CLA RURAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE 2026

Programme

9am	**Registration, refreshments and networking**
10am	**Opening remarks** – Jonathan Roberts, Director of External Affairs
10.05am	Gavin Lane, CLA President
10.20am	Rt Hon Dame Angela Eagle DBE MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
11am	Alex Newton, Deputy Director, More in Common UK, presenting research commissioned by CLA and Knight Frank
11.45am	**Networking break**
12.15pm	**A Masterclass in Storytelling** • Sophie Gregory, dairy farmer, Somerset • Ben King, Founder and CEO, Pesky Fish • Annette Richman, Managing Director, KOR Communications
1.15pm	**Lunch**
2.15pm	Chair, CLA Charitable Trust
2.20pm	Rt Hon Victoria Atkins MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
2.45pm	James Pennefather, CEO, Chapel Down Group
3.10pm	**Rural Britain in 2035 – What story do we want tell?** • Emma Fletcher, Innovation Director, Octopus Energy Homes • David Harvey, farmer, Hertfordshire • Mark Wiliams, farmer, Mid Wales
4pm	**Closing remarks** – Joe Evans, CLA Deputy President
4.15pm	**CLA Rural Business Conference Drinks Reception 2026 – supported by Knight Frank**

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