the climate change solution
- By recognising responsibilities associated with climate change, farmers and advisors can take advantage of diverse business opportunities
- Action now can help to reduce long term cost and risk
- Farming Futures provides information to help farmers and land managers prepare for the risks, know the responsibilities and take advantage of the opportunities www.farmingfutures.org.uk

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Who is the audience?

- You!
- Your farm or estate workers
- Your agronomist
- Your supply chain
- Retailers

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What's happened so far?

- 14 sector specific fact sheets
- 15 real stories
- Three telephone surveys complete
- Launch and re-launch at Oxford Farming Conference
- Attended all big events of 2007 – Cereals, Royal Show, Dairy Event
- Media coverage
- Local and national radio interviews



All available on: www.farmingfutures.org.uk

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What have we found?

- 81% believe climate change is happening
- 60% say climate change is affecting their land now
- Impacts reported: drier, milder and wetter and more extreme weather events resulting in severe drought or flooding
- Also report: longer growing seasons, more vermin and disease (impact on vet bills), harder to plan previously seasonal activity
- 70% say climate change will affect their farm in the next 10 years
- Concerns: pests and diseases, increased energy costs for cooling, energy security, emission measurement
- Slightly more think climate change is a threat, rather than an opportunity
- 29% taking action to adapt to impacts on their farm
- 70% taking action to combat on their own land

What's happening in 2008?

- Continue to raising our profile through the media
- More fact sheets
- More stories
- Attending existing events e.g. HGCA conference
- Creating new events and workshops

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Your ideas?

Are you part of the solution?
Do you have a story to tell?

For anything we've talked about today, please contact:

Katie Zabel: 0207 324 3670

k.zabel@forumforthefuture.org.uk

www.farmingfutures.org.uk

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