

Tim Brigstocke is pleased to confirm that the IAgM 2011 FarmPlanner competition sponsored by 'Farmplan' computer systems will be taking place at Waddesdon Estate nr Aylesbury Bucks where the Farmers Weekly Farm Manager of the Year 2010 Alastair Brooks is Farms Manager.

The farming enterprise has seen considerable change since Alastair joined 4 years ago. Historically it was run as a traditional mixed-farming estate with three dairy units milking some 600 cows. The farming part of the estate is now made up of some 1740ha plus 162ha contract farmed and whilst predominantly arable it also has 700 ewe lambs, 80 Simmental suckler cows and followers.

Entries to this years competition should be given fair warning that the questions that will be raised by Waddesdon will be challenging and give real opportunity for the students to get their teeth into. As Alastair pointed out to 'Farmers Weekly' "good enough" isn't really the benchmark expected by Lord Rothschild (who owns the estate). While not an agricultural enthusiast himself, "The Boss" expects his farms to perform to the same high standards he demands elsewhere.

Entry to the FarmPlanner Competition is open to all colleges and universities involved in delivering training and courses covering agricultural and rural education.

To register for the competition (teams of maximum 8 people) please contact the IAgM office by 1st February 2011 or email cooksleyandco@btconnect.com

The farm/estate visit will be taking place on the 8th March 2011