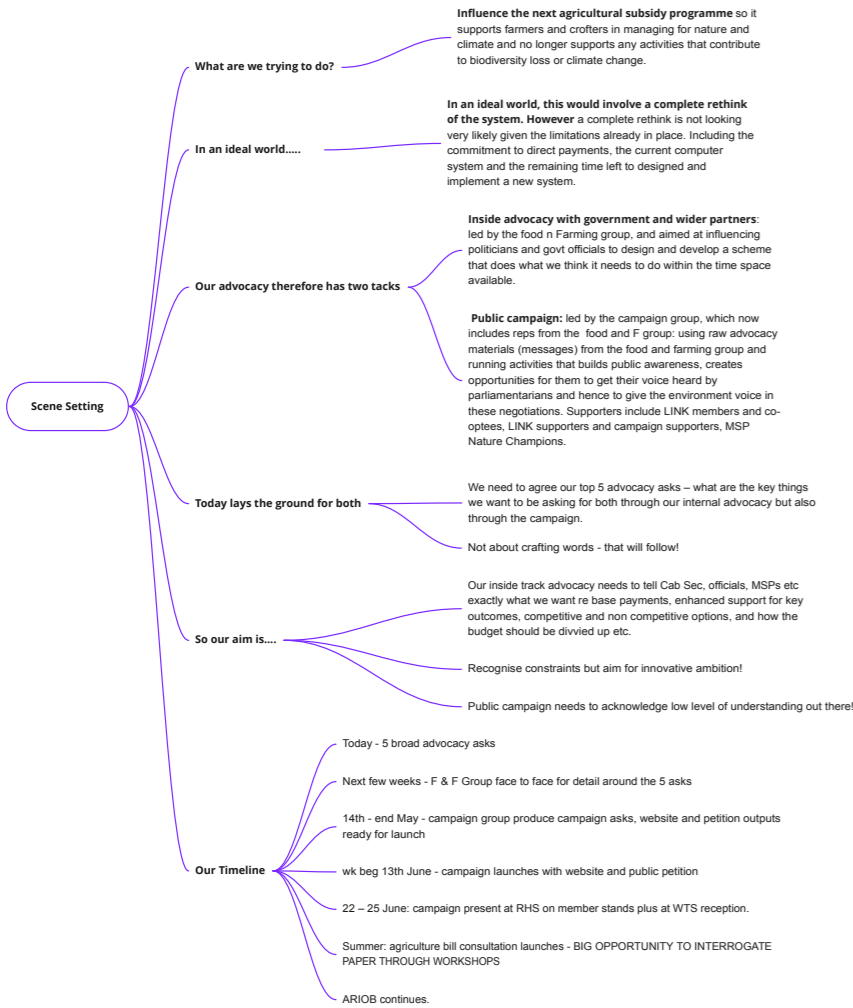


SUMMARY - LINK Food and Farming Group: facilitated workshop 17th May to agree the top 5 advocacy asks behind LINK's agricultural subsidy work, towards a new system .

HEADLINE: Over half a billion pounds of public money is currently being spent on farming with no strings attached - we need to transform the current funding system for farming to support farmers to adopt climate- and nature-friendly practices, while producing food in a sustainable way.

What are we trying to do?



Reference documents

- General <https://www.scotlink.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Renewing-Scotlands-Rural-Areas-revisited.pdf>
- Internal briefing: <https://www.scotlink.org/publication/links-proposal-for-the-cap-replacement-a-working-document/>
- Developing advocacy asks <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vCQueWQTq7zazxBBx3ImN3PtxkYyM2/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104161865506866152796&tpof=true&sd=true>
- Campaign Advocacy plan (for info) <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V1PwGohZucc8dDy54G9reUus9UJLrYUo-AjivJ5nk/edit?usp=sharing>
- Output from joint LINK Farming 1.5 workshop <https://www.scotlink.org/publication/farming-for-the-future-route-map-joint-workshop-output/>

How do we want to do it?



A starter for 10 (to be developed at face to face workshop)

Some comments



Supporting local food production (and the workers who produce it)

Be specific about level of investment

Changes to food supply & land stewardship

Investing in local food supply chains

Public money where needed PLUS private money to add value

Regulation need to think about this

Promoting organic farming

Social conditionality - workers rights

Just Transition for food producers & land managers

Just transition is the term to use!

What are we trying to do?

Scene Setting

What are we trying to do?

Influence the next agricultural subsidy programme so it supports farmers and crofters in managing for nature and climate and no longer supports any activities that contribute to biodiversity loss or climate change.

In an ideal world.....

In an ideal world, this would involve a complete rethink of the system. However a complete rethink is not looking very likely given the limitations already in place. Including the commitment to direct payments, the current computer system and the remaining time left to designed and implement a new system.

Our advocacy therefore has two tacks

Inside advocacy with government and wider partners: led by the food n Farming group, and aimed at influencing politicians and govt officials to design and develop a scheme that does what we think it needs to do within the time space available.

Public campaign: led by the campaign group, which now includes reps from the food and F group: using raw advocacy materials (messages) from the food and farming group and running activities that builds public awareness, creates opportunities for them to get their voice heard by parliamentarians and hence to give the environment voice in these negotiations. Supporters include LINK members and co-optees, LINK supporters and campaign supporters, MSP Nature Champions.

Today lays the ground for both

We need to agree our top 5 advocacy asks – what are the key things we want to be asking for both through our internal advocacy but also through the campaign.

Not about crafting words - that will follow!

So our aim is....

Our inside track advocacy needs to tell Cab Sec, officials, MSPs etc exactly what we want re base payments, enhanced support for key outcomes, competitive and non competitive options, and how the budget should be divvied up etc.

Recognise constraints but aim for innovative ambition!

Public campaign needs to acknowledge low level of understanding out there!

Our Timeline

Today - 5 broad advocacy asks

Next few weeks - F & F Group face to face for detail around the 5 asks

14th - end May - campaign group produce campaign asks, website and petition outputs ready for launch

wk beg 13th June - campaign launches with website and public petition

22 – 25 June: campaign present at RHS on member stands plus at WTS reception.

Summer: agriculture bill consultation launches - BIG OPPORTUNITY TO INTERROGATE PAPER THROUGH WORKSHOPS

ARIOB continues.

Reference documents

General <https://www.scotlink.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Renewing-Scotlands-Rural-Areas-revisited.pdf>

Internal briefing: <https://www.scotlink.org/publication/links-proposal-for-the-cap-replacement-a-working-document/>

Developing advocacy asks <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ivCqueWQTq7zazxBBzx3JmN3PbKyYM2/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104161865506886152796&rtopf=true&sd=true>

Campaign Advocacy plan (for info) <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V1PwPGohZucu8dDy54G9reUus9UjLrYuO-AjiVJ5nk/edit?usp=sharing>

Output from joint LINK Farming 1.5 workshop <https://www.scotlink.org/publication/farming-for-the-future-route-map-joint-workshop-output/>

How do we want to do it?

Visions

Scottish Government: We will transform how we support farming and food production in Scotland to become a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

LINK: Our vision is for a thriving countryside where farmers and crofters are supported to deliver for nature, climate and people: helping nature recover and thrive, combatting climate change, producing healthy and nutritious food and sustainable livelihoods in revitalised rural areas.

Farming 1.5: reducing total emissions from agriculture while maintaining food production per capita

Fair shares for nature and climate / Delivery of public goods through non competitive schemes eg sustainable land management payments, support for specific farming activities that benefit environment and competitive schemes eg nature and climate enhancement scheme, forestry and woodland, env capital and innovation

Elements of a new system

Facilitating change: eg collaboration and co-operation, farm and rural investment fund

Supporting activities: eg knowledge transfer & innovation, advisory and planning services, whole farm / holding level plans, regulation

Current Situation

Paint the picture of what the current situation actually achieves (nature/climate)

This is our starting point for the change required

LINK need to clearly **state where we are now** (Kirsty's fact sheet idea)

Our ask (ie LINK)

We want Scottish Govt to CHANGE (and the Scottish Govt agrees it needs to change)

In this case - this is **what we feel the Scot Govt needs to do**

this is about transformational not technical change!

Its about supporting and funding the transformational change - advice, education, regulation etc

Core messages

Diversifying farming in both who is farming (more younger and diverse people) and also type of farming (more diversified farming, less monocultures etc)

We want to maintain farm payments (and level of investment) but change where it goes (90% not 10 % to nature etc)

And here is how you do it.

This is about charting a 10 year transition

Framing the ask

Painting the picture of what the new system actually achieves - 10 year target

Specifics and focus - to create the political space

This is what the system does now and this is what it should do

New system **MUST** be coherent with other policies (currently disconnected)

Keep in mind land sharing emphasis

New system must encourage private investment alongside public investment (to bolster impact)

Structuring the ask

NATURE

What is the change we want to see

Illustrated with inspirational examples

CLIMATE

What is the change we want to see

Illustrated with inspirational examples

PEOPLE

What is the change we want to see

Illustrated with inspirational examples (talk about A Just transition)

TOP 5 ADVOCACY ASKS - Support farmers and crofters to farm for nature and climate...

Increase the share of public funding that is conditional on delivering for the environment

- The new farm payment system should support nature-friendly farming including organic, agroecology and agroforestry approaches.
- Action for nature should include e.g. protein for people: supporting farmers to grow peas, bean, lentils for human consumption, replacing nitrogen with clover etc
- Support to encourage diversification with environmental benefits, including glasshouses and polytunnels and woodland expansion for commercial use
- Require all farms to manage at least 10% of their land for nature, including through hedgerows, uncropped margins, watercourse protection and biodiversity mixes
- Ensure farm payments support both those already delivering for nature and climate as well as those demonstrating improvements

Supporting local food production (and the workers who produce it)

Help farmers and crofters adapt by investing in training, advice and support services

- Increase investment in advice services (in advance/alongside of educational change)
- Support for cooperation (marketing, innovation and research)
- Support farmers to improve animal health, including assistance to beef and sheep farmers to support low methane genetics
- Support data capture and validation, including monitoring biodiversity outcomes
- Strengthen short supply chains and revalorise waste streams

Be specific about level of investment

Changes to food supply & land stewardship

investing in local food supply chains

Public money where needed PLUS private money to add value

Ensure that the new payments system supports farmers and crofters to take landscape-scale action

- Give Regional Land Use Partnerships a stronger role in identifying and developing regional and local priorities and ability to allocate public funding accordingly
- Land use change should as far as possible be planned to optimise economic environmental and social outcomes rather than be purely market-driven

Set higher environmental standards

- Raise regulatory baseline so that all applicants are expected to do more in order to be eligible for payments
- Require whole farm plans that include carbon accounts and biodiversity audits
- Require all farmers, crofters and land managers to undertake Continuing Professional Development
- Make the 'polluter pays' principle more central to public funding in agriculture

Regulation need to think about this

Promoting organic farming

Support more people to enter farming and crofting

- Provide direct income support on a flat rate per person (not per hectare) basis
- Design systems to ensure equity between owners and tenants; farmers and crofters; farming types; and new entrants and incumbents
- Allow new entrants to access support from the day they occupy the land
- Establish a New Entrants Scheme that actively encourages minorities into farming

Social conditionality - workers rights

Just Transition for food producers & land managers

Just transition is the term to use!

Comments in advance of workshop from RSPB: We want all farmers and crofters in Scotland to farm and produce food in nature and climate friendly ways

- The Scottish Government to maintain the current level of public funding for farming but change what it is spent on so it delivers better for nature and climate.
- The majority of this funding for farming (70%) to be spent on supporting land management and farming methods that are nature friendly and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- An increase in the amount of funding spent on advice, knowledge transfer and training (to 20% of the budget) to help the industry adapt and change.
- An increase in organic farming in Scotland by x% by 2030
- No more than 10% of farm funding should be spent on basic farm support (compared to 44% now) and given only to those farmers and crofters that need it.
- The funding for nature and climate friendly farming to include specific, targeted payments that will restore and enhance farmland wildlife that is in decline.