

NFU Cymru Key Policy Asks

SUSTAINABLE FARMING SCHEME

Stability must mean Stability

- A long-term commitment to a Stability payment within the SFS to recognise the economic, environmental, social and cultural contribution that Welsh farming makes to society and to underpin the resilience of food production in Wales and the continued secure supply of high quality, safe and affordable food from Wales.
- A Universal Baseline Payment that goes beyond costs incurred / income foregone, recognising the value to society of the actions being undertaken by Welsh farmers and that incentivises the actions that Welsh Government want undertaken on Welsh farms.
- A review of the practicality and cumulative administrative burden associated with the delivery of the proposed Universal Actions.

Universal must mean Universal

- A review of the 10% tree cover scheme requirements, that considers the mandatory element of the requirement and the opportunity to consider alternatives that deliver the same outcome but in different ways (e.g. Northern Ireland work).
- The formation of a science panel to look at and evaluate alternatives to tree planting. The tree planting requirement to be put on hold until the science panel has undertaken its evaluation.
- Ensuring that the Universal Baseline Payment provides equal access and fair reward to all active farmers, recognising:
 - The integral role that common land rights allocations provide in the economic viability of upland farms and the need for common land to be included within the Universal Baseline Payment that is made to the farming business.
 - Support for farmers with designated sites including the habitat maintenance element of the Universal Baseline Payment
 - That tenant farmers are not financially penalised as a result of their inability to undertake all the scheme requirements.

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Immediate Actions that can be undertaken within the consultation period

- An urgent meeting for NFU Cymru with the Minister.
- The Minister to establish and Chair regular SFS meetings with NFU Cymru leaders between now and the final scheme design / payment rates being published. All additional work commissioned / groups established to report back to these meetings.
- Commitment that the Minister / Welsh Government will consider every response to the SFS Consultation from those living in Wales and directly impacted by the proposals.
- Commitment that all views and opinions in relation to the SFS expressed by farmers at the WG SFS Roadshows are considered – Government to publish a summary of the views expressed at the Roadshows.
- Recognition and due regard given to the fact that the NFU Cymru consultation response represents the views of many thousands of farming businesses and has been formulated following meetings where thousands of members have expressed their views.
- A Socio-Economic Assessment to be undertaken that:-
 - Assesses the Impact on Welsh farming, rural communities and the wider supply chain of the withdrawal of the BPS
 - Assess the impact of the current SFS proposals on Welsh farming, rural communities and the supply chain.
- No decisions on next steps to be undertaken until the economic assessment has been completed.
- A long-term commitment to the establishment of a food, farming, rural businesses and supply chain impact assessment and modelling programme that provides the same level of detail and advice that the ERAMMP model provides for the environment.
- Recognition and fair reward for the value of the data that farmers will be providing to Welsh Government. Further consideration to be given in relation to how the data will be used, the privacy of the data considering GDPR and FOI legislation, and the value of the data being provided by farmers in relation to Government needing this data to meet its statutory obligations.
- A WG cross departmental group with Key Stakeholder involvement to consider how payment rates for the Universal Baseline Payment can properly recognise the social value of the outcomes being delivered that extends beyond environmental public goods. No decision on payment rates to be made until this work has been completed.

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OVERARCHING POLICY ASKS

- The establishment of an Independent Review Group to consider the cumulative burden of Regulations and Policies on Welsh Farming Business also taking into consideration the wider economic and political context.
- A commitment to develop a comprehensive farm to fork food strategy for Wales with ambitious targets for the sustainable growth of the food and farming sector in Wales.

WIDER POLICY ASKS

BOVINE TB

- Welsh Government to immediately agree changes to the On Farm Slaughter Policy in line with the recommendations of the NFU Cymru TB Focus Group.
- The TB Programme Board, once established, to be able to commission an independent evaluation of Bovine TB eradication strategies around the world and their relevance to the disease situation in Wales, providing recommendations independent of Government to the Minister.

WATER QUALITY

- The £20m announced by the Minister in October 2022 to be made immediately available to the industry to support investment on farm.
- A Wales Wide Review of Planning authorities and NRW's approach to applications for new infrastructure on farm with the aim of Welsh Government issuing guidance to LPAs to streamline and reduce the burden in undertaking work on farm to meet regulatory requirements and for environmental betterment.
- The 4-year Review of the Control of Agricultural Regulations to be expedited and undertaken prior to 31st December 2024. A review group to be established involving Government and Industry to allow for proper consideration of alternative measures under Article 45 of the Act that could be introduced from 1st January 25, when the current Enhanced nutrient management approach is due to end.

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