

Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum Keynote Seminar: Implementing the Common Agricultural Policy and the future of UK farming

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 11th July 2013

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET



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Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP, former Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Taking forward CAP reform: the view from the European Commission**
Gwilym Jones, International and Legal Affairs, Cabinet of Commissioner Ciolos, European Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.15 **Implementing the Common Agricultural Policy: meeting the challenges of food security, sustainability and workforce**
Following the recent agreement by European leaders on cuts to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) as part of wider reductions to the European Budget between 2014-2020, what are the likely implications for UK farming, and what impact might this have on the European Commission's priority of meeting the challenges of food security? How realistic are claims that the European Agricultural Committee's vote in favour of more flexible 'greening' measures will damage chances of meeting the European Commission's own goal of reducing the environmental impact of farming? With the recent release of Government's Future of Farming Review and a Young Farmers Scheme being introduced as part of CAP reforms, what more should Government be doing to equip the UK with the workforce needed to meet future food demand?
Edward Barker, Agricultural Advisor, Country Land and Business Association
Caroline Drummond, Chief Executive, Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)
Professor Wyn Grant, Professor of Politics, University of Warwick
Katherine Sealy, Representative, National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs - European Council of Young Farmers
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 - 10.45 **Challenges for implementing the CAP in the UK**
Martin Nesbit, Director of EU and International Agriculture, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Rt Hon Caroline Spelman MP, former Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- 10.50 - 11.20 Coffee
- 11.20 - 11.25 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Baroness Parminter, Member, EU Sub-Committee D - Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment and Energy
- 11.25 - 11.50 **CAP post 2014**
David Baldock, Executive Director, Institute for European Environmental Policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.50 - 12.05 **Agricultural reform and wider challenges for the farming community**
Peter Kendall, President, NFU
- 12.05 - 12.55 **Priorities for UK farming**
What impact will reforms have on the ability of UK agriculture to compete both within the EU and internationally? With recent research by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board suggesting Wales, Scotland and Northern England would be worst hit by the European Commission's crop rotation 'greening' proposals, what more can be done to ensure equality of CAP implementation throughout the UK? With the Single Payment Scheme now due to expire in December 2014, what challenges exist for transferring to the new Basic Payment Scheme by 2015? What impact will the recently announced 2014 transition period have on the UK farming industry, and how can Government work with industry to ensure a simple and cost-effective implementation process? Will Government's introduction of a single computer system for all CAP funding in England reduce red-tape in farming, and what more can be done to reduce the bureaucratic burden of the CAP on UK agriculture?
David Barnes, Deputy Director, Agriculture and Rural Development, Scottish Government
Jeremy Walker, Chairman, Tenant Farmers Association
Professor Michael Cardwell, Professor of Agricultural Law, University of Leeds
Dr Nick Fenwick, Director of Agricultural Policy, Farmers' Union of Wales
Questions and comments from the floor with **Peter Kendall**, President, NFU
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks**
Baroness Parminter, Member, EU Sub-Committee D - Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment and Energy
Michael Ryan, Deputy Editor, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum