Brexit insight for international students

Ten students studying for a masters in agricultural economics and five senior staff from Bonn University, in Germany, visited NFU South East earlier this summer.

They were led by Armin Kuhn, a research fellow at the Department of Agricultural Policy at the Institute for Food and Resource Economics at Bonn University. The students visited in mid June as part of their university’s annual AFEICO (Agricultural and Food Economics) masters programme’s week-long probe into agricultural economics in another country. The international students were staying on campus at the University of Reading, with Professor Richard Tiffin their academic host.

The group wished to learn about Brexit and its implications for agriculture, while exploring the NFU’s role.

Their visit to the NFU South East regional office in Petersfield was arranged by NFU South East Communications Adviser Isobel Bretherton and supported by NFU Adviser Scott Pepe. Ms Bretherton said: “The students and staff really engaged and all asked plenty of questions. They entered into a high level of technical discourse about the NFU as a trade association and its role for our farmer and grower members in relation to Brexit.”

A pub lunch then preceded a tour in the South Downs National Park with longstanding NFU member George Atkinson, of Lower Farm, East Meon, whose mixed enterprise is under a Higher Level Stewardship agreement. The sun shone as Mr Atkinson fielded countless questions as he walked the group through arable crops, livestock and his new campsite beside the River Meon. Wildlife on the farm includes 32 species of butterfly, water voles, otters and skylarks.