PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Use

**Strength through unity: Trinity Grain’s speaker event champions collaboration in UK farming**

Trinity Grain, the farmer-owned grain storage and marketing cooperative, welcomed farmers and industry leaders to a well-attended speaker event on February 5th. The evening, themed “Helping Yourself and Helping Each Other,” provided a forum for open discussion on the challenges facing UK agriculture, with a strong emphasis on the power of collaboration as a means of securing a sustainable future.

Alongside representatives from Trinity Grain, a panel of respected industry figures, including former NFU President Minette Batters, Velcourt CEO Nick Shorter, Evolution ABS Director Dan Knight, and Openfield CEO James Dallas, explored key issues such as policy uncertainty, market volatility and the need for transparency and fairness. Discussions underscored the importance of collective action in strengthening farmers’ negotiating power and influencing decision-makers.

Reflecting on the success of the evening, David Evans, Managing Director of Trinity Grain, commented:

 “Trinity Grain members and invited industry guests were fully engaged, eager to collaborate, and embraced the cooperative spirit - demonstrating that our strength truly lies in working together.

“Beyond the panel discussions, the event provided an invaluable opportunity for members and invited guests to connect, exchange ideas and build relationships. Seeing so many engaged in meaningful conversations reinforced the importance of events like this in fostering collaboration and driving positive change in the industry.”

The evening also provided an opportunity for Trinity Grain to outline its strategic direction. Evans highlighted the cooperative’s commitment to affordable grain storage, expert pool marketing and risk management solutions designed to protect members’ interests and maximise returns. He emphasised the importance of strong governance, strategic leadership and professional management in delivering long-term success in an increasingly challenging sector.

Chairman Richard Williamson addressed the broader difficulties facing UK farming, acknowledging the mounting pressures on farm profitability and the importance of continued advocacy on issues such as imported food quality standards and fairer market conditions. Despite the challenges, he reinforced a message of optimism:

“Beyond legislative changes, it was highlighted that maintaining profitable farming businesses is becoming increasingly difficult. It is crucial that attention and advocacy extend to other pressing challenges, such as the quality standards of imported products.”

“However, despite these challenges, there remains a strong sense of optimism. Farming communities must sustain hope, resilience and progress.”

“Our thanks go to the panel and everyone who attended and contributed to making the evening such a success. We look forward to continuing these discussions and working together to shape a brighter future for UK farming.”

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**Notes to Editors**

**About Trinity Grain**

Trinity Grain is a professional farmer owned grain storage and marketing cooperative handling in excess of 200,000 tonnes annually for 300 growers across Southern England.

**Our Purpose:**

Trinity is a cooperative with a purpose of providing farmer members with an efficient grain storage and marketing service, managing risk, removing on-farm storge hassle, and charged at cooperative rates.

**Value Delivery to Farmers:**

Acting as a cooperative in the truest sense of the word, Trinity Grain delivers long-term, sustainable value to their farmers through:

* **Professional Grain Storage:** Catering to all farming businesses, Trinity reduces on-farm storage risks and hassles while preserving grain quality; Trinity Grain members benefit from affordable grain processing, cleaning, segregation, blending, and professional quality management.
* **Direct Market Access:** Cooperative pooling connects Trinity farmers directly to end users, with expert marketing partners managing sales, and a dynamic marketing committee, ensuring members don’t have to stress about selling their grain.
* **Efficient Administration:** Trinity’s central administrative team provides personal support to their farmers supporting their grain storage and marketing needs.
* **Strategic Leadership:** Continuous reinvestment ensures affordable, high-quality facilities, with a focus on sustainability, farmer well-being, and strong governance.

Trinity Grain, is dedicated to supporting their farmer’s success, enhancing the value of their crops, and securing a sustainable future for farming.

**About Richard Williamson, Trinity Grain Chairman**

Richard attended the Royal Agricultural College, where he developed a strong foundation in agricultural management and practices. In 1987, he joined the Velcourt Management Training Scheme, quickly progressing through the company to eventually become Farms Director for the South of England. His leadership and strategic vision were pivotal in enhancing the company's operations and efficiency.

In 2014, Richard accepted the prestigious position of Managing Director for **Beeswax Dyson Farming**, where he played a critical role in the expansion and modernization of the enterprise over the next seven years. Under his guidance, the company became known for its innovative approaches and sustainable farming practices.

Currently, Richard holds several executive and non-executive roles across the agricultural sector, contributing his extensive experience and insight to various organisations. He is also a sought-after strategic business advisor, helping companies navigate complex challenges and achieve sustainable growth.

**About David Evans, Trinity Grain Managing Director**

David comes from a deep-rooted farming background in South Africa. Following the completion of an MSc from the Royal Agricultural College, he returned home in 2011 to work in his family’s diverse farming business, which encompassed primary crop and livestock production as well as downstream processing operations.

By 2016, David was appointed Managing Director and led a successful restructuring and consolidation of the business. His leadership significantly improved its financial health, sustainability, and operational efficiency, while maximising returns on assets.

In 2020, David relocated to the UK with his wife and young family. Soon after, in January 2021, he became the Managing Director of Trinity Grain. Combining his passion for agriculture with expertise in business change management, David has driven positive change and professionalised the organisation, positioning it for a sustainable and successful future. A natural leader, David thrives on working with people from diverse backgrounds to achieve shared goals.