

# The Institution of Agricultural Engineers

Founded 1938 – Incorporated 1960

## The IAgRE Award of Merit

### Baroness Batters

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Baroness Batters is an authority on driving profitable farming to ensure a sustainable farming industry. She was brought up on a tenanted family farm on the Longford Estate near Salisbury in Wiltshire, which she now runs. Today the farm has a spring and autumn calving Aberdeen Angus beef herd, arable crops and a few sheep. The business is widely diversified, with a wedding and events venue in a 17th century tithe barn, holiday cottages, and winter grazing for polo ponies, alongside a recently restored walled garden growing native British flowers.

In 2014, Baroness Batters served as deputy president of the National Farmers' Union (NFU) and in February 2018, she was the first woman to be elected President of the NFU. As President, she represented the interests of over 46,000 farming businesses across England and Wales through unprecedented times; navigating the challenges of Brexit, Covid 19 and the war in Ukraine. The role

required Baroness Batters to work closely with government including four Prime Ministers and six Defra Secretaries of State. She stood down from the post in February 2024. Baroness Batters was appointed as a crossbench member of the House of Lords in 2024 and was made a Deputy Lieutenant to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in 2021.

She is an ambassador for Farm Africa, supporting the development of agricultural and business skills that farmers need to adopt to regenerate land and grow more food.

In April 2025, Baroness Batters was appointed by the Secretary of State to provide recommendations on farm profitability to the secretary of state and the farming minister. The Farming Profitability Review was published in December 2025 and made 57 recommendations to the government. The report stresses the importance of research and innovation to increase levels of productivity, and recommends collaboration as the key to ensuring technology delivers real value at farm level.

Given Baroness Batters' proven record and commitment to moving the agricultural sector forward, she is an excellent candidate to receive the IAgRE Award of Merit.

