Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum policy conference:
Next steps for animal and plant health in the UK
Timing: Morning, Monday, 30th November 2026
*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 **Assessing current challenges and priorities in animal and plant health in the UK**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor

9.25 **Plant health, biosecurity and surveillance - preparedness, trade pathways and resilient production**
UK priorities for plant health and international cooperation | surveillance and early detection of pests and pathogens | inspector, laboratory and diagnostic capacity | contingency planning and outbreak response | risks associated with plants for planting, e-commerce and postal imports | phytosanitary controls and plant passporting | industry reporting and data-sharing | domestic propagation and resilience | international standards and electronic certification
Senior representative, plant health
Senior representative, horticulture
Senior representative, surveillance
Questions and comments from the floor

10.05 **Priorities for supporting livestock health and farm resilience**
Catherine McLaughlin, Chief Advisor, Animal Health and Welfare, National Farmers' Union

10.15 **Strengthening animal disease prevention, surveillance and outbreak preparedness**
Dr Klara Saville, Director, Bridge to Better Programme, Animal and Plant Health Agency

10.25 **Animal welfare, disease prevention and practical implementation across farming systems**
Animal Welfare Strategy for England and the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway | proposed mandatory health reviews and disease control programmes | transition requirements across different farming systems | investment and infrastructure requirements | costs, proportionality and implications for smaller producers and tenant farmers | veterinary involvement and delivery capacity | farm biosecurity, vaccination and movement controls | disease surveillance, preparedness and outbreak response
Senior representative, veterinary
Senior representative, advocacy

10.35 Questions and comments from the floor

10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.00 Break

11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.15 **Priorities for veterinary regulation and professional standards**
Dr Jane Clark, Director, Veterinary Services, Food Standards Agency

11.25 **Veterinary workforce and future provision - capacity, professional roles and service delivery**
reform of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 | regulation of veterinary and animal healthcare businesses | recruitment, retention and training | capacity across private practice and public veterinary services | veterinary nurses, allied professionals and delegation | making effective use of skills across the veterinary team | access to veterinary provision across farming and rural areas | changing models of service delivery and remote provision
Tim Hutchinson, President, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Senior representative, farming

11.35 Questions and comments from the floor

11.50 **Technology, data and precision breeding - supporting prevention, surveillance and resilience**
use of data for earlier identification of diseases, pests and pathogens | interoperability and information governance across government, industry and veterinary systems | rapid and on-farm diagnostics | remote monitoring and decision-support tools | validation, cost and barriers to adoption | precision breeding for disease resistance, welfare and resilience | development of the England framework for animals | approaches across the UK and the EU and implications of future SPS arrangements | routes from research and development into practical use
Senior representative, gene-editing
Senior representative, data
Senior representative, research

12.05 Questions and comments from the floor

12.25 **Trade, biosecurity and competitiveness - SPS arrangements, standards and market access**
UK-EU SPS agreement | scope and implementation of dynamic alignment | transition and business readiness | changes to certification and routine border checks | implications for animal and plant health regulation | maintaining effective biosecurity as trade arrangements change | effects of domestic welfare, environmental and biosecurity requirements on production costs | treatment of imports produced to different standards | core production standards and wider safeguards | opportunities and implications of reduced barriers to EU trade | market access for exporters and import-dependent sectors | movements between Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Sally Cullimore, Technical and Trade Policy Manager, Horticultural Trades Association
Senior representative, retail
Senior representative, consumers
Senior representative, food producer
Questions and comments from the floor

13.05 **Chair's and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Jessica Lear, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum