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## Curry opens farm event

FARMING troubleshooter Sir Don Curry will open a major policy conference at the Queens Hotel in Cheltenham.

The conference, Rural Policy and Local Assets, is on October 21 and is being organised by the Countryside and Community Research Institute, a collaboration of the University of Gloucestershire, the University of the West of England, the Royal Agricultural College and Hartpury College.

A number of guest speakers will discuss topics centred on 'hot' rural issues such as food security which is currently threatened by climate change and population growth, rural assets, environmental change and European rural policy.

Sir Don, chair of the Sustainable Farming and Food Delivery Group, (pictured) hit the headlines last year



with his influential report 'The Importance of the County Farms Service to the Rural Economy'. It said local authority farms could also help meet wider objectives such as providing sites for renewable energy, "learning outside the classroom" sessions for children and adults, and leading a new drive for local food production.

As well as Sir Don, speakers include Graham Garbutt, recent chief executive of the Commission for Rural Communities, Ian Baker, head of economy and research at Defra, and Chris Gaskell, principal of the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester.

For more information or to book a place telephone the CCRI on 01242 714122 or email [ccri@glos.ac.uk](mailto:ccri@glos.ac.uk), or go to the CCRI website at [www.ccri.ac.uk](http://www.ccri.ac.uk) where you can book online.