

Share farming

An early adopter!



John Henderson saw an opportunity to implement a share farming scheme at his family's estate near Skipton during the early 1980s. One of the estate's previously tenanted dairy farms needed new life breathing into it at the same time as young farmer David Coates, who had grown up on his parents' tenanted farm elsewhere on the estate, was looking for an opening to set up his own business.

Under John's guidance David quickly set about transforming the farm into a thriving business and has never looked back. Today, David share farms with John across the whole estate.

In 1992, John also acted without hesitation when a chance arose to recruit a second young farmer to the estate and by the end of that year Tony Shepherd was up and running with 150 sheep and a suckler herd. John provides, maintains and insures the property while Tony provides labour and machinery. Each one runs his own business, with no sharing of the trading or bank accounts. Under the agreement the split between the two is on a 67%–33% basis.