



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales**  
**Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig |**  
**Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee**  
**Ymchwiliad i ddyfodol Polisiâu Amaethyddol a Datblygu**  
**Gwledig yng Nghymru | Inquiry into the Future of Agricultural**  
**and Rural Development Policies in Wales**  
**AAB 29**  
**Ymateb gan Canolfan CFfi Cymru**  
**Evidence from Wales YFC Centre**

Wales YFC welcomes the opportunity to deliver our vision for the future of Welsh agriculture since the vote to leave the European Union. The decision to leave the EU provides us with a unique opportunity to shape and develop a domestic agricultural policy in partnership with Welsh Government that will enable us to realise a shared industry vision of a prosperous, profitable and progressive future for agricultural.

This document sets out our key priorities

## **1. Market Access & Supply Chain**

- 1.1 It is an essential requirement to maintain and secure the best possible access to the European markets and therefore will continue to be the main export region for the Welsh Food and Drink industry.
  - 1.2 Work to establishing new trade agreements with the rest of the world.
  - 1.3 New trade agreements that become established must not open our own markets to imports that are not produced to our world leading standards.
  - 1.4 Securing food for our nation in terms of global challenges must be a priority and Wales must continue to be seen as a country that produces food of the highest provenance and quality whilst taking care of the environment.
  - 1.5 Agriculture should take priority when trade discussions take place, under no circumstances should it be treated as a bargaining tool and we would urge Welsh Government to hold Agriculture in the same high regard as London holds its banking sector given that the Food and Farming industry contributes 20% of total income to the Welsh economy. The Food and Drink industry is integral to the Welsh economy, valued at 6.2 billion, Wales YFC has bold aspirations to reach the £8 billion target and feel that by working in partnership this is achievable.
  - 1.6 The misleading of the consumer is of great concern. Supermarkets must be taken to task in relation to false labelling. The country of origin must be clearly labelled.
  - 1.7 British food should always be given priority space on our supermarket shelves. We would welcome the introduction of QR codes to provide the consumer with accurate information and complete traceability resulting in trust and a confidence in the product they are purchasing.
  - 1.8 Wales YFC would welcome stronger rules in relation to public procurement in Wales. British food should be served in our schools, hospitals and to our armed forces.
  - 1.9 Wales YFC would welcome support and recognition for alliances to be made with other British industries for example the construction, steel and forestry industries.
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## **2. Public Engagement & Education**

- 2.1 Wales YFC believes that significant work needs to be done to strengthen 'Brand Wales & Brand British' which promotes high quality and high value.
- 2.2 The public's perception of farming is not always accurate and therefore a need for informed messages is vitally needed.
- 2.3 Education – The consumer must be informed that the health & welfare of British livestock and crops are of the highest standards in the world. There must be a source of readily available information to support this and much more farmer engagement at each level.
- 2.4 Food, Farming and Fitness must be part of the National Curriculum, beginning at the Foundation phase through to the Welsh Bac where there is significant opportunity for learning.

## **3. Access into the Industry**

- 3.1 Wales YFC firmly believes that the person actively engaging in food production and therefore taking the risks associated with food production should be in receipt of support to do so.
- 3.2 Together we need to encourage mobility within the industry. There are many good examples of successful mechanisms put in place for new and young entrants to begin farming. First and foremost there is a need to change attitudes and perceptions surrounding succession and alternative models must be investigated such as viable starter units, contract farming, shared farming, apprentice schemes, contracts for services and the preservation of our council holdings.

## **4. Domestic Agricultural Policy**

- 4.1 We are now presented with a golden opportunity to review legislation that has no purpose behind it, for example the six day standstill rule, along with legislation that has a high cost attached to it.
- 4.2 Wales YFC welcomed Commissioner Hogan's commitment to simplify the CAP, a similar commitment towards the simplification of legislation within the UK would be sought after.
- 4.3 Whilst we appreciate that legislation is necessary to some extent there is strong feeling amongst the membership that the regulatory burden must not increase and add to the increasing workload of farmers unless there is an evidence based justification to its inclusion.
- 4.4 The creation of a tailored domestic agricultural policy offers the opportunity to design a policy that fits our needs which consists of different elements and that has the ability to target specific issues and deliver multiple benefits to rural society. Wales YFC has a vision for a Welsh agricultural policy that supports young and new entrants, supports investment in new technologies, underpins food production and encourages knowledge transfer.
- 4.5 Science must be the basis for all decision making and future legislation. We have a desire to be TB free, BVD free and NVZ free and this can only be achieved through the best use of science, populist campaigning should never over rule science and evidence based policy making. The vision of the next generation to be the best food producers who are efficient and productive whilst maintaining the environment can all be achieved through the best use of science and technology.

## **5. Future Support**

- 5.1 Whilst we recognise that change is inevitable we would urge that transition happen gradually. It is vital that a period of transition be exercised from current arrangements to a new domestic agricultural policy, this will help to maintain our productive capacity and continuity of goods into the supply chain. It is essential that as and when a new policy evolves that the support requirements for each measure will be determined once trade agreements are identified.
- 5.2 It is essential that we consider the way in which funding is drawn from the UK Government into Wales. This is currently determined by the Barnett formula. EU support into Welsh agriculture is not subject to the Barnett formula, and if this were to change for Wales it will have significant implications.
- 5.3 Achieving a level playing field is very important to the members of Wales YFC; we ask that the level of support made available to Welsh farmers be on a par with that of our closest competitors, which includes both our UK neighbours and the EU.
- 5.4 We urge that farmers are valued for the services they provide that benefit our rural localities for example the tourism industry, the Welsh language and the environment whilst still achieving a viable agricultural industry in Wales.
- 5.5 Wales YFC believes there is a strong need for support to enable us to be more efficient and drive innovation and to be able to respond to challenge and opportunity within the industry.

**Wales YFC is grateful for the opportunity to provide evidence to this inquiry that has significant importance and we look forward to working together to achieve a shared vision for Agriculture.**