

**Press release:** October 5, 2015

## OMSCo Farmers scoop two Farmers Weekly Awards

OMSCo is delighted to announce that two of its members are winners at this year's prestigious Farmers Weekly Awards, decided in London last week.

John Pitts, from the Woodhorn Group in West Sussex, was crowned Sustainable Farmer of the Year while William Willis, from Mains of Glasgoforest, Aberdeenshire, was named Young Farmer of the Year.

John Pitts operates the highly impressive Woodhorn Group, a business that is certified organic, currently farms more than 600ha with a 240-cow dairy herd. The farm also has its own successful composting business, and operates two recycling sites with a total capacity of 100,000 tonnes annually.

The judges noted on how John had a multifaceted business that played to its best assets. They added that John constantly challenges the way the farm operates, and that he achieves a high quality of management across all areas.

"All parts of his business are financially sustainable, and John oozes passion, innovation and professionalism," they said.

William Willis, of Mains of Glasgoforest, runs a 128-cow organic dairy herd in Aberdeenshire, with his mother Anne. At only 30 years of age, William has achieved amazing results with his herd, and impressed the judges with his clear plan for the direction of the business, his strong technical knowledge that has seen significant increases in cow performance, and his rational decision making, leading to a profitable business. Today, net profits are triple those of 2010, and there's confidence and cash available for investment.

"OMSCo members continue to go from strength to strength," says Nicholas Saphir, OMSCo executive chairman. "This is an amazing accomplishment and I'm proud of what our members have achieved... they continue to excel in their field.

"We have a diverse, innovative and successful membership," adds Nicholas. "2015 continues to be a year where they're acknowledged and awarded for their amazing efforts."