



JAMES WITHERS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NFU SCOTLAND

After graduating with a degree in politics from Aberdeen University, James joined NFU Scotland in 1999 as part of the communications team. After getting to grips with agricultural politics as the Union's Parliamentary Adviser, the role widened to cover media work during the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001.

He was appointed Communications Manager in 2002, then Strategy and Communications Director in 2004 and Deputy Chief Executive in November 2005. In the latter role, he maintained his responsibility for the Union's communications and membership departments and played a wider role in developing NFUS policy and representing the organisation to government and other stakeholders. He was appointed Chief Executive in April 2008.

In recent years, he has co-ordinated the NFUS involvement with the Competition Commission investigation into the supermarkets and has been heavily involved in the Union's efforts to tackle the fallout from foot and mouth, bluetongue and bird flu outbreaks. In addition, he has led an NFUS campaign on better regulation.

James was originally born in England but is an adopted Scot having spent most of his life here. He went to school in Edinburgh before heading north to the Granite City to study politics and international relations.

Aged 33, he is married to Joanna and they have a five-year old daughter Amy and two year-old son Ben.

He is a very keen sports fan but working hours, a young family (and a serious drop in fitness) have rendered him more a spectator than participant - although, he manages the occasional round of golf and game of football.