

Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum policy conference:

Next steps for UK agricultural policy

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 18th April 2024

Taking Place Online



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **UK agricultural policy and the outlook for addressing key issues facing the sector**
James Kane, Associate, Institute for Government
- 9.15 **Priorities for farmers following updated payment schemes, and effective delivery to secure income streams**
Alex Stevens, Chief Sustainable Supply Chains Adviser, National Farmers Union
- 9.25 **Next steps for supporting the tenant farming sector - key issues for adopting sustainable practices, financing, and future growth**
George Dunn, Chief Executive, Tenant Farmers Association
- 9.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 **Payments and the Agricultural Transition Plan**
Opportunities for increasing sector engagement | Priorities for different types of farming and encouraging uptake of the Environmental Land Management scheme | Improving accessibility to education and skills for new practices | Maximising productivity whilst navigating changes to payment systems | environmental protection in agriculture and implementing sustainable farming practices
Susan Twining, Chief Land Use Policy Adviser, Country Land and Business Association
Stephen Jacob, Chief Executive, The Institute for Agriculture and Horticulture
Dr Julia Aglionby, Professor of Practice, University of Cumbria
Vicki Hird, Strategic Lead on Agriculture, The Wildlife Trusts
Senior representative, legal
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Sewell of Sanderstead CBE
- 11.15 **'Government policy, assessing current trends, and options going forward'**
Sarah Baker, Head of Economics, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board
- 11.25 **Farm strategies for addressing economic challenges - latest thinking and best practice in business planning, holistic farming practices, and adapting to cost and wider commercial pressures**
Dr Nerys Llewelyn Jones, Founder and Partner, Agri Advisor
- 11.35 **Strategies for diversification in agriculture**
Short-term options to finance transition to long-term programmes | Alternative income streams | Increasing public footfall and engagement with farms | Optimising under-used sites and commercial letting | Overcoming regulatory challenges | Options for renewable energy and farming
Adam White, Head of Agriculture, Barclays
Professor Paul Burgess, Professor of Sustainable Agriculture and Agroforestry, Cranfield University
Anne Mair-Chapman, North East Ambassador, LEAF Open Farm Sunday
Ross Evans, Technical Director, Land, WSP Group
Senior representative, energy
- 12.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for agricultural policy, support and coordination**
Rt Hon Sir Mark Spencer MP, Minister of State, Food, Farming and Fisheries, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (pre-recorded contribution)
Questions and comments from the floor with a senior representative confirmed from the **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks**
Lord Sewell of Sanderstead CBE
Jessica Lear, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum