

**Circulation:** NFU County Advisers  
NFU Officeholders  
Board for Horticulture and Potatoes

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## NFU HORTICULTURE & POTATOES BOARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: 2015 - 2017

To seek nominations of NFU members to the NFU's Board for Horticulture & Potatoes for the period commencing March 2015 – February 2017.

### Background

The NFU Horticulture and Potatoes Board consists of 10 nominated members, including an elected Chairman (plus up to three additional co-options). In January 2004 the NFU Board for Horticulture & Potatoes agreed a rolling process of annual appointments to the Board. The aim of this process was to ensure that every two years there was not the prospect of all 10 Board members having to seek re-appointment and enables some continuity of member representation.

### Call for nominations 2015

In 2015 there are two board members seeking re-nomination to the NFU's Board for Horticulture & Potatoes. The names of the growers and the crop sectors they cover are:

<b>Tim Papworth</b>	Potatoes & vining peas, Norfolk
<b>Stephen Watkins</b>	Field vegetables & sweetcorn, West Midlands

**In addition, there are two existing vacancies on the board that are open for appointment.**

The NFU welcomes new nominations received from NFU members, alongside re-applications from existing appointed and co-opted board members. Representatives on the NFU Horticulture and Potatoes board are selected by a panel consisting of an NFU Officeholder, NFU Horticulture & Potatoes Board Chair (with the exception of their own appointment), and the Chief Horticulture & Potatoes Adviser. Board members serve a two-year term of office and can then stand for re-appointment.

With the exception of the potatoes sector there is no sector or regional quota applied to the selection process. However, the selection panel is aware of the need not only to appoint the best individuals but to achieve a balanced representation of the major crop sector interests and geographical coverage as necessary.

To ensure balanced representation of crop sectors on the board, we would particularly encourage applications from growers who produce **protected edible crops**, **protected ornamental crops**, or who are **tenant farmers**.

### Responsibilities of the NFU Horticulture & Potatoes Board

The Board is the focal point for NFU policy making in the horticulture and potatoes sector. Board members are appointed and empowered to make informed and responsible decisions on national (England and Wales) horticulture policy issues. Decisions made by the Board are collective, meaning that any policy decision taken by the Board is endorsed and advocated by members and staff.

The collective responsibilities of the NFU's Horticulture & Potatoes Board are:

1. Determine and champion the NFU's policy in respect of the horticulture and potatoes sector and help to set priorities in respect of key policy issues.
2. To develop and help implement NFU strategy in the horticulture and potatoes sector.
3. Demonstrate leadership on key policy issues and lobbying activity to and from members and stakeholders within their respective crop sectors – maintaining active dialogue and communication, and actively representing the NFU at events and external meetings.
4. Demonstrate leadership to the NFU's grower members at regional and national level.
5. Take ownership and be accountable for NFU policy in horizontal issues.

### Board Members - Duties

All members are expected to be computer literate and have regular access to a computer since all correspondence relating to the board is done electronically. Specific duties include:

- Attend **all** NFU national board meetings and other such meetings (regional and national NFU business) as necessary. Poor attendance at board meetings may result in a review of suitability for the position, and a deduction in honoraria.
- Respond to requests for information and input from NFU staff.
- Read in advance all papers that are relevant to the work of the Board and provide feedback and/or guidance as required.
- Be the NFU's recognised regional and / or national spokesperson on key policy issues.
- Develop relationships with representatives of the industry and supply chain.
- Attend and engage regional boards to ensure that they guide the work of the national Board and provide a wider consultative forum for discussion on horticulture and potatoes policy issues.
- Represent the views of regional growers on the national board.
- Ensure that policy decisions taken by the NFU Horticulture & Potatoes Board are communicated properly to members in each region and to ensure that regional communications are sufficient to ensure that members have access to information on NFU policy work.
- Take responsibility for specific horizontal issues on behalf of the board.
- Communicate electronically with staff and other board members.
- Represent the NFU on external committees and boards as required.

### Nomination process

Members interested in being on the NFU Board for Horticulture and Potatoes to represent the interests of their fellow growers are invited to submit a nomination, which must be supported by the signatures of 20 other NFU members. To assist in the selection process interested members are invited to submit a CV with their nomination. The selection committee will consider the nominations received and appoint / co-opt members to the board.

### Notes for prospective nominees

Written Nominations, with supporting documentation, should be submitted to Chris Hartfield, NFU Acting Chief Horticulture & Potatoes Adviser, NFU, Agriculture House, Stoneleigh Park, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ by **midday on Friday 27 February 2015**.

Successful candidates will be notified by email and writing by **mid-March 2015**.

The first Board meeting that members will be expected to attend is scheduled for the **25 March 2015** at the NFU's Stoneleigh Headquarters. **All applicants must ensure that they are available to attend on this date.**

Nominations may only be received from full NFU Farmer and Grower members or those employed to represent a business that is a full NFU Farmer and Grower member.

Members wishing to discuss the responsibilities of being a Board member should contact a member of the Horticulture & Potatoes Team. Contact details below:

Acting Chief Horticulture & Potatoes Adviser, [Chris.Hartfield@nfu.org.uk](mailto:Chris.Hartfield@nfu.org.uk) 02476 858630

Horticulture Adviser – Ornamental & Protected crops [Amy.Gray@nfu.org.uk](mailto:Amy.Gray@nfu.org.uk) 02476 858628

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