



LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING

Honorary President HRH The Countess of Wessex, GCVO

Sir Roger Gale & Phil Wilson

Chairmen to the House of Commons Public Bill Committee on the Agriculture Bill 2017-19

14 November 2018

Dear Chairmen

House of Commons Public Bill Committee on the Agriculture Bill 2017-19

The Agriculture Bill is historic. Like the 1944 Education Act, the 1948 Health Act and its 1947 equivalent, policymakers have a unique opportunity to design and put in place a Bill that will impact the lives of generations for decades to come. This is such an opportunity to drive an ambitious and strong vision with good leadership focusing on the long-term.

This document sets out a framework for which LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) believes should govern the long-term aspirations of the Agriculture Bill.

The Bill needs to aspire to address:

World leading farming

- Driving the profitable production of UK food, without direct public support, except for the delivery of 'public goods';
- Encouraging more efficient use of agricultural inputs;
- Increasing the productivity and competitiveness of British produced food;
- Encouraging the improvement in the nutritional value of UK produced and imported food;
- Developing research and innovation to drive change and build strong cases for policy.

Protect, manage and enhance our natural resources;

- Enhancing the quality of UK soil;
- Improving the quality and management of UK water resources;
- Protecting and enhancing wildlife, plantlife and natural habitats;
- Preserving and improving landscapes;
- More urgently tackling climate change.

Positioning the UK on a global platform for food and farming



LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LG
T: 024 7641 3911 enquiries@leafuk.org www.leafuk.org @LEAF_Farming

Registered in England as a company limited by guarantee (Reg'd No. 3035047) Registered office as above.
V.A.T. Reg No. GB 660 9232 38 Registered Charity No. 1045781



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- Ensuring high quality and standards for exported and imported goods;
- Recognising the needs of a growing UK population, within a context of a declining European population and an increasing world population;
- Promoting the economic, environmental and ethical value of enhanced animal welfare.

Enhancing consumer knowledge of food, farming and the environment, through public engagement and education

- Engaging consumers of all ages in better understanding food production and environmental protection;
- Inspiring the next generation;
- Acknowledging the physical and mental health benefits of wholesome food and a clean environment.

While LEAF believes that the proposed Agriculture Bill addresses many environmental aspirations, we are concerned that the need to produce food in an economically and environmentally sustainable way, across the whole farm through Integrated Farm Management (IFM), has not been fully recognised and needs to be addressed before the Bill becomes law.

As the Bill currently stands there needs to be more commitment to the delivery of the Bill's objectives with 'shall' replacing 'may' in most of the powers discussed. Furthermore, there is a need to ensure a continuity in support for farmers in their delivery of public goods across parliament and governments, and to provide the reassurance that they are not unfairly discriminated against, such as where imports are meeting lower environmental or animal welfare standards than are required of UK farmers.

We also believe that there is significant opportunity for government to work closely with existing organisations and create a new model for developing a public/private/NGO partnership. Such as through the farm assurance schemes and earned recognition with governmental inspections.

LEAF would be keen to support government in the delivery of a more sustainable food and farming supply chain. LEAF is the leading organisation delivering sustainable food and farming. We work with farmers across the globe, the food industry, scientists and consumers, to inspire and enable sustainable farming that is prosperous, enriches the environment and engages local communities. We do this through developing and promoting **Integrated Farm Management** in three core pillars:

- **Facilitating knowledge generation and exchange amongst farmers and researchers** through our network of LEAF Demonstration Farms and Innovation Centres; farm business management tools and events.



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- **Developing Market Opportunities** through the LEAF Marque - a leading assurance system recognising more sustainably farmed products. It stands for more environmental sustainability and all certified businesses have been independently verified against the solid LEAF Marque Standard.
- **Engaging and educating the public in sustainable food and farming** through LEAF Education, LEAF Open Farm Sunday, Open Farm School Days, resources and training.

We would be happy to discuss these matters further and in more detail.

With best regards

Yours faithfully

pp 

Cedric Porter
LEAF Vice Chairman

Signed by Caroline Drummond MBE LEAF Chief Executive on behalf of Cedric Porter



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