



# House of Commons

**Tuesday 11 February 2020**

## **PUBLIC BILL COMMITTEE**

*New Amendments handed in are marked thus ★*

☆ *Amendments which will comply with the required notice period at their next appearance*

### **AGRICULTURE BILL**

#### **NOTE**

**This document includes all amendments tabled to date and includes any withdrawn amendments at the end. The amendments have been arranged in accordance with the Resolution of the Programming Sub-Committee.**

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE PROGRAMMING SUB-COMMITTEE**

*The Programming Sub-Committee appointed by the Speaker in respect of the Bill agreed the following Resolution at its meeting on Monday 10 February (Standing Order 83C):*

That—

- (1) the Committee shall (in addition to its first meeting at 9.25 am on Tuesday 11 February) meet—
  - (a) at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 11 February;
  - (b) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 13 February;
  - (c) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 25 February;
  - (d) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 27 February;
  - (e) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 3 March;
  - (f) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 5 March;
  - (g) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 10 March;
- (2) the Committee shall hear oral evidence in accordance with the following Table:

Agriculture Bill, *continued*

## TABLE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Witness</i>
Tuesday 11 February	Until no later than 10.30 am	Nature Friendly Farming Network; Farmwel; LEAF; British Growers Association
Tuesday 11 February	Until no later than 11.25 am	RSPB; RSPCA; Rare Breed Survival Trust; Traceability Design User Group; Livestock Information Ltd
Tuesday 11 February	Until no later than 2.30 pm	Ulster Farmers Union; DAERA
Tuesday 11 February	Until no later than 3.00 pm	NFU; National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs
Tuesday 11 February	Until no later than 3.30 pm	Cooperatives UK
Tuesday 11 February	Until no later than 4.15 pm	Campaign to Protect Rural England; Kings Crops; Holkham Estate
Tuesday 11 February	Until no later than 5.00 pm	Country Land and Business Association; Tenant Farmers Association
Thursday 13 February	Until no later than 12.15 pm	NFU Cymru; Farmers' Union of Wales; Welsh Government
Thursday 13 February	Until no later than 1.00 pm	Soil Association
Thursday 13 February	Until no later than 2.30 pm	NFU Scotland; Quality Meat Scotland; Scottish Government
Thursday 13 February	Until no later than 3.00 pm	George Monbiot, The Guardian
Thursday 13 February	Until no later than 3.30 pm	Professor Bill Keevil, University of Southampton
Thursday 13 February	Until no later than 4.00 pm	Unite; Landworkers Alliance
Thursday 13 February	Until no later than 4.30 pm	Sustain; Compassion in World Farming
Thursday 13 February	Until no later than 5.00 pm	Which?

- (3) proceedings on consideration of the Bill in Committee shall be taken in the following order: Clauses 1 to 28; Schedule 1; Clause 29; Schedule 2; Clauses 30 to 34; Schedule 3; Clause 35; Schedule 4; Clauses 36 to 43; Schedule 5; Clauses 44 and 45; Schedule 6; Clauses 46 to 49; Schedule 7; Clauses 50 to 54; new Clauses; new Schedules; remaining proceedings on the Bill;

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**Agriculture Bill, continued**

- (4) the proceedings shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at 5.00 pm on Tuesday 10 March.

*George Eustice has given notice of her intention to move a motion in the terms of the Resolution of the Programming Sub-Committee [Standing Order No. 83C].*

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George Eustice

That, subject to the discretion of the Chair, any written evidence received by the Committee shall be reported to the House for publication.

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George Eustice

That, at this and any subsequent meeting at which oral evidence is to be heard, the Committee shall sit in private until the witnesses are admitted.

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Luke Pollard  
Daniel Zeichner  
Ruth Jones  
Dr Alan Whitehead  
Thangam Debbonaire

Clause 1, page 2, line 6, leave out “may” and insert “must”

1

***Member’s explanatory statement***

*This amendment would require the Secretary of State to provide financial assistance for the purposes listed in Clause 1.*

Luke Pollard  
Daniel Zeichner  
Ruth Jones  
Dr Alan Whitehead  
Thangam Debbonaire

Clause 1, page 2, line 8, at end insert—

2

- “(aa) supporting agriculture and horticulture businesses in enabling public access to healthy food that is farmed in an environmentally sustainable way, including food produced through whole farm agroecological systems”

***Member’s explanatory statement***

*This amendment would add to the purposes for which financial assistance can be given, that of ensuring access to healthy food produced sustainably including through whole farm agroecological systems.*

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 Agriculture Bill, *continued*

Luke Pollard  
 Daniel Zeichner  
 Ruth Jones  
 Dr Alan Whitehead  
 Thangam Debbonaire

6

Clause 1, page 2, line 13, after “(d)” insert “limiting greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture or horticulture or encouraging activities that reduce such emissions or remove greenhouse gas from the atmosphere, or otherwise”

***Member’s explanatory statement***

*This amendment explicitly provides for limiting and reducing greenhouse gas emissions to be one of the purposes for which financial assistance is given.*

Luke Pollard  
 Daniel Zeichner  
 Ruth Jones  
 Dr Alan Whitehead  
 Thangam Debbonaire

3

Clause 1, page 3, line 6, at end insert ““environmentally sustainable way” means in a way which employs factors and practices that contribute to the quality of environment on a long-term basis and avoids the depletion of natural resources”

***Member’s explanatory statement***

*This amendment defines “environmentally sustainable way” for the purposes of clause 1(4) and Amendment 2.*

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Luke Pollard  
 Daniel Zeichner  
 Ruth Jones  
 Dr Alan Whitehead  
 Thangam Debbonaire

4

Clause 2, page 3, line 32, at end insert—

“(4A) Financial assistance under subsection (1)(1)(f) for protecting or improving the health or welfare of livestock shall only be given to a person who satisfies the Secretary of State that they—

- (a) achieve, or have undertaken to achieve, standards of animal welfare which exceed the minimum requirements laid down by legislation governing welfare of livestock,
- (b) raise animals in such a way that enables them to carry out their natural behaviours,
- (c) do not subject livestock to any prohibited procedure (within the meaning of section 5 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006),
- (d) do not kill livestock in any place other than in a slaughterhouse unless—
  - (i) a veterinary surgeon has certified that this is necessary due to the animal’s poor health, and
  - (ii) the method of killing is humane, and
- (e) do not, after IP completion day, export animals for slaughter or fattening unless—
  - (i) the livestock is exported from Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland, and

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**Agriculture Bill, continued**

- (ii) it is made a requirement of sale that the livestock shall not be re-exported by the buyer.”

***Member’s explanatory statement***

*This amendment would set minimum baseline welfare standards for the receipt of financial assistance for protecting or improving the welfare of livestock.*

Luke Pollard  
Daniel Zeichner  
Ruth Jones  
Dr Alan Whitehead  
Thangam Debbonaire

5

Clause 2, page 4, line 5, after “section” insert—

““fattening” means the keeping of livestock for the purpose of the livestock gaining weight in preparation for slaughter,

“humane” shall be interpreted in accordance with paragraph 4 of Schedule 4 to the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England) Regulations 2015,

“livestock” has the meaning given in section 1(5) of this Act,

“IP completion day” has the meaning given in section 39 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2020, and”

***Member’s explanatory statement***

*This amendment is consequential on Amendment 4.*

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Fiona Bruce  
Julian Sturdy  
Neil Parish  
Derek Thomas  
Philip Dunne  
Simon Hoare

Tim Farron

7

Clause 17, page 14, line 20, leave out “five years” and insert “year”

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 Agriculture Bill, *continued*

Luke Pollard  
 Daniel Zeichner  
 Ruth Jones  
 Dr Alan Whitehead  
 Thangam Debbonaire

NC1

To move the following Clause—

**“Import of agricultural goods**

- (1) Agricultural goods may be imported into the UK only if the standards to which those goods were produced were as high as, or higher than, standards which at the time of import applied under UK law relating to—
  - (a) animal welfare,
  - (b) protection of the environment, and
  - (c) food safety.
- (2) “Agricultural goods”, for the purposes of this section, means—
  - (a) any livestock within the meaning of section 1(5),
  - (b) any plants or seeds, within the meaning of section 22(6),
  - (c) any product derived from livestock, plants or seeds.”

***Member’s explanatory statement***

*This new clause would set a requirement for imported agricultural goods to meet animal welfare, environmental and food safety standards which are at least as high as those which apply to UK produced agricultural goods.*

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Luke Pollard  
 Daniel Zeichner  
 Ruth Jones  
 Dr Alan Whitehead  
 Thangam Debbonaire

NC2

To move the following Clause—

**“Annual assessment of funding for purposes**

- (1) The Secretary of State must report on financial assistance for each purpose listed in section 1.
- (2) A report under subsection (1) must be made for each financial year and must be laid before both Houses of Parliament no later than 31 October in the financial year following the financial year to which the report relates.
- (3) The first report shall be made by 31 October 2021 and shall relate to financial assistance in the 2020-21 financial year.
- (4) A report under this section must record, on the basis of best data available—
  - (a) the total sum of financial assistance for each purpose in section 1,
  - (b) the source of any element of financial assistance under subparagraph (a) which comes from public funds, and
  - (c) the sums from each source under subparagraph (b).

**Agriculture Bill, continued**

- (5) The Secretary of State must include in each report under this section—
- (a) a statement of their opinion on whether any sum recorded under subsection (4)(a) is sufficient to meet their policy objectives in relation to each purpose; and (b) a statement of the Secretary of State’s intentions if, in their opinion, a sum recorded under subsection (4)(a) was not sufficient to meet their policy objectives in relation to a purpose.
- (6) For the purposes of this section, “financial assistance” means financial assistance either allocated or given in any form listed in section 2(1).”

**Member’s explanatory statement**

*This new clause would require the Secretary of State to report annually on the financial assistance given or allocated to each of the purposes of the Bill, on its sufficiency to meet policy objectives and on the Secretary of State’s intentions if in their opinion funding for any purpose was not sufficient.*

Bill Wiggin

NC3

To move the following Clause—

**“Definition of grass-fed products**

- (1) Regulations under section 35(1) shall enable the provision described in subsection (2) of this section.
- (2) A product which is partly or wholly derived from an animal may only be described as grass-fed if the animal or animals have eaten only grass and pasture throughout their lifetime, with the exception of milk consumed by youngstock prior to weaning.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), “pasture” includes—
  - (a) permanent pasture and long and short term leys which may be part of a mixed farming system, and
  - (b) hay, silage derived from grass not grain, forage and naturally occurring vegetation in the grassland including legumes and other forbs, and woody species.”

**Member’s explanatory statement**

*This new clause would protect the definition of grass-fed, certifying that livestock and food products labelled as grass-fed are fully raised on pasture.*

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ORDER OF THE HOUSE [3 FEBRUARY 2020]

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 10 March 2020.
3. The Public Bill Committee shall have leave to sit twice on the first day on which it meets.

**Agriculture Bill, *continued****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.

*Other proceedings*

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