

NFU East Region

Making a difference on our commodity boards



A message from East Regional Director Dr Zoe Leach

The NFU is the principal voice of farmers and growers in England and Wales, run by farmers for farmers. Our commodity boards are at the heart of our policy work and we are looking for more members to get involved in our NFU East region.

As a board member, you would network with other farmers from across the region and help shape policy. Your participation in a commodity board can, and will, make a difference to your business and your life.

We will provide training and support and always be respectful of your time and value your input. Read on to find out more and contact myself or your county adviser for more information about how you can get involved. The East team and I look forward to working with you!



Getting on boards!

NFU East regional commodity boards

Our regional and national commodity boards play a crucial role within the NFU—and we need more members to get involved. We have boards for dairy, livestock and combinable crops, with horticulture, potatoes and poultry subject to further consultation as to how we best represent members in future.

Commodity boards are the focal point for market, technical, policy and supply chain discussion and debate in the NFU. Issues like supply chain contracts, assurance schemes, market returns and Government legislation are covered.

As a member of a regional commodity board you will be asked to input your views and shape the policy positions and arguments the NFU takes to the top of Government and the supply chain. Interested? Read on to find out what is involved.



Your role on the board

As a member of a regional commodity board, you will hear presentations from our technical experts at Stoneleigh, Westminster and from the region. You will be asked to discuss the challenges facing



farmers and growers and what you believe the NFU should do to address them.

Meeting frequency varies depending on commodity but they will be a combination of face-to-face, farm visits and virtual meetings. Meetings typically last around two hours.

You will be asked to help us respond to consultations by submitting your views, representing the views of other members and describing your business experiences.

How representatives are chosen

Each county has two representatives on the main regional commodity boards. These are elected at the annual county meetings to serve an initial two year term.

The chairs of the regional dairy, crops and livestock boards automatically take a place on the relevant national board.

Delegates on national commodity boards receive an honorarium (details available on request). All regional commodity chairs become part of the regional board that meets regularly during the year.

Members of the regional commodity boards can claim expenses for travel to attend meetings (in line with NFU members' expense policy).

Your County Adviser or NFU County Chair can tell you more about what's involved, or for more information email east@nfu.org.uk.

Being an East board member

Since 1908 our members have been at the heart of what we do



Every day we represent around 50,000 farmers and growers, ensuring their voices are heard in Government, online and locally. Each person at the NFU makes a difference and helps us towards creating a better future for our members.

Our commitments

Striving to create a better future for our farming members is at the heart of what we do, but that would not be possible without the right people, structure and culture. That's why we have created the commitments below to ensure that we are the best organisation we can be for our colleagues as well as for our members:

People—*we are committed to developing, recruiting and acquiring the capabilities we need to deliver for our members.*

Structure—*we are committed to shaping our organisation so we can be responsive to changing member needs.*

Culture—*we are committed to fostering a culture of professionalism, creativity and respect, celebrating our successes.*



'A rewarding experience'

"Being a member of the East Anglian crops board has been a rewarding experience, tackling the multiple complex issues facing the sector, speaking to members and interacting with those at the top level of our industry to try and facilitate positive change for farmers. It has also enabled me to fine tune my own business to make it more resilient to the increasingly challenging political, economic and environmental climate we operate in.

"The NFU has had some success lobbying for policy changes (the recent U-turn on a urea ban for example), but for the NFU to remain effective it is vital individual farmers' views are represented."



Crops board member and Essex farmer David Lord

NFU Democratic Structure (subject to changes outlined in review)

