

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 international plant health priorities and implementation | 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, Veterinary Head, Exotic Diseases, 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
Senior representative, veterinary profession
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 other 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
Senior representative, horticulture
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