



ALISON HALL

The Wild v Wild warning

MANY farmers are aware of the risks to their business when a dispute in the farming partnership arises. Disputes put a financial burden on the business but can also put a huge emotional strain on the individuals involved.

The case of Wild v Wild has recently been heard in the High Court and highlights the issues at hand. Here we saw a dispute between two brothers, Malcolm and Gregory. Both brothers were brought into the farming partnership at different times by their father, Ben Wild.

Their father died in 2003 and the brothers continued to work together in partnership. In 2016, increasing tensions between the pair resulted in Gregory applying to the court for the dissolution of the partnership and orders for winding up (among other reliefs). There was no written partnership agreement. This means the terms of the partnership were dictated by law dating back to 1890.

Malcolm had been living in a bungalow on the farm which was a particular source of contention. The court...

Share your agricultural knowledge

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FARMERS in the North East are being encouraged to share their knowledge of the agricultural industry with schoolchildren.

David Thompson, of Broxfield Farm near Alnwick, works with national charity The Country Trust to bring children into the countryside and onto working farms.

He wants more farmers to join the scheme, saying that he remembers his own first farm visit almost 20 years ago, since when he has welcomed thousands of

children to his property.

He said: "It was my father-in-law who first introduced me to the charity. He was an ex-head teacher and saw there was a huge need for children from our cities and poorest areas to experience the rural world and understand where their food comes from.

"At first I was quite nervous as I was worried that the children would be cheeky, get bored, or laugh at me. But that went away quickly when I saw how they were struck by everything they saw during the visit.

"Not just the size of the animals and machinery; they were also in awe of the space, the quietness, everyday things that I've always



► Farmer David Thompson

taken for granted."

The Country Trust works with schools educating some of the most disadvantaged children in Britain, giving them access to the countryside and farming through visits to real working farms, plus year-long Food Discovery programmes delivered in schools, teaching children how to grow and cook their own food.

New farm hosts are needed across the region to share their passion, knowledge and individual stories.

The charity's CEO Jill Attenborough said: "It's not only important for children to learn outside in

our wonderful countryside, but now, more than ever, we believe that farmers should have a voice to explain British agriculture to our youngest citizens, and help them make informed choices about food as they grow up."

Children visiting Mr Thompson's farm explore farm creatures and wildlife habitats.

The Country Trust is currently looking for hosts within an hour's coach journey of Newcastle, Gateshead, Derwentside and Sunderland. To find out more about becoming a host, visit <http://www.countrytrust.org.uk/get-involved/be-a-host>.

Agricultural Services