



# UPDATE



Welcome to the first update of the GAFT 2018 cycle relay which is only seven weeks away. We will be issuing the update regularly in the weeks leading up to and during the event to keep you informed of progress and to share ideas for fund raising.

Please share it with everyone involved with the relay in your company and email [richard@bcfta.com](mailto:richard@bcfta.com) with any ideas you have for content.

## GAFTA Dinner

We are delighted that the Cycle Relay is being recognised at the annual GAFTA dinner on 19th June at The Landmark Hotel, Marylebone Road, London where over 400 guests will be present representing 190 organisations.

Following an initial stage from Duffields in Kent and ending at the Farmers Club, we will have a display at the dinner and will be actively seeking donations. We hope we can get the ride off to a really good start.



## How to donate

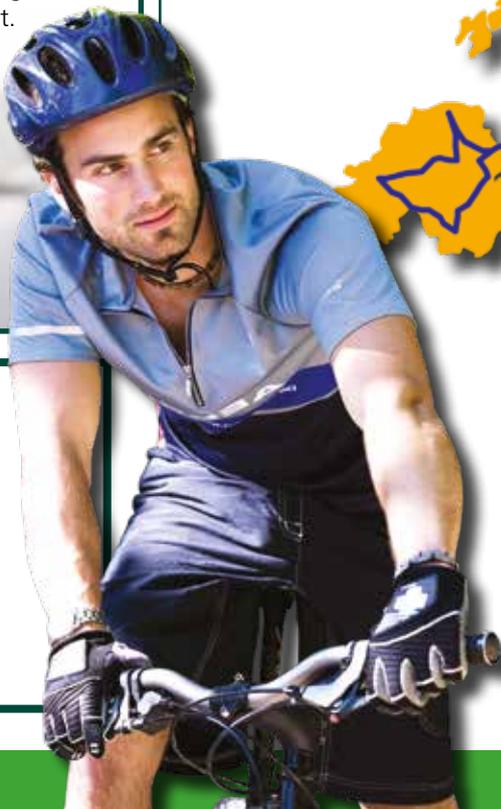
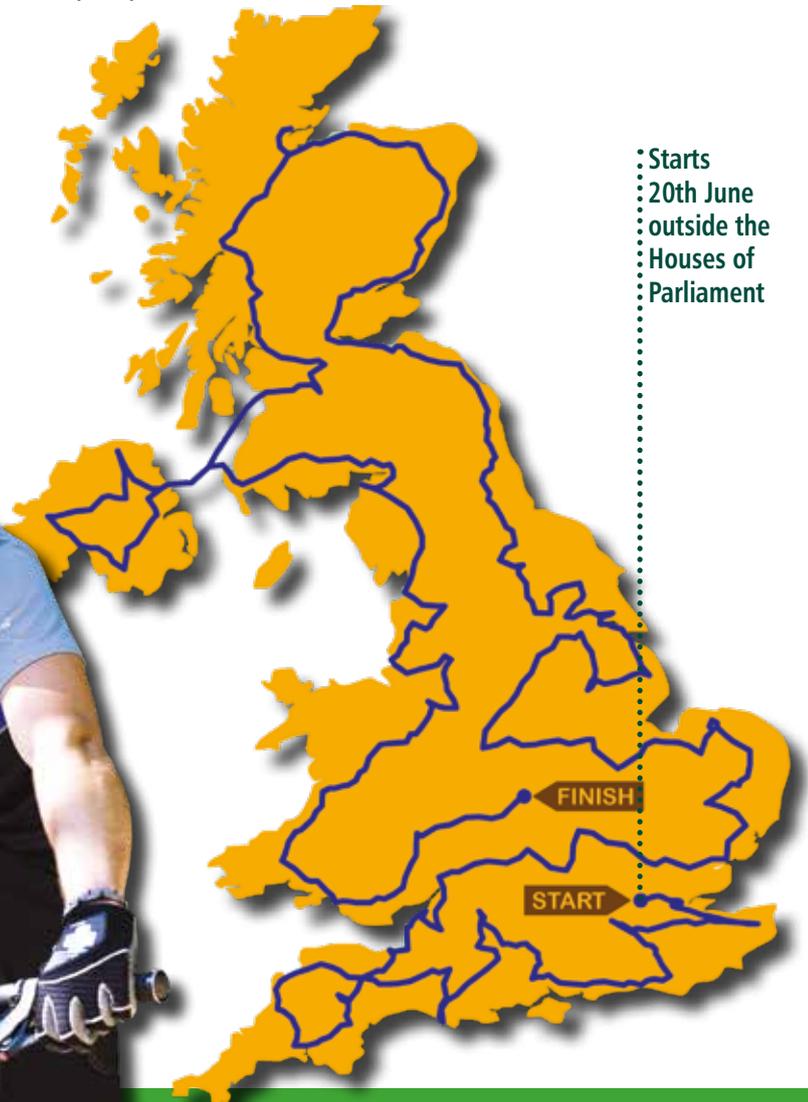
To donate to the fund and support FCN in the invaluable work it does for the industry, go to [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/GAFT](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/GAFT)

Follow us on Twitter at @GAFTBikeRide

## Under starters orders

We now know the finalised route. A huge thank you to Charles Delf for getting this sorted. The relay starts on 20th June outside the Houses of Parliament and we hope that George Eustice will be riding the first leg. It will then set off around 171 sites representing 70 companies, making it the biggest event of its type ever attempted by the supply trade! It finishes on 31st July at Stoneleigh Park.

A big thank you to all the companies who are taking part and supporting the Farm Community Network:  
AB Agri • AB Connect • AB Vista, Randalstown • Adams & Green • ADM Arkady • ADM Investor Services Int Ltd • Agil • Agri-research, Ballyclare, • Alvis Bros • A Nichols • Andrews Flour Mill • Apheya • B Tickle • Bairds Malt • Batholmews • Black Diamond • Brackenburn • Cargill • Ceftra • Chestnutt's, North Antrim • Clarksons Port Services • Crediton Milling • CS Commodities • Cultura • Davidson • Denis Brincombe • Devenish • Dugdale Nutrition • Driby Top mill • Duffields • East Coast Viners • EDF Man LP • Fane Valley, Omagh • Fayre Oaks • Feedco • ForFarmers • Frontier • Galloway & Macleod • Glasson Grain • Gleadell Agriculture • Glencore • Harbro • Harpers Feeds • Humphrys • Anson • Kemin • KW • Lodders Solicitors LLP • Massey Feeds • McGuinness Feeds • Micron • Milford Grain • Mole Valley • Moy Park, Randalstown, • NB Pitts • NWF Agriculture • Openfield • Pearce Seeds • Premier Nutrition • Prime • Robin Appel Ltd • Rumenco • Savills • Scottish Fiddle • Spillers (horse feeds) • Sharpness • Trevor Birchall • The Bristol Port Company • Thomas Mawer • Thompsons • Three Counties • Tollands, Belfast Docks • Tremains • Trouw Nutrition GB • Tullyherron, Armagh • UM Group • United Feeds • United Oil Seeds • Verriere & Co Ltd • W&H Marriage & Sons, • W&R Barnettts • Westend Agri • Whitney Grain • Willetts • Wills and Wilkin • Wynnstay • Yorkshire Feedstuffs





**For the last 23 years, the Farming Community Network (FCN) has helped thousands of farmers and farming families through a variety of issues, including financial problems, animal disease and poor mental and physical health.**

But with Britain preparing to leave the European Union, the future of British farming is unclear. The only certainty is that farming is going to change – and whenever there is change, there is anxiety.

The general consensus among agricultural industry leaders and government agencies is that support services like FCN will be essential once Britain leaves the EU. The anticipation is that the workload of FCN's 400+ volunteers will increase significantly. But in order to face the future, FCN needs your help. The charity relies heavily on donations in order to continue its work and fundraising initiatives, such as the GAFT Bike Ride, are a fantastic way of supporting both FCN and the farming community. The money raised from this event will be vital in helping us train our volunteers and prepare them for whatever challenges lie ahead.

FCN's volunteers are so grateful to everyone involved with the GAFT bike ride and are keen to build relationships with participating companies local to them. Furthermore, FCN's head office team are happy to support you with any local fundraising and publicity for the event. If you would like to get more involved, please speak to FCN's Fundraising & Supporter Relationship Manager, **Vicki Beers** on **01788 510866** or email **vicki@fcn.org.uk**.

**On behalf of everyone at FCN, thank you so much for your support with the GAFT Bike Ride!**

## PR opportunities

**The relay gives a great opportunity for PR to raise awareness of FCN and also for participant businesses to show they are putting back into the farming industry.**

We are ramping up our PR in the national farming and trade press and will be rolling out regional PR as the relay progresses round the country. Our Twitter activity is also increasing so please make sure anyone in your business who is on Twitter is following us at **@GAFTbikeride**. We will also be regularly updating the website **www.gaft2018.uk**



We can supply short pieces for your website or to include in your newsletter to promote your involvement.

Please contact **Phil Eades** who is helping with PR at **mardleconsulting@gmail.com** or **07939 597981** if you would like a short piece.

If you have good contacts with the local press, please let them know you are involved and the dates the relay will be with you. Let's make sure we make the most of this opportunity.



## Cooksley's charabanc

**A key part of the relay will be the support vehicle. Richard Cooksley will be the only person completing all 3700 miles (but from the comfort of a cab).**

Our thanks to The Bristol Port Company who have kindly donated a van for the duration of the relay and to sponsors who will be helping cover the costs of the relay.

Our thanks also to those participants who have kindly arranged accommodation for the support team. If anyone else can help with accommodation please let us know.

