

# WEAVING THE WEB THAT RECONNECTS PEOPLE, PLACES AND LOCAL HEALTHY FOOD

**Methodology:** A survey to inform future work at Falkland Centre for Stewardship for a broad transition to regenerative agriculture, & local food systems that connect people to healthy local food at source.

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## Falkland Centre for Stewardship: A beacon of sustainability, ongoing legacy of hosting, engagement and learning

Hosted on Falkland Estate, with a strong commitment to hosting & hospitality, enabling innovation, research & engagement. Open and inclusive with interconnections to farming, academia, & government.

A legacy of programs, partnering across the interconnections, with support through hosting gatherings and events

- Sustainable building, farm visits, agroforestry
- Folk, Place, Work & the UN SDGs [SUii]
- Fife Diet and Fields of Hope (CoP 26)

Registered as a Beacon Farm with a cluster of 4 farms in transition, café & shop, Woodland / Craft Hub, we invite & offer opportunities to learn on journey of regeneration.

## Gathering

**Themes & Voices of the Food System**  
~150 presenters, exhibitors, demos, arts and crafts

**Johnnie Balfour**  
Balbirnie Home Farm

As farmers, we have to be honest about the fact that we are going to have to change.

**Abi Morden Propagate** - Rethinking Local Food

Food is the intersection between my passion around social justice & environmental justice.

**John Cherry**  
Farmer and Groundswell

We are on the cusp of some really exciting things happening in Agriculture

**Graham Begg**  
Head of Agroecology  
**James Hutton**  
Institute

Empathy  
Naturephilia  
Land use reform  
Inspiration & Democracy  
Policy shift, funding

The intensification, the industrialisation or agriculture has led to a great simplification of agriculture.

**Pieter Ploeg**  
Farmer & Design Strategist at Commonland

The return of inspiration is actually the key driver that gets change happening

**Jim Carruth**  
Farmer & Poet

"I'm exhausted too"  
The field tells the farmer

**Mairi Gurgeon**  
Cabinet Secretary  
Rural Affairs  
Scottish Govt

Food is a fundamental need of us all

**Dan Kittredge**  
Bionutrient Institute USA

Isn't really the nutrition value of the food the point?

**Joel Williams**, International plant & soil health educator.  
Transition to Regen practices pathway:

- Efficiency
- Substitution
- Redesign

Resilience & Cohesion  
Grow, Cook, Eat  
Community, Social  
Healthy Food  
Radical Retail  
Affordable

Weaving the web that Reconnects for Holistic Wellbeing

Health & retention of Soil & Water  
Environment  
Biodiversity Restored

**Philip Sheane**  
Toll Ranch Farm

I went for a blood test, a chemical showed up that was actually in the fungicides

Mob-Grazing Demo by Powered Pastures in Association with Pastures for Life

Can we restore nature with people as part of the equation

Market Shift & Growth  
Economic Wellbeing  
Efficiency with reduced inputs

Demo of Claydon Opti-Till Direct Strip Seeding Machine



**Joanna Bowen**  
Co-Founder Groundswell

I'm just thrilled that the buzz is catching on up here, and may it go on and on for many years.

**Ninian Stuart**  
Farmer and GO Falkland

How can we collectively steward this place?

**David Aglen**  
Balbirnie Home Farm

You don't learn by doing things right all the time.

## The Survey

A broad spectrum of interests across the food system, aware of soil health importance, pro sustainability & social justice. Calls for learning, funded policy change & more networking are met by matching offers of support.

### Demographics

- 51% in / near Fife
- 80% Scotland
- 96% white
- 54% female
- 44% over 56 yrs
- 42% under 45

### Activities & Interests

- Broad spread across food system
- 45% farming, or other growing;
- Food Systems and consumer
- Academia, research
- Soil Health and Human Health
- Sustainability & Social Justice
- Consumers as part of solution

### Key Barriers & needs

- National Network
- Local Peer to Peer Support & Learning
- Policy Changes & Funding
- Technical Knowledge & Skills
- Regen financial info

### Solutions offered

- Covers all Key Barriers & Needs
- Research / data
- Technical advice
- Business advice
- Community building

### Event Feedback

**Positives:** 78% would come again; content and quality of speakers; learning; opportunity to network;  
**Improve:** Marketing, timetabling to reduce overlaps, food organisation & offering  
**Impact:** Significant increase in interest in food systems & sustainability.

## Innovators

Survey shows 38 Innovators: Committed to increased personal action, high awareness of best practice, and with a drive for systemic change

For transition to regeneration, essential to connect Innovators to Early Adopters

## What's the Vision?

Opportunity: Across the food system, connect innovators & solution providers to those with barriers & needs  
Vision: Grow a support web for regenerative food communities from farmers and growers to consumers  
Next step: Cultivate a local cross-regional regenerative food community hub as a model & beacon of learning

## Work Plan

- Seed Funding to initiate a program and form the hub.
- Follow-on funding for workshops and gathering

Initiate / design hub with open call to:

- Partners
- Sponsors
- Presenters
- Exhibitors
- Attendees

A series of focussed workshops to cover:

- Farm best practices
- Smallholders
- Community growers
- Holistic Food System
- Policy and funding

- A gathering of the hub to:
- Showcase best practice, equipment
  - Review work to date, successes and lessons
  - Build and strengthen network

## Contact & more

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Survey Report: <http://bit.ly/4bGDC8r>  
<https://falklandestate.co.uk/go-falkland/>

