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Minette Batters
NFU
Agriculture House
Stoneleigh Park
Stoneleigh
Warwickshire
CV8 2TZ

22nd February 2024

Dear Minette

Having just returned home from the NFU conference in Birmingham, I am writing to thank you for your unwavering commitment to the farming industry over the last ten years.

The conference's reaction to the end of your inspirational leadership, much of which was over one of the most tumultuous periods in farming's history, was extremely moving. It bears testament to all you have achieved during your time at the helm of the NFU.

There is no doubt that farming's current visibility is largely down to your hard work and willingness to engage with those outside of our industry, as well as inside, whether friend and foe. The fact that you have undertaken all these duties with charm and good humour, taking them all in your stride, deserves huge recognition.

As you pass on your responsibilities to the new team, I have every confidence that the platform you created will continue to benefit us all. Of course there are still many challenges ahead; your influence means that we are in a better place to deal with those.

A new business established at a time of unprecedented change, Ceres Rural has enjoyed rapid growth since it was formed in 2021. Without exception, my colleagues have been motivated by your direction and inspired by your authority, going on to provide independent advice to farming businesses and ensuring they're prepared for this new era.

To that end, the whole Ceres Rural team sends its sincerest gratitude and best wishes for the future. We very much hope that our paths will cross and that you continue to be involved in supporting our fantastic industry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Hutley', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Edward Hutley

Partner

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