

Agriculture Bill

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Clause 1

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

Page 2, line 25, at end insert –

- “(k) supporting the development of strategies to assist in the distribution of agri-food products which are locally produced and sold by micro-enterprises and community enterprises;
- (l) developing a supply chain infrastructure for the purpose of assisting in the supply, processing and sale of agri-food products.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment gives financial powers to develop local food strategies and infrastructure and to support small farms and/or community agricultural businesses with the purpose of improving public access to fresh and nutritious food, improving farm viability, reducing transport associated with agricultural products and securing our domestic food supply.

Page 2, line 25, at end insert –

“(1A) For the purposes of subsection (1)(k) and (l) –

“agri-food products” means any item of food or drink for personal consumption where the items consist of or include, or have been produced using (directly or indirectly, and whether or not exclusively), the whole or part of –

- (a) anything grown or otherwise produced in carrying on agriculture, or
- (b) any creature kept in carrying on agriculture, or
- (c) any creature or other thing taken from the wild;

“community enterprises” means businesses run by a charity, social enterprise, not-for-profit or co-operative organisation which are owned by, endorsed by, or engaging directly with local people;

“locally produced and sold” means produced and offered for sale direct to consumers within 100 miles of the point of primary production;

“micro-enterprises” means non-subsidiary, independent businesses with fewer than 10 employees.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment provides definitions relating to the first amendment to page 2, line 25, in the name of Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle.

After Clause 2

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

Insert the following new Clause—

“Meadows and other semi-natural grasslands

- (1) The Secretary of State must ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that financial assistance is not provided for activities related to semi-natural grasslands which would be damaging or destructive to biodiversity or soil carbon, including—
 - (a) cultivations undertaken for agricultural purposes,
 - (b) fertilisers or pesticides applied to the land, and
 - (c) planting trees.
- (2) Subsections (1)(a) to (c) apply to any semi-natural grassland in, or adjacent to, agricultural land, that totals more than half of one hectare.
- (3) Subsection (1) does not apply where a land manager has written permission from the Secretary of State, in order to enhance the environment or improve public or agricultural access.
- (4) For the purposes of this section—

“fertilisers” includes inorganic and organic fertiliser, organic manures, lime, slurry, sewage sludge, anaerobic digestate, slag, trace elements, calcified seaweed and human waste;

“pesticides” means anything used for destroying pests or wild plants and fungi, and includes herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and other biocides;

“semi-natural grasslands” means plant communities where a high proportion of the vegetation consists of a mixture of native grasses and dicotyledonous herbs where woody shrubs are largely absent and where vegetation height is normally less than one metre, as defined by Natural England.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would protect meadows and other semi-natural grasslands by preventing funds being given to activities which would cause them harm.

Schedule 3

LORD LUCAS

Page 52, line 29, leave out “three” and insert “four”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is intended to better reflect the reality of modern higher and further education, particularly in relation to land-based institutions where sandwich courses are common.

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24 June 2020
