



FROM THE PRESIDENT: MEURIG RAYMOND

Rt Hon David Davis MP
Secretary of State for exiting the European
Union,
The House of Commons
London.
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Your ref:
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Date: 14 July 2016

Dear Sec. of State,

On behalf of the 47,000 farming and growing members of the NFU I would like to extend congratulations on your appointment and look forward to working with you in your role as Secretary of State for exiting the European Union.

As you will know will know, farming is the bedrock of our largest manufacturing sector, food and drink processing. This is worth £108 billion per annum and employs 3.9 million people across the UK. This sector is bigger than the aeronautical and automobile manufacturing sectors combined.

Britain's farmers are ambitious to achieve even more; with a rapidly growing population, declining food self-sufficiency and new export markets there is huge potential for growth. Our members will have been heartened by your commitment to consult with the NFU in order to address any concerns, but we also need to ensure we are maximising the potential for British farming and food production outside the EU.

We have an exciting industry, keen to capitalise on new opportunities. To that end I would like to share with you an in-depth independent report the NFU commissioned before the referendum analysing the potential opportunities and challenges for British farming and food production in the event of a Brexit. This work will be invaluable as we now consider the future for domestic farming and food production. The NFU is currently carrying out the largest farming consultation in Britain for generations, where farmers and growers from all sectors throughout England and Wales will be feeding into the future challenges and opportunities we need to maximise for a profitable, productive and competitive industry in the years to come.

I would also like to extend an open invitation to meet with me and my fellow officeholders at any point throughout the coming months, in order to share our vision for an exciting, dynamic and profitable future.

*Yours sincerely,
Meurig Raymond*

Meurig Raymond MBE, FRAgS
President
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