

Brexit: The Future of the Environment in NI

Sustainable Agriculture land-use
Group

Why Farming Matters in NI

- In NI there are currently 24, 500 farms with an average of 41.3ha, covering 75% of the landscape
- The main business of most farmers remains the production of sufficient, safe food
- Agri-sector receives circa £350m pa in subsidy
- Farmers also produce and maintain **public goods** i.e. maintaining the long term productive capacity of the land or environmental protection- this is best targeted through agri-environment schemes

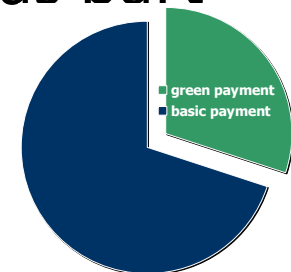
SFP Averages per Hectare

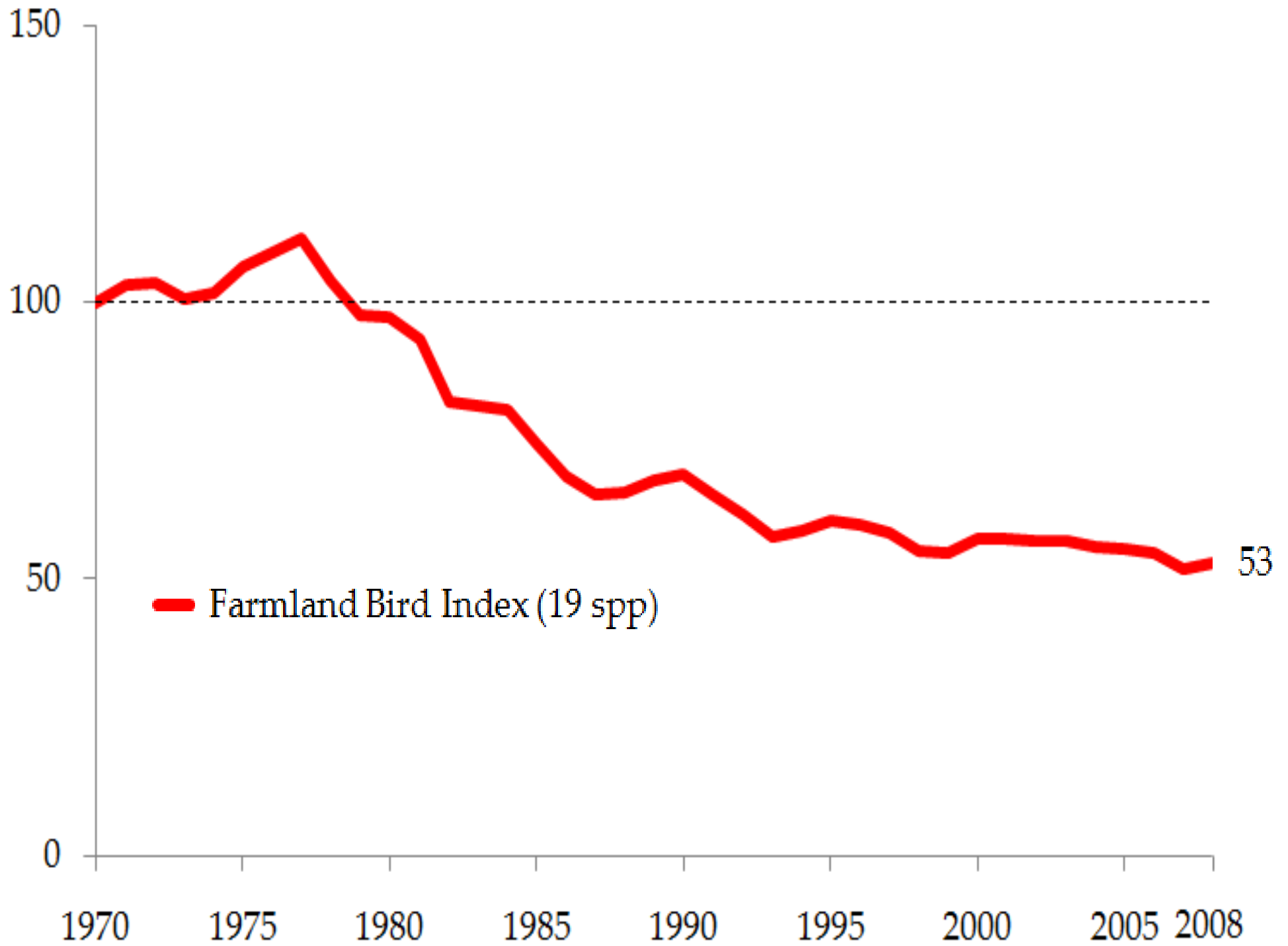
United Kingdom	€252/ha
Scotland	€141/ha
Wales	€245/ha
England	€299/ha
Northern Ireland	€360/ha
Republic of Ireland	€310/ha

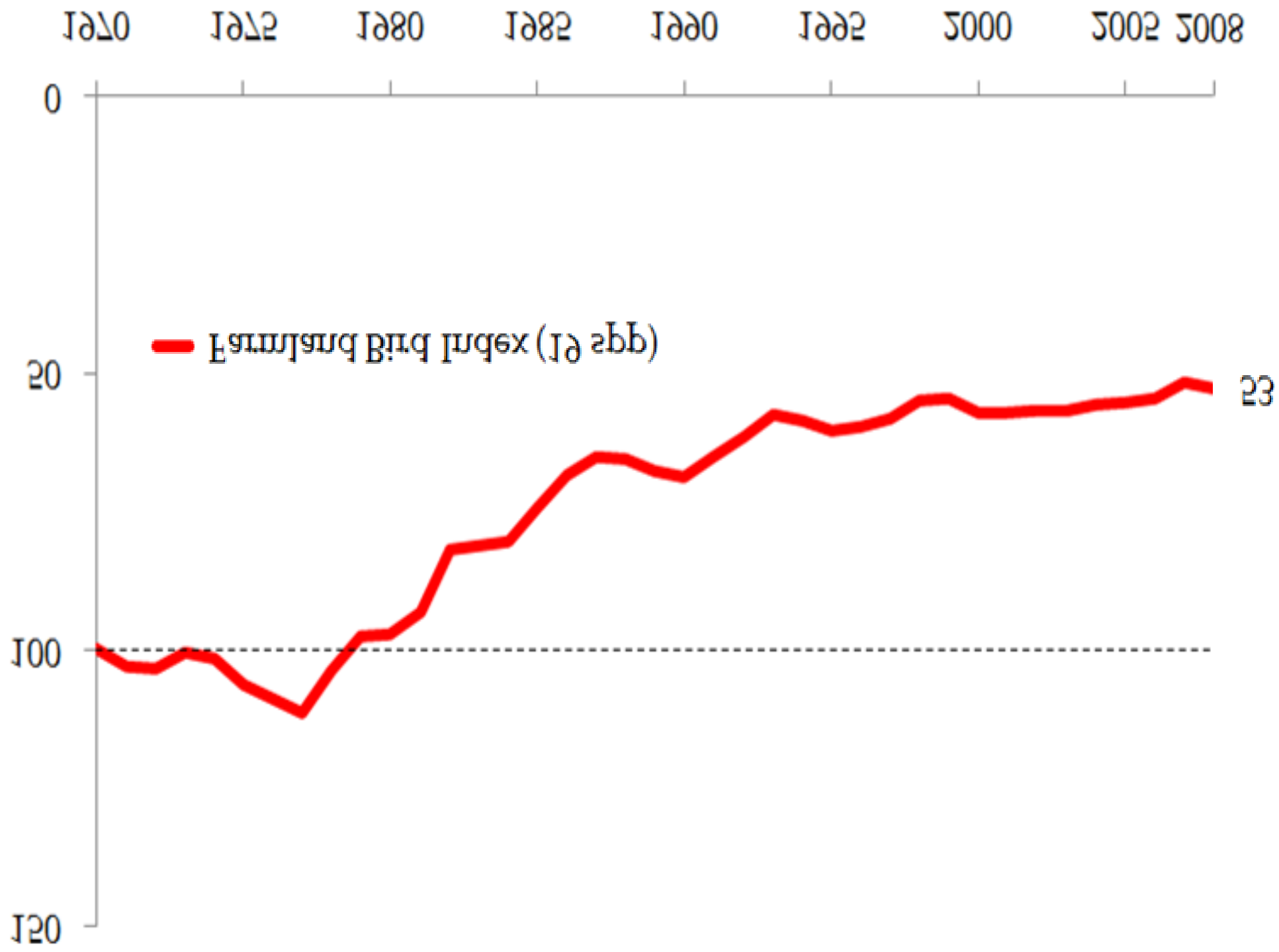
Source: DAERA

Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)

- The CAP is **not fit for purpose**
- 80% of funds are directed towards 20% of farmers
- Poor integration with other EU legislation/policy e.g. Biodiversity, climate change and Intl development
- Majority of spend is untargeted subsidy
- State of Nature 2016 found that the majority of declines were attributed to agriculture intensification (however targeted sustainable agriculture was part of the solution)







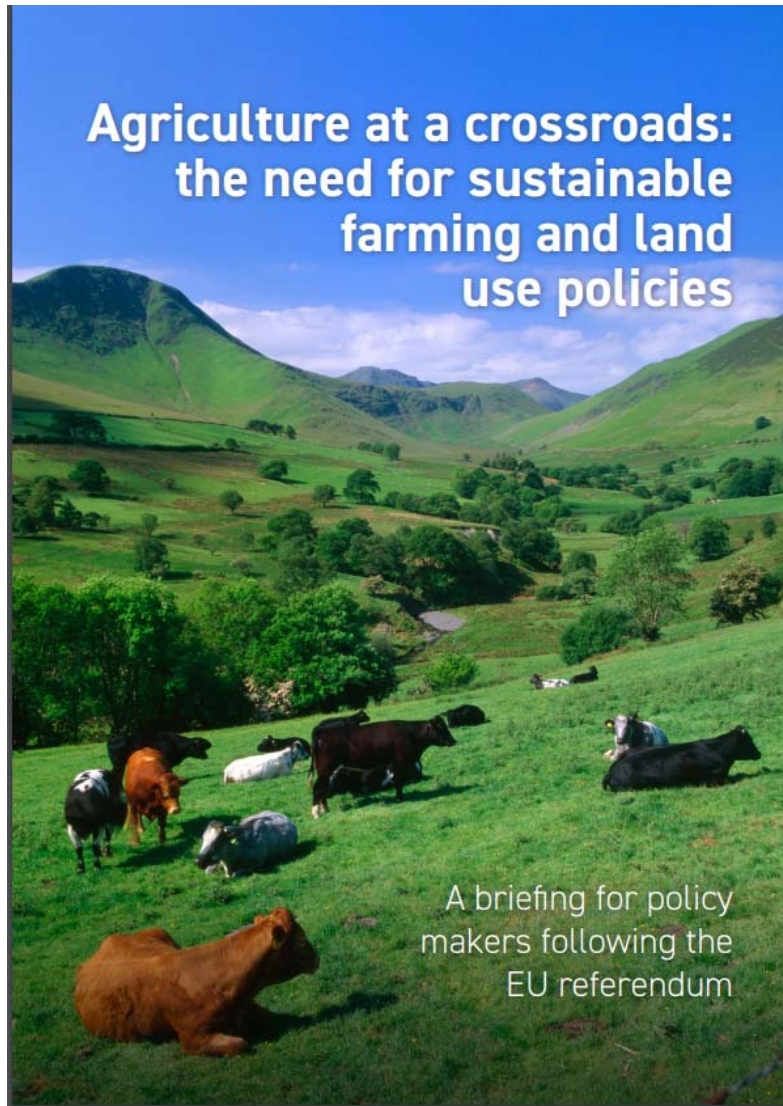
Future CAP

- **Fair**- for both farmers and the taxpayer. Those who deliver the public goods that markets do not provide, can receive public money.
- **Environmentally Sustainable** – for clean air and water, healthy soil, and thriving plant and animal life.
- **Healthy** – for good food and the well-being of all people.
- **Globally Responsible** – for the planet's climate and sustainable development around the world.

260,000

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME
OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE
OUR SYSTEM OF LAND USE
FOR THE BETTERMENT OF
FUTURE GENERATIONS**

Greener-UK Principles



Agriculture at a crossroads: the need for sustainable farming and land use policies

A briefing for policy
makers following the
EU referendum

Principles for securing a sustainable future for our countryside

1. A shared countryside

We all have a stake in our countryside. We need an open and inclusive debate about its future to develop policies that reflect society's shared needs.

2. Nature everywhere

We need a healthy, thriving natural environment across the whole of the countryside, not just in protected areas. Public policy is integral to efforts to halt declines in wildlife and the wider environment, and should drive restoration at a landscape scale.

3. For future generations

Policies must ensure that our countryside is managed in a way that addresses the challenges of the future, particularly climate change, so that each generation leaves the environment in a better state than they found it.

4. Value for money

Taxpayers' money should be invested in public benefits that the market does not provide, including healthy soils, abundant wildlife, better animal welfare and beautiful places for people to enjoy. In the long term, the market needs to better complement public funding, making it profitable and rewarding to manage land sustainably for both private and public benefit.

5. Unacceptable to harm nature

We need a strong legislative baseline to safeguard the natural environment, and protect the interests of society. These simple rules should apply everywhere irrespective of payments, with properly resourced and effective enforcement.

6. Easy to help nature

Simple systems for accessing the right financial support, underpinned by trusted advice, will make it easier for farmers, foresters and land managers to restore and integrate the environment into their businesses.

Rewards should be related to outcomes: those that deliver greater public benefit should receive greater public support.

7. Fair to farmers

The government should ensure farmers receive a fair share of the profit generated in the supply chain, creating more resilient farm businesses. We must all contribute toward greater public understanding of where food comes from, and how it is produced.

8. Built on strong evidence and past success

Future policies should build on successful agri-environment schemes, drawing on evidence and experience of how to reverse declines in nature, and secure ecosystem services vital to farming and wider society. A well-resourced programme of research and monitoring will facilitate continuous improvement.

9. Coherent with other policy areas

There must be clear and coherent objectives, targets and milestones that are much better aligned with other areas of policy such as trade, food procurement, public health, heritage, tourism and climate change.

10. The right action at the right scale

By using data to understand the environmental, social and cultural value of different places, we can ensure action is targeted in the right way. Coherent action at landscape-scale, for instance a catchment-based approach, would make sure policy was relevant to local needs and contributed towards regional and national environmental objectives.

amphibian and reptile
conservation



Butterfly
Conservation



Freshwater
habitats Trust

Friends of
the earth

Natural
Trust

Plantlife

giving
nature
a home

RSPCA

SALMON & TROUT
COUNCILS OF THE UK

Soil
Association

Protecting
wildlife for
the future

WOODLAND
TRUST

WWF

WWT

ZSL
LET'S WORK
FOR WILDLIFE

Our organisations are working together to promote sustainable farming and land use. If you would like further information please contact:
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February 2017

Sustainable Agricultural Land Use sub-group Objectives

- A Sustainable Agricultural Land use Policy for Northern Ireland based on the principle of public money for public goods as replacement for the CAP
- Establishment of a Farmer Advocates project which will support advocacy around our policy proposals and give nature friendly farmers a voice within the debate
- Work together on a 'demonstrating-by-doing' project to showcase the best examples of nature friendly farming
- Develop a food and farming campaign to gain public support for our policy ask of a sustainable land use policy for Northern Ireland based on public money for public goods

Developing Position

- **An ambitious common framework for agriculture in the UK** to achieve sustainable management of shared natural resources, which also addresses trans-boundary issues, such as climate change and biodiversity conservation, and ensures that the UK can meet international environmental obligations to which it is committed. Regional flexibility will be required to take account of local priorities and devolved regions must be involved in the development of the framework.
- **An effective legislative baseline** to underpin regulation of environmental standards within agriculture. This should set ambitious commons standards that are as high as those set out in existing EU law. This will be key to ensuring a level playing field for producers, and maintain the confidence of consumers
- **Adequate public funding to meet the policy objectives** of an agricultural support system which ensures a sustainable farming industry rewarding farmers fairly for the essential environmental services they provide to society. An appropriate transition period will be required for any new support system as delivery arrangements are developed, and in some cases piloted.



The Unfrozen Moment: Delivering a Green Brexit

“..from all the conversations I have had so far I with farmers, land owners and managers I know that there is a growing appetite for a new system of agricultural support which respects their work and puts environmental protection and enhancement first.”

M. Gove SoS DEFRA 21st July 2017

Evidence

- Wildlife and Countryside Link evidence paper
- Cumulus consultants subsidy scenarios
- Land Use Policy Group IEEP Report
- AFBI FAPRI Report
- Scale of Need
- Welsh Links
- Scottish Wildlife Trust proposal
- UFU paper

Uncertainties

Negotiation with EU

Trade Model adopted

WTO rules

Devolution and the future of the UK

Budget

Future legislation – Proposed (UK?) Agriculture Bill



Brexit, Agriculture and the Environment: Debating the Way Forward...

by NIEL Brexit Coalition

Free

[REGISTER](#)



DESCRIPTION

Brexit, Agriculture and the Environment: Debating the Way Forward for Agriculture and the Environment in Northern Ireland

Brexit provides unprecedented challenges and opportunities for agriculture and the environment and as such farming in Northern Ireland is at a crossroads. The Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) Brexit Coalition are hosting a conference to examine the possible implications of post CAP agriculture in Northern Ireland, on Friday 29 September at CAFRE's Greenmount Campus.

This unique event will bring together farmers, academics, economists, NGOs and the wider food and farming community.

DATE AND TIME

Fri 29 September 2017
09:30 – 16:00 BST
[Add to Calendar](#)

LOCATION

CAFRE
Greenmount Campus
45 Tirgracy Rd
BT41 4PS
[View Map](#)

Time	Speaker	Topic
09:15	Arrive: Tea and Coffee	
10:00	Chair Patrick Casement	Introduction
10:10	Declan Billington NIFDA	Context Setting: the Challenges for NI Agri/food post Brexit
10:30	Paul Silcock	Subsidy scenarios and Environmental Impact
10:50	Viviane Gravey QUB	'From the Common Agricultural Policy to Diverging Devolved Policies'
11:20	Coffee Break	
11:40	Myles Patton AFBI	Trade Scenarios
12:00	Barclay Bell UFU	UFU Priorities
12:20	John Martin	NIEL Brexit Coalition Position
12:40-13:00	Lunch	
13:40	Farmer Rep England	Agriculture and Environment UK
14:00	Farmer Rep NI	Agriculture and Environment NI
14:30-15:50	Workshops	
15:50	Chair Patrick Casement	Summary and close