

# Key Manifesto Asks of the next Welsh Government



## Implement 'A Welsh Way Forward'

- » Stability
- » Family farms
- » Rural Economy, Communities and Welsh Jobs
- » Sustainable Agriculture
- » Reward Environmental Outcomes

**1 Deliver rural and agricultural support focused on protecting family farms** - through a data-driven and holistic delivery mechanism which reflects the statutory Wellbeing Goals and farmers' role in delivering social, economic, cultural and environmental goals, as opposed to using public goods as the only delivery mechanism.

**2 Withdraw the draconian Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations** which could cost the industry £360 million in infrastructure costs alone and instead implement the targeted solutions put forward by stakeholders

**3 Ensure evolution not revolution of new policies and data systems** - fully utilise and develop the current RPW Online system to encompass wider economic, social and environmental goals. Reward the annual provision of data, whilst allowing an appropriate transition period to a new scheme

**4 Test the proposed 'National Minimum Standards' regulatory baseline against a competitive disadvantage test** - ensure that Welsh farmers do not have higher costs of production than those countries we compete with due to increased regulation. Regulation must be properly evidenced, proportionate and should not add to economic pressures on farms

**5 Ensure payments are capped at levels which favour family farms** and prevent money flowing from businesses which support rural communities and economic activity to large landowners, big business and landowning charities

**6 Ensure future schemes do not disempower or disadvantage tenants, new entrants and commoners** - through placing too much emphasis on investment (such as the Water Resources Regulations), creating a postcode lottery of public good options, or enforcing long-term public goods commitments (such as tree planting) which create landlord consent barriers. Provide a baseline stability payment to further ensure equality across farmers and localities

**7 Create and maintain rural employment** - ensure the tens of thousands of other businesses who rely on agricultural spending are not affected by reductions in direct support

**8 Hold the UK Government to account on protecting food standards in future trade deals** - ensure that the Trade and Agriculture Commission (TAC) continues to have strong Welsh agricultural representation to avoid trade deals that undercut Welsh farmers' produce and production standards

**9** **'Not a penny less'- ringfence the agricultural budget and provide a multiannual financial framework budget to restore stability** - ensure there is sufficient budget and resource to achieve what is being asked of farmers in the future and hold the UK Government to account on their budget promises

**10** **Ensure tree planting targets and future agricultural support is not directed at large scale monocultural tree plantations** to the detriment of Wales' agricultural capacity, rural communities and culture, biodiversity and family farms. Rural communities should not be held disproportionately responsible for tackling climate change

## Further Asks

**11** Respect devolution by placing a greater weight on the views of the Welsh electorate during consultation responses, rather than the views of people in other regions and countries to whom Welsh politicians are not answerable

**12** Work with devolved administrations to develop a new UK eradication programme that provides assurances to other countries that TB vectors in both cattle and wildlife are being tackled such that the UK will be TB free within an acceptable time period. Support farmers with the severe financial and mental health strain of bTB cases

**13** Provide targeted support to help farms increase market potential and improve efficiency in economic and environmental performance. Foster innovation to enable farmers to compete in a global marketplace and ensure they can continue to contribute to the multi billion pound Welsh food and drink industry

**14** Ensure that investment into rural connectivity is proportionate to the reliance of Welsh Government and farmers upon current and future online services such as livestock recording

**15** Ensure that rural communities and farmland are protected from increased access demand and second home ownership post Covid-19 pandemic through appropriate access legislation, improved promotion of the Countryside Code, rural policing, and policies or taxation which reduce inflated house prices for the local community

**16** Extend the role of the all-Wales Rural and Wildlife Crime Coordinator past its initial 12 month period

**17** Incentivise on-farm renewable energy production, including by reinstating support to help Wales achieve its renewable energy provision targets

**18** Ensure the public and private procurement of Welsh produce - from food to timber to wool, from hospitals to schools

**19** Work with other devolved regions on future policies and standards to ensure the UK internal market has minimal distortion for ease of trade between nations

**20** Prioritise continuity of supply to our largest and most affluent market, the EU, and support exporters of Welsh produce with new export requirements