



FROM THE PRESIDENT: MEURIG RAYMOND

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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Your ref:
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Date: 13 July 2016

Dear Prime Minister

On behalf of the 47,000 farming and growing members of the NFU I would like to extend congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister. The farming industry is looking forward to working with you and your government at this historic time when we can shape the future of British farming and food production for generations to come.

As you will have seen meeting NFU members in your own constituency, the agricultural and horticultural industries have transformed to become an innovative and consumer-focussed sustainable growth sector. As guardians of three-quarters of the UK landscape we also deliver numerous environmental and renewable benefits.

As you 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.

But our members are ambitious to achieve even more for Britain; with a rapidly growing population, declining food self-sufficiency, and new export markets there is huge potential for growth. Survey work consistently shows that the British public cares about our high welfare and unique traceability standards, latest survey figures show that 91% want to see a productive farming industry and to buy more British food. To allow British farmers to achieve their potential growth and contribute more to the economy, either through domestic consumption or new export markets, it is vital that British farmers operate on a level playing field with our competitors.

The NFU looks forward to helping your government shape a new agricultural policy which encourages growth, innovation, productivity and profitability. We are about to embark on a consultation with our members – the biggest of its kind for a lifetime – where we will be speaking to our farmers across all sectors and in all counties. This work will be invaluable in helping to shape the next domestic agricultural policy – one which is science based, adapted to the needs of British farmers and one which promotes a profitable, productive and sustainable future for British farming. 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Meurig Raymond'.

**Meurig Raymond MBE, FRAgS
President**