



Farm for Scotland's Future

Summary

- The development of a new funding system for agriculture gives Scotland a once in a lifetime opportunity to ensure that farming works for nature, climate and people.
- Farmers and crofters manage three quarters of Scotland's land. But many farming practices can damage our natural environment, and farming is one of the top three sources of climate emissions in Scotland.
- The new system of funding should support farming methods that are nature friendly and reduce emissions, while giving farmers and crofters the advice and training they need to adapt.

About the campaign

The Scottish Government is currently considering how to replace the decades-old system of funding for farming. Next year, new legislation will be introduced that will shape farming and land use for the future. This provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to encourage farming methods that protect and restore nature and guard against climate change.

The Scottish government spends more than half a billion pounds on farm funding every year. That funding should be maintained but used in a way that is fairer for farmers and crofters, and that works for nature, the climate, and all of Scotland's people.

As well as producing food, farmers and crofters manage three quarters of Scotland's land. But many current farming practices cause pollution and severely deplete our wildlife. Farming is also one of the top three sources of climate emissions in Scotland.

What we want from the new system

More than 20 environment charities, members of Scottish Environment LINK, have joined with farmers' groups to demand a better system of farm funding.

We want the Scottish Government to:

- Maintain the current level of public spending for agriculture.
- Ensure most of this funding supports land management and farming methods that are nature friendly and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Increase investment in advice, knowledge transfer and training to help farmers and crofters adapt and change.

Farm for nature

Many farming practices, including the use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers, the clearance of natural vegetation, and overgrazing, make agriculture a major cause of the loss of Scotland's wildlife.

But across Scotland, a growing number of farmers and crofters are managing their land with nature in mind. They are planting trees and hedgerows, altering grazing patterns, and leaving space for wildlife.



By restoring the natural environment, they are supporting the ecosystems on which farming depends. Scotland needs a new funding system to enable all land managers to play their part in helping our nature recover and thrive.

Farm for the climate

Farming is one of the top three sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland. In turn, if climate change goes unchecked it will greatly reduce the productivity of our farmland.

But many farmers and crofters are working to make agriculture part of the solution to the climate crisis. They are keeping their soil healthy, helping it to store carbon. They are avoiding synthetic nitrogen fertilisers, which are a major source of nitrous oxide emissions.

We need a funding system that helps all farmers combat climate change.

Farm for people

Farming has to work for farmers and crofters. At present, some benefit massively from government funding, while others lose out. We need a fair funding system that helps all agricultural businesses to thrive.

Farming also has to work for the whole of society. It has a crucial role to play in providing good quality, affordable food for Scotland's people. We rely on farmers and crofters to look after our countryside for everyone to enjoy, and we need to help them restore the nature that is so important to our wellbeing.

Agriculture can also support a wide variety of businesses, large and small, which can create jobs and attract new people to rural communities, revitalising rural areas for the benefit of everyone.

This briefing represents the collective view of the Farm for Scotland's Future campaign. The Farm for Scotland's Future campaign was launched by more than 20 environmental charities, members of Scottish Environment LINK, and is advised by farmers' groups.

Scottish Environment LINK is the forum for Scotland's voluntary environment community, with over 40 member bodies representing a broad spectrum of environmental interests with the common goal of contributing to a more environmentally sustainable society.

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