



PRESS RELEASE

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Laurence J Betts Ltd (LJ Betts), grower of premium salads since 1930, has been acquired by the Regan family who are the owners of Hugh Lowe Farms Ltd, a neighbouring berry growing business in Kent, and of Blaise Plants Ltd, a plant propagator.

Stephen Betts will step down as Managing Director after 45 years running the family business and will remain in a consultancy role for the Regan family; he says: "It has been an honour following in the footsteps of my father, Stewart, and my grandfather, Laurence, to build on their foundations centred on growing top quality produce while using good farming practice and treating staff and customers with respect.

"We are delighted that my cousin, Marion, and her family are taking over LJ Betts and I wish them every success for future generations."

Philip Betts who will be handing over the Board Chair to Marion's husband Jon Regan, adds: "The Betts family is delighted that the company is staying within the wider family, and we anticipate 'business as usual' for customers and staff alike going forward".

Marion Regan, who takes over as Managing Director, says: "We are delighted to continue operating this superb fresh produce business, which we have known and admired for many years. Together with the excellent and skilled team at LJ Betts we aim to grow sustainably into the next generation, sharing the same values that have stood the test of time at Hugh Lowe Farms. We look forward to meeting LJ Betts' valued customers and continuing to supply them with our wide range of fresh and flavoursome salads throughout the year.

Nick Ottewell, who continues as Commercial Director, adds "Our success is based on the highest levels of quality, service and sound farming principles. Stephen Betts has set these standards throughout his lifetime of work, and it is my firm belief that we can take these practices forward into a bright and successful future."

Jon Regan, incoming Chairman, said "There are many synergies between our berry growing and LJ Betts' salad business. I am pleased to welcome Laurence J Betts Ltd into our family of sustainable farming and fresh produce companies. We have an exciting future ahead."

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About Laurence J Betts

Laurence J Betts Ltd. is a longstanding family business based near West Malling in Kent. The family has been producing salads and growing cereals since 1930, supplying predominantly wholesalers, leading processors and the food service sector. LJ Betts proudly holds certifications from BRC Food Safety (BRCGS), Red Tractor, LEAF Marque, M&S Select Farm Produce, GRASP, and Organic Farmers & Growers, ensuring their commitment to quality and sustainability.

About Hugh Lowe Farms

The Regan family grows strawberries, raspberries and blackberries as well as soft fruit plants, cereals and vines, on their farms in Kent, the Garden of England. Hugh Lowe Farms' berries can be found in leading supermarkets, restaurants, greengrocers, and farm shops throughout the UK from April to November. Hugh Lowe Farms is a founding member of the grower cooperative, Berry Gardens Growers, which markets members' fruit through Driscolls. The family farming interests have net-zero goals and a strong biodiversity focus. Hugh Lowe Farms is accredited to the BRC Global Standard for Food Safety, LEAF Marque, Red Tractor Assurance and RTA Global GAP, M&S Select Farm Produce and partners many organisations, including RSPB, the Kent Wildlife Trust, and the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.