
Low Sizergh farmer wins royal recognition

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By Daniel Orr

A SOUTH Lakeland farmer has received two royal recognitions for the contributions he has made to agriculture and the rural community.

John Park, of Low Sizergh Farm, met the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at a Windsor Castle reception recognising people who have supported the rural community.

And he is also to be presented with a certificate by Lord Henry Plumb welcoming him as an Associate of the Royal Agricultural Societies at a ceremony at the House of Lords on January 26.

The associateship goes to people who are judged to have made a significant contribution to agriculture and is awarded only to people who can demonstrate achievement in a range of practices from practical farming to the development of new husbandry practices.

Achievement also has to be shown in areas like research, use of technology, economic, educational and administrative benefits which have led to the 'understanding, efficiency and well-being of agriculture'.

"In my working life I've seen a lot of changes but I've always believed that simple principles can lead to success for the whole community; a properly run farm enriches the local environment and community, securing a vibrant rural economy for all involved," said Mr Park.

"It's satisfying to see my family sharing this belief."

Mr Park's farming interests have extended well beyond the family farm through his involvement in rural and agricultural committees over many years.

He has a long and active involvement with the Young Farmers Club (YFC), a highlight of which was sailing on the Queen Mary to America in 1962 as part of an exchange programme, as well as being president of the Cumbria federation.

He is a past chairman of Cumbria NFU and has been a committee member and local director of NFU North West's management board.

Mr Park is also a past chairman and director of the Westmorland Agricultural Society and served for three years on the board of the Lake District National Park Authority.

He and his family have earned numerous awards and accreditations for their very high standards of farming, care of the environment and its food and tourism offer.

The family is committed to leaving an environmental legacy for the next generation with practices which continue to replenish and enrich the soil and offer food that secures jobs and continues to be part of its community.

Three other members of the family are involved in running the business.

Marjorie Park and daughter Alison look after the farm shop, gift and craft galleries and tearoom, while son Richard runs the farm.

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