CONSIDERATION OF BILL (REPORT STAGE)

AGRICULTURE BILL, AS AMENDED

NOTE

This document includes all amendments tabled to date and includes any withdrawn amendments at the end. The amendments have been arranged in the order in which they relate to the Bill.

Kerry McCarthy
Martin Whitfield
Darren Jones
Caroline Lucas
Mary Creagh
Alex Sobel
Stella Creasy
Tonia Antoniazzi
Dr Rupa Huq
Angela Smith
Kate Green
Mrs Madeleine Moon

Stephen Timms
Matt Western
Mr David Lammy
Daniel Zeichner
Debbie Abrahams

Ian Murray
Ruth Cadbury
Catherine West
Stephen Doughty
Owen Smith

NC1
“Ratification of international trade agreements”

(1) An international trade agreement shall not be ratified unless it enables the United Kingdom to require imports to—
   (a) comply with the standards laid down by primary and subordinate legislation in the United Kingdom regarding food safety, the environment and animal welfare, or
   (b) have been produced to standards that are no lower than the legislative standards of the United Kingdom in protecting food safety, the environment and animal welfare.

(2) In this section “international trade agreement” has the same meaning as in section 2(2) of the Trade Act 2018.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause would prevent the Government from entering into trade agreements that allow food imports that do not meet the UK’s environmental, animal welfare and food safety standards.

Neil Parish

To move the following Clause—

“Agriculture: definition and principles”

(1) For the purposes of this Act, agriculture shall be taken to mean any activity which entails the cultivation of land or plants or the breeding of animals to provide food, fuel or other products to sustain life.

(2) Agriculture shall include—
   (a) arable farming,
   (b) animal husbandry,
   (c) horticulture, and
   (d) forestry.

(3) Agriculture shall be undertaken in accordance with the principles of—
   (a) increasing production and productivity,
   (b) achieving security of food supply, and
   (c) providing consumers with food at reasonable prices with a fair price for the farmer.

(4) Any person undertaking an agricultural activity shall, as far as possible, pay regard to the development of new technology and practices in promoting the principles under subsection (3).”

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause would clearly define what agriculture is and would enshrine the concept of agriculture in the legislation.
Consideration of Bill (Report Stage): 26 November 2018

Agriculture Bill, continued

Neil Parish

To move the following Clause—

“Level of food production: duty on Secretary of State
It shall be the duty of the Secretary of State to ensure that food production in England does not fall to a level which puts at risk the supply of food to the population.”

Member’s explanatory statement
This new clause would protect food security and ensure its affordability for the population. This includes ensuring that enough home-grown food is produced if the UK experiences tensions with trading partners.

Caroline Lucas

Clause 1, page 2, line 1, leave out “supporting” and insert “enhancing”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would have the effect of ensuring that financial assistance could be provided to improve the accessibility of existing public rights of way. It would also ensure that financial assistance could be provided for the creation of new public access opportunities where these are most needed.

Neil Parish

Clause 1, page 2, line 3, after “enhances” insert “landscape quality,”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would ensure that the mechanics of the bill are aligned with the delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan with regard to landscape enhancement. Without this amendment, cultural and/or natural heritage enhancement could be delivered out of context, reducing the beauty of landscapes.

Kerry McCarthy
Zac Goldsmith
Caroline Lucas
Darren Jones

Clause 1, page 2, line 8, at end insert—
“(h) establishing and maintaining whole farm agroecological systems.”

Angela Smith

Clause 1, page 2, line 8, at end insert—
“(h) supporting rural development.”

Member’s explanatory statement
This would provide the Secretary of State with the ability to make payments for measures which are currently funded via the Rural Development Programme

Neil Parish

Clause 1, page 2, line 10, after first “of” insert “encouraging food production, or”
Agriculture Bill, continued

Angela Smith

Clause 1, page 2, line 11, at end insert—

“(2A) The Secretary of State shall, within six months of this Act being given Royal Assent, lay before Parliament a statement setting out his or her planned expenditure under subsection (2) for—

(a) financial year 2019-20, and

(b) financial year 2020-21.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the Secretary of State details how much expenditure is planned for managed change and to improve farm productivity growth before the beginning of the agricultural transition period during which cuts to the Basic Payment Scheme will occur.

Kerry McCarthy
Zac Goldsmith
Caroline Lucas
Darren Jones

Clause 1, page 2, line 23, at end insert—

“whole farm agroecological systems” include any whole enterprise system for farming or land management which is designed to produce food and/or fuel while delivering environmental and social benefits, and may include organic farming.”

Neil Parish

Clause 4, page 4, line 14, at end insert—

“(d) a payment to farmers in return for enhanced food production.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that farmers are entitled to a new basic payment scheme, which would encourage greater food production.

Neil Parish

Clause 9, page 7, line 24, at end insert—

“(8A) The Secretary of State may, after having taken steps to phase out direct payments under the basic payment scheme, reinstitute direct payments if he or she is satisfied that—

(a) to do so would be in the interests of those persons who formerly received direct payments, and

(b) any of the criteria under subsection (8B) are met.

(8B) The criteria for the purposes of subsection (8A) are—

(a) market failure,

(b) adverse weather conditions, and

(c) threat of disease to crops or livestock or to human health.”
Agriculture Bill, continued

Angela Smith

☆ Clause 9, page 6, line 29, at end insert—

“(2A) If any reduction in direct payments under the basic payment scheme is made during the agricultural transition period, a sum equivalent to the amount of any reduction in those payments must be made available for the purpose of giving financial assistance under section 1(1) or 1(2) of this Act.

(2B) When phasing out direct payments under this section, the Secretary of State shall have regard to the extent to which the power to give financial assistance under section 1 has been exercised.”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment would ensure that any cuts to the Basic Payment Scheme as part of the agricultural transition period fund improvements in productivity measures for the agricultural industry alongside payments for public goods. It would also ensure that the Secretary of State is taking into account the availability of new schemes when reducing direct payments.

Neil Parish

☆ Title, line 1, after “purposes;” insert “to encourage, maintain and enhance home-grown food production; to protect the UK’s food security;”

Member’s explanatory statement
This amendment is linked to New Clause 2 and Amendments 4 and 6 which would aim to include the importance of food production and of encouraging food production on the face of the bill and to highlight the importance of food security in post-Brexit farming policy.

ORDER OF THE HOUSE [10 OCTOBER 2018]
That the following provisions shall apply to the Agriculture Bill:

Committal

1. The Bill shall be committed to a Public Bill Committee.

Proceedings in Public Bill Committee

2. Proceedings in the Public Bill Committee shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion on Tuesday 20 November 2018.

3. The Public Bill Committee shall have leave to sit twice on the first day on which it meets.

Proceedings on Consideration and up to and including Third Reading

4. Proceedings on Consideration and any proceedings in legislative grand committee shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion one hour before the moment of interruption on the day on which proceedings on Consideration are commenced.

5. Proceedings on Third Reading shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at the moment of interruption on that day.

6. Standing Order No. 83B (Programming committees) shall not apply to proceedings on Consideration and up to and including Third Reading.
Agriculture Bill, continued

Other proceedings

7. Any other proceedings on the Bill may be programmed.