

DBT

The Douglas Bomford Trust

Latest News

*This last quarter the Douglas Bomford Trust has been busy supporting the development in agricultural engineering with several initiatives. David White Technical Secretary reports.*



Nick August, DBT Chair with Top Agricultural Student Award winner Kestrel Lambert

Prize Winning Postgraduate

On Thursday, 18 September 2025, Trust Chair, Nick August, attended the Royal Agricultural University Graduation Ceremony. Postgraduate student, Kestrel Lambert, was awarded the Top Agricultural

Student prize supported by The Douglas Bomford Trust. Miss Lambert graduated with a MSc in Agricultural Technology and Innovation, with Distinction. During the ceremony, Kestrel was presented with a certificate and a cash prize. Following graduation, Kestrel has returned to working in the financial

sector, as an analyst at Avondale Private Capital. She is excited to use her practical agricultural knowledge to support investment decisions and risk management of nature-based projects. The graduation ceremony marked the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Agricultural University.

Inspiring and Nurturing Young Potential

For many years, the Trust has sponsored Arkwright Engineering Scholarships. The Scholarships aim to identify, inspire and nurture high-potential students aged 16 to 18. Initially, the Trust sponsored two students per year. In the Trust's Jubilee Year, this was increased to four students per year. When selecting students for the 2025-27 programme (starting September 2025), there were 5 outstanding candidates and trustees decided to fund all five. Trustee, John Baines, is their mentor.

Summer School

The Agricultural Universities Council (AUC) held a Summer School from 16 to 20th June 2025. It was supported by several organisations, including the Douglas Bomford Trust.

The school was part of the AUC's Future Agricultural Researchers programme. It was attended by 26 master's and undergraduate students from universities across the UK. The school started at The Royal Society before 5 days of visits and presentations including Rothamsted Research, G's Growers, Agri-TechE, British Beet Research Organisation,

Allerton Research and Educational Trust, University of Nottingham, Harper Adams University and The Royal Agricultural University: many of these institutions receive DBT awards to support research, for example, PhDs, and student travel awards.

The author had the pleasure of joining the students and tour leader, Kayleigh Crouch, at Green Acres Farm, Kemberton, Shropshire where Mark and Liz Lea have been farming their mixed arable and livestock 175 ha farm in a five year rotation organically since 2000. After an overview of their farming

system and their conversion from conventional to organic in their visitor centre, we had a farm tour led by Mark. Mark was open and honest about their successes and things that had not gone so well.

The session finished back in the visitor centre for more Q and A and presentations during which I had the opportunity to discuss the mission of The Douglas Bomford Trust and how we might be able to help the Summer School students in the future. The AUC have recently published a final report about the school.



Mark Lea with AUC Summer School students

For further information, see the Trusts website:



Or contact the Secretary David White via: [enquiries@dbt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dbt.org.uk)

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