

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FARMERS



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## The Worshipful Company of Farmers promoting British Farming at the Lord Mayor's Show



An impressive John Deere 7750 ProDrive 625 horse power forage harvester used to harvest grass, maize and other forage crops for use as livestock feed was seen parading through the streets of the City of London taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show, with the message: "British Farmers, British Milk". Each year one forager can harvest 60,000 tonnes of feed for 4,000 cows that **produce 49 million pints of milk.**

Entered by the Worshipful Company of Farmers, it took part in the three-mile long procession, which wound through 1.7 miles of streets in the Square Mile as part of the 'Modern Livery Companies' exhibit. The Worshipful Company of Farmers- "Grant of Livery" approved in 1952- was formed with the aim of promoting a better understanding of the importance of food and farming in the

City, and to stimulate the development of agricultural education and awareness of farming matters, both to the broader public and to people engaged in farming.

Marching with the John Deere 7750 forage harvester was the recently installed Master of the Farmers' Company, John Thorpe, supported by Senior Warden Jeremy Courtney and Junior Warden Follett Balch. Court Assistant Lindsay Hargreaves carried the Farmers' banner, dressed in 'working attire', as shown on the Company's coat-of-arms. "We got a tremendous response from the crowd," reported Lindsay, "Despite the pouring rain we must have been one of the most photographed part of the parade with a huge cheer as we arrived at the grandstands and with children laughing and pointing at our cartoon cow, great fun but we are also making a serious point about British production and food security."

The City of London is described as the beating heart of the British economy; its institutions drive almost everything we do. As Master, John Thorpe, commented "To have a farming display closely associated with the Lord Mayor of the City of London makes a strong statement about the importance of British produced food to feeding the people of Britain, particularly appropriate in this challenging year for the City and for the economic well being of the country, Mr. Thorpe continued "Whilst the parade itself has strong links with the ancient traditions of the City, this harvesting machine represents the very best of 21<sup>st</sup> century technology, putting British food production on a world platform". By taking part in the parade, livery companies are declaring allegiance to the Crown, the Lord Mayor of the City of London, the City and all the people and institutions, which rely on them.

The Lord Mayor's Show takes place every November, and is a parade of floats and displays involving more than 6,000 people which follows the Lord Mayor's ceremonial carriage through the streets of the city, starting at the Guildhall, pausing at St Paul's Cathedral and the Royal Courts of Justice, then returning via the Mansion House to the Guildhall.

The office of Lord Mayor of the City of London dates from 1189 with the first Show in 1215. The show was initiated under the Charter of King John, who decreed that the Lord Mayor of London should 'swear an oath of allegiance to the Crown' and also that he 'should show himself to the people'. So each year, the new Lord Mayor processes through the City, followed by his supporters.

Alderman Ian Luder was installed at the Guildhall as Lord Mayor on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November. On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> he 'showed himself to the people' and 'swore an oath of allegiance to the Crown'. He is the 681<sup>st</sup> person to be Lord Mayor of the City of London.

Contact for enquires:

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Notes for Editors:

- There are 107 Livery Companies in the City of London, with the earliest dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The 29 formed after 1926 are referred to as The 'Modern Livery Companies', The Worshipful Company of Farmers is listed number 80 in order of precedence.
- The Worshipful Company of Farmers would like to thank John Deere Limited for supporting us so magnificently.
- The John Deere 7750 ProDrive 625hp forage harvester (also known as a forager or chopper) is a farm implement that harvests forage plants to make silage. Silage is usually grass or maize that has been chopped into short lengths and compacted together, sealed and then fermented to provide feed for livestock.
- The John Deere forage harvester weighs around 13 tonnes and is around 120 times more powerful than an average lawnmower. It is capable of harvesting the size of a football pitch in around 2 minutes.