



House of Commons

Thursday 27 February 2020

PUBLIC BILL COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

AGRICULTURE BILL

[FIRST TO EIGHTH 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Withdrawn after debate: moved and debated but then withdrawn, so not put to a decision.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;
 - (g) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 10 March;

Agriculture Bill, continued

- (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?

- (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;

Agriculture Bill, *continued*

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

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

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

Agriculture Bill, continued

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;”

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”

Agriculture Bill, *continued*

Luke Pollard
Daniel Zeichner
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Negatived 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

Negatived 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

Negatived 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”

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,

Agriculture Bill, *continued*

- (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

Negated 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.

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH SITTINGS

Luke Pollard
Daniel Zeichner
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Withdrawn after debate 63

☆ Clause 2, page 3, line 25, at end insert—

“(1A) The Secretary of State must by regulations make provision for establishing any financial assistance scheme and setting out how it will be designed and how it will operate.

(1B) No motion may be made in either House of Parliament for the approval of any regulations under subsection (1A) unless—

(a) a draft of those regulations has been submitted for scrutiny by any select committee of either House of Parliament which, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, has a remit which includes responsibility for scrutiny of financial assistance under section 1, and

(b) any such committee has expressed a view on the draft regulations.”

Luke Pollard
Daniel Zeichner
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Negated on division 36

Clause 2, page 3, line 27, at end insert—

Agriculture Bill, continued

- “(2A) Financial assistance may not be given to any person who is not compliant with standards set out in regulations made by the Secretary of State under section [Duty and regulations governing agricultural and horticultural activity].”

Daniel Zeichner
Luke Pollard
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Withdrawn after debate 48

Clause 2, page 3, line 30, at end insert—

- “(3A) Financial assistance allocated to a scheme in a particular year but not spent within that year may be carried over to a future year for spending on one or more schemes.”

Victoria Prentis

Agreed to 16

Clause 2, page 3, line 31, leave out from “to” to end of line 32 and insert “the maker or operator of a third party scheme in connection with expenditure involved in establishing or operating the scheme (including the provision of financial support)”

Luke Pollard
Daniel Zeichner
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

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

Agriculture Bill, continued

Luke Pollard
Daniel Zeichner
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Negatived on division 42

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

- “(4A) Financial assistance may only be given under section 1(1)(f) for the purpose of protecting or improving the health of livestock if, in the opinion of the Secretary of State or of any person to whom functions relating to the giving of financial assistance are delegated under section 2(6), the protection or improvement effects a standard which is significantly higher than that required by regulations made by the Secretary of State under section [*Duty and regulations governing agricultural and horticultural activity*].”

Daniel Zeichner
Luke Pollard
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Withdrawn after debate 44

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

- “(4A) No more than 5% of the financial assistance given through a financial assistance scheme in any particular financial year shall be spent on administration or consultancy.
- (4B) The Secretary of State may by regulations vary the proportion of financial assistance specified in subsection (4A).”

Victoria Prentis

Agreed to 17

Clause 2, page 3, line 35, leave out “or operated on behalf of” and insert “by”

Daniel Zeichner
Luke Pollard
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Negatived on division 49

Clause 2, page 3, line 35, at end insert—

- “(5A) Financial assistance shall not be given for any act or activity in pursuit of a purpose under section 1 if the land on which that act or activity is to take place is to be used by the applicant, or by a person acting with the consent of the applicant, for hunting of a wild mammal with a dog, whether or not that hunting is exempt under section 2 of the Hunting Act 2004.”

Daniel Zeichner
Luke Pollard
Ruth Jones
Dr Alan Whitehead
Thangam Debbonaire

Not called 50

Clause 2, page 3, line 35, at end insert—

- “(5A) Financial assistance shall not be given for a purpose under section 1 if land on which any act or activity is to take place in pursuance of that purpose is land on which—

Agriculture Bill, continued

- (a) an offence has been committed under section 1, 3 or 5 of the Hunting Act 2004, or
- (b) exempt hunting, within the meaning of section 2 of the Hunting Act 2004, has taken place since 18 February 2005.”

Daniel Zeichner
 Luke Pollard
 Ruth Jones
 Dr Alan Whitehead
 Thangam Debbonaire

Not called 45

Clause 2, page 4, line 3, after “subsection” insert “(4B) or subsection”

Luke Pollard
 Daniel Zeichner
 Ruth Jones
 Dr Alan Whitehead
 Thangam Debbonaire

Not called 64

☆ Clause 2, page 4, line 3, after “subsection” insert “(1A) or subsection”

Daniel Zeichner
 Luke Pollard
 Ruth Jones
 Dr Alan Whitehead
 Thangam Debbonaire

Not called 46

Clause 2, page 4, line 4, at end insert—
 “(10A) For the purposes of this Act, “administration or consultancy” includes money spent on administration or consultancy other than in connection with the purposes in section [*Financial assistance: duty to provide advice*].”

Luke Pollard
 Daniel Zeichner
 Ruth Jones
 Dr Alan Whitehead
 Thangam Debbonaire

Not called 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”

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

 Agriculture Bill, *continued*

Luke Pollard
 Daniel Zeichner
 Ruth Jones
 Dr Alan Whitehead
 Thangam Debbonaire

Withdrawn after debate 37

- Clause 4, page 5, line 14, after “period” insert “, and
 (d) set out the budget for each financial assistance scheme under sub-paragraph (c)(i) or (c)(ii) for the duration of the plan period”

Luke Pollard
 Daniel Zeichner
 Ruth Jones
 Dr Alan Whitehead
 Thangam Debbonaire

Not called 38

- Clause 4, page 5, line 38, at end insert—
 “(9A) For each financial assistance scheme, the Secretary of State must have regard to any advice provided by the Office for Environmental Protection, after it is established, about the funding required to achieve the strategic objectives of financial assistance for the duration of the plan period.”

Clause agreed to.

Luke Pollard
 Daniel Zeichner
 Ruth Jones
 Dr Alan Whitehead
 Thangam Debbonaire

Not called 39

- Clause 5, page 6, line 10, after “scheme,” insert—
 “(aa) any opinion provided by the Office for Environmental Protection, after it is established, as to whether the financial assistance given was sufficient to meet the strategic objectives of the financial assistance,”

Daniel Zeichner
 Luke Pollard
 Ruth Jones
 Dr Alan Whitehead
 Thangam Debbonaire

Not called 47

- Clause 5, page 6, line 13, after “year”, insert “, and (c) the amount of money spent on administration or consultancy, within the meaning of subsection (10A) of section 2”

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 6 and 7 agreed to.

Agriculture Bill, *continued*

Mr Robert Goodwill

Withdrawn after debate 9

Clause 8, page 8, line 5, after “extending” insert “or pausing the transition process
and”