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## Three OMSCO farms recognised at British Farming Awards

OMSCO is proud to announce that three of its organic dairy farmer members were recognised at the British Farming Awards last night in Droitwich.



Winners of the Farm Partnership of the Year Award were Wil Armitage and Peter Dixon Smith, from Keythorpe Lakes Farm in Tugby, Leicestershire. The pair has worked together since 1990 when Wil joined the farm team, soon becoming farm manager in 1995. They have seen significant changes to the business throughout the last 25 years, in terms of expansion, joint ownership, and converting to organic.

The judges were impressed with the clear business split and evidence of how the partnership worked. They also commented on how Wil and Peter maintain a great dialogue and have a clear exit route.

John Pitts, from the Woodhorn Group in West Sussex was presented with the Silver Award for Diversification Innovator of the Year (Large). John Pitts operates the highly impressive Woodhorn Group, a business that is certified organic, currently farming more than 600ha and has a 240 dairy cow herd. The farm also has its own successful composting business and operates two recycling sites with a total capacity of 100,000t annually.

Tim Downes from The Farm, Longnor in Shropshire was shortlisted for the Dairy Innovator of the Year category. Tim milks 300 dairy cows and is widely recognised as a leader in organic dairy farming, always looking to adapt and change to improve his farms profitability and sustainability.

“OMSCO members continue to excel in the farming industry,” says Nicholas Saphir, OMSCO Executive Chairman. “This is an amazing achievement and demonstrates how organic dairy farming is leading the way in successful farming the UK.

“OMSCO has an extremely diverse and innovative membership,” adds Nicholas. “2015 continues to be a year where they are awarded for their amazing efforts.”