



Meet the NFU Crops Board

Board Chairman



Michael Hambly

Michael farms 500 acres in a family partnership in Cornwall, producing cereals, oilseed rape and beef.

He is currently the Chairman of the National and South West Regional Crops Board, as well as Vice Chairman of Brussels Copa-Cogeca Cereals Group, Vice Chairman of the European Oilseed Alliance and NIABTAG Technical Committee Chairman for Cornwall. Michael has worked with initiatives to promote Cornish Grain and has been instrumental in developing links between Ginsters and growers for the production of identity preserved Cornish Milling Wheat. He is Chair of the HGCA British Cereals Export Committee. Michael is a founder member, past Chairman and Director of the 18,500 tonne co-operative grain store Kernow Grain; and is also Vice Chairman of West Country Grain Marketing.

@longwool

Vice Chairman



Robert Lockhart

Robert Lockhart farms around 300 acres of light soils in South East Staffordshire on the Warwickshire border.

Robert grows 200 acres of wheat and barley, as well as processing potatoes for McCain with contracts to supply in February, April and May. He currently has two years left on his Countryside Stewardship agreement, and has a small livery business on the farm. Robert is the Chairman of the West Midlands Regional Crops Board, a member of the West Midlands Regional Horticulture Board, a member of the NFU Potato Forum as well as a Staffordshire Council member.

@RobertLockhart9

North East



Brett Askew

Brett and his family farm 480 hectares of land at Gates Head, near the Angel of the North in a combination of owned, tenanted and contract agreements.

80 hectares is dedicated to grassland to feed his 110 cattle, whilst the remainder of the land is dedicated to arable production. Brett grows wheat barley and oilseed rape. To secure premium markets part of the production is directed towards specific contracts for quality milling and malting cereals and oilseeds for dedicated oil markets. He also farms with an environmental stewardship agreement. In addition to his duties as Chairman of the North East Regional Crops Board, Brett is a sub-committee member of Tyne Grain Farmers Cooperative, which owns GrainCo.

@slimfarmer

East Anglia



Andrew Crossley

Andrew is the Farms Director for Thurlow Estate Farms Ltd., managing around 4800 hectares of combinable crops and sugar beet on the Cambridge/Essex/Suffolk border.

Andrew graduated from Harper Adams in 1991, undertook management training with Booker Farming and worked in Norfolk, Hampshire and Essex for 10 years before moving to Trumpington Farm Company in 2003 as Manager. He chaired Saffron Walden NFU branch and has been Chairman of his regional crops board since May 2012. Andrew was also Chairman of the mid Anglia branch of the Institute of Agricultural Management.

Wales



Perkin Evans

Perkin farms over 1000 acres at Crug-Glas farm in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.

He grows winter and spring barley, winter wheat, both winter and spring oilseed rape and runs 150 store cattle. As Chairman of the Welsh Crops Board, key issues for Perkin in the coming year will relate to the change in single farm payments from historic to area and the impact on Welsh farmers. In addition to his NFU duties, Perkin is Vice Chairman of the Farms for City Children charity.

@cugglas

South West



Paul Harris

Paul farms a 365ha tenanted farm in the South West. In addition he has a contract farming agreement on 140ha and supplies contract services on another 95ha.

Paul's main holding comprises of 47ha of permanent pasture or hillside under HLS, 78ha dedicated to specialist turf production and 35ha of potatoes, with remaining area combinable crops. Paul is Vice Chairman of the South West Regional Crops Board and is Chairman of Wessex Grain, a farmers storage and marketing cooperative.

East Midlands



Mark Leggott

Mark farms 220 hectares in Boston, Lincs, half of which is cereals and the remainder dedicated to field scale vegetables, potatoes and sugar beet.

Mark chairs the East Midlands Crops Board and sits on the National Board representing the East Midlands. He is the current Chairman of the Processors and Growers Research Organisation, a Director of the British Growers' Association, an Openfield committed member and an advisory member of the HGCA Research and Development Committee.



South East

Laurence Matthews

Laurence and his family farm 3100 acres of owned and tenanted land in Surrey with ten landlords and 5 employees.

Growing a range of combinable crops including winter and spring cereals, oilseed rape, oats and triticale for seed as well as herbage seed, maize and fodder beet. The farm is fully assured, in 6 HLS agri-environment schemes and entirely in an NVZ. In addition, Laurence runs a 1000 beef herd, a small Belted Galloway Suckler herd for a beef box scheme and hosts educational visits for local schools. Laurence is the Chairman of the South East Crops Board, NFU Council Delegate and a Council member of the Surrey County Agricultural Society.

 @manorfarmsurrey



North West

Richard Reeves

Richard farms 700 acres of combinable crops in North Cheshire on a number of farm tenancies.

As a first generation farmer, having graduated from Leeds University, Richard enjoyed spells working for ICI and the Duke of Westminster, before helping establish a small grain co-op in the North West. Richard is Chairman of the North West Crops Board.



Appointed Member

Andy Barr South East

Andy is a partner in a family business farming 750ha in Kent.

Andy is responsible for the 450ha of combinable crops and environmental areas and some of the various property diversifications. Cropping includes winter wheat, winter and spring barley and oats, oilseed rape, peas and beans plus cover and forage crops. There is also 300ha of grass supporting 1000 Romney sheep and 30 Sussex cattle. He is also Vice Chairman of Weald Granary grain storage and marketing co-operative, a member of the British Cereal Exports Committee, NROSO Advisory Board Chairman, NIABTAG Kent Technical Committee chairman and a Farmers' Weekly Farmer Focus writer.

 @EwenMcEwen



Appointed Member

Tom Bradshaw East Anglia

Tom has a small owned farm which is run alongside a larger contract farming business growing a range of combinable crops across 1450ha in North East Essex.

Tom was the lead farmer on the recent BBC Harvest Live series and was co-opted onto the Combinable Crops Board to further the industries understanding and use of on farm technologies such as GPS and soil mapping.

 @ProagriLtd



Appointed Member

John Collen East Anglia

John farms and contract farms around 4500 acres of predominantly combinable crops in Lowestoft, Suffolk.

As the most easterly farm in the country they are faced with a number of unique weather patterns. John also runs a 15,000 tonne grain store, a single vehicle haulage business and has diversified into rural tourism, with two caravan sites. John returned to the farm having graduated from Writtle College in 1990.



Appointed Member

James Cox South West

James farms 260 hectares of Cotswold Brash soils near Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

The farm produces malting barley for Molson Coors, milling wheat for Warburtons, feed wheat and oilseed rape. The farm is in its second year of an HLS agreement having previously been in the Cotswold Hills ESA. James is also a member of the Molson Coors Growers Group steering committee and the local NIABTAG technical committee.

 @JamesRCox69



co-opted member

David Stovin

Farming in partnership with his brother, David grows a range of crops including winter wheat, herbage seed and oilseed rape, along with breeding sheep and cattle.

David's farm stretches to 1850 acres in east Lincolnshire of mostly heavy land.



Guy Gagen

Chief Arable Adviser

Guy has been with the NFU for 10 years.

As Chief Advisor, Guy ensures that the Combinable Crops Board and all members in the sector are kept informed on food chain issues, commercial developments, and cross sector (or horizontal) issues facing arable farmers, including environmental matters, technical issues, food standards developments, food issues, science and development, employment etc. Guy lobbies for the NFU on all arable related issues in both Westminster and Brussels. Previous to his employment with the NFU he worked for ADAS, and has farmed in both the UK and Australia.

 @agricpolicy



James Mills

Arable Adviser

James has worked as Adviser for 2 years.

Prior to his current role, James worked in the NFU Government and Parliamentary Affairs Team in London as the Parliamentary Assistant, communicating the NFU's message with MPs and Peers. As Arable Adviser, James lobbies for the NFU on all arable issues and leads on a range of topics including seeds and biofuels. Originally from a 500 acre mixed farm in York, James graduated from Nottingham University where he studied Politics and American History.

 @J_Mills87

