

Chairman

Charles Sercombe

Charles tenant farms in partnership with his wife, Helen, just outside Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire. He has three young children. Although the farm is mixed with dairy, beef and arable enterprises, Charles has a particular interest in the sheep sector and as well as running a commercial flock he has also been involved with the pedigree world for a number of years.



Vice chairman and South West

Andy Foot

Andy is NFU Beef Group chairman and farms a mixed arable and beef business in central Dorset. Andy finishes his own cattle with everything sold deadweight. The farm is in Entry Level and Higher Level Scheme as well as an NVZ. Andy is LEAF Farm Assured and engaged with the Campaign for the Farmed Environment and the Catchment Sensitive Farming Initiative as well as being a farmer member of the EBLEX board



North East – Richard Findlay

Richard farms a mixed holding in Westerdale in the North York Moors National Park with moorland in a HLS agreement. The farm is stocked with mainly Easycare ewes and The cattle are kept under a business arrangement with a lowland farm to make best use of cereals and straw. He is vice-chairman of the “7 Hill Farmers Ltd” producer/marketing group, aiming to supply branded hill lamb into a premium market with large retailers.



West Midlands

Tim Jones

Tim is chairman of the NFU Sheep Group and farms near Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire with Beltex and Texel cross ewes, selling deadweight for the continental market. The beef herd on the farm has been curtailed by TB controls, although he is TB free currently. Tim has used EID for flock management purposes for a number of years and is more than aware of the limitations of the technology when used as a compulsory ID tool



East Midlands

Phil Abbott

Phil farms with his family on the Leicestershire/North Warwickshire borders. After being a farm manager for 17 years, Phil is now farming in his own right. The majority of the lambs are sold through auction marts and direct as boxed, freezer ready lamb. Phil is a Nuffield Scholar passionate about encouraging the next generation into sheep farming.



East Anglia

Ian Frod

Ian farms with his family on a mixed tenanted farm in Essex. The main enterprise is a suckler herd which are grazed on the Essex Coast in an environmentally sensitive area. All the progeny are taken through to finishing on a forage and home mix diet, bulls finishing at 13 months of age and heifers at 15 to 18 months. The cereal enterprise is an equal split between feed barley and milling wheat. All the arable area is in ELS.



South East Stephen Conisbee

Stephen's family business comprises of two butchers shops with a thriving location catering business supplied by the family farm. The main tenanted holding is at Polesden Lacey. Livestock comprises suckler cows split in two herds (Spring and Autumn calving), fattening cattle and ewes. Steve also has experience as a qualified meat inspector and has worked in plants overseas



North West Bill Mellor

Bill farms on the urban fringes of Greater Manchester and takes advantage of being close to the urban masses and local abattoirs. This

enables him to sell home-produced boxed beef and lamb direct to consumers off the farm and via local butchers. Bill also produces pedigree Simmental cattle. Bill is keen on the future formulation of TB policy, especially efforts to reduce the spread into the north of England.



NFU Cymru- Lyndon Edwards

Lyndon has chaired the NFU Cymru livestock board since December 2012 and represents Wales on the NFU sheep group.



Lyndon runs 220 Texel cross ewes crossing with Beltex cross Texel rams and finishes over 1000 additional lambs a year on red clover autumn keep on a 120 acre family farm. Around 80 Angus cross steers are also finished each year for Blade. As well as farming, Lyndon has also worked as a fieldsman for Southern Counties Fresh Foods, now ABP, since 1997.

Appointee James Small

James works in the family partnership on a mixed livestock farm on the Mendip Hills in Somerset. The farm covers around 1,000

acres ranging in altitude from 850ft to 1000ft and is predominantly grass on a mixture of land tenures The whole farm is in ELS and HLS with around 120acres of SSSI. Enterprises include 1400 breeding ewes on a share farming agreement, a suckler herd of around 100 cows, land rented out for outdoor pigs and a glamping business.



Appointee Tanya Robbins

Tanya farms in partnership with her husband, Tom on a tenanted farm at Stow-on-the-Wold in Gloucestershire. They lamb 480 ewes, finishing lambs and breeding replacement ewes with grazing also taken on neighbouring farms. The farm is in both ELS & HLS agreements. Tanya is involved with Ladies in Beef and supports Great British Beef Week and in 2013 undertook a Nuffield Scholarship studying innovative women in today's agriculture.



Appointee David Raine

David's farm is mixed holding with livestock, cereals and roots. The livestock comprise of sucklers, beef finishers, Swaledale ewes which run on hill grazing and lowland ewes which produce pedigree and commercial breeding stock and finished lambs. David is on the AFS Beef and Lamb sector board and has previously served on the EBLEX board. He has studied beef and sheep production, processing and retail on a number of visits overseas including Brazil, New Zealand and the USA



Appointee Huw Davies

Huw is a tenant on a 280 acre National Trust sheep farm with 600 ewes and 180 ewe lamb replacements along with 50 beef cattle housed on tack over the winter months. Huw has been heavily involved in government and industry groups both in Wales and Westminster. He is currently a member of the Farm Animal Welfare Council, chairing their Ruminant Standing Committee and is also a member of the RSPCA Freedom Food Sheep Working group



Co-Option- Robin Milton NFU Hill and Upland Farming Group Chairman

Robin is a mixed farmer, farming on common land, upland and lowland close to West Anstey, Devon. Robin has been the NFU Hill and Upland Farming Group chairman since spring 2012 and sits on various groups such as Defra's upland panel ULMAP and Exmoor's National Park. Robin believes that there is a more prosperous future for hill farming with increasing demand for traceable, quality British produce.



Co-Option Andrew Blenkiron

Andrew manages the 4,400ha Euston Estate, south of Thetford. Principal farm enterprises are combinable and root crops, including sugar beet. In addition the estate supports let land, sheep, outdoor pigs, poultry, suckler cows, horses and stewardship. Andrew is vice-chairman of Red Tractor, and also chairs the Beef and Lamb Scheme Technical Advisory Committee.

