

Response ID ANON-N63Y-ZBHX-C

Submitted to **Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit**
Submitted on **2018-05-03 12:48:12**

Introduction

1 Would you like your response to be confidential?

No

If you answered Yes to this question please give your reason.:

Your details

1 Are you responding as:

Part of any other type of organisation in an official capacity (e.g. NGO, local authority, community group, university)?

Your details (continued)

1 Please tick the box that best describes the organisation:

Other (please specify)

If you have answered 'Other (please specify)' please describe your organisation in the space provided::

The Vegan Society is a Charity registered in England and Wales. Our Charity Objects include the following: "To further knowledge of and interest in sound nutrition and in veganism and the vegan method of agriculture as a means of increasing the potential of the earth to the physical, moral and economic advantage of humankind." Our interests cover all of your options. We represent hundreds of thousands vegans across urban and rural England and Wales, and beyond. The Vegan Society are convinced that radical improvements to UK food, industry, farming, land management and society can help us meet some of the UK's key complex social, environmental and economic challenges. The concepts of Health and Harmony are integral to our work. We have been working for over 70 years to improve health, food, farming and the environment. This damage has been wilfully understated and neglected, in both policy and practice, for decades. In Foodsource (Chapter 8), researchers working with the Food Climate Research Network (FCRN) observe , "A central topic of most debates on sustainable food systems is the complex role of livestock, meat and dairy. This is due to their connection to many issues of moral and practical concern related to food systems; affecting both humans and the environment, and animal's own interests." We highlight how animal farming harms health, food security, farmers, animals and the natural world. Our Grow Green research offers solutions through a shift towards plant protein agriculture and food.

2 What is your name?

Please respond in the space provided::

Louise Davies

3 What is the name of your organisation?

Please respond in the space provided::

The Vegan Society

4 Approximately how many people does the organisation represent?

Please select:

>100,000

5 What is your job title?

Please respond in the space provided::

Head of Campaigns, Policy & Research

6 What is the postcode of your workplace? The postcode will enable us to map the geographic spread of responses.

Please respond in the space provided::

B18 6HJ

7 What region is your workplace in?

Please select:

England (West Midlands)

8 Is the organisation in a rural or urban area?

Urban

9 What is your age?

Please select:

Prefer not to say

10 What is your gender?

Please select:

Prefer not to say

Reform within CAP

1 Please rank the following ideas for simplification of the current CAP, indicating the three options which are most appealing to you. Please rank your choices by order of preference (from 1 as your most preferred to 3 as your least preferred):

Please rank the following ideas for simplification of the current CAP, indicating which option is most appealing to you - a. Develop further simplified packages:

Please rank the following ideas for simplification of the current CAP, indicating which option is most appealing to you - b. Simplify the application form:

Please rank the following ideas for simplification of the current CAP, indicating which option is most appealing to you - c. Expand the online offer:

Please rank the following ideas for simplification of the current CAP, indicating which option is most appealing to you - d. Reduce evidence requirements in the rest of the scheme:

Please rank the following ideas for simplification of the current CAP, indicating which option is most appealing to you - e. Other (please specify):

1

If you have answered 'Other (please specify)' please explain your preferred alternative::

We are challenging the very existence of animal farming

Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences::

The most important step is farmers collaborating with all relevant people, to create a viable new model of sustainable farming practice. Each farmer needs a farm plan within this, and then the improvements listed can have a practical positive impact.

2 Would you like to respond to further questions on reform within CAP?

Yes

Reform within CAP (continued)

1 How can we improve the delivery of the current Countryside Stewardship scheme and increase uptake by farmers and land managers to help achieve valuable environmental outcomes?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Some farmers and land managers are already supporting thriving habitats. These people need to be rewarded both for continuing their best practices, and for investing time to share their skills, methods and knowledge with their peers.

At present farmers have specific skills focused only upon current, commercial farming. Therefore, most farmers and land owners will need significant training to be able to design and deliver projects which successfully create, restore and extend natural habitats.

Any successful Environmental Land Management needs to support long-term, consistent collaboration with people already skilled in habitat creation and restoration. The financial investment must be consistent and flexible, to meet these basic needs. Only then will the free living animals of the UK be able to thrive.

2 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

The Common Agricultural Policy, and UK agricultural culture, need to radically improve in similar ways.

Currently, non-human animals are treated in our society as exploitable objects, and this is especially clear in 'industrial' animal farming.

Human rights and equalities laws give key rights to humans who seek greatly increased legal protections for non-human animals. The European Convention on Human Rights confirms that people have the legal right to challenge the social and moral acceptability of animal farming, as well as the environmental and nutritional sustainability of the farming system. The UK is likely to remain a signatory to the ECHR, and to continue to recognise the European Court of Human Rights [ECtHR].

Therefore, we have hard questions for Defra and the UK Government: Are Defra giving due consideration to legitimate moral challenges to animal farming? Will

Defra also give fully due weight to environmental and nutritional arguments? Will the UK live up to our responsibilities to our people, and the animals and natural environment of the UK, by staying involved in CAP reform too?

An 'agricultural transition'

1 What is the best way of applying reductions to Direct Payments? Please select your preferred option from the following:

c. Other (please specify)

If you have answered 'Other (please specify)', please explain your preferred alternative::

Changes in how farmers and land managers are supported should encourage practices and methods which meet real needs. To become fully sustainable, UK farming needs to make several different kinds of significant improvements at the same time, for example: supply enough healthier food for direct human consumption, and supporting natural habitats, and getting greenhouse gas emissions down to safe levels. In point 10 of the Executive Summary, the Consultation Document states, "We propose to apply reductions to Direct Payments, starting with those receiving the highest payments, to fund pilots of environmental land management schemes and to help farmers unlock their full potential for sustainable production." Financial support should encourage and enable farmers to grow enough healthy food for us all, and to collaborate with other farmers and their communities to regenerate the natural environment. Effective habitat protection and creation, best practice management of greenhouse gas emissions, and significant contributions to the healthy nutrition transformation for our diets in the UK, for example, should all be rewarded. Supporting farmers who wish to transition toward plant protein crop farming can help achieve all these legitimate aims.

Please provide views on the payment bands and percentage reductions we should apply::

From the Consultation Evidence Compendium, [EC:34] "Of the top 50 [Direct Payments] recipients in 2016, 37 had mostly arable crops (e.g. wheat, oilseed rape) or legumes (e.g. peas/beans) and 9 had mostly permanent grass."

An unsustainably low proportion of the crops harvested from these farms is for direct human consumption, despite the need for more plant protein in a healthy national UK diet. Therefore, we support a nuanced approach. Farmers currently growing feed for farmed animals, or who are farming animals themselves, urgently need support to move toward growing food for direct human consumption. This support should include ending the breeding of farmed animals, and allowing farmed animals to live out their natural lives in appropriate sanctuary conditions.

2 What conditions should be attached to Direct Payments during the 'agricultural transition'? Please select your preferred options from the following:

d. Other (please specify)

If you have answered 'Other (please specify)', please explain your preferred alternative::

Direct Payments for the development of protein crops (and any move away from animal farming to an alternative farming system)

Please give a short explanation as to your preferences: :

Farmers should be supported if they wish to move from animal farming system to another system. Those on land unsuitable for crops or productive trees should be supported to take their land out of farming. The UK needs to improve, enhance and replace with better measures the so called 'greening requirements' which are currently insufficiently effective. Increased environmental sustainability should include increased habitat for free-living UK animals and other life. We would like to see Direct Payments for the development of protein crops. The UK should, at the very least, meet the support levels for protein crops used in other EU member states like Ireland. This support could be justified using environmental considerations, e.g. as part of a soil erosion reduction or nitrogen reduction plan for certain area. To encourage transition it is important that any scheme is guaranteed for at least a ten year period.

3 Would you like to respond to further questions on reducing Direct Payments?

Yes

An 'agricultural transition' (continued)

1 What are the factors that should drive the profile for reducing Direct Payments during the 'agricultural transition'?

Please respond in the text box provided::

The rate of change needs to be slow enough that farmers can properly adapt their methods, from being distorted by short term profits, toward agro-ecological land management. In particular, funding for farms with animals needs to taper at a rate where farmers can realistically stop breeding animals, find sanctuary arrangements for them, and acquire the skills and equipment to move to other land management activities.

2 How long should the 'agricultural transition' period be?

Please respond in the text box provided::

The duration should not be rigidly pre-determined, but should flexibly extend to protect the well-being of farmers, the animals which they have farmed, and free-living animals and their natural habitats.

3 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

The UK has taken bold steps in the past, from unilateral animal protection regulations, to the founding of The Vegan Society to advance alternatives to animal use.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has provided a framework and funding structure for farming. However, the UK has repeatedly failed to use the autonomy we retained from the EU to improve the environmental, social, economic and nutritional sustainability of how we farm our land, the food we grow and the state of

the natural environment. For example, other EU Member States have invested in plant protein crops (e.g. Danube Soya).

The UK was always free to design a more rational, and sensitive agriculture policy. For example, we have known for decades of the extreme financial, physical and mental stress our farmers have been experiencing, leading to increased risk of suicide in farmers.

There have been extensive environmental protection improvements due to the UK implementing EU regulations. For example, UK renewable energy generation has increased partly due to EU support and guidance. UKELA considers that EU environmental policy and legislation has, on balance, had a significant and very positive influence on the environment in the UK, with related economic benefits.

The EU CAP system of subsidy has certainly skewed towards those with the biggest landholdings. This has indeed contributed to high land prices and rents, discouraged new talent coming into farming and held back innovation. However, the EU is reforming CAP, and the UK could influence that most strongly within the EU. The UK failed to use our powers to mitigate the harmful effects of CAP meanwhile.

We hold you to this statement by Michael Gove in the Consultation Paper: "The proposals in this paper .. are the beginning of a conversation, not a conclusion and we want everyone who cares about the food we eat and the environment around us to contribute."

A successful future for farming: farming excellence and profitability

1 How can we improve the take-up of knowledge and advice by farmers and land managers? Please rank your top three options by order of preference (from 1 as your most preferred to 3 as your least preferred):

How can we improve the take-up of knowledge and advice by farmers and land managers? Please rank the following by order of preference - a. Encouraging benchmarking and farmer-to-farmer learning:

How can we improve the take-up of knowledge and advice by farmers and land managers? Please rank the following by order of preference - b. Working with industry to improve standards and coordination:

How can we improve the take-up of knowledge and advice by farmers and land managers? Please rank the following by order of preference - c. Better access to skills providers and resources:

How can we improve the take-up of knowledge and advice by farmers and land managers? Please rank the following by order of preference - d. Developing formal incentives to encourage training and career development:

How can we improve the take-up of knowledge and advice by farmers and land managers? Please rank the following by order of preference - e. Making Continuing Professional Development (CPD) a condition of any future grants or loans:

How can we improve the take-up of knowledge and advice by farmers and land managers? Please rank the following by order of preference - f. Other (please specify):

1

If you have answered 'Other (please specify)', please explain your preferred alternative::

All / wider approach

Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences::

These are all valuable approaches, which need to be part of a much wider, comprehensive support for sustainable livelihoods for farmers. A large number farmers will need extensive support to transition to sustainable crop farming, such as plant protein agriculture, from the relatively small number of busy working farmers who are already doing this work. People with relevant expertise will need to collaborate across the whole of the food supply chain, as has happened with the Hodmedod British pulse foods enterprise.

2 What are the main barriers to new capital investment that can boost profitability and improve animal and plant health on-farm? Please rank your top three options by order of the biggest issues (from 1 as your most important to 3 as your least important):

What are the main barriers to new capital investment that can boost profitability and improve plant and animal health on-farm? Please rank the below by order of the biggest issues - a. Insufficient access to support and advice:

What are the main barriers to new capital investment that can boost profitability and improve plant and animal health on-farm? Please rank the below by order of the biggest issues - b. Uncertainty about the future and where to target new investment:

What are the main barriers to new capital investment that can boost profitability and improve plant and animal health on-farm? Please rank the below by order of the biggest issues - c. Difficulties with securing finance from private lenders:

What are the main barriers to new capital investment that can boost profitability and improve plant and animal health on-farm? Please rank the below by order of the biggest issues - d. Investments in buildings, innovation or new equipment, are prohibitively expensive:

What are the main barriers to new capital investment that can boost profitability and improve plant and animal health on-farm? Please rank the below by order of the biggest issues - e. Underlying profitability of the business:

What are the main barriers to new capital investment that can boost profitability and improve plant and animal health on-farm? Please rank the below by order of the biggest issues - f. 'Social' issues (such as lack of succession or security of tenure):

What are the main barriers to new capital investment that can boost profitability and improve plant and animal health on-farm? Please rank the below by order of the biggest issues - g. Other (please specify):

1

If you have answered 'Other (please specify)', please explain your preferred alternative::

The most important step is farmers collaborating with all relevant people, to create a viable new model of sustainable farming practice. Each farmer needs a farm plan within this, and then the improvements listed can have a practical positive impact.

Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences::

The financial investments which can really improve farming need detailed, expert, careful planning. Many farmers are excessively busy dealing with huge and expanding challenges, such as the inherent contradictions of trying to keep farmed animals healthy, damaging climate changes, the lack of experienced farm workers, and the high input costs of farming. Creating a farm plan which can successfully enable a willing farmer to transition away from farming animals, toward sustainable farming of plant protein and other crops, is a massive undertaking. Many farmers with suitable land will not even start the process without co-ordinated support.

3 Would you like to respond to further questions on farming excellence and profitability?

Yes

Farming excellence and profitability (continued)

1 What are the most effective ways to support new entrants and encourage more young people into a career in farming and land management?

Please respond in the text box provided: :

The fall in the number of farms and farmers in the UK is well-documented. In just ten years, one third of UK farms have been lost, most of which are small-scale. This trend has been highlighted by many organisations, as well as the government, as one of the biggest issues in UK agriculture to address. A New Entrants Scheme, for farmers growing plant protein crops, that targets access to land, startup costs, and training is needed to ensure a new generation of farmers that produces food in a responsible and sustainable way.

2 Does existing tenancy law present barriers to new entrants, productivity and investment?

Please respond in the text box provided: :

Yes.

3 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

We can agree with much of the "The Future Farming and Countryside Evidence Compendium". However, we have distinctly different interpretation, because we have distinct values and goals.

"Across the many farm types in England, grazing livestock are most dependent on Direct Payments [EC:35]." The same data shows that average Farm Business Income (FBI) for Horticulture farms is £37,000 with just 10% from Direct payments. For cereal farms the average FBI is £40,600, with 79% from Direct Payments. Plant protein agriculture needs to replace animal farming. Cereals such as wheat are a useful protein crop, as well as grain legumes. Expanding the UK market for UK grown cereals for direct human consumption should make the Cereals sector less dependent on Direct Payment type support. Horticulture also has a significant role to play in a healthy, environmentally and economically sustainable UK food and farming system.

A successful future for farming: agricultural technology and research

1 What are the priority research topics that industry and government should focus on to drive improvements in productivity and resource efficiency? Please rank your top three options by order of importance (from 1 as your most important to 3 as your least important):

What are the priority research topics that industry and government should focus on to drive improvements in productivity and resource efficiency?

Please rank the below in order of importance: - a. Plant and animal breeding and genetics:

What are the priority research topics that industry and government should focus on to drive improvements in productivity and resource efficiency?

Please rank the below in order of importance: - b. Crop and livestock health and animal welfare:

What are the priority research topics that industry and government should focus on to drive improvements in productivity and resource efficiency?

Please rank the below in order of importance: - c. Data driven smart and precision agriculture:

What are the priority research topics that industry and government should focus on to drive improvements in productivity and resource efficiency?

Please rank the below in order of importance: - d. Managing resources sustainably, including agro-chemicals:

What are the priority research topics that industry and government should focus on to drive improvements in productivity and resource efficiency?

Please rank the below in order of importance: - e. Improving environmental performance, including soil health:

What are the priority research topics that industry and government should focus on to drive improvements in productivity and resource efficiency?

Please rank the below in order of importance: - f. Safety and trust in the supply chain:

What are the priority research topics that industry and government should focus on to drive improvements in productivity and resource efficiency?

Please rank the below in order of importance: - g. Other (please specify):

If you have answered 'Other (please specify)', please explain your preferred alternative::

Specifically plant breeding, for more sustainable crops for human consumption, must be a priority. We call for an end to farmed animal breeding entirely.

Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences::

We urgently need to shift to more sustainable consumption. New and improved perennial food crops should be a key part of this, supporting lower input farming, increasing resilience to both extreme weather and long term climate change trends. We also need to grow more of our other consumables, without reducing our food security – fibre, fuel, pharmaceuticals, industrial input materials and more. The role of research in supporting the development of protein crops cannot be overstated. The UK would be wise to replicate the success of Canada where research into pulses paved the way for Canada to become the world's largest producer. There is also a need to change data collection procedures so that pulses appear alongside the other major farming types. There is limited availability of publicly available data about protein crop yield, area and price. Lupin growth, for example, is not measured by Defra or recorded in official statistics making it a 'hidden' crop. Traders, who need reliable information about the crop-size in order to know how much of a crop to sell, barely use Defra data, as it is not sufficiently timely or accurate, depending instead on their own figures. This data gap compounds the problem that farmers often underestimate the benefits of pulse contributions to soil quality and yields.

2 How can industry and government put farmers in the driving seat to ensure that agricultural R&D delivers what they need? Please rank your top three options by order of importance (from 1 as your most important to 3 as your least important):

How can industry and government put farmers in the driving seat to ensure that agricultural R&D delivers what they need? - a. Encouraging a stronger focus on near-market applied agricultural R&D:

How can industry and government put farmers in the driving seat to ensure that agricultural R&D delivers what they need? - b. Bringing groups of farms together in research syndicates to deliver practical solutions:

How can industry and government put farmers in the driving seat to ensure that agricultural R&D delivers what they need? - c. Accelerating the 'proof of concept' testing of novel approaches to agricultural constraints:

How can industry and government put farmers in the driving seat to ensure that agricultural R&D delivers what they need? - d. Giving the farming industry a greater say in setting the strategic direction for research funding:

How can industry and government put farmers in the driving seat to ensure that agricultural R&D delivers what they need? - e. Other (please specify):
1

If you have answered 'Other (please specify)', please explain your preferred alternative::

There are other key stakeholders in agriculture, not just the current farmers. Agriculture R&D must help deliver the just, sustainable society which we all need.

Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences::

Research funding into protein crops could immediately build on an existing infrastructure of scientific institutions and research organisations. The Processors and Growers Research Organisation (PGRO), a charity paid through a voluntary levy by pulse, vegetable and legume growers, already carries out several research and support schemes. Through the PGRO, public funding for protein crops could be supported in these early stages of development by match funding from the government over a certain period, eventually replaced by a mandatory levy, replicating the successes observed in Canada. An option to be explored is to shift the PGRO structure towards an additional Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) that exists for other crop and animal farming categories in the UK. Utilising the role of the AHDB would require a refocusing of the board towards research, particularly farmer-led research and large-scale trials that are easily accessible. The commercial and consumer side of the industry is represented by the British Edible Pulses Association (BEPA), also funded through a voluntary levy system to promote pulses. Together the PGRO and BEPA are well-equipped to put research funding into the cultivation and sale of protein crops into action.

3 Would you like to respond to further questions on agricultural technology and research?

Yes

Agricultural technology and research (continued)

1 What are the main barriers to adopting new technology and ideas on-farm, and how can we overcome them?

Please respond in the text box provided: :

The main barrier is lack of political will for a truly sustainable society. A sustainable agri-ecological food and farming sector can only exist in such a context. Cost is major barrier for farmers and land managers with low income. People who have been in farming for a long time can put up barriers, if they have lived through extensive political unreliability, and many hardships. The lack of long term funding is a major barrier, because changes to land management techniques can take ten or more years to produce tangible benefits.

2 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

A successful future for farming: labour - a skilled workforce

1 What are the priority skills gaps across UK agriculture? Please rank your top three options by order of importance (from 1 as your most important to 3 as your least important):

What are the priority skills gaps across UK agriculture? - a. Business/financial:

What are the priority skills gaps across UK agriculture? - b. Risk management:

What are the priority skills gaps across UK agriculture? - c. Leadership:

What are the priority skills gaps across UK agriculture? - d. Engineering:

What are the priority skills gaps across UK agriculture? - e. Manufacturing:

What are the priority skills gaps across UK agriculture? - f. Research:

What are the priority skills gaps across UK agriculture? - g. Other (please specify):

1

If you have answered 'Other (please specify)', please explain your preferred alternative::

Knowledge of horticulture, field scale legume production, political negotiation, as well as all of the above.

Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences::

We need all of the above with a focus on protein crops which present an opportunity for truly sustainable farming. We particularly need publicly supported and funded research into pulses.

2 Would you like to respond to further questions on labour - a skilled workforce?

Yes

Labour - a skilled workforce (continued)

1 What can industry do to help make agriculture and land management a great career choice?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Pay their taxes, to fund a Universal Basic Income, so that farmers and land managers have the time they need to follow best practice.

2 How can government support industry to build the resilience of the agricultural sector to meet labour demand?

Please respond in the text box provided::

A fully sustainable rural and farming economy will need the number of younger people entering the sector to increase dramatically, perhaps increasing several times over .

The food supply industry is only one example of industries which currently are associated with farming and land management, or which could use inputs grown by farmers. Government could support people working in all these industries to invest some of their working time in learning the practice of farming, so that some could change sectors. Government and industry could collaborate to support thorough farming apprenticeship schemes, both for young people, and older career changers.

3 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

A well-funded UK plant protein 'fork to fork' initiative could support major growth in the numbers of people skilled UK in food, farming and environment work.

Public money for public goods

1 Which of the environmental outcomes listed below do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? Please rank your top three options by order of importance:

Which of the environmental outcomes listed below do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? - a.

Improved soil health:

2

Which of the environmental outcomes listed below do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? - b.

Improved water quality:

Which of the environmental outcomes listed below do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? - c.

Better air quality:

Which of the environmental outcomes listed below do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? - d.

Increased biodiversity:

3

Which of the environmental outcomes listed below do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? - e.

Climate change mitigation:

1

Which of the environmental outcomes listed below do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? - f.

Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment:

Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences::

Climate change affects all life on the planet, and as a result, damage to people, the environment and other animals is already a fact of life globally. To avoid dangerous climate change we must limit the average global surface temperature increase to below 2°C. The actual global contribution of livestock farming to GHG emissions has been estimated to be at least 14.5%. Chatham House has said that it is unlikely that global temperature rises can be kept below two degrees Celsius in the absence of a radical shift in meat and dairy consumption, and effort should be made into supporting farmers to move away from animal farming and into growing crops for human consumption. If UK diets are to be sustainable, healthy, affordable, and ethical, it is clear that protein crops represent a win-win-win-win.

2 Of the other options listed below, which do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support?

Please rank your top three options by order of importance:

Of the other options listed below, which do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? - a. World-class animal welfare:

1

Of the other options listed below, which do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? - b. High animal health standards:

2

Of the other options listed below, which do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? - c. Protection of crops, tree, plant and bee health:

3

Of the other options listed below, which do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? - d. Improved productivity and competitiveness:

Of the other options listed below, which do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? - e. Preserving rural resilience and traditional farming and landscapes in the uplands:

Of the other options listed below, which do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support? - f. Public access to the countryside:

Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences: :

The health and welfare of animals requires an end to animal farming, including artificial breeding. Previously farmed animals need to live out their natural lives in semi-natural sanctuaries. This will in turn support many other public goods – reduced risk of zoonotic infections; better protection of antibiotic effectiveness in humans; improved food security at local, national and global levels; improved rural community resilience; more scope for habitat restoration, protection and creation; scope for better protection of the health of free living animals, including bees, and plants, including field crops, trees and other flora.

3 Are there any other public goods which you think the government should support?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Improving and maintaining the health and productivity of soils, maintaining water quality, reducing carbon footprints, stimulating greater biodiversity and improving human health are all public goods that the government should support. Protein crops, like pulses, can help achieve all these aims, and more.

Enhancing our environment

1 From the list below, please select which outcomes would be best achieved by incentivising action across a number of farms or other land parcels in a future environmental land management system:

k. Other (please specify)

If you have answered 'Other (please specify)' please explain your preferred alternative::

Co-ordinated action by farmers and land managers, with local communities, is required for all aspects of environmental protection.

Please give a short explanation as to your preferences::

2 Would you like to respond to further questions on enhancing our environment?

Yes

Enhancing our environment (continued)

1 What role should outcome based payments have in a new environmental land management system?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Limited: Good environmental land management principles are reasonably well established, but good outcomes take more than a few financial years to be established.

2 How can an approach to a new environmental land management system be developed that balances national and local priorities for environmental outcomes?

Please respond in the text box provided:

By always being open to learning from knowledgeable people, including local people, innovative smallholders, and other often neglected groups.

3 How can farmers and land managers work together or with third parties to deliver environmental outcomes?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Firstly, by having the support they need to dedicate time, planning, investment and other resources into the transition to sustainable land management.

4 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Systems cannot be 'partly sustainable', there is a threshold beyond which they are just unsustainable. Farming animals is a top three source of all forms of pollution from local water pollution to greenhouse gases (FAO).

Fulfilling our responsibility to animals

1 Do you think there is a strong case for government funding pilots and other schemes which incentivise and deliver improved welfare?

Yes

Please give a short explanation as to your preference::

Animals have a fundamental ethical right to live freely in rich, extensive, connected habitat and to express their natural behaviours. Animals which have been artificially bred need semi-natural sanctuary environments to protect their welfare. Government has for decades tried to persuade farmers to treat their animals slightly better than the legislative minimum. We now demand legal recognition of the sentience and rights of non-human animals. Potentially a very simple regulatory approach to animal welfare is to discourage animal farming, as part of measures specifically to enable willing farmers to transition toward sustainable land management.

2 Should government set further standards to ensure greater consistency and understanding of welfare information at the point of purchase? Please indicate a single preference from the below options:

a. Yes

If you have answered 'Other (please specify)', please explain your preferred alternative::

Please give a short explanation as to your preference. If you answered 'perhaps in some areas', please elaborate::

Products of all kinds (not just food and drink) should be clearly labelled as to whether non-human animals have been used in their manufacture in any way, or not.

3 What type of action do you feel is most likely to have the biggest impact on improving animal health on farms? Please rank your top 3 choices from the below list, in order of importance (from 1 as your most important to 3 as your least important):

What type of action do you feel is most likely to have the biggest impact on improving animal health on farms? - a. Use of regulation to ensure action is taken:

What type of action do you feel is most likely to have the biggest impact on improving animal health on farms? - b. Use of financial incentives to support action:

What type of action do you feel is most likely to have the biggest impact on improving animal health on farms? - c. Supporting vets to provide targeted animal health advice on farm:

What type of action do you feel is most likely to have the biggest impact on improving animal health on farms? - d. Making it easier for retailers and other parts of the supply chain to recognise and reward higher standards of animal health:

What type of action do you feel is most likely to have the biggest impact on improving animal health on farms? - e. An industry body with responsibility for promoting animal health:

What type of action do you feel is most likely to have the biggest impact on improving animal health on farms? - f. Research and knowledge exchange:

What type of action do you feel is most likely to have the biggest impact on improving animal health on farms? - g. Transparent and easily accessible data:

What type of action do you feel is most likely to have the biggest impact on improving animal health on farms? - h. An understanding of animal health standards on comparable farms:

What type of action do you feel is most likely to have the biggest impact on improving animal health on farms? - i. Other (please specify):

1

What type of action do you feel is most likely to have the biggest impact on improving animal health on farms? - j. N/A – Cannot rank as they are all equally important.:

If you have selected 'Other (please specify)' please explain your preferred alternative::

Transition away from animal farming

Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences::

A transition to semi-natural sanctuaries for farmed animals, for their welfare and to greatly reduce habitat damage for free-living animals.

4 Would you like to respond to further questions on fulfilling our responsibility to animals?

Yes

Fulfilling our responsibility to animals (continued)

1 How can the government best support industry to develop an ambitious plan to tackle endemic diseases and drive up animal health standards?

Please respond in the text box provided::

By supporting the transition away from farming animals.

2 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

The health of free-living animals, and their habitat, should also be a priority here. Farmed animals are inherently artificially bred, fragile and unhealthy compared to their free-living counterparts.

Supporting rural communities and remote farming

1 How should farming, land management and rural communities continue to be supported to deliver environmental, social and cultural benefits in the uplands?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Some upland farmers will have some land suitable for plant protein crops for direct human consumption, particularly the hardy and early varieties, or the land may be suitable for productive trees. It is particularly important that people in upland areas are supported with grants and consistent advice on habitat restoration, protection and creation. Upland environments are particularly fragile, and have been especially damaged by previous policies such as overgrazing by farming of sheep. Habitat restoration and creation provides extensive environmental, social and cultural benefits in rural areas and communities. It may be necessary to take some of this land out of farming altogether, and farmers and communities should be supported and trained into new sustainable diversification alternatives.

2 There are a number of challenges facing rural communities and businesses. Please rank your top three options by order of importance (from 1 as your most important to 3 as your least important):

There are a number of challenges facing rural communities and businesses. - a. Broadband coverage:

There are a number of challenges facing rural communities and businesses. - b. Mobile phone coverage:

There are a number of challenges facing rural communities and businesses. - c. Access to finance:

There are a number of challenges facing rural communities and businesses. - d. Affordable housing:

There are a number of challenges facing rural communities and businesses. - e. Availability of suitable business accommodation:

There are a number of challenges facing rural communities and businesses. - f. Access to skilled labour:

There are a number of challenges facing rural communities and businesses. - g. Transport connectivity:

There are a number of challenges facing rural communities and businesses. - h. Other (please specify):

1

If you have selected 'Other (please specify)', please explain your preferred alternative::

All

Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences::

All these issues need to be addressed. Also, the middle altitudes of uplands and thus, rural upland communities, benefit greatly from natural and semi-natural tree regeneration.

3 Would you like to respond to further questions on supporting rural communities and remote farming?

Yes

Supporting rural communities and remote farming (continued)

1 With reference to the way you have ranked your answer to the previous question, what should government do to address the challenges faced by rural communities and businesses post-EU Exit?

Please respond in the text box provided::

In the EU or outside it, farmers need to be supported to move away from farming animals. Only then can rural and upland communities become sustainable.

2 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

To quote the Consultation statement, "For example, the distinctive character of the Lake District landscape has been shaped through long association with sheep farming, one of the sectors currently most dependent on Direct Payments." and "The majority of farms in Severely Disadvantaged Areas (but not all) are grazing livestock businesses with sheep or cattle, although dairy farms and forestry are also important in some areas."

The ecological quality and resilience of the Lake District environment would be significantly improved by moving away from sheep farming, and allowing natural succession regeneration to occur. Rewilding hill areas currently under sheep farming will not significantly decrease UK food production. Part of the work is changing our consumption habits to that which can be sustainably produced.

Changing regulatory culture

1 How can we improve inspections for environmental, animal health and welfare standards? Please indicate any of your preferred options below (Select as many options as you wish).

Other (please specify)

If you have selected 'Other (please specify)', please explain your preferred alternative::

Greatly reduce the need for inspections, by supporting farmers to transition to sustainable crop farming.

Please give a short explanation as to your preferences::

Environmental inspections will be significantly more manageable once farmers have a guaranteed basic quality of life, and farming culture is focused upon healthy, environmentally sustainable crop farming. Animal health and welfare are dependent upon the animals currently being farmed being moved to semi-natural habitats in sanctuaries.

2 Would you like to respond to further questions on changing regulatory culture?

Yes

Changing regulatory culture (continued)

1 Which parts of the regulatory baseline could be improved, and how?

Please respond in the text box provided::

2 How can we deliver a more targeted and proportionate enforcement system?

Please respond in the text box provided::

3 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Risk management and resilience

1 What factors most affect farm businesses' decisions on whether to buy agricultural insurance? Please rank your top three options by order of importance (from 1 as your most important to 3 as your least important):

What factors most affect farm businesses' decisions whether to buy agricultural insurance? - a. Desire to protect themselves from general risks (e.g. revenue protection):

What factors most affect farm businesses' decisions whether to buy agricultural insurance? - b. Desire to protect themselves from specific risks (e.g. flooding, pests or disease):

What factors most affect farm businesses' decisions whether to buy agricultural insurance? - c. Provision of government compensation for some risks:

What factors most affect farm businesses' decisions whether to buy agricultural insurance? - d. Cost of insurance:

What factors most affect farm businesses' decisions whether to buy agricultural insurance? - e. Complexity and administrative burden of insurance:

What factors most affect farm businesses' decisions whether to buy agricultural insurance? - f. Availability of relevant insurance products:

What factors most affect farm businesses' decisions whether to buy agricultural insurance? - g. Other (please specify):

1

If you have selected 'Other (please specify)' please explain your preferred alternative:

Farmers are automatically insured under a national resilience scheme.

Please give a short explanation as to your given ranking of preferences:

Farmers can only make informed decisions about risk management and resilience, and thus agriculture insurance, within a sustainable society.

2 Would you like to respond to further questions on risk management and resilience?

Yes

Risk management and resilience (continued)

1 What additional skills, data and tools would help better manage volatility in agricultural production and revenues for:

a. Farm businesses? Please respond in the text box provided::

The social and economic security for farmers to fully evaluate how best the land under their management can be sustainably farmed.

b. Insurance providers? Please respond in the text box provided::

Understanding of global climate change, and the changes needed to create a healthy, sustainable food supply chain.

2 How can current arrangements for managing market crises and providing crisis support be improved?

Please respond in the text box provided::

A national commitment to a sustainable farming system.

3 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Imported food is likely to be scarcer and more expensive. Food and farming policy needs to focus on good, affordable food for the home market, and resilient farmer livelihoods that are environmentally sustainable.

Ensuring fairness in the supply chain

1 How can we improve transparency and relationships across the food supply chain? Please rank your top three options by order of importance (from 1 as your most important to 3 as your least important):

How can we improve transparency and relationships across the food supply chain? - a. Promoting Producer Organisations and other formal structures?:

How can we improve transparency and relationships across the food supply chain? - b. Introducing statutory codes of conduct?:

How can we improve transparency and relationships across the food supply chain? - c. Improving the provision of data on volumes, stocks and prices etc.?:

How can we improve transparency and relationships across the food supply chain? - d. Other (please specify):

1

If you have selected 'Other (please specify)' please explain your preferred alternative::

People at all stages of the food supply chain need to be committed to paying the full externalities of production to farmers.

Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences::

Farmers can only work sustainably if people across the whole food chain pay them fairly. Food procurement in the public sector should be modelling best practice for transparency and fairness in the supply chain. Public procurement could be enhanced by further developing the Government Buying Standards. There are already calls to improve these standards for environmental reasons or to promote British produce. UK-produced protein crops could be promoted under either or both considerations. Government departments and local authorities should be encouraged to use UK-grown plant proteins as a staple meal in their canteens.

2 Would you like to respond to further questions on ensuring fairness in the supply chain?

Yes

Ensuring fairness in the supply chain (continued)

1 What are the biggest barriers to collaboration amongst farmers?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Marginalisation of stakeholders such as local fruit and vegetable box scheme farmers, stockfree farmers.

2 What are the most important benefits that collaboration between farmers and other parts of the supply chain can bring?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Farmers collaborating with people who are processing their crops locally, and for food for direct human consumption are particularly important. Such collaborations can enable farmers and food processors to make a fairer return on their products. For example, people increasingly place real value upon nutritious food with known, local provenance. So locally grown and processed food products can sell for a higher margin, and the farmer can enjoy more direct return on their crops.

How could government help to enable this? Please respond in the text box provided::

Government can help by listening to and being led by the people who are already developing fairer, more transparent – usually shorter – food supply chains.

3 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

The British business, Hodmedod, provides a good case study here. Hodmedod was founded in 2012 following research into the scope for production and supply of plant protein in the UK. This research was carried out by East Anglia Food Link (EAFL) for the Norwich Transition Towns group. Results showed that the main British protein crop, fava beans, was almost entirely used for feeding farmed animals (in the UK and after export), but also for traditional dishes such as Falafel and Ful Medames enjoyed across North Africa and the Middle East. Meanwhile, the vast majority of dried and canned pulses on British shop shelves were imported. The founders of Hodmedod ran a trial project through the summer of 2012 and proved that people in Norwich would enjoy eating fava beans from East Anglia. Hodmedod has since grown to work closely with over 20 farmers and sourcing over 100 tonnes of pulses and quinoa annually for supply to retailers, caterers and manufacturers across the UK. Hodmedod also have a broader vision, to completely re-think on-farm rotations – how this year's crop can benefit next year's crop - for UK crop farming.

Protecting crop, tree, plant and bee health

1 Where there are insufficient commercial drivers, how far do you agree or disagree that government should play a role in supporting:

a. Industry, woodland owners and others to respond collaboratively and swiftly to outbreaks of priority pests and diseases in trees?:

Strongly agree

b. Landscape recovery following pest and disease outbreaks, and the development of more resilient trees?:

Strongly agree

c. The development of a bio-secure supply chain across the forestry, horticulture and beekeeping sectors?:

Strongly agree

Please give a short explanation as to your preferences::

All of the above - and more. Commercial considerations cannot ensure healthy habitats. Government needs to financially support the people who are already leading on protecting crop plants, trees, natural habitats and free-living animals including all species of free-living bees.

2 Would you like to respond to further questions on protecting crop, tree, plant and bee health?

Yes

Protecting crop, tree, plant and bee health (continued)

1 Where there are insufficient commercial drivers, what role should government play in:

a. Supporting industry, woodland owners and others to respond collaboratively and swiftly to outbreaks of priority pests and diseases in trees?

Please respond in the text box provided::

b. Promoting landscape recovery following pest and disease outbreaks, and the development of more resilient trees? Please respond in the text box provided::

Trees, whether in parkland, woodland, urban or other settings, are vital to ensure a healthy, sustainable country. Government needs to financially support all people involved in protecting, restoring and creating woodland and tree-containing habitats.

2 What support, if any, can the government offer to promote the development of a bio-secure supply chain across the forestry, horticulture and beekeeping sectors?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Government needs to financially support all people involved in reducing vulnerability to diseases. Beekeeping is inherently damaging – instead, free-living bees need protection from agrochemicals, habitat destruction and all other threats.

3 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

Sustainable crop farming techniques are a fundamental part of ecological resilience in farmed landscapes.

Devolution: maintaining cohesion and flexibility

1 With reference to the principles set out by JMC(EN) and listed in the devolution chapter, what are the agriculture and land management policy areas where a common approach across the UK is necessary?

Please respond in the text box provided::

The transition away from animal farming, toward sustainable plant-based agriculture.

2 What are the likely impacts on cross-border farms if each administration can tailor its own agriculture and land management policy?

Please respond in the text box provided::

With the right support, farmers can manage these challenges.

3 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

There is important work going on due to devolution. For example, the Scottish Government funded 'Strategic Research Programme' is one of the largest coordinated programmes in the UK for agri-food and environmental sciences. As part of this, The Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health, at University of Aberdeen is making a comprehensive nutritional study of protein plants that grow well in Scotland, such as lupin, hemp, buckwheat, pea and fava bean, and even oats.

International Trade

1 How far do you agree or disagree with the broad priorities set out in the trade chapter?

Please choose one of the options from the dropdown list::

Disagree

2 How can government and industry work together to open up new markets?

Please respond in the text box provided::

By creating tasty, nutritious food products based on UK grown plant protein crops.

3 How can we best protect and promote our brand, remaining global leaders in environmental protection, food safety, and in standards of production and animal welfare?

Please respond in the text box provided::

By committing to a fully sustainable society, with a sustainable and resilient food and farming supply chain based upon crop farming in all forms.

4 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

There is a clear link between helping people out of poverty and increasing their food security. People in extreme poverty in the UK and around the world can be helped through measures such as microfinance, secure access to fertile land, food and farming cooperatives, coherent policy making and implementation, and concerted action by all the people involved.

Globally around a third of all food produced is lost. WRAP estimates that in the UK, over one quarter of food is wasted. Around 10 million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK after being bought from farmers, and WRAP estimate that we could have avoided 60% of that loss. The estimated lost financial value is around £17 billion a year, and is associated with round 20 million tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The United Nations Global Compact Food and Agriculture headline aims are , "Promote sustainable food and agriculture systems. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture." The UN Global Compact is, "The world's largest corporate sustainability initiative: A call to companies to align strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and take actions that advance societal goals."

Legislation: the Agriculture Bill

1 How far do you agree with the proposed powers of the Agriculture Bill?

Please choose one of the options from the dropdown list::

Disagree

2 What other measures might we need in the Agriculture Bill to achieve our objectives?

Please respond in the text box provided::

The most favourable land for crop agriculture needs to be protected from damage. This requires top-down intervention by Government, and planning law against building or other forms of industry on the crop land we need (to grow crops for human consumption), must be strengthened.

3 Do you have any further comments?

Please respond in the text box provided::

The UK as a whole needs to make new, broad, strong commitments to a transition toward a sustainable society, supplied by crop agriculture.