

THE RNAA AGM

Outstanding award -

A fourth-generation Broadland farmer Richard Hirst has won the Sir Timothy Colman prize. Awarded by the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association, it was presented by the newly-elected president, Poul Hovesen.

Mark Nicholas, managing director, said that Mr Hirst, of Carr Farm, Ormesby, has made a remarkable contribution to promoting food, farming and the countryside.

Farming around 400 ha, and growing a range of arable and root crops, he had successfully diversified into the award-winning Hirsty's Family Fun Park at Hemsby.

In accepting the award, Mr Hirst told almost 100 RNAA members that the last prize he had won had been at school!

"It is really the support of my family which has let me to do all these different things." And with his typical good humour, he managed to promote Hirst's Farm Shop and Café and the fresh fish offering, "Dabs 'n Crabs." Open every day except Mondays, he said, and serving breakfast from 9am daily! He had been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve as National Farmers' Union county chairman in 2001 and also lead Anglian Pea Growers for many years.

Hirsty's Family Fun Park started in 2007 as a maize maze and that has grown over the years. "I'm extremely grateful and I never thought that I'd deserve anything like this. Thank you much to the association," he added.

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Graham Usher, was elected deputy president of the RNAA.

