



# Rural Policy GROUP

## Annual Report 2021

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**Fair and Sustainable Food Pricing and the ‘Value of Rural’**

*The Interdependency of Food, the Environment and Health for a Sustainable Future*



Professional Partners:



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# Foreword

*The war in the Ukraine is a devastating chapter in world history, and one that few of us could have imagined happening even just a few years ago. Nevertheless, it has, and once again we are reminded not only of the inhumanity of man to mankind, but of the critical importance of food security to every nation.*

*The Rural Policy Group, and its series of RED Talks, are at the very heart of recognising the vital relationship between food, the environment and health; where fair food pricing ensures sustainable food supply, where the environment is harnessed rather than subjugated for the common good and where the nation's health and well-being are enhanced as a consequence.*



*This year's RPG Annual Report highlights the key areas of Food, Environment and Health with specific emphasis on the critical aspects of food value, food security, return on food investment and the essential nature of ESG for agricultural and rural businesses.*

*2021 was another productive year for the Rural Policy Group. We tackled many of the subjects that others shy away from; and we harnessed the output from the combined will and authority of participants and attendees at RPG events and talks, to shine a light on the issues that matter. RPG is more than a 'Think Tank' - it goes beyond and into practical and pragmatic guidance and action.*



## Professional Partners:



*My thanks go to all of the Rural Policy Group sponsors and to the CBI and IOD for their continuing involvement, as well as all the people who give their time and expertise voluntarily to support RPG and its aims.*

*As we close 2021 with this summary report, we are already focusing in our 'Call to Action' on the sustainability and food security agenda for 2022 and beyond; and on the people and places where our influence can be transformed into pragmatic actions.*

**Mark J. Lumsdon-Taylor**  
Chairman, Rural Policy Group

Rural Policy Group provides an important forum for directors in, and connected to, the rural community. By bringing together leaders in the field of business with their peers in politics and academia, RPG is helping to mainstream sustainability within the rural economy in a way that is both practical and progressive.

**Jonathan Geldart**

**Director General - The Institute of Directors**

*In times of great change and uncertainty, it is important we reach out to our colleagues across industry to share ideas and move forward together. The work Rural Policy Group is doing to unite actors within the food and farming industries with policy decision-makers will fundamentally shape the future of food production in the UK. We need far more systems thinking, joining up the many ways in which we need to tackle crises from the climate emergency to food security. That demands getting people of different backgrounds and skills together to think creatively and flexibly.*

**Natalie Bennett**

**Green Party Peer**

*In times of great change and uncertainty, it is important we reach out to our colleagues across industry to share ideas and move forward together. The work Rural Policy Group is doing to unite actors within the food and farming industries with policy decision-makers will fundamentally shape the future of food production in the UK.*

**Daniel Zeichner**

**MP for Cambridge**

*Debate without action is simply talking. The time for talking is over. Now is the time for action if we are to enjoy a sustainable future for Business.*

**Sarah Dodds**

**Head of Agriculture and Partner at MHA & Council Member**

**Fair Food Valuation > Food Security • Environment • Health**

All of the Rural Policy Group sponsors and partners recognise the vital interdependency of Food, the Environment and Health. Whilst some hold a remit beyond the rural economy, all have one thing in common: an unshakable conviction that commerce has a vital role to play in ensuring this country has a future that is wholly sustainable, and a will to be a part of that achievement.





# Rural Policy Group

## Background & Purpose



Formed in October 2019, the Rural Policy Group rapidly became an important forum for food, farming and agriculture businesses during the first period of 'lock-down' in 2020. Originally delivering webinars every third week, the Group quickly developed a national, then an international, following, with an audience from across the farming, food, land agency and supporting institutional and commercial sectors. Webinars have been broadcast as far afield as India, Africa, the United States and across Europe.

Today's Report is the fourth in the series; its content based, as for the previous three, on the outputs from RPG RED Talks. In 2021 Rural Policy Group was, despite having only been in existence for two years, runner-up in the prestigious Finance for the Future Awards category for the Jeffrey Unerman (a leading figure in sustainability accounting) award for driving change in the financial community. This achievement alone demonstrates the importance of the Rural Policy Group, the RED Talks and the cohort of people who are motivated to take sustainable action through their relationship with them.

RPG facilitates a two-way dialogue between policy decision-makers and influencers and Business to support policy dissemination and pragmatic action at the grass-roots level. We aim to guide Business in translating policy into action and reward. In return, the forum we have created gives voice to Business to support policy innovation and advances in both the public and private sectors.

RPG's forum for discussion and debate enhances knowledge in the rural, food, farming, environmental, health and well-being sectors, and supports our ambition to see sustainable accounting become the norm, alongside business-appropriate levels of reporting and disclosure. In this way, we are working towards a more sustainable food system, a more sustainable UK PLC and giving an outlet to sustainable finance.



# Rural Policy Group

## Points of Difference - we are not a ‘Talking Shop’

The Rural Policy Group points of difference are simply:

- Forward-thinking content to future-proof businesses and integrate sustainable finance and other ESG practices as standard
- Tangible action and lobbying to support rural businesses, informed by the voice of rural business and industry leaders

The actions and outcomes are defined by three headings:

- **SUSTAINABLE CASH**
- **PEOPLE**
- **POLITICAL & SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATION**

# Policy Evolution

RPG currently has four distinct strains: food, rural non-food, ESG and health. These strains are now integrated into a single-minded Food-Environment-Health approach.

Throughout 2021, we have focused on three main areas:

1. Developing a sustainable, fair and ambitious **food system**.
2. Recognising the role land-owning businesses play in delivering **environmental services** to Society and the wider economy (70% of UK land mass is employed in agriculture).
3. Embracing the role of agriculture and the wider rural economy in delivering health and well-being through the production of nutritious food, providing 'green' spaces for recreation and nature, and prescribing and managing air, soil and water quality.



All of these are underpinned by creating the conditions for investment to address climate change issues. RPG tackles the demand and supply side mechanics, influencing the food, farming, rural, environmental and health industries with the following goals:

1. A **food security** ambition in the UK of **70%** self-sufficiency by 2030. (Currently the figure is 54% - United Kingdom Food Security Report 2021).
2. Achieving **fair dealing and fair pricing** through supply chain collaboration.
3. Regard for British agriculture, food and farming in all policies to **align trade and business ambitions with ESG ambitions**.
4. Improving the **consumers' relationship with British food** and food production.
5. The need for **sustainable accounting**, reporting and disclosures to become the norm.
6. Supporting appropriate technologies and innovations to invest in, and a framework of funding and policy to support the adoption of new technology; encouraging behavioural change.

An important part of our mission during 2022 is to make **all** of these goals SMART

**Specific   Measurable   Achievable   Relevant   Time-Bound**

# Areas of Focus in Detail

1. **Sustainable and just food system:** the role of farmers, landowners and food businesses in creating a more sustainable food system, which works for the businesses that operate within it.

## In this area of focus we include:

- a) How to improve productivity and efficiency sustainably, to enable food producers to compete with imports whilst maintaining world-leading standards of production
- b) Creating the conditions for investment in sustainable food production
- c) Collaboration within the food supply chain regarding fair dealing and fair pricing
- d) Raising our food security ambitions, and the supply-side and demand-side mechanics of achieving those ambitions
- e) The need to improve national food security through investment in technology and knowledge
- f) The politics of food and how political decisions influence the food system and the businesses within it



2. **Environmental services:** the role of farmers and landowners in providing environmental services to the wider economy. At COP26, the UK government renewed and reinforced its commitment to environmental services including clean-power generation, CCUs and 'Delivery of Public Goods' such as air quality, water quality and biodiversity. With 70% of UK land mass under agricultural ownership, these services are largely in the gift of farmers and landowners; it is in our national interest to encourage further uptake of environmental deliverables.

## As such, this area of focus targets:

- a) The role of Environmental Stewardship and the direction of travel from ELM policy changes
- b) Creating the conditions for investment in tackling climate change
- c) Exploring 'green' commercial opportunities

3. **Sustainable diets and healthcare services:** the role of farmers, landowners, food businesses and related rural businesses in supporting a healthy workforce through the provision of nutritious foods, green spaces and other well-being initiatives to sustain both physical and mental health.

## This area of focus embraces:

- a) The benefit to society and the NHS of a thriving food and farming sector by improving public health and addressing nutritional deficits
- b) Issues surrounding the importation of poor environmental and ethical practices that may come with cheap sources of food
- c) Access to 'green' spaces and nature-prescribing
- d) Creating the right financial conditions to secure the future of farming, so farmers can continue to steward the countryside
- e) A food value reset



## Policy Dissemination and Dialogue Facilitation

1. **RED Talks:** these will continue 'virtually' for ease of accessibility. However, our panel, and some audience members, are now able to attend events in person at the MHA offices at London Wall.

### RPG RED Report Launch Conference - 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

This year saw us not only launching the Report but also including two key topic sessions:

- (1) Creating the conditions for investment in sustainability (beginning at 10am)
- (2) The evolving role of land use in a sustainable economy (beginning at 12 noon)

The 2021 Rural Policy Group Annual Report and Conference, as you will see, includes:

1. A PLC style valuation of Kent agriculture, food and farming (AFF) and the contribution to the UK economy (financial, tax receipts and employment)
2. Sustainability report (the State of the Nation)
3. Rationale for giving greater importance to AFF in policy decisions: outlining how agriculture and land-owning businesses can support the transition to a sustainable, resilient UK (clean power, biofuels, carbon sinks, job creation in remote and isolated locations, levelling-up rural communities, providing health services through nutrition and access to 'green' spaces, etc). Summing up the potential financial impact of these trickle-out benefits and how AFF contributes to the economy, society and the planet beyond the financial, e.g. national security, population health (workforce productivity and reduced reliance on the NHS), centrality to meeting COP26 commitments and other national ambitions
4. Discussion of the need for *financial* sustainability in AFF to underpin *environmental* sustainability. Looking at fair-dealing in the supply chain, government policy, the consumer relationship with food and food production, and the culture of 'cheap food'

2. **RED Research:** rigorously scientific and objective surveys on key issues to advance our policy position, support lobbying and gain publicity in trade, regional and national media. Results split between consumer, industry and academia. Bolstering our research programme will continue to add credibility, maturity and value to RPG as an originator of new thinking supported by 'science'.
3. **Advisory Council Review:** continue to develop relationships with organisations with the objective of covering a wide range of different aspects of food and farming that are pertinent to the Group's policy position. We will need to think carefully and broadly, for example about issues that include CLA and CCL (business), NFA (farming), Soil Association (organic), Red Tractor (food standards), Agri EPI (sustainable STEM), RAU (academia), food systems and food justice and environmental services.



## Political Independence

The Rural Policy Group and its RED Talks do not have any political affiliations and we have welcomed, and continue to welcome, involvement and support from a wide range of political parties including Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, SNP and The Green Party.

Our apolitical stance is appreciated by our grass roots business audiences who value our impartial dissemination of national policy in a way which facilitates an actionable business response. Our political independence is fundamental to the trust we have built with our audience and our speakers; they are able to believe that what we say is in the best interests of sustainable business rather than in furthering any political agenda.

# Rural Policy Group Core Priorities Remain The Same

**“Sustainable Finance Priorities to Stimulate  
and Support the Long-Term Future of  
Agriculture, Food and Farming (AFF)”**

## Food Pricing

Fair value in the upstream and  
downstream supply chain


## Food Security

United Kingdom 70% self sufficient  
in food production by 2030



# The Rural Policy Group Council

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“*Debate without action is simply talking. The time for talking is over. Now is the time for action if we are to enjoy a sustainable future for Business.*”

Sarah Dodds  
Head of Agriculture and Partner at  
MHA & Council Member

The Rural Policy Group is overseen by a voluntary Advisory Council representing the highest level of expertise in relevant sectors. The Group is not led by a single individual, rather a collective of people that share their knowledge, leadership and expertise at the highest level.

The Council is reviewed annually and has been created following the impactful work of a number of commercially experienced individuals regarding the business potential of rural companies, their value (sustainably and economically) and their impact on skills and career development. A series of papers on rural policy have also been published with a substantial amount of work responding to the issues of our times. The Rural Policy Group is an independent action-based ‘think-tank’ acting as an advocate for rural and associated policy needs of businesses. The Council’s aim is to provide a representative voice for Rural in the United Kingdom.

Publicity and media relations are agreed by the Group at the appropriate times. The leadership of the Rural Policy Group, in terms of council, is shared as part of the communications strategy of the Group. Bringing together voices for business in a logical and professional way has never been more necessary, or more critical.

The Council is united in its passion to advance sustainable finance and sustainable business practices within the rural economy. By creating original thought, debate and meaningful recommendations that can be used by agencies and Business, we hope that the Group is making a real difference.



**Sarah Calcutt**  
Business Owner, Chair of  
National Fruit Show, Vice  
Chair at RPG  
Fruit Industry



**Robert James**  
Technical Director at  
Thanet Earth  
Fresh Produce Technology



**Cheryl Roux**  
Fruiterers Past Master &  
Businesswoman  
Food Industry



**Professor Mario Caccamo**  
Managing Director  
at NIAB EMR  
Food Science



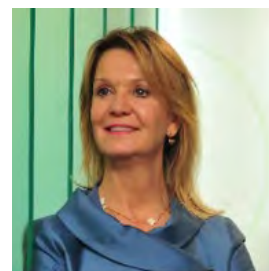
**Phil Acock**  
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Grower and Processor



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Business Support



**Christine Elliott**  
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**David Hall**  
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ESG and Brand  
Specialist



**Mark J. Lumsdon-Taylor**  
Chair of Rural Policy Group,  
Partner at MHA & Joint  
Head of Sustainability



# Rural Policy Group

## 2021 Deliverables - The Highlights

### Introduction

Formed in October 2019, the Rural Policy Group has already grown to be one of the most important forums for food, farming, agricultural and rural businesses.

To date, all of the time, of all of the participants, has been freely donated. We are a group of passionate advocates for the sector who believe that the forum we have created can bypass bureaucratic restrictions and allow grass-roots business owners to have an influential voice for change and development. Online seminars, known as RED (Rural Economic Development) Talks, facilitate a collaborative and informative dialogue between policy decision-makers, policy influencers, politicians and business. The forum also serves to enhance sustainability, ESG and policy knowledge in the agriculture, food and farming sectors and to encourage sustainable accounting as the norm.

In 2021 the webinars have become more focused on sustainability, and the panels have consisted of a balance of sector experts, politicians from both the House of Commons and The Lords, policy advisers, academics, business leaders and scientists. Past speakers have included chef Rosemary Shrager, Luke Pollard (Shadow EFFRA Secretary), Daniel Zeichner (Shadow Environment Minister), Peter Rolton (chair of Rolto Group and BritishVolt), Professor Louise Manning (RAU), Nick von Westenholz and Sam Durham from the NFU leadership team, Rob King (Head of Sustainable Finance at HSBC) and Sarah Hendry CBE (Director General, CLA).

In addition to drawing political speakers from the Houses of Parliament, MPs and peers are now choosing to attend as audience members, clearly drawing insight and connections from our online seminars. This reflects the reputation RPG is building as an apolitical thought leader in policy and in translating policy into practical action for business.

### Our Supporters

From the outset Rural Policy Group has been supported by top-10 business advisory practice MHA, the UK member of Baker Tilly International, the Institute of Directors (IOD), NIAB EMR, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the James Hutton Institute, Whitehead Monckton law firm, Adams Group and the Bank of England.

As we enter a new year of RED Talks, their continuing support demonstrates the benefits they receive from the relationship they have with RPG and the benefits they perceive for the wider rural business community.



# 2021 Highlights - The Numbers

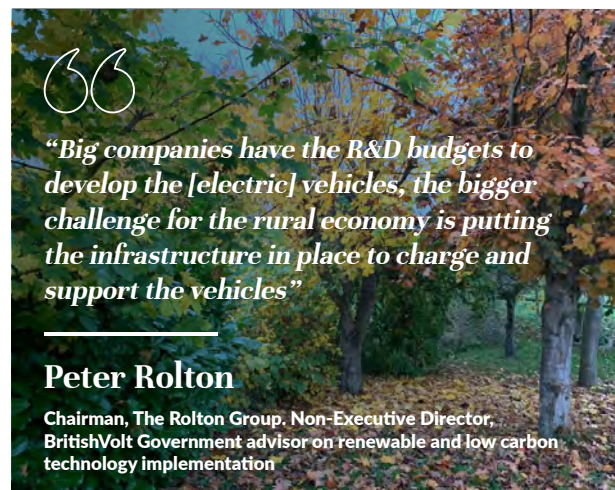


TOTAL NUMBER OF RED TALK ATTENDEES	1,100+
TOTAL NUMBER OF TWITTER IMPRESSIONS	ALMOST 500,000
TOTAL NUMBER OF TWITTER VISITS	CIRCA 2,500
TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS DEBATED	477
NUMBER OF SPEAKERS	50
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS SUPPORTING RPG	100+
NEW WEBSITE USERS	4,778
WEBSITE VISITS	6,522
WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS	13,625



“ELMS needs to be environmentally and economically sustainable”

**Luke Pollard**  
Labour (Co-op) Member of Parliament for Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport. Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2020 – 2021)



“Big companies have the R&D budgets to develop the [electric] vehicles, the bigger challenge for the rural economy is putting the infrastructure in place to charge and support the vehicles”

**Peter Rolton**  
Chairman, The Rolton Group. Non-Executive Director, BritishVolt Government advisor on renewable and low carbon technology implementation



“It is important not to conflate food poverty with food prices”

**Nick von Westenholz**  
Director of Trade and Business Strategy, NFU



“There is clearly a link between a community’s health and its productivity”

**Anne Marie Morris**  
Conservative Member of Parliament for Newton Abbott  
Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Health and Social Care

### RED TALK SUMMARY: RURAL HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021



*There is clearly a link between a community's health and its productivity.*

**- Anne Marie Morris**

Conservative Member of Parliament for Newton Abbott, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Health and Social Care

#### Discussion summary:

It is widely recognized that rural communities do not receive equal access to health and social care services, an inequality that reduces the productivity of the rural economy.

The financial settlement that came into play on 1 April 2021 gave £11 per head less in social care funding and 16% less per head for the new social care grants. As a whole, rural residents get 42% less government-funded spending power than their urban counterparts. This is despite an acknowledgement that it costs more to provide care and other services in a rural setting.

For the rural economy to play its part in the national economy, we need to look at broadband, transport, health & social care and further education, skills and training. They interplay in peoples' lives and so need to interplay in policy. Unless we tackle all these policy areas together, we will continue to have a situation where younger people feel they have no choice but to leave rural areas in search of work and affordable housing.

Perhaps one of the clearest examples of the effect the availability of healthcare has on the economy is in the Scottish Isles. Historically, every island had a full time GP. The cost of this is not sustainable and GPs have been taken off smaller islands with profound implications. Taking a GP off island has been shown to lead to depopulation and the beginning of a downward cycle for both community and economy.

Investment in rural areas is a means of stimulating growth and resilience in UK plc through rural regeneration, rural economic growth and support governmental targets for both levelling up and a green economy.



#### Poll Result:

77% of business people and care practitioners operating in rural locations believe better health and social care provision would help revitalize rural communities.

#### Recommendations:

1. We need more specialist-generalist practitioners with a greater degree of generalism in their training, including in mental health and social care.
2. We need to invest in road, transport and broadband infrastructures to make accessing healthcare easier for those in rural and remote settings. Improvements in infrastructure will also help tackle the feelings of isolation and loneliness which contribute to the epidemic of mental health and suicide in rural communities.
3. We need to review the centrist approach to healthcare provision with a view towards developing policy framework with sufficient nuance to reflect the different characteristics of different areas and meet local need even where cost of delivery diverges from the norm.

## RED TALK SUMMARY: ENERGY & INDUSTRY

### 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021



*We are perhaps at the point of inertia and need further funding to be able to take a leap of faith.*

**- Rachel Nutt**

National Head of Tax and Renewable & Sustainable Energy Sector Head, Partner at MHA

#### Discussion summary:

There is a long way to go to achieve Net Zero by 2050 and landowning businesses have a natural advantage when it comes to going green and delivering 'green services' to the wider economy.

With estimates suggesting as much as 70% of the UK's landmass is under the management of agricultural & farm businesses, the first step to a more sustainable UK is to encourage farmers to stay on their land with a framework of policies which support profitable food production. With a stable core business, attentions can turn to diversification opportunities in renewable & sustainable energy generation, carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) and biofuel production.

Through their diversification into clean energy and CCUS, landowning businesses will be able to reduce their own carbon emissions and those of the wider economy.

However, the rural economy needs clear direction, financial incentives and information to harness its potential as a green powerhouse for UK plc. While the Environmental Land Management scheme is a significant motivator for change, the loss of farm payments will be a financial barrier to investing in sustainability for many agricultural businesses.



#### Poll Result:

81% of businesses see the adoption of green technologies as a positive in customer engagement

#### Recommendations:

1. We need to encourage farmers to stay on the land with a framework of policies which support the market for UK-produced food, including a more ambitious food security target of 70% and more robust implementation of legislation laid out in the Agriculture Act 2020 to encourage fair dealing and fair pricing within the food supply chain.
2. We need more funding for decarbonization projects and the development and adoption of low carbon technologies through a system of grants, loans and tax incentives.
3. We need clear advice and guidance on how to reduce emissions. 95% of rural businesses are SMEs with small entrepreneurial teams and many do not have the in-house expertise.

## RED TALK SUMMARY: RURAL CRIME

25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021



*We need to transform the public consciousness and emphasise the value of the countryside for feeding us, our wellbeing and environmental gains*

**Crispin Truman** OBE

Chief Executive, CPRE

### Discussion summary:

The level of rural crime was exacerbated by an influx of visitors during the pandemic. Some crimes were committed by unwitting and unaware visitors. The more serious concern was the rise of offenders who were determined and organized to commit crimes which cause damage, chaos and financial loss. Thefts of farm machinery, dog thefts, fly tipping, hare coursing, crop damage and damage to hedgerows and gateways all rose during lockdown with the average cost of an incident of crime being estimated at £5,000 to the farm business.

The NFU Mutual reported the cost of rural crime was £54.3m in 2019. This puts additional pressure on farm budgets and cashflow at a time when those businesses are already concerned by shrinking European markets, labour shortages, rising costs and preparing for the loss of farm payments.

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The cost of rural crime is not limited to repairing damage, replacing property and higher insurance policy premiums. Farmers are becoming more proactive towards crime prevention. Installing electric gates, erecting barriers, CCTV, spy cams and smart phone apps all incur additional business costs.

The emotional impact of rural crime on an isolated farmer is often underestimated. Members of the farming community – which already experiences high levels of mental health difficulties – report feeling demoralized, mentally exhausted and suspicious of people approaching their land.

### Recommendations:

1. We need to get more people into the countryside so they can learn about it, understand it and respect it. Educating people about rural life and removing the rural-urban divide are essential to reducing rural crime.
2. We need more investment in rural policing teams and rural-specific policing policy with legislation and sentencing that reflect the severity of the crimes. There is a 23% difference between the funding for urban and rural police forces and this needs to be addressed.

## RED TALK SUMMARY: FOOD AFTER BREXIT

15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021



*The food security issue is really important.*

**Daniel Zeichner**

Labour Member of Parliament for Cambridge  
Shadow Environment Minister

### Discussion summary:

We will never know what the impact of Brexit would have been without the added shock of a global pandemic, but just four months into Brexit, food and farming businesses expressed concerns about their new operating environment and the accessibility of nutritional security, as opposed to calorie security, for consumers.

The picture for many businesses was one of falling sales and rising costs. Trade into Europe declined dramatically in the first months immediately after Brexit. Simultaneously, businesses were reporting increased costs and longer lead times associated with imports from the continent.

Restrictions to the freedom of movement of labour has also challenged the food supply chain. A lack of skilled and experienced farmworkers, butchers and food processors from Europe has reduced the country's capacity to produce food, contributing to price inflation and food shortages for consumers and financial losses for farmers. Stories about livestock culls and crops rotting in fields became commonplace.

However, the biggest concern for agriculture is subsidy reform. When the Basic Payment Scheme ends, 42% of farms will potentially be loss-making. This number rises to 98% in the Northeast. The effects on employment, hollowing out rural communities, the countryside, the accessibility of nutritious food and the sustainability of the national diet will be momentous if farmers leave the industry en masse.

Most people want to maintain high food standards, but until equivalence of standards is written into law, the option to compromise nutritional, environmental and animal welfare standards remains a threat to public health and economic productivity.

### Recommendations:

1. We need policy to achieve greater food security with a roadmap to 70% self-reliance.
2. We need to review migration policies restricting the inflow of farmworkers and food processors from Europe to enable farms to secure an adequate supply of skilled labour to improve the UK's level of self-sufficiency.
3. We need to review profit margins at different points of the supply chain to ensure a fairer distribution to primary producers to make production more resilient, sustainable and attractive to new entrants.
4. We need to protect equivalence of food standards in future trade deals.

## RED TALK SUMMARY: NATURE ON PRESCRIPTION

20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021



*The connection to nature is good for all our wellbeing so we should nudge and encourage, but from a medical viewpoint, there is value in prescribing nature as a way of resolving physical and mental dysfunctionalities.*

### Barry Gardiner

Labour Member of Parliament for Brent North  
Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Nature

#### Discussion summary:

Nature is good for us and by ensuring everybody has access to it we can reduce socioeconomic inequalities across society. The framework of policy and resource needs to address inequality, otherwise we will intensify societal divisions in health outcomes and life expectancy. Social prescribing is not something for the Department of Health and Social Care to tackle alone. In 2020, DEFRA initiated a £4m project aimed at tackling mental health through green social prescribing which attracted additional funding from the Cabinet.

Nature benefits mental and physiological health, and productivity at work. The body of scientific research to allow clinicians to prescribe treatments with accuracy and in the expectation of specific outcomes is growing. Public Health England says more research is needed, but they are suggesting official guidance could change to put access to nature and time spent outdoors on a par with five-a-day. The '120 Minutes a Week in Nature' survey conducted by the University of Exeter estimates that prescribing contact with nature gives a return of £6.88 on every £1 invested.

There is an imbalance in government spending on sickness and aftercare and preventing sickness. This is being redressed as the benefits of spending time in nature are recognised and social prescribing is incorporated into the health and social care framework. The NHS plans to recruit more social prescribing link workers in primary care and is working towards replicating the Japanese model of forest bathing clinics.

Preventing sickness would reduce demand for NHS services and contribute to levelling up by reducing health and economic imbalances between areas and social groups. A system of nature-on-prescription is not just for the government to implement; it involves partnerships with charities, commercial organisations and individual agency.

The role of the rural economy in delivering nature-on-prescription cannot be underestimated, and the benefits to rural communities and the Treasury cannot be underestimated. The wellness industry is booming and provides a welcome additional source of employment, opportunity, skills and income for people in remote and isolated rural areas. A single treehouse in Somerset achieved £89k of bookings in 2019 – and it is not unique among luxury glamping properties.

#### Recommendations:

1. We need more cross-departmental collaboration, and collaboration with third sector and commercial organisations, to align research, policies and funding for social prescribing.
2. We need the Environmental Land Management Scheme to encourage landowners to invest in spaces which would support nature prescribing and generate wealth and employment for rural communities while delivering public goods.

# RED TALK SUMMARY: ENVIRONMENTAL LAND MANAGEMENT

## SCHEME & COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021

### Discussion summary:

The move away from food subsidies in favour of payments for public goods will be challenging for the farming industry as a whole and for many farms at an individual level, particularly smaller farms and tenanted farmers. It has the power to influence how we feed the nation, the landscape and the value and structure of rural economies.

Qualifying for ELMS payments will require changes to how food is produced and a degree of diversification, both of which require investment capital and a degree of re-skilling. The scheme brings both opportunity and challenge; challenges which have the potential to shrink the agriculture, farming and associated industries (worth £116 billion to the economy) and threaten food security in the UK unless we support farmers to evolve business models and become even better at what they do.

Clean energy generation, fuel crops, CCUS and wellbeing services all help deliver the public goods detailed in ELMS and would provide incomes, employment, training, skills and opportunities to rural communities to help them level up to their urban counterparts whilst making environmental gains. But we are yet to know whether ELMS would allow, for example, a qualifying woodland to be opened for wellbeing and social prescribing or used for carbon offsetting. This is frustrating the planning process for many businesses and creating a state of inertia while they wait for clarification.

ELMS also provides the opportunity for farms to produce food more sustainably and improve efficiencies. However, we must be careful that efficiencies do not further subsidise the price of food to consumers or inflate profits at the upper end of the food supply chain. Redistribution of margin down the supply chain to primary producers and processors to enhance financial stability must accompany any efficiencies they invest in. This requires the provisions set out in the Agriculture Act 2020 to be robustly enacted and enforced.

We cannot rely on consolidation within the industry to deliver efficiencies; large scale agricultural producers may not opt into ELMS, preferring not to be burdened with a higher level of environmental responsibility. Smaller businesses are more likely to engage with the scheme to replace lost BPS payments; many are already conducting yield mapping to identify land available for the schemes.

No matter how good ELMS is, it does not alter the economics of food production and a report by Defra concluded that only 25% of farms are profitable without direct payments. Taken together with the post-Brexit international trade landscape, new climate legislation and net zero targets, ELMS will be momentous for British farming. A framework of level playing field, margin redistribution through the supply chain, encouraging consumer demand for British produce, an ambitious food security target and a food value reset needs to be established to prevent an irrecoverable loss of farming and environmental knowledge.

### Recommendations:

1. We need cross-party collaboration on funding after 2024 when ELMS is due to end. Many qualifying projects are longer-term and clarity will stimulate landowners to engage. As businesspeople, they must be able to forecast the return on their investments.
2. We need more detail on ELMS. More information and guidance will enable businesses to plan and prepare for the delivery of public goods.
3. We need recognition that ELMS will not deliver the same income to food producers as BPS or change the economics of food production. A framework of support needs to be implemented to help those businesses become profitable.

# RED TALK SUMMARY: ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN FOOD & FARMING

15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

## Discussion summary:

We have reached the end of combustion engine technology and electric vehicles are on their way. Battery technology is constantly improving, costs are coming down and businesses are becoming more aware of their impact on the environment. However, the agriculture, food and farming sector needs practical plans and tax innovation to help it achieve decarbonization targets and green policy goals for a more sustainable economy and food system.

The cost benefit of electric vehicles (EVs) is starting to come to the fore as the price of batteries starts to come down. Combined with the savings on running costs, EV starts to become a cleaner and cheaper proposition. In the rural setting, if you have the means to generate and store your own power, the costs can be almost entirely offset. Businesses effectively create their own mini green power station to collect power, store it and use it to charge vehicles and meet other power needs.

One of the issues with electric farm vehicles, which get high levels of utilization at certain times of year, is finding the time to charge them. A combine harvester running day and night will need a very big charger to charge it quickly. Another important challenge to the usefulness of EV in farming is weather. Cold weather decreases battery range and a lot of farm work is undertaken in bad weather.

On the other hand, EV brings a number of opportunities to think differently about how we work, rather than simply taking an existing vehicle and changing the engine. EV technology delivers higher torque and more precise torque control meaning vehicles and their engines can be downsized. There are also opportunities and technologies such as autonomous vehicles and 'swarming' which could improve productivity and efficiency.

Investing in green technologies such as EV charge points and solar panels attract good tax efficiencies. At the moment, the electrical system in the middle does not. An electrical supply for EV is treated the same as an electrical supply for the daily running of the business. Tax legislation around capital allowances is too old and needs reviewing to meet the ambitions of the 130% Super Deduction incentive.



### Poll Result:

Only 26% of leaders in the food supply chain think electric vehicles are a realistic option for their business in the near future. The majority have concerns around costs, capability and infrastructure.

### Recommendations:

1. Review and modernise tax legislation to support the Super Deduction in stimulating more environmentally friendly expenditure and behaviours.
2. Front-end subsidies and tax incentivisation are going to be needed to make the case for transitioning to zero emission vehicles.
3. We need to get the clean power supply and charging infrastructure right before electric vehicles are deployed through the food supply chain. This needs government involvement as manufacturer-led planning has created a less than optimal system where every vehicle cannot use every charging point.

## RED TALK SUMMARY: BREXIT AND FOOD POVERTY

23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021



*We have taken our ability to produce food for granted for decades and now government needs to view it as the foundation of a strong economy.*

**Christine Jardine**

Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Edinburgh West

Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Treasury, Exiting the European Union and International Trade

### Discussion summary:

Brexit and Covid together have created an opportunity for a paradigm shift in the food system. The UK has an opportunity to fix a broken system so it works for consumers and those who work within it.

The underlying tension between producer and consumer is the misconception around food poverty and the cultural expectation of cheap food. Food poverty is a function of inadequate incomes rather than food pricing. Only America and Singapore spend less on food as a percentage of income. Suppressing food prices to address food poverty avoids the underlying issue and threatens food security.

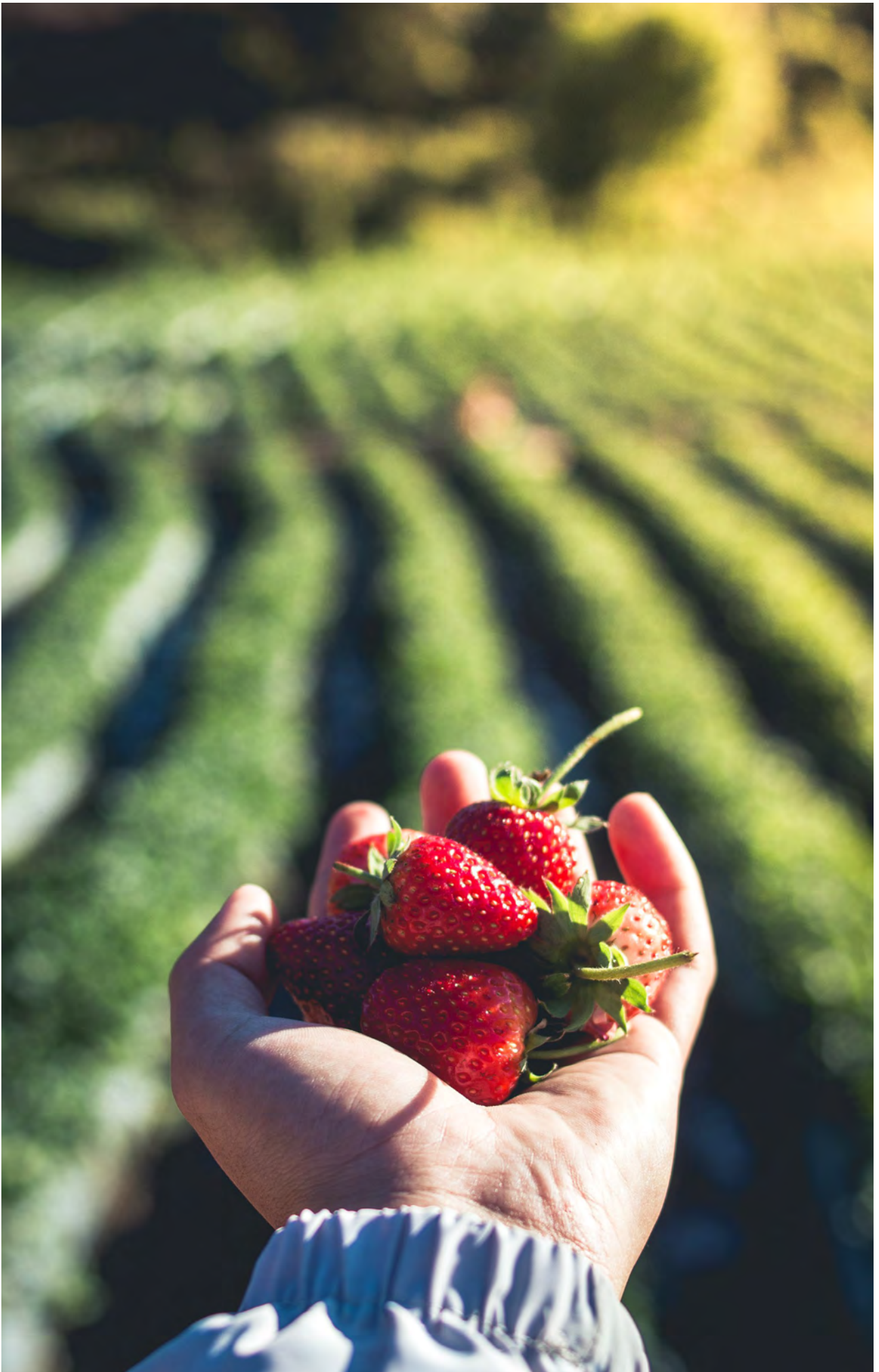
With such low margins and conditions hardening since Brexit, many producers are questioning their futures. Fortunately, the UK has a proud farming heritage and many want to continue on their land, even at a cost to themselves. Relying on this goodwill is not a viable long-term strategy for food security, environmental gain and levelling up rural communities. The cost and effort of production must be reflected in the price farmers and other primary producers achieve for their product. Part of the solution lies in how we value food and part lies in encouraging a fairer distribution of margin right through the supply chain so more profit flows from retailer to producer.

We have worked very hard in this country to achieve a high performing food sector producing healthy, high standard and high welfare food. British food producers work to higher standards than is required from trading partners and this creates an unlevel playing field. Higher standards incur higher costs and British producers may struggle to retain their market share against lower standard, lower price imports. The asymmetry of border controls is also a concern as it has contributed to a 30% decline in exports compared to 2019, while imports over the same period are only down 15%.

The introduction of more lower cost alternatives is not only detrimental to British farming, it will also intensify the health divide between social groups and increase the amount of environmental degradation we export.

### Recommendations:

1. Disaggregate food prices and food poverty in policy discussions. Food poverty is not a useful term as it disguises the underlying causes of poverty and reduces the experience of poverty. Those experiencing food poverty are also struggling with fuel poverty, housing and other essential expenditure.
2. Ensure equivalence of food standards is a priority in future trade deals.





# Investing in Fair Value & Food Security

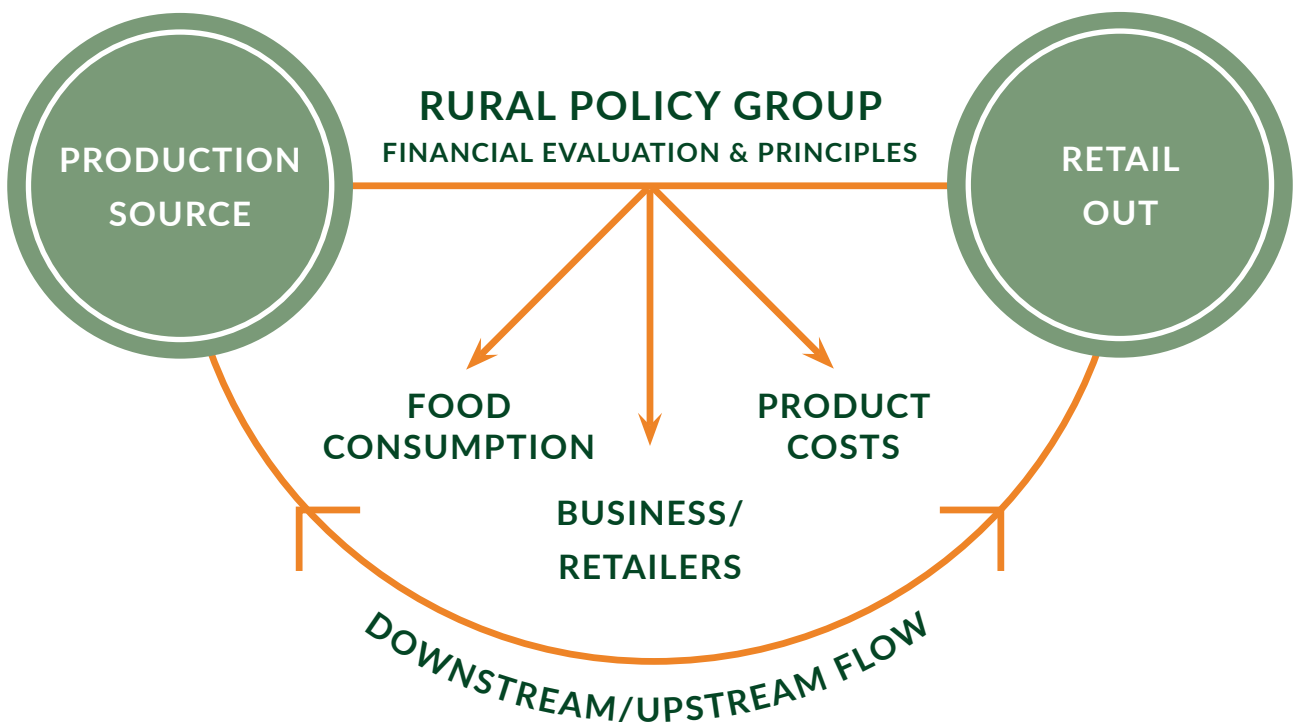
Food is a basic human need, a need that is served by the UK's most successful home grown sector of recent years, the 'Multiples'. It is a sector that boasts 3 (two 'bricks & mortar' and one online) of the FTSE 100 All Share Index constituents that total £32 billion of market capitalisation.

Add the overseas chains and unlisted multiples (M&S is within the FTSE 250) and this number increases by 60%. A huge employer, a profit machine that can buck trends in uncertain times. Potentially an investor's dream.

Let's start at the beginning of the story and complete that first sentence. Food is a basic human need that is met by farmers and growers. The food production and manufacturing sector boasts a very limited number of listed companies, represents less than 1% of UK GVA and has fewer than 1.5% of UK employment, but it contributed to a total of £127 billion to the UK economy in 2019 (9.8% GDP) including all of Agri-Food.

However, perception is key to any investment decision so it seems strange that a sector such as farming, that drives so much of the so-called 'Food Chain', is confined to the lower end of the Value Proposition. The reality is that farming is the key ingredient in the UK's food sector, contributing £11 billion to the UK economy in 2020. Put simply, without UK farming there is no so-called food chain. But how can perceptions be changed?

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## THE FOOD CHAIN NEEDS TO BE BROKEN.

We believe it is vitally important to re-brand how we present our food sector, For years it has been called the 'Food Chain' or the 'Supply Chain'. Yes, all of the steps from farm to fork and beyond are connected but without the farmer or producer the rest of the chain doesn't exist. In addition to this we have the fact that the end of the chain exerts far more influence than the beginning of the chain.

Therefore, we prefer to think of the food sector in terms of the energy supply sector - 'upstream' and 'downstream'. Without the upstream, there is no downstream; a recognition of the importance afforded to energy supplies but one that is completely the wrong way round in the food sector. UK farmers still provide circa 60% of the food consumed in the UK.

The reality is that without a change of mindset, the river will start to run dry.



*The food security issue is really important.*

- Daniel Zeichner

## THE PERFECT STORM.

Many readers of this report will have some detailed knowledge of population growth forecasts and the fact that global diets are becoming increasingly westernised. More people and more meat-eaters means increased demand for food. Health is the Agenda (the 'S' of 'ESG').

There are enough reports available detailing just how quickly our population will grow and how it is impossible, based on current capacity for land utilisation, to feed them.

The reality is that there are already too many undernourished people in the world and in 2021 we have seen a disastrous world harvest leading to a massive increase in food commodity pricing.

## THE UK FOOD POWERHOUSES.

The UK's Food Powerhouses include Lincolnshire, Kent, the South West and more. RPG is about building on these strengths.

To do that we need to show investors why food and farming is worth investing in.

Put simply, RPG is about raising the importance of investment in Powerhouse and other food and farming sectors by demonstrating their strengths and the fair-value opportunities.



*The connection to nature is good for all our wellbeing so we should nudge and encourage, but from a medical viewpoint, there is value in prescribing nature as a way of resolving physical and mental dysfunctionalities.*

- Barry Gardiner

## THE INVESTOR'S DREAM.

The investment case is there for farming and food produce:

- A basic human need that will always be in demand.
- A growing customer base with an increasing per capita requirement.

Clearly if the investment case and fair value perception were that obvious, there would be no need for this report.

Milton Friedman formerly said, "there is no such thing as a free lunch", giving society the ability to put freedom before equality, not achieve both. This is the opportunity.

## THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT.

Food production is more than just farming.

The 'Multiplier Effect' diagram on page 26 shows just what this sector entails. From the research and development that creates the new strains of crops through to recycling, it is a huge industry, but one that is fundamentally reliant on the farmer.



*We need to transform the public consciousness and emphasise the value of the countryside for feeding us, our wellbeing and environmental gains.*

- Crispin Truman OBE

## THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH.

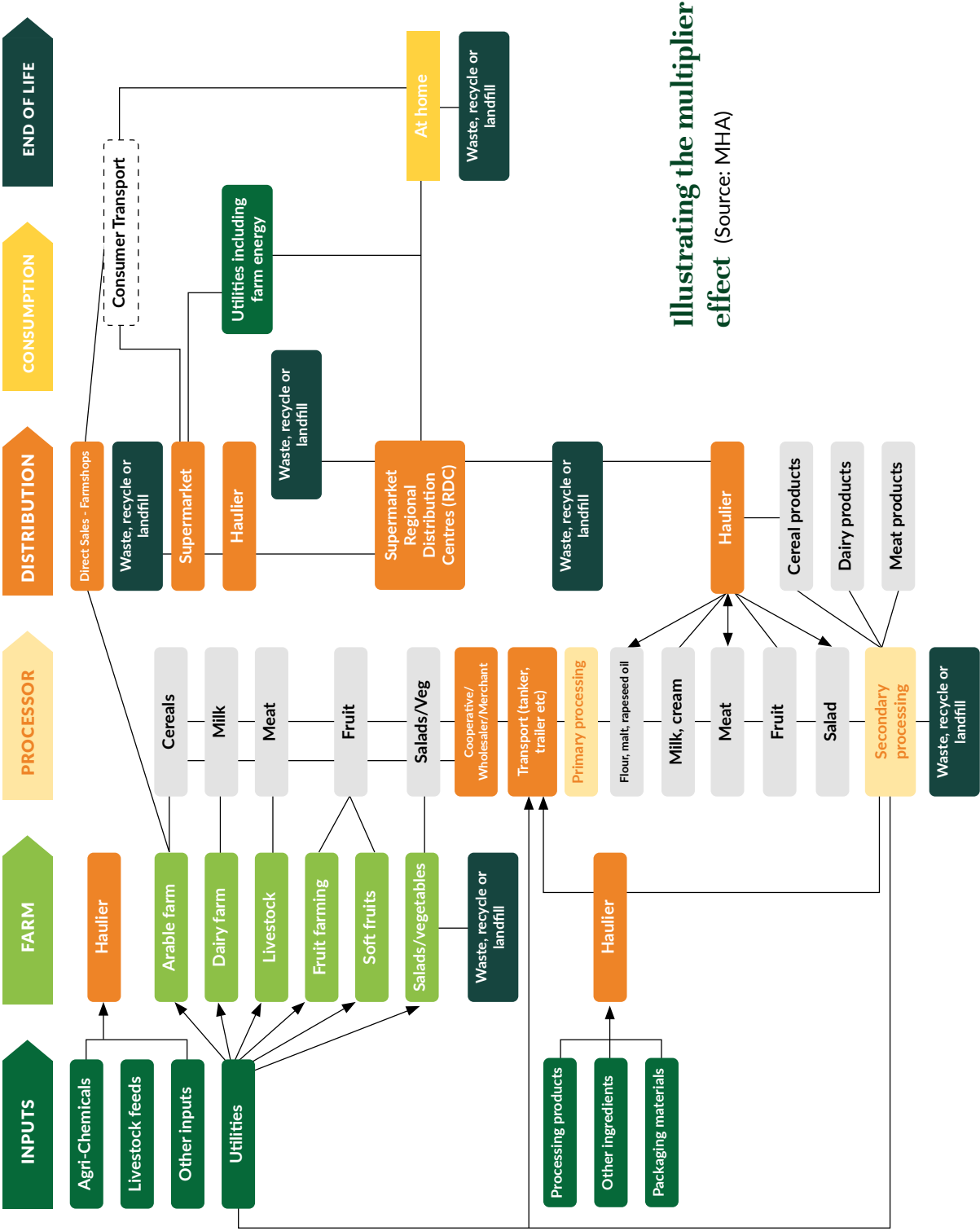
This report details and underlines the strength of the UK's farming industry in areas such as Kent and Lincolnshire - what we have termed 'Our Foundation'.

But every investor needs to know where the opportunities are. These are the areas we have identified.

## SUMMARY.

The RPG purpose is about creating a voice and a platform for the UK's food and farming sector.

We can only do this by re-writing how the sector is viewed and giving investors a roadmap to the opportunities whilst demonstrating our significant strength and scale.





# Rural Policy Group Financial Values



## Context Based on the Kent Food Powerhouse

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Food production plays a crucial role in Kent's economy. The Kent Food Chain is worth £28 billion per annum and accounts for 17% of Kent's workforce. Agriculture and horticulture represent the lynch pins of this sector; providing the primary inputs for food manufacturing - along with a range of wider environmental services and benefits.

Kent accounts for a significant share of the UK's food production and processing businesses. Almost two-thirds of the UK's top fruit (apples, pears, etc) is grown in Kent and it is estimated that a third of the UK's strawberry production is also located in the county.

*Another Powerhouse - Lincolnshire - grows 30% of UK vegetables, supplies 18% of UK poultry and has an agricultural value of circa £2 billion. In fact, we will be focusing on the Lincolnshire Food Powerhouse later this year.*

Nationally, the strategic importance of the food sector is being reappraised due to escalating concerns over the future of global food security. With the current global population predicted to rise to nine billion by 2050, coupled with current trends in food demand, food price inflation and climate change, many experts believe that a global food crisis is inevitable unless concerted action is now taken.

As one of the UK's key food producing regions, and through being home to a significant share of the UK's specialist agricultural and horticultural R&D base, Kent is well-placed to play a major role in delivering solutions - at both a national and international level - and contribute to sustainable economic growth.



## Delivering Solutions & Harnessing The Opportunities

In view of the strategic and economic importance of Kent's food sector, food production has been identified as one of the priority growth areas. This document sets out the importance of agriculture under food value and food security to foster the sustainable development of the food sector by:

- Raising awareness of the strategic and economic importance of the food production sector across the country (especially in light of growing concerns over future food security).
- Creating an enabling policy framework to support the future development of the sector.
- Identifying priority actions for unlocking future growth and creating a sustainable future for the sector.



## The Global Context

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Food security represents one of this century's greatest global challenges and also an economic opportunity. The Royal Society's 'Reaping the Benefits' report and the UK Government's Foresight report have emphasised that global food insecurity is a chronic problem that is set to worsen, due to:

- Increasing world population: anticipated to rise from today's population of seven billion to around eight billion by 2030 and to nine billion by 2050.
- Changing and converging consumption patterns with more countries e.g. China and India, adopting Western style diets. Brazil already has a Western style diet.
- Increasing per capita incomes, leading to increased general resource consumption and, specifically, a growing demand for livestock products (meat and dairy) which require more resources to produce per calorie.
- Growing demand for biofuels due to increasing scarcity of fossil fuels and need to mitigate against climate change.
- Water and land scarcity arising from unsustainable water consumption, loss of agricultural land through urbanisation, production of energy crops, and land degradation.
- Adverse impacts of climate change with rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, new pests and diseases and more frequent extreme events affecting crop production.

This unprecedented confluence of pressures around food security, climate change, population growth and the need to sustainably manage the world's rapidly growing demand for energy and water has been described by Professor Sir John Beddington, the UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser, as 'the perfect storm' of global events.

The 'perfect storm scenario' predicts that by 2030 the world will require 50% more food and energy, 30% more available fresh water, whilst mitigating and adapting to the challenge around climate change. Furthermore, the United Nations has estimated that food production will need to increase by 70% by 2050.

***Global food production is at a critical juncture and there is an urgent need for action.***

The impact of these pressures is already being felt within the global food system. After 20+ years of low food commodity prices, the price shock of 2007/8 and the marked volatility in food prices over the subsequent years has elevated concerns over food security - whilst emphasising the strategic and political importance of agricultural and food production.

# Kent Corporate FTSE Listing (Valuation)

## Financial Valuation of the Rural Sector

1. Value and the Value Case
2. UK METRICS
3. The Kent Perspective
4. Sustainability Report, Sustainability & ESG

### 1. Value and the Value Case

Two centuries of improvement: for the past 200 years, there has been a persistent concern that human population growth would not be met by sufficient increases in agricultural production. Yet the opposite has been true. The supply of food has increased dramatically, fuelled by increasingly capital-intensive agriculture, continuing application of biological/genetic science to food production, greater ability to save crops from pests, and greater ability to preserve perishable products during transport. Yet the question arises as to whether this process of improvement can continue to meet the needs of a growing and more affluent global population. The answer is probably 'yes'. There remains plenty of room for increases in land productivity. Consider the fact that the amount of coarse grain yielded from a hectare of land in the United States is three times greater than the average for the rest of the world. If land productivity in the rest of the world can be increased, food production will rise accordingly. This is important given the trends taking place in the global marketplace.

In the coming decade, it is likely that a disproportionate share of global economic growth will take place in the emerging markets. In these markets, the number of middle-class consumers will rise rapidly. In part, this will be driven by continued migration of rural inhabitants into the cities. Already today, about half of the world's population is urban. Middle-class consumers tend to consume far more meat, fish, and dairy products than poorer consumers. In addition, these products require more grain inputs to achieve a given level of calories. Thus, not only will food demand rise due to a rising population, but also due to rising incomes.

What next for global food production? Boosting land productivity in the emerging world will require several things to take place. Firstly, there will have to be a more capital-intensive form of farming similar to the current format in affluent countries like the United States. Capital investment, in turn, will require that the prices of farm output be set by the forces of supply and demand rather than by governments. Today, subsidized agriculture in rich countries leads to low-price farm products being exported to poor countries. This harms the ability of farmers in poor countries to remain competitive. In addition, some poor countries engage in policies designed to support the needs of urban dwellers, thus discriminating against farmers. Changing these factors is politically difficult but necessary.

In addition, farmers will need to have proper access to credit to fund new capital investments. They will also need to be assured of property rights as an incentive to increasing the productivity - and value - of the land for future sale. Finally, there is considerable room for improvement in food distribution throughout the emerging world. In some poor countries, a large share of perishable food is lost during the process of distribution because of inefficiencies or lack of refrigerated transport. A good solution to this problem is the development of modern retailing. Allowing foreign retail investment into poor countries has been an important tool in creating greater efficiency in the supply chain. The result of this is not only greater availability of food, but lower prices and, consequently, greater purchasing power for poorer consumers. For now, it does not appear that the world's agricultural productivity is rising sufficiently to keep up with increasing demand. One reason is the increase in global food prices in the past decade. Another is the shift in land away from farming toward urban use, which is likely to continue. Still another reason for rising food prices is the increase in global energy prices. This may continue in the coming year as demand in emerging markets grows rapidly. On the other hand, vast increases in energy production are now possible in several parts of the world where new discoveries and new technologies are changing the dynamics of the global energy market.

## The 'chain' and why the value of agriculture, food and farming is crucial:

The food value chain is the network of stakeholders involved in growing, processing, and selling the food that consumers eat - from farm to table. This includes (1) the producers that research, grow, and trade fair commodities, such as corn and cattle; (2) the processors, both primary and value-added, that process, manufacture, and market food products, such as flour and bread; (3) the distributors, including wholesalers and retailers, that market and sell food; (4) the consumers that shop, purchase, and consume food; as well as (5) governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and regulators that monitor and regulate the entire food value chain from producer to consumer. Collaboration among the various stakeholders along the food chain is more important than ever.

The interdependencies between stakeholders are no longer mainly between the functions most closely linked along the chain but can encompass stakeholders anywhere in the network. Because of the global food supply chain and a number of high-profile global food recalls, food safety and traceability have become a major concern. Every stakeholder must be responsible and accountable for the sourcing, handling, and quality control of food because a food-related illness due to a mishap along the value chain can ruin a company's reputation, even if it is not specifically at fault. Therefore, food safety policies and regulations require the input and collaboration of all stakeholders. Knowledge and data sharing (e.g. food storage best practices, consumer trends, inventory levels) is another area where collaboration among stakeholders can improve efficiency along the value chain. In addition, greater vertical integration within the value chain (e.g. retailer private label programmes) means that individual stakeholders are taking on additional roles and responsibilities. The following sections delve further into the key issues, trends, and leading practices of each of the stakeholders outlined above and provide opportunities for improvement and collaboration across the supply chain.

Stakeholder	1. Producers	2. Processors	3. Distributors	4. Consumers
Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research and development</li><li>• Farming</li><li>• Ranching</li><li>• Trading</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Harvesting</li><li>• Butchering</li><li>• Processing</li><li>• Value-add processing</li><li>• Manufacturing</li><li>• Marketing &amp; sales</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distributing</li><li>• Retailing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shopping</li><li>• Consuming</li></ul>
Key issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Management capabilities (e.g. brand &amp; risk capital management, skill gaps)</li><li>• Strategy (e.g. market strategy, M&amp;A for scale)</li><li>• Financial issues (e.g. input &amp; sale price volatility)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategy (e.g. going global, regulatory)</li><li>• Achieving scale (e.g. M&amp;A)</li><li>• Supply chain strategy (e.g. vertical integration, security, safety)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategy (e.g. consumer)</li><li>• Supply chain strategy (e.g. vertical integration, traceability)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food prices (e.g. high prices, price volatility)</li><li>• Food security (e.g. availability)</li><li>• Food safety (e.g. traceability)</li><li>• Health &amp; wellbeing (e.g. obesity)</li></ul>
Stakeholder	5. Governments/NGOs/Regulators			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public health &amp; safety</li><li>• Public policy</li></ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food &amp; product safety</li><li>• Security (e.g. resource, land and food availability and allocation)</li><li>• Policy &amp; support</li></ul>			

## 2. UK METRICS

Headline contributions – Profit and Loss:

In 2020, agriculture contributed around 0.5% to the United Kingdom economy. Agriculture provides half of the food we eat, employs almost half a million people and is a key part of the food and drink sector, which contributed £127 billion to the economy in 2019.

In 2020, farmers and land managers managed 71% of UK land, and through them we can safeguard our natural environment and ensure the highest standards of animal and plant health. This Agriculture in the UK evidence pack brings together existing statistics on agriculture to summarise the current state of the agricultural industry.



In 2019, the UK agriculture industry was made up of 219,000 farm holdings. In 2020, the utilised agricultural area was 17.3 million hectares of land, 71% of the UK land total.

- Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) includes arable and horticultural crops, uncropped arable land, land for outdoor pigs, temporary and permanent grassland and common rough grazing.
- Total utilised agricultural area has remained between 17 and 18 million hectares since 2000.
- Total croppable area consists of cereals, oilseed, potatoes, other arable crops, horticultural crops, uncropped arable land and temporary grass.
- In 2020, the total croppable area was 6.0 million ha, or around 1/3 of the UAA.
- In 2019, 1.6% of the UK arable land was used to produce bioenergy crops, an increase of around 1% since 2015.
- Around 20% of this land was used for biofuel (biodiesel and bioethanol).

### How much does agriculture contribute to the UK economy?

In 2020, agriculture contributed 11 billion (0.49%) of the total net UK economy. When including Retail, related Food and associated industry supply chain this increases to £116 billion (see below) - a 7.2% Total contribution to the net economy.

Agriculture alone: the figures for this were similar in 2019, where England provided 78% of the value, Wales contributed 4%, Scotland 13% and Northern Ireland 5%.

England: 78%

Scotland: 13%

Northern Ireland: 5%

Wales: 4%

In 2019: Agriculture contributed £10.4 billion (0.53%) of the total net UK economy. As in previous years, England contributed the largest share (78%).

Agriculture alone was £11 billion in 2020. The UK food supply chain represents 6.8% of gross value added (around £107 billion) and 4 million jobs, with around 500,000 people in farming and fishing and over 400,000 people in food manufacturing. The UK is not self-sufficient in food production; it imports 48% of the total food consumed and the proportion is rising. Therefore, as a food-trading nation, the UK relies on both imports and a thriving agricultural sector to feed itself and drive economic growth.

The total net UK economy was worth a total of £1.92 trillion in 2020, of which agriculture contributed 0.49% (11 billion). The amount that agriculture contributes to the UK economy has varied little over the past few years at £1.92 trillion.

The importance of TCFD & the Role of agriculture in climate cannot also be underestimated.

Agriculture is responsible for 10% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions, mainly through emissions of methane and nitrous oxide from grazing livestock and fertilisers.

In 2020, 63% of the total value of the UK's agricultural production came from livestock, of which dairy and beef were the largest sectors.

### Value of UK crop and livestock products\*

\*This table shows only the main contributors to crops and livestock product value.

Livestock £15.1 billion (63%), Crops £9.0 billion (37%)

SECTOR	PERCENTAGE (%)	VALUE
Dairy	18%	£4.4bn
Poultry	12%	£2.8bn
Beef	12%	£2.9bn
Sheep	6%	£1.3bn
Pigs	6%	£1.4bn
Other	5%	£1.3bn
Eggs	3%	£0.7bn
Cereals*	11%	£2.8bn
Vegetables/Flowers*	12%	£3.0bn
Fruit	4%	£1.0bn
Industrial Crops	3%	£0.7bn
Other**	3%	£0.7bn
Potatoes	3%	£0.8bn

\* Vegetables/Flowers and Cereals are the two largest crop outputs

\*\* For crops 'other' includes forage plants and other crop products, including seeds

### UK Metrics: Balance Sheet

- In 2020/21 the average (mean) level of liabilities (debts) across all farms was £246,100, a small decrease from 2019/20.
- The average net worth across all farms was £1.94 millions, a small increase on 2019/20. 41% of farms had a net worth of at least £1.5 million.
- The average gearing ratio across all farms was 11%, which is a figure largely unchanged over the last decade.
- The average liquidity ratio was 262%, which marked the third year of consecutive increases to a 10-year high.
- Net interest payments were 10% of Farm Business Income (FBI), a small decrease on 2019/20.
- The median ROCE was -0.2% in 2020/21. This has changed little over the last 9 years, although there was a wide range of values across farms and over half (52%) of farms had a negative return.

DEBT: The average level of debt across all farms in 2020/21 was around £246,100, a small decrease from years previous. In real terms, the decrease is more pronounced, and is driven by the marked increase in GDP inflation. The component parts of average liability per farm 2020/21 are Bank and institutional loans being

the largest components of any liabilities, and this overall composition has changed little in recent years. The relationship between farm type and liabilities is also important. For most farm types there is little change on 2019/20 figures. Specialist pig and poultry farms had the highest average debts of £625,100 per farm, compared with LFA grazing livestock and lowland grazing livestock which had the lowest average debts of any farm type at £96,300 and £98,000 respectively. For farms with liabilities of below £10,000 and below £50,000, there is a monotonic decrease in the proportion of farms by farm size. The smaller the farm size category, the lower the liabilities. In terms of averages very large farms have liabilities of £873,500, while spare and part-time farms have liabilities of £78,400.

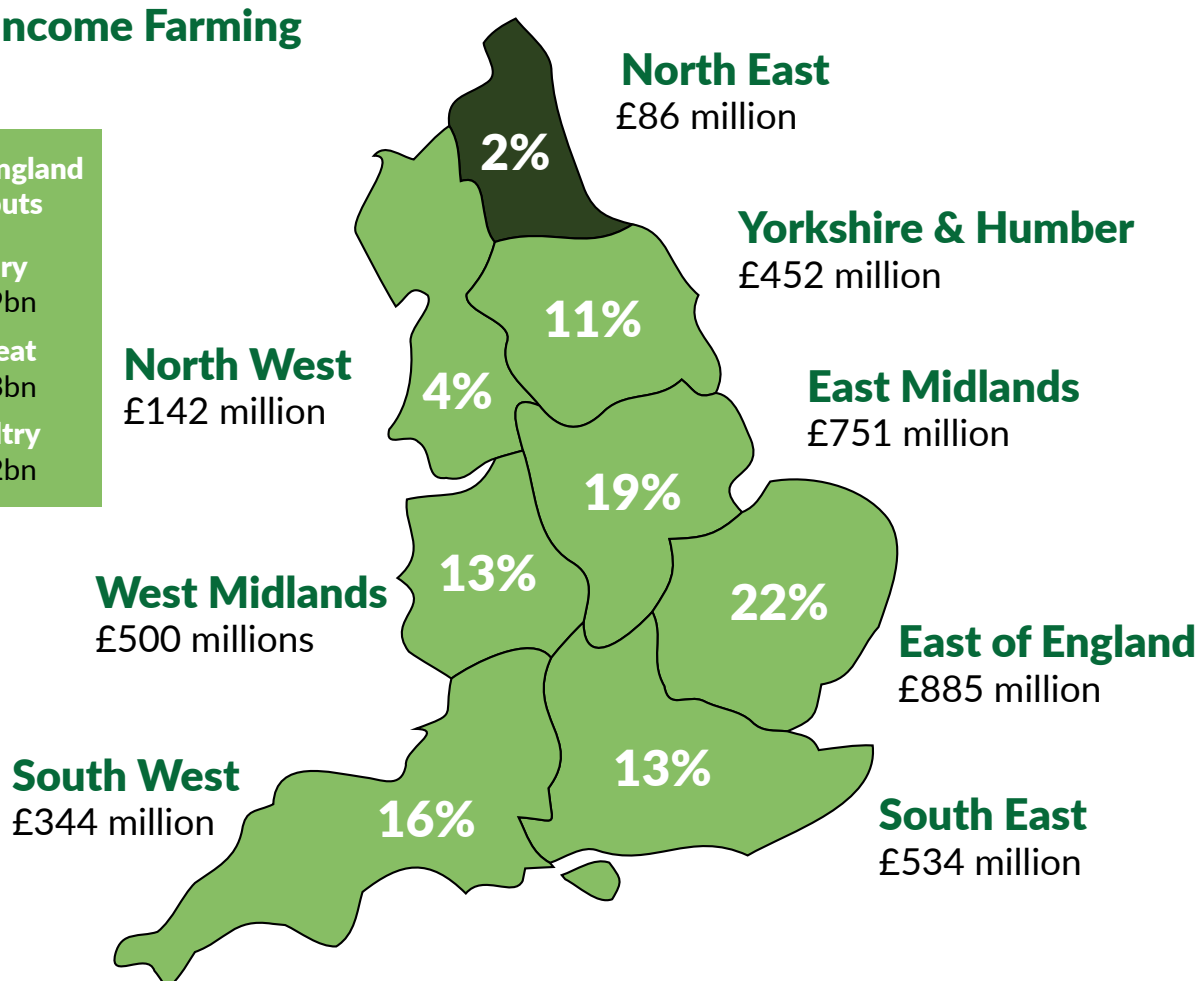
FARM TYPE	NET WORTH (£/ha)
Cereals	15,900
General Cropping	14,600
Dairy	12,700
LFA Grazing Livestock	5,800
Lowland Grazing Livestock	13,300
Pigs & Poultry	18,300
Mixed	12,800
Horticulture	37,600
All	13,500

**NET WORTH:** The average net worth across all farms in England was £1.94m in 2020/21. There has been a general increase in both current prices and real terms since 2009/10, driven mostly by an increase in the value of land and other assets. However, since 2017/18 the real terms value has stagnated and consequently the gap between real terms and current values has widened. 41% of farms had a net worth of at least £1.5 million in 2020/21, a 2% rise on 2019/20.

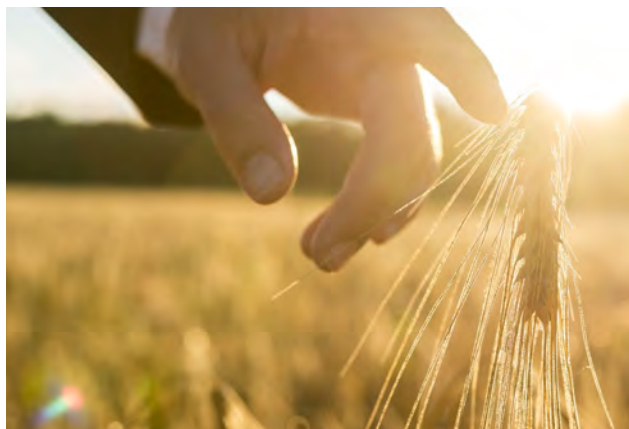
## Total Income Farming (Net)

### Top 3 England outputs

Dairy  
£2.9bn  
Wheat  
£2.3bn  
Poultry  
£2.2bn



## Kent Corporate Listing



**Turnover: £500 million in 2021**  
**Net Assets: £7.587 billion**  
**Profit: £49.586 million**  
**Cropping Profit: £62.022 million**  
**Cash: £128 million** (estimate)  
**Stock: £109 million**  
**Net Assets: £80 million** (133%)

## National Agricultural Listing



### Key Statistics:

**Net Worth: £9.4 billion** (GVA)  
**Turnover: £26.7 billion**  
**Average Farm Debt: £246,000**  
**Net Current Assets: £205 billion**  
(262%)

37

*As part of the Rural Policy Group agenda, we must drive fair distribution of price in a sustainable value-driven way, changing behaviour and the sector as a whole.*

### Key Messages

- Kent corporate asset base has increased as land has escalated in value
- Margins are continually challenged
- Financial details are added to the report

This initial financial review is a headline snapshot. We compare with downstream peers but fundamentally we lack heavy investment and we lack Return on Capital.

There is an asset base that is second to none (the assets speak for themselves, including the people) but this is not getting an appropriate return on capital given. AFF is the source of the food industry.

# Sustainability Reporting

## Introduction: The global context

The Agricultural sector is currently a critical source of the greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change, but it has the potential to offer very practical (and cost effective) solutions in terms of both climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. The sector also plays an essential role in tackling the escalating nature-related risks that business and finance are facing.

Climate change and temperature rises are creating extreme weather events such as the wildfires in California, Australia or Europe, and the flooding and storms affecting the UK in 2021.

The IPCC estimated that in 2019, approximately 34% of total net anthropogenic GHG emissions came from the energy supply sector, 24% from industry and 22% from agriculture, forestry, and other land use. A remaining 15% comes from transport and 6% from buildings and other sources.

Over half of these emissions are derived from deforestation and the increased use of food productions methods which are not sustainable, increasing the demand on land and water.

Wheat is very sensitive to heat and 2021 was the world's 6th warmest year on record. High temperatures in March 2022 in India have shortened the important grain filling period, reducing the weight of the crop. This has led to significant export restrictions imposed by India further deteriorating the food crisis which is currently affected by the Ukraine and Russia war.

## The UK context

The UK Government prior to the COP 26 submitted its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC, with a strengthened 2030 goal of at least a 68% reduction below 1990 levels (1995 levels for some gases), committing the UK to an ambitious level of domestic climate action. This equates to a 69% reduction below 1990 levels.

The Agricultural sector is responsible for emitting 10% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), mainly through emissions of methane and nitrous oxide from grazing livestock and fertilisers.

The cost of GHG from agriculture in 2015 was estimated at £3.1bn, and the cost to human health and the environment from UK agriculturally produce ammonia in 2019 (using 2017 prices) was estimated at £1.44bn. There has been a reduction of 10% in nitrous oxide and methane emissions from agricultural since 2000, and an overall 18% fall in agricultural emissions of ammonia between 1990 and 2019, due partly to declining cattle numbers, better manure and slurry management, and reduced fertiliser use, although this trend has reversed in recent years.

## UK estimated greenhouse gas emissions for agriculture, 1990 and 2019



Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

## What are the drivers and different types of emissions?

- Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a major greenhouse gas, but agricultural is only responsible for 2% of UK CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These are mainly through use of energy and fuel, which can be reduced by improving efficiency, and by generating energy for renewable sources on-farm.
- Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is a more potent GHG than CO<sub>2</sub>, particularly over short timescales. Agricultural is responsible for the emission of almost half of the UK's total emissions. Ruminant livestock produce methane during their digestive processes. Micro-organisms in the rumen degrade carbon from feeds in the absence of oxygen, producing methane gas. Nearly 90% of methane emissions are derived from grazing livestock.
- Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) is the most potent GHG that agriculture emits, having a warming effect that is around 300 times stronger than CO<sub>2</sub>. Agriculture emits 68% of the UK total and the use of nitrogen fertilisers applications makes up 90% of agricultural N<sub>2</sub>O emissions.
- Agriculture was responsible for more than 88% of UK emissions of ammonia in 2019, mainly from livestock farming and fertiliser use. Ammonia emissions (largest source are cattle but also associated with chicken and pig farms) affect human health, reduce air quality, and can cause soil acidification (including harm vegetation and contribute to air pollution). Additionally, Ammonia emissions can combine with industrial and transport emissions, forming harmful fine particulates which cause smog in urban areas and impact public health.
- Other drivers of emissions: There are other factors which are not captured in estimated emissions, but which are likely to affect the true level of emissions.

For example, some areas of farming practice will have an impact, e.g. timing of fertiliser application, efficiency of fertiliser use, feed conversion ratios, genetic improvements. Some of these relate to efficiency: there have been productivity gains in the sector, through more efficient use of inputs over the last twenty years and some of these gains will have had a positive impact, though some may have had a negative impact on emissions.

## Changing of customers behaviour/perceptions

Although we can produce a wide range of foods in the UK, importing food from different climates means that consumers have the choice of seasonal food throughout the year. A survey of consumer attitudes performed in 2018 identified the following:

- 78% of British surveyed consumers believe it is important to support British farmers.
- 59% say they try to buy British food whenever they can.
- Less than half said they are willing to pay more for British food or said that they check where their food comes from before buying; and
- Price is the key factor when determining the products the consumer will purchase.

The 2021 Farm Practices Survey (FPS) indicated that 67% of farmers thought it important to consider GHGs when making farm business decisions, whilst 27% considered it not important.

## Increase investor expectations and investor activism

The UK government has launched (25th April 2022) a new Net Zero Carbon Taskforce, with the purpose of motivating and mobilising businesses to adopt sustainable practices and reverse the effects of climate change. Organisation Business in the Community, under the patronage of Prince Charles made the announcement.

The UK will become the first country in the world to make Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) aligned disclosures fully mandatory across the economy by 2025, going beyond the 'comply or explain' approach.

This has increased the challenges faced by businesses in the agricultural sector from stakeholders when making ESG disclosures, filings and public statements, it is not surprising that there has been an increase in litigation arising out of ESG disclosures and statements globally, including some very high-profile cases. For example, A shareholder agreement with Walmart Inc., the world's largest grocery retailer, to substantially cut its use of virgin plastic is the latest in a series of U.S. corporate actions.

We note that climate lawsuits dominate but the scope is widening. The 2022 UK Corporate Climate Responsibility report which assesses the climate strategies of 25 major global companies, identified that targets for 2030 fall well short of the ambition required to align with the internationally agreed goals of the Paris Agreement and avoid the most damaging effects of climate change (source Newclimate.org).

### Delivering solutions and harnessing opportunities

New technologies can drive investment opportunities and change, such as laboratory food (“lab-meat”) production, to new agriculture production technologies and techniques, and scaling nature-based (and positive) carbon offsets. There are several challenges affecting the sector such as increasing competition for land, increasing demand for animal-based proteins, existing governmental subsidies and the highly complex, localised agriculture production sector.

Carbon sequestration can and does help mitigate climate change by increasing carbon storage through the creation of more forests and woodland, and to a lesser extent through good management to restore the organic carbon content of soils to its natural maximum. These practices can also improve the nutrient and water holding capacity of soils which provides agronomic benefits. There is also potential to reduce the contribution of degraded peatlands to GHG emissions through restoration activities.

Farmers can limit the use of nitrogen-rich fertilisers to economically efficient levels, storing and applying them safely and efficiently, as excess nitrogen can be converted to ammonia by microbial processes.

### Case study of improved efficiency

One Farm in the UK, is setting up indoor production farms coming on stream later this year using new lighting and other technologies and other intellectual property. One Farm, like similar companies, promises to use a small fraction of the normal water, substantially reduce carbon and grow goods in the UK which are normally imported.

### Conclusion

Agricultural sustainable practices can help meet the UK government’s ambitious GHG emissions target submitted to the UNFCCC and can also help address the risk of loss of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, food and water security, livelihoods and land tenure and land-use rights of local communities and small landowners.

We are calling councils and governments across the UK to take an integrated approach to the future of land use and food production, ensuring that all competing pressures, are considered in the round. The following are areas that should be integrated into the government’s investment decision making:

- **Early-stage, high-risk new agriculture techniques and technologies:** technologies from regenerative agriculture are not yet proven or available at scale and have not attracted large capital investment.
- **Financial Valuation models lack pricing for climate risk, biodiversity risk and ecosystem services:** the contributions from nature and the impact of climate change (including risks and opportunities) are not yet factored in or priced into valuation and investment models.
- **Lack of financial incentives and goals:** incentives to protect natural habitats are not well set up or that effective as yet.
- **Land use policies** need to incorporate the impact derived from climate change, nature and human health and consider them as interconnected issues, and
- Governments should aim for **dietary changes** that include greater recognition of the varying impacts of different farming methods, particularly the negative externalities of intensive production.

The UK government in November 2020 issued the Agricultural Transition Plan which sets out the changes the government is going to make to agricultural policy in England from 1 January 2021. It also covers what these changes will mean for farmers and land managers. This may need to be revisited in light of the current economic environment.



# All Call to Action

## Summary

1

Farming is a business, in a green and socially beneficial workplace. It is costly to produce food and we have a big societal issue to overcome in this regard.

2

Farming is valuable and it has a listed worth - we need to change the narrative and source and recognise its value in the chain.

3

Labour isn't going to stop being a challenge. From the skilled individual required to harvest to the machine learning post grad required to manage data systems for better knowledge, we have a skills gap at every level, we need to change perceptions and recruit skilled people at all levels.

4

Automation – we need to invest, both the food strategy and Automation review are being held by government, both are intrinsically linked and in order to be more self sufficient we need rapid change.

5

National diet and its effect on the economy. In the UAE farming sits along with health under the umbrella of the Ministry of the Economy, the cost of our health service and how we can improve diet through sustainable home production to reduce that cost is a priority.

6

We need to stop importing other nations ethically poor employment practices, their environmental degradation, their water and burning fossil fuel to get it here. Perhaps we need a date set for a moratorium on imports we can produce here?

7

We as businesses, should not 'go into the red to go green'

Therefore...



# Rural Policy GROUP

## A Call to Action

For 2022-23 Rural Policy Group has established three main pathways:

1

To seek to establish a Food Security APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) for which RPG provides the secretariat. There has been an explosion of parliamentary groups for food and nutrition, however there is a gap for the important issue of food security.

2

To establish an Agricultural Sustainability and ESG Group to drive forward the creation of the frameworks for technology, policies, workforce and infrastructure that are necessary for de-carbonising on-farm activities.

3

To establish a core lobbying team and to develop a sustainable outreach strategy to policy-makers and influencers in politics, policy and private enterprise.



# Kent Corporate FTSE Listing



## Financial Commentary

*Kent has a high quality and resilient asset base - the net asset and resources would place Kent Food and Farming 48<sup>th</sup> on the FTSE 100 All Share Index if Rural Food and Farming (Kent) Corporate was FTSE listed.*

*The asset valuation of the 'corporate' Kent is a shift from a decade ago when a value ranked 'Kent Corporate' at 57<sup>th</sup>.*

### Kent Food & Farming

Kent Corporate  
Listing

**£7.587**  
BILLION

**247,000**

HECTARES OF  
FARMABLE AREA

**48<sup>th</sup>\***  
IN FTSE 100

BY EQUIVALENT  
MARKET VALUE

OPPORTUNITY TO  
INCREASE RETURN  
ON CAPITAL BY

**6.8%**

Gross value added Agriculture and food: **£11 billion**  
Agriculture, Food & Drink: **£116 billion**  
Total contribution is **£127 billion**

**2017: 57<sup>th</sup>\***

43

There is little by way of information available currently. We have mapped out our principles and asset base and attributed value. We have followed this with an estimated profit and loss account and balance sheet.

One of the drawbacks of starting from the beginning is that one does not possess reliable comparative data to put the current year into context. As a consequence, we have made a comparison to National Statistics and have chosen J Sainsbury Plc, Tesco Plc and Associated British Foods for baseline computation.

Listed at £7.587 billion places the Kent Corporate listing against Tesco Plc at £11 billion and Associated British Foods at £13.2 billion, with J. Sainsbury at £5.58 billion. The Sector holds up and clearly demonstrates the fire power in business terms, considering the positioning of key players such as Marks and Spencer at £2.71 billion.

The Sector continues to drive forward financially but needs support to truly maximise its potential - a 25% rise in asset base since 2017.



# Previous Recommendations

## SUSTAINABLE CASH

Assessment Recommendation	SMART Action	Status
<b>FOOD PRICE</b> <b>New Approach to CSR:</b> Business is becoming more purpose driven and CSR (ESG) is cascading 'down the stream' beyond Listed companies. A clear approach to support next tier business is needed in both Rural and other sectors.	<b>1.</b> To consult with business in the sharing of best practice for the embedding of new approaches to ESG and evaluate the impact to financial leaders. (Including a series of Questionnaires to the RPG & Partnered networks). A further series of exceptional RED events with financially beneficial opportunities to be presented (sponsored with partners) promoting its importance.	<b>Completed</b>
<b>FOOD PRICE</b> <b>Rural:</b> The upstream case for sustainable financial margin and cascade of profit % to the producer remains a challenge/broken system. The discussion requires greater noise and debate to improve financial return and margins (See Political). The timing of payment to producer versus immediate payment (Consumer) to multiple.	<b>2.</b> A further approach (Building on OT cycle 1) to gauge interest from producers, growers & related businesses to create a fresh coordinated PR & Media plan that works to improve finance – financed collectively with a discernible SMART 'outcome driven' media framework (With a clear angle on 'British/English' Production).	<b>Report in 2022</b>

44

## PEOPLE

Assessment Recommendation	SMART Action	Status
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b> <b>Preventative Healthcare:</b> Utilise the research and feedback from the Rural Policy Group through APPG network of MPs to integrate into existing lobbying into central government.	<b>3.</b> Ensure the RPG thought leadership documentation is shared to the correct Westminster MPs by written communications and active follow up with private offices. Further positioning on APPG as necessary to push the rural healthcare and preventative healthcare agenda.	<b>Not Completed. Report</b>
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b> <b>New Approach to CSR:</b> There needs to be a mind shift for those mid tier businesses who have yet to understand that the economy is a subset of the sustainable environment. Acknowledging this as part of business priority is key to the people businesses employ and also serve.	<b>4.</b> For the RPG to work in partnership with its stakeholders in offering a series of training events (sponsored) to up-skill mid-tier businesses (including masterclasses) and finance functions, showcasing best practice.	<b>Work in Progress</b>
<b>FOOD PRICE</b> <b>Rural:</b> The food system is evolving beyond all expectations as a result of CV19, the ESG agenda and food buying habits. Post Brexit, ensuring we have the right knowledge in the workforce, that is sustained and retained, must be prioritised. As yet there is no clear approach in achieving this.	<b>5.</b> To bring together Entrants into the sector with businesses that need the workforce in a digitally savvy and simple way. Harnessing ESG Finance to rural business and food security. Utilisation of a business engagement 'App' with business partners and funding support (National Role).	<b>Not Completed</b>



## POLITICAL & INTEGRATION

Assessment Recommendation	SMART Action	Status
<b>FOOD PRICE &amp; FOOD SECURITY</b> <b>New Approach to CSR:</b> We need auditable business models that support social accountability and provide stakeholder transparency both internally and externally.	<b>6.</b> To be a registered member with Government on All Parliamentary Policy Groups (APPGs) relevant to ESG 'Evolving Purpose'. This would provide a channel for rural business and related industry to have their voice and viewpoint heard. (Through the MP Network established).	<b>2022</b> <b>Recommendations</b>
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b> <b>Preventative Healthcare:</b> We need to join up the Salutogenesis aspect of defining and dealing with the health concern before it becomes a health concern. Providing a gateway into central government APPG on healthcare initiatives for institutions such as ANHI can be achieved.	<b>7.</b> RPG to access it's APPG network for key stakeholders (including ANHI) to be heard and registered for their alternative perspective on health to reflect the financial opportunity of cost savings and associated benefits to the healthcare industry.	<b>Not Completed.</b> <b>Report</b>
<b>FOOD PRICE</b> <b>Rural:</b> Produce a document that outlines lucidly and briefly why British Farming & Food Industry (Including Horticulture) matters (without inclusion of any acronyms or industry-related dogma) with the intention of winning hearts and minds – and the £ in peoples' expenditure budgets.	<b>8.</b> To bring together Entrants into the sector with businesses that need the workforce in a digitally savvy and simple way. Utilisation of a business engagement 'App' with business partners and funding support (National Role).	<b>Not Funded</b>

## Appendix 1:

## Kent Corporate FTSE Listing - Profit &amp; Loss

**PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021**

	Note	2017	2021	
		£	£	
Turnover	1	497,115,385	499,719,863	1. Accounting Policies (only disclosed)
Single Payment		53,970,478	41,977,039	1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).
Other Farm Income		6,063,996	6,285,996	1.2 Turnover Turnover comprises revenue recognised by the company in respect of goods and services supplied during the year, exclusive of Value Added Tax and trade discounts.
Variable Costs		293,332,802	294,818,548	1.3 Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases: Depreciation is not provided for on freehold land.
Fixed Costs		126,269,356	128,076,440	
Rent & Finance		25,207,280	25,218,480	1.4 Stocks and Work in Progress Stocks and work in progress are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.
Administrative Expenses		24,405,248	37,886,242	1.5 EU Agricultural Support Schemes Payments received under EU agricultural support schemes are recognised as income when the business has met all criteria which entitle it to the payments. Amounts received under the Single Payment Scheme are recognised on 31 December in the year of claim. No provision has been made for penalties arising from the failure to comply with cross compliance conditions, as defined by the RPA, except for where notification has been received.
<b>Profit on ordinary activities before taxation</b>	3	87,935,173	61,983,187	
Tax on profit on ordinary activities		21,983,793	12,396,637	
<b>Profit for the financial year</b>	8	65,951,380	49,586,550	

## Kent Corporate FTSE Listing - Profit & Loss

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2021

	Note: (Non Disclosed Detailed Notes)	2017	2021
		£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	4	5,301,000,440	6,782,666,155
Tenant's Capital		891,600,145	944,809,893
<b>Current assets</b>			
Trading Livestock		80,000,000	109,000,000
Crops and Stores		65,000,000	87,000,000
Debtors & Cash Deposits	5	100,000,000	125,000,000
		245,000,000	321,000,000
Creditors: amount falling due within one year	6	207,983,793	240,896,637
<b>Net current assets</b>		37,016,207	80,103,363
Total assets less current liabilities		6,229,616,792	7,807,579,410
Creditors: amount falling due after one year		153,050,000	220,050,000
<b>Net Current Assets including amounts due after one year</b>		<b>6,076,566,792</b>	<b>7,587,529,410</b>
<b>Capital and reserves</b>			
Profit and loss account	8	345,113,374	394,699,924
Reserves (Capital & Other Movements)		5,731,453,418	7,192,829,487
<b>Net Reserves</b>		<b>6,076,566,792</b>	<b>7,587,529,410</b>

## RED Talk Titles & Speakers

### RURAL HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

**Anne Marie Morris MP**

Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Rural Health & Social Care, Conservative Member of Parliament for Newton Abbot

**Graham Biggs MBE**

Chief Executive, Rural Services Network

**Andrew Leal**

Healthcare Partner, MHA and Lecturer in Primary Care Finance

**Rob Verkerk PhD**

Founder and Chief Executive & Science Officer, Alliance for Natural Health International

### ENERGY & INDUSTRY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

**Alan Brown MP**

Shadow Spokesperson on Energy & Climate Change and a Member of the Business, Energy & Industry Select Committee, SNP MP for Kilmarnock & Loudoun

**Rachel Nutt**

Renewable & Sustainable Energy Sector Head and Partner, MHA

**Sam Brown**

Co-founder and Director of Harvest Green Developments

**Neil Kitching**

Author of Carbon Choices

**Peter Rolton**

Chairman of BritishVOLT and Rolton Group



### FOOD AFTER BREXIT 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021

**Daniel Zeichner MP**

Shadow Environment Minister & Labour MP for Cambridge

**Professor Louise Manning**

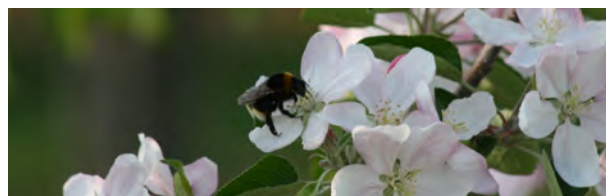
Director of Knowledge Exchange, The Royal Agricultural University

**David Missen**

Head of Agriculture, MHA and Member, ICAEW Farming Group

**Phil Acock**

Owner & Managing Director, Fourayes and Vice Chair of British Apples & Pears



### RURAL CRIME 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

**Louis Bennett**

Sales & Product Manager, uWatch

**Sam Durham**

Chief Land Advisor, NFU & Executive Board Member, National Rural Crime Network

**Jo Forknall**

Farmer and Chairman, KCAS

**Crispin Truman OBE**

Chief Executive, CPRE

## **NATURE ON PRESCRIPTION**

### **20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021**

#### **Barry Gardiner MP**

Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Nature and International Conservation, Labour MP for Brent North

#### **Tom Dixon**

Founder of Canopy & Stars

#### **Duncan Cochrane-Dyet**

Head of Healthcare and Partner at MHA MacIntyre Hudson

#### **Gary Evans**

Founder & Director, The Forest Bathing Institute

#### **Professor Louise Manning**

Director of Knowledge Exchange, The Royal Agricultural University



## **ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN THE FOOD & FARMING INDUSTRY**

### **15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**

#### **Daniel Zeichner**

Shadow Environment Minister, Labour MP for Cambridge

#### **Peter Rolton**

Chairman, BritishVolt

#### **Nigel Morris**

Employment Tax Director and Automotive Specialist, MHA

#### **Emily Fraser**

Business Development Manager, OX

## **ELM AND COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### **17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021**

#### **Luke Pollard MP**

Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs

#### **Susan Twining**

Chief Land Use Policy Advisor, CLA

#### **Sarah Dodds**

Head of Healthcare and Partner at MHA MacIntyre Hudson



## **BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE RURAL ECONOMY**

### **16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

#### **Rt. Hon Sir Richard Needham Kt PC**

Former Conservative Minister of Trade, Director and NED

#### **Sarah Hendry CBE**

Director General, CLA

#### **Rob King**

Head of Sustainable Finance, HSBC

#### **Rakesh Shaunak**

Managing Partner & Chairman of MHA and MacIntyre Hudson

#### **Teresa Wickham**

President of the Marden Fruit Society and BBC broadcaster

#### **Anna Daroy**

CEO and COO; Independent Non Executive Board Director; Transformation & Turnaround Specialist Marden Fruit Society and BBC broadcaster



## **BREXIT & FOOD POVERTY** **23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **Christine Jardine**

Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Treasury,  
Exiting the European Union, Europe and  
International Trade

### **Nick von Westenholz**

Director of Trade & Business Strategy, NFU

### **Sarah Calcutt**

Chair of the National Fruit Show and NED of  
Covent Garden Market Authority



**Rural Policy**  
**GROUP**

## **THE RURAL-FIRST ECONOMY** **18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

### **Luke Pollard MP**

Shadow Secretary of State for Environment,  
Food and Rural Affairs, Labour and Co-  
operative Member of Parliament for Plymouth  
Sutton and Devonport

### **Natalie Bennett**

Green Party Peer, House of Lords

### **Dr Trisha Toop**

Chief Technical Officer, Agri-EPI

### **Steve Elnor**

Diversified Farm Business Owner and Save  
British Farming



**Food Price**  
**Food Security**  
**Underpinned by Sustainable Finance**



**Rural Policy**  
GROUP

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