

Britain Asked To Vote For Britain's Sexiest Farmer After Gok Wan Helps Select Shortlist

Friday 17 January, 2014

- Search for Britain's Sexiest Farmer attracts over 300 entries from across the nation
- 10 shortlisted finalists aged between 18 and 53 years old from Sussex, Somerset, Kent, Dorset, Yorkshire, Cornwall, Hampshire, Norfolk and Wiltshire Public vote online from 17-24 January to decide winning man and winning woman
- Hundreds of entries have been whittled down to just a few with the help of Gok Wan, in a bid to find Britain's Sexiest Farmer.

Forget the stereotypical image of straw-chewing, string-belted scruffs - farmers are sexy and the 10 finalists in the Farmers Weekly-run competition prove that farmers scrub up pretty well.

Fashion expert, TV presenter and how-to-look-good guru Gok Wan, who's been helping the judges, says: "I absolutely adored looking at the entries for this competition. I've seen a few hot country people in my time, but these guys took my breath away. There was a fantastic range of people from all sectors of farming - some were dressed up, some were in boilersuits, quite a few were in wellies and one or two were in not very much at all - which is of course my preference!"

Gok adds: "Country guys clearly have a rugged charm and so many of the ladies were positively beautiful. The shortlist of 10 are all fantastically sexy (I'd gladly accept an invite to any of their farms!) They're all really different with their own great stories. With farmers like this, the countryside is definitely in safe hands!"

Farmers Weekly's Community Editor Tim Relf says: "The competition is a bit of fun but it does have a serious side as it will help dispel the myth that farmers are old-fashioned and scruffy and in so doing encourage more young people to consider careers in this exciting, innovative and high-tech sector."

Cristina Bucci, Vice President of Retail Business Development of The Original Muck Boot Company says: "We are delighted to be supporting the search for Britain's Sexiest Farmer because we know farming is a dynamic and vibrant industry and feel it's time to showcase the stylish and sexy people we have in our rural communities. "

THE PUBLIC VOTE

The 10 finalists will be put forward to a public vote to decide which man and which woman wins the title of Britain's Sexiest Farmer. Voters will have one week to select their favourite (17-24 January 2014). After that the votes will be counted and the man and woman with the highest number of votes will win the title of Britain's Sexiest Farmer.

Voting is simple. Simply visit www.fwi.co.uk/sexyfarmer between 17-24 January.

- Ends -

THE FINALISTS

A brief biography of each finalist is included below. High resolution photographs available on request.

Kate Lywood

Kate manages 300-plus cows on the family's farm in Sussex. The 25-year-old former Harper Adams student was nominated by a former employee because she has such passion for the industry and is a great role model for women in farming. Kate and her family have plans to expand the herd, install a new parlour and put up new buildings. "It's going to be very busy," she says. "Farmers sometimes have this image among the general public of being miserable, but we have a great sense of humour and like to have a laugh."

Rachel Churches

Nominated by mum and dad, Jenny and Michael, 18-year-old Rachel is a farmer's daughter from Somerset, who's in her final year at Hartpury College. "She's full of life and always up for a laugh," say her parents. "She's not scared of getting her hands dirty, and is up for anything including welding,

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milking, and especially tractor driving, doing grain/silage and maize hauling. Rachel is a keen member of Somerset Young Farmers (she loves a good party!) and feels strongly about promoting the farming industry." She hopes to go travelling after she finishes college, hopefully working on a few farms in New Zealand.

Alice Dyer

Final-year Royal Agricultural University student Alice plans to work in Australia for a spell after graduating - but ultimately would like to work in agricultural journalism, have her own small farm and start a charity helping farmers in developing countries. "I enjoy horse riding and am very devoted to my two terriers, Hattie and Ted," says Alice, who's from Kent. Her housemates describe her as "a normal girl with high aspirations" and her boyfriend Daniel (who nominated her) says: "Her personality matches her looks and I can't think of anyone better to be sat in a tractor all day with."

Judi James

Judi, a 53-year-old single mum from Dorset, works on a farm and is also establishing her own veal business. She won the UK Worker of the Year 2013 competition. "You can either sit back and accept your lot, or you can strive for more," says Judi. "You only get one life, you've got to grasp it. It doesn't matter how old you are - there are lots of opportunities, especially if you think outside the box. Here's to all us mature lady farmers!"

Sarah Pick

A farmer's daughter from Yorkshire, 25-year-old Sarah works on the Farm Business Survey at Askham Bryan College, plus is doing a masters in sustainable agriculture in her spare time. She even finds time to help out on the family farm with the pedigree Simmental cattle. Her sister Fran, who nominated her, says: "She has a radiant smile that brightens up the darkest winter days and deep brown eyes that would melt any farmer's heart! She is an active member of Selby YFC and takes part in every activity from stock judging to partying at the AGM. Her bright and bubbly personality radiates whether in her gladrags or gumboots!"

Lloyd Duke

Lloyd grew up on the family dairy farm, but four years ago decided to take on his own 300 acre dairy farm tenancy. The 23-year-old hopes one day to buy a farm of his own. He's passionate about family and, in the future, wants his children to grow up on a dairy farm like he did. Outside of work, he is a semi-professional rugby player for the Cornish All Blacks. "I'm nominating Lloyd because he is a hard working, forward-thinking young farmer with a real passion for agriculture," says his girlfriend Sami.

Ben Bull

Ben's studying a degree in Agriculture at Harper Adams University and plans to return home to the family arable and beef farm in Hampshire. When he's not at home on the farm or studying, Ben spends time working out in the gym and is a keen rugby player, representing his county team. The 21-year-old wants to visit Australia to see large-scale farming businesses (but he might have to master his fear of spiders first!) His girlfriend says: "He is definitely sexy enough to win this competition!"

Graeme Moon

Somerset-based Graeme was once a teacher and professional photographer, but six years ago decided to make the move back to the family farm. He now works with his dad and brothers on the beef and pig farm, where he'll turn his hand to most challenges. Outside of work, the 31-year-old is a dad to a young son and daughter, and is a keen climber and cyclist. Despite this all-round action-man persona, he has a weakness for soppy films. His wife says: "He is an inspiration to his son who loves nothing more than driving a tractor with his daddy."

Alex Royall

Alex, from Norfolk, is a multi-tasking farm hand for a large farming estate where he works across a wide range of enterprises including beef, sheep and potatoes. He's been working on farms since he left school at the age of 16 and he's saving up to one day start-up his own livestock enterprise. Outside of work, the 28-year-old is a dab-hand in the kitchen and is a true hunter-gatherer shooting his supper, baking his own bread and growing his own veg. His fiancé says: "He's a devilishly handsome and strapping fellow who loves everything and anything to do with the countryside."

Hugh Morrison

Son of a farm manager and now a tenant farmer with his wife, 40-year-old Hugh looks after 600 breeding ewes and manages 950 acres of arable land in Wiltshire. When he's not farming or assisting with his two children's homework, the 40-year-old can be found surfing and snorkelling along the coast. And if you like a man in uniform then it might surprise you to learn that he spent eight years as a fireman! His wife reckons he's "passionate about farming, a fantastic husband and, as his children say, the best Dad ever".

For more information and photos of the finalists contact:

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About Farmers Weekly:

Farmers Weekly is the number one farming publication serving the UK agricultural industry. The weekly magazine has been providing a service to the UK farming community for over 80 years and we take pride in delivering authoritative and independent content that farmers can trust. The magazine provides an informed weekly commentary on British Agriculture to farming and agricultural professionals in the UK and online we offer our audience a whole wealth of news, business advice, entertainment and opportunity to interact. Farmers Weekly is part of the Reed Business Information portfolio.

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