

# Sustainable Livestock Bill

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**B I L L**

TO

Require the Secretary of State to improve the sustainability of the production, processing, marketing, manufacturing, distribution and consumption of products derived to any substantial extent from livestock; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 Duties of the Secretary of State**

- (1) It is the duty of the Secretary of State to ensure the sustainability of the livestock industry.
- (2) The Secretary of State must, in determining how to carry out the duty in section 1(1), give consideration to—
  - (a) supporting sustainable practices and consumption through public procurement of livestock produce, 5
  - (b) providing appropriate public information and food labelling,
  - (c) supporting research into sustainable livestock practices,
  - (d) reducing the amount of, and finding sustainable methods for use or disposal of, food waste, 10
  - (e) changing the subsidies available to and support for farmers to promote sustainable livestock practices, and
  - (f) the effectiveness of existing programmes aimed at improving the sustainability of the livestock industry, and action that could be taken to increase their effectiveness. 15
- (3) The Secretary of State must ensure that policies in relation to negotiations and other activities at international level, including at the European Union, are consistent with sections 1(1) and 1(2).
- (4) The Secretary of State has a duty to ensure that the steps taken in accordance with this Act do not lead to an increase in the proportion of meat consumed in the United Kingdom which is imported. 20

- (5) The Secretary of State must, in determining how to carry out the duty in section 1(1), consult such organisations and persons as in the opinion of the Secretary of State have expertise on –
- (a) livestock farming, relevant technologies and the production and processing of livestock produce, 5
  - (b) the production of feed and chemicals used in livestock farming,
  - (c) food retailing, the food service sector and the relevant supply chains,
  - (d) the environmental impacts of the livestock industry, particularly those relating to climate change and biodiversity,
  - (e) the health impacts of livestock farming and the consumption of livestock produce, 10
  - (f) consumer attitudes and behaviour,
  - (g) animal health and welfare,
  - (h) minimising and disposing of food waste, and
  - (i) any other subject considered relevant by the Secretary of State. 15

## 2 Duty to establish progress indicators and to report progress

- (1) The Secretary of State must publish the steps that are to be taken in accordance with section 1, including a set of indicators of how progress will be measured.
- (2) The Secretary of State must publish and update information on the progress made in meeting the duties in section 1. 20
- (3) Progress reports published under section 2(2) must include an explanation by the Secretary of State of the measures that have been taken and a comparison of the progress made against the indicators established under section 2(1).
- (4) An overall review of progress must be published every 2 years.
- (5) In this section “publish” means publish in electronic or hard copy form. 25

## 3 Interpretation

In this Act –

“ensure the sustainability of the livestock industry” means addressing the economic, social and environmental impacts of all stages of livestock farming and consumption, in order to – 30

- (a) reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and address climate change in the United Kingdom and overseas,
- (b) prevent biodiversity loss in the United Kingdom and overseas,
- (c) promote animal welfare,
- (d) protect and enhance the landscape, 35
- (e) protect the resilience of farming communities, and
- (f) promote food security.

“livestock” includes any creature kept for the production of food, wool or skins, or for the purpose of its use in the farming of land or the carrying on in relation to land of any agricultural activity. 40

## 4 Financial provisions

*There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament –*

- 
- (a) *any expenditure incurred under or by virtue of this Act by the Secretary of State, and*
  - (b) *any increase attributable to the Act in the sums payable under any other Act out of money so provided.*

**5 Short title, commencement and extent**

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- (1) This Act may be cited as the Sustainable Livestock Act 2011.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of 2 months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to England and Wales.

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## B I L L

To require the Secretary of State to improve the sustainability of the production, processing, marketing, manufacturing, distribution and consumption of products derived to any substantial extent from livestock; and for connected purposes.

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 30 June 2010.*

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