

PRESIDENT FOR 2011 - JOHN TINNEY



Like the majority farmers in the county today, my family are relatively new to Essex. My Grandfather came up from Cornwall in 1900. As far as we know we have been farming for many generations.

I have been farming for all of my life near Bishop's Stortford in both Hertfordshire and Essex. I spent two years at Cirencester College and then became active in the Stansted YFC. I later served on several County and Eastern Area committees. I was the National Council representative and visited most parts of the county.

In 1961 I was lucky enough to win a YFC travelling scholarship to the United States with four others from England. This was linked to their rural youth organisation – the 4.H.Clubs. I spent most of the five months living on farms in Illinois and Vermont – two very contrasting States.

I joined the NFU and CLA and spent about 25 years on the board of Samco, serving as both Vice Chairman and Chairman.

I retired from active farming a few years ago to be succeeded by my son David. He has recently changed the farming system by getting rid of his father's old baggage! I previously ran a mixed system with sheep and potatoes. David has now joined with neighbours in a joint venture, the two families run 1600 ha. with a simple system producing Wheat, O.S.R, and Beans. This has naturally considerably reduced costs.

I feel very honoured to have been chosen as the next President. One of my Uncles, Reg Tinney, was President in 1957 when he hosted the Show near Saffron Walden. This was in the era before the permanent show ground was built.

I very much look forward to my year as President.