

# NFU Sugar Board Elections Personal Statements

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## Candidates' personal statements

Name: John Goodchild

I have enthusiastically grown sugar beet for 30 years as manager of the Bartlow Estate, a 2,000 ha arable farm in South Cambridgeshire, where commitment to sugar beet is strong, both as a grower and a harvesting and haulage contractor. This campaign sees 400 ha grown, 2,000 harvested and, via our 40 member delivery group, 140,000 tonnes will be cleaned, loaded and hauled to the factory in Bury St Edmunds.

The front-line experience of running a large scale integrated harvesting and haulage operation that embraces all facets of the beet supply chain, gives me a first hand practical insight into the joys and woes of a beet campaign. Furthermore, it provides vital data on the economics of growing, harvesting and delivery of beet. In addition, close liaison with growers gives me instant feedback on beet issues, which culminates in a wide working knowledge of the industry.

I would like to bring this experience and expertise to the Sugar Board, and help to secure profitable outcomes from the opportunities presented by our rapidly changing industry, which in turn, will take the sugar industry forward to the benefit of both grower and processor.

Name: William Martin

I farm a 450 ha family farm at Littleport in the Cambridgeshire Fens, just north of Ely. I grow 5,000 tonnes of sugar beet, and wheat and linseed. I also rent out land every year for potatoes and green beans. I employ one full-time man, and my wife runs the office. I am BASIS qualified, and Chairman of our local Internal Drainage Board.

I have been on the NFU Sugar Board, previously Committee, since 2001. I chaired the Beet Reception Committee from 2005 to 2008; I was Vice-Chairman of the Board from 2006 to 2008; I have been Chairman since 2008.

I have led sugar beet growers' representatives over the past two years, which have seen unprecedented challenges and uncertainty. We may not always have pleased everyone, but I am confident that we are making progress towards a sound footing for the future of the industry. I never forget that my job, and the job of the NFU, is to stand up for growers, and I have always tried to do that to the best of my ability.

I hope to continue to work for sugar beet growers in the years ahead.

Name: Andrew Scoley

We farm 1,150 acres in Central Lincolnshire with a near 4,000 tonne beet contract delivered to the Newark factory. All my farming operations are carried out on a contract basis by a neighbour, and from harvest 2010 we will be growing all crops using a 9m Controlled Traffic Farming system.

In the past I have managed a Cooperative buying group plus a 3,500 acre pea vining operation, followed by 1,650 acre local arable farm majoring on root crops before taking over the reins at home in 1997. A Nuffield scholarship looking at direct drilling with sugar beet in the rotation in 2002 took me to the beet growing areas of the USA and Canada.

I work closely with my contractors including those harvesting and transporting our sugar beet. CTF will see the introduction of new crop production techniques in the beet crop and I see this as a part of the mix helping to drive the industry forward. The growers and the processor must work together for the good of the industry and I would like to make a contribution to that process.

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Name: Nick Wells

I have been a member of the NFU National Sugar Board since its inception and of the National Sugar Committee before that. Currently I am Vice Chairman, and for almost 8 years one of the Sugar Beet Contract Negotiators. Included in my remit is the purchase of seed on behalf of growers. I sit on the National Non Food Crops Centre sponsor group which is an opportunity to promote Sugar Beet for Biofuels. I am Treasurer to the NFU Sugar Funds. Also I am a representative at CIBE the European beet growers union.

I farm in Lincolnshire, cropping includes Cereals, Vining Peas and the growing of this year's 1,900 contract tonnes of Beet. I average almost 2 days a week away from the farm representing Beet Growers and would like your vote to be able to continue to support you.

Name: Chris Wilson

With my wife and elder son, I farm as a progressive family partnership on 400 acres of tenanted and owned land in the Vale of York. Additionally, we contract work on two local farms with 300 acres, and grow potatoes on a further 220 acres of annually let land, mostly contracted to a large processor for September – April delivery.

Our growing diversification enterprise is road haulage, operating five 44 tonne articulated lorries hauling agricultural produce including sugar beet, potatoes, grain and fertiliser.

In addition to potatoes and combinable crops, we've grown a 1,000 tonne sugar beet contract for over 40 years, initially for York, to which we delivered 22,000 tonnes annually for local growers, and latterly for Newark.

I've been an NFU Sugar Board member for three years and feel qualified to represent the best interests of both growers and hauliers in a balanced and realistic fashion.

Over the years, I have been Chairman of my local NFU branch, and three times Chairman of my local Parish Council, on which I continue to serve. I am a member of the Road Haulage Association and Rye Internal Drainage Board, and have been involved with the Young Farmers movement for many years.