



A Welsh way forward

Placing Welsh food, farming, livelihoods, communities and our environment on a firm post-Brexit footing

1. Stability

The priority for Welsh Government must be to provide stability in a world of uncertainty

- Wales' food and farming industry already faces unprecedented challenges and uncertainty as a result of issues which are outside Welsh Government control
- The risk that far reaching reforms to rural support will add to an already unstable situation is great, and the priority for Welsh Government must be to provide stability using the tools they have available
- Significant changes should only be considered once we have a clearer knowledge of our future trading relationship with our main trading partners
- Transition to future policies should only begin following thorough investigation of the impacts on every business, sector and region of Wales, and a full assessment of the Welsh Government's ability to deliver any plans

2. Family Farms

Wales' future rural policies must keep food producing families on the land

- The family farm is the backbone of our rural and wider communities, producing top quality, safe and affordable food for the consumer
- These families deliver for our economy, environment, landscape, language and culture, and should be placed at the centre of Welsh Government policies
- As such, the family farms which take the financial risks associated with food production alongside all forms of work on the land should be placed at the centre of any future policy through a strengthened Active Farmer rule

3. Supporting Rural Communities and Welsh Jobs

Direct support which underpins safe top quality food production must be maintained to avoid causing irreparable damage to Wales

- Our farmers are kingpins in food supply chains which sustain a multi-billion pound food and drink industry and hundreds of thousands of Welsh jobs
- Whatever happens after Brexit, our industry will continue to operate and compete in a global marketplace, competing with farmers across the UK, the remaining EU and the rest of the world

- Abandoning direct support that underpins safe high quality food production at a time when our key competitors have no intention of doing the same would cause irreparable damage to the economy, environment, landscape, language and culture of Wales
- Wales must design a policy that actively supports all sectors and areas of Wales, ensuring fairness between neighbours and regions, and a level playing field with farmers elsewhere

4. Sustainable Agriculture

Wales must continue to invest in measures that drive productivity, improve efficiencies and support farmers to increase market potential whilst meeting environmental and climate change obligations

- Leaving the EU creates the opportunity to provide better targeted support to help farming families increase market potential, and drive improvements in productivity
- Much can be learned from the delivery of current Rural Development schemes in Wales and in other nations and countries which have succeeded in driving forward productivity and efficiency improvements across the farming industry
- Farming organisations have previously outlined detailed proposals for integrating investment measures, skills and knowledge exchange and data capture in order to drive forward measurable improvements in economic and environmental performance, including in relation to mitigating climate change
- Such principles should form the foundation of a future scheme aimed at economic resilience

5. Rewarding Environmental Outcomes

Welsh farmers have delivered positive public outcomes for the nation for centuries, and must be fairly rewarded for what they have already delivered, continue to deliver and will deliver in the future

- Historically, Wales has been seen as an exemplar in terms of rewarding farmers for delivering public and environmental goods through schemes such as Tir Gofal, which was devised following successful piloting
- We now have the opportunity to build upon previous experience and knowledge by ensuring farmers are better rewarded for what they deliver for society
- This should be achieved through an additional scheme which complements the key policy of providing stability through direct support to food producing family farms

