



House of Commons

Tuesday 25 February 2020

PUBLIC BILL COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

AGRICULTURE BILL

[FIRST TO SIXTH SITTINGS]

GLOSSARY

This document shows the fate of each clause, schedule, amendment and new clause.

The following terms are used:

Agreed to: agreed without a vote.

Agreed to on division: agreed following a vote.

Negatived: rejected without a vote.

Negatived on division: rejected following a vote.

Not called: debated in a group of amendments, but not put to a decision.

Not moved: not debated or put to a decision.

Question proposed: debate underway but not concluded.

Withdrawn after debate: moved and debated but then withdrawn, so not put to a decision.

Not selected: not chosen for debate by the Chair.

FIRST AND SECOND SITTINGS

George Eustice

Agreed to

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;

Agriculture Bill, continued

- (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:

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?

Agriculture Bill, *continued*

- (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;
- (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

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

Agreed to

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.

Agreed to

The following witnesses gave oral evidence:

Martin Lines, Chair, Nature Friendly Farming Network; Ffinlo Costain, Farmwel; Caroline Drummond MBE, Chief Executive, LEAF; and Jack Ward, Chief Executive, British Growers Association

Thomas Lancaster, Principal Policy Officer, Agriculture, RSPB; David Bowles, Head of Public Affairs, RSPCA; Christopher Price, CEO, Rare Breeds Survival Trust; John Cross, Chair, Traceability Design User Group; and Simon Hall, Managing Director, Livestock Information Ltd
Ivor Ferguson, President, Ulster Farmers' Union; and Norman Fulton, Deputy Secretary (Food and Farming Group), DAERA

Nick von Westenholz, Director of EU Exit and International Trade, NFU; and David Goodwin, Agriculture Chairman, National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs

Richard Self, Agriculture Manager, Cooperatives UK

Graeme Willis, Policy and Technical Expert, Campaign to Protect Rural England; Jim Egan, Technical Adviser, Kings Crops; and Jake Fiennes, General Manager (Conservation), Holkham Estate

Judicaille Hammond, Director of Policy, Country Land and Business Association; and George Dunn, CEO, Tenant Farmers Association

*Agriculture Bill, continued**THIRD AND FOURTH SITTINGS*

The following witnesses gave oral evidence:

Dr Nick Fenwick, Head of Policy, Farmers Union of Wales; John Davies, President, and Huw Thomas, Political Adviser, National Farmers Union Cymru; Tim Render, Welsh Government

Gareth Morgan, Head of Policy, Farming and Land Use, Soil Association

Jonnie Hall, Director of Policy, NFU Scotland; Alan Clarke, Chief Executive, Quality Meat Scotland; and George Burgess, Deputy Director, Trade Policy, Food & Drink, Scottish Government

George Monbiot

Professor Bill Keevil, Professor of Environmental Healthcare within School of Biological Sciences, University of Southampton

Diana Holland, Assistant General Secretary (responsible for Food, Drink and Agriculture), UNITE; Jyoti Fernandes, Campaigns and Policy Co-ordinator, Landworkers Alliance

Vicki Hird, Campaign Co-ordinator, Food and Farming Policy, Sustain; James West, Senior Policy Manager, and Dr Nick Palmer, Head, Compassion in World Farming

Sue Davies MBE, Head of Consumer Protection and Food Policy, Which?

FIFTH AND SIXTH SITTINGS

Luke Pollard
Daniel Zeichner
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Negated on division 1

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

Luke Pollard
Daniel Zeichner
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Negated on division 2

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

“(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”

Luke Pollard
Daniel Zeichner
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Negated on division 34

Clause 1, page 2, line 12, at end insert—

“(ca) improving public health;”

Agriculture Bill, continued

Luke Pollard
Daniel Zeichner
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Negated on division 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”

Luke Pollard
Daniel Zeichner
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Negated on division 40

Clause 1, page 2, line 17, at end insert “, including measures to improve the standard of accommodation for farrowing sows”

Kerry McCarthy

Not called 11

Clause 1, page 2, line 24, at end insert—
“(k) establishing, maintaining and expanding agroecological farming systems, including organic farming.”

Kerry McCarthy

Negated on division 12

Clause 1, page 2, line 28, after “activity” insert “, provided that such assistance does not contradict or undermine the purposes in section 1(1).”

Kerry McCarthy

Negated on division 14

Clause 1, page 2, line 32, leave out subsection (4) and insert—
“(4) In framing any financial assistance scheme, the Secretary of State must have regard to—
(a) the need to encourage the production of food by producers in England and its production by them in an environmentally sustainable way; and
(b) the need to ensure that all farms and horticulture units, including those smaller than five hectares, can access financial assistance.”

Luke Pollard
Daniel Zeichner
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Not called 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”

Agriculture Bill, *continued*

Luke Pollard
Daniel Zeichner
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Not called **35**

Clause 1, page 3, line 12, at end insert—

““improving public health” includes—

- (a) increasing the availability, affordability, diversity, quality and marketing of fruit, vegetables and pulses,
- (b) reducing farm antibiotic and related veterinary product use, and antibiotic resistance in harmful micro-organisms, through improved animal health and welfare,
- (c) providing support for farmers to diversify out of domestic production of foods where there may be reduced demand due to public concerns over issues such as health, environment, and animal welfare, and
- (d) reducing harm from use of chemicals on farms, and reducing pesticide residues in food;”

Mr Robert Goodwill

Withdrawn after debate **8**

Clause 1, page 3, line 13, after “kept” insert “or managed”

Kerry McCarthy

Negatived on division **13**

Clause 1, page 3, line 17, at end insert ““protecting or improving the quality of soil” includes the restoration of blanket bog and other peatland habitats.”

Victoria Prentis

Agreed to **15**

Clause 1, page 3, line 21, at end insert “made by the Secretary of State”

Clause, as amended, agreed to.