

# Election Manifesto Summary



The 12th December election follows an unprecedented period of division and turmoil in UK politics, and with the political focus on how or whether we leave the EU, the FUW's Manifesto sets out Brexit related policies which are in the best interest of Wales' family farms and our nation as a whole - but also highlights how, whatever happens, our next Parliament and UK Government must ensure food continues to be produced in Wales and the UK to the highest standards by the family farms which play a central economic, cultural and environmental role in our landscapes.

Just some of the key demands of the incoming UK Government and Parliament set out in the FUW's 2019 Manifesto are set out below:

## Brexit transition

- Immediately revoke Article 50 in order to take control over the Brexit process and ensure agreements on trade and other matters which are in the interests of Wales and the UK can be reached with the EU over a realistic period
- Otherwise, ensure that the withdrawal period is extended sufficiently to ensure agreements on trade and other matters which are in the interests of Wales and the UK can be reached with the EU
- Recognise that no responsible UK Government would allow the UK to leave the European Union without a close trading arrangement

## A final Brexit deal

- Seek to reach a long term agreement with the EU which maintains simple and tariff-free access to the EU's Single Market
- Ensure transitional and post-Brexit trade arrangements do not sever established supply chains which are of importance and add value to Welsh and UK produce

## Migration and work

- Protect the rights of EU nationals already undertaking work directly or indirectly associated with the UK food supply chain
- Ensure adequate access to the UK market for seasonal workers
- Lower the skilled worker threshold of £30,000 to ensure skilled workers from the EU are properly recognised and can work freely in the UK food supply chain

## Import tariffs

- Introduce an alternative to the Import Tariff (Reduction) Bill 2017-19 which sets UK import tariff rates at levels which match EU import tariff rates
- Ensure such a Bill sets Tariff Rate Quotas at levels which are sufficiently low to protect all UK agricultural producers and sectors, and the communities and supply chains they support

## Non-EU trade agreements

- Investigate opportunities to develop new trading arrangements with other countries and trading blocs which benefit primary producers and open up or expand markets
- Set UK tariffs and Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) at levels which ensure food security, rural incomes, and local food production are prioritised and protected during future negotiations
- Prioritise negotiations with and access to the vast and affluent market which is on our doorstep, in the form of the EU

## Border controls

- Customs checks are properly enforced at all points of entry to Great Britain
- Rigorous checks are applied to ensure all imports comply with current Sanitary and Phytosanitary regulations
- No goods enter Great Britain without the correct tariffs being charged
- Statistics relating to all imports, inspections and tariffs charged are published regularly in order to provide confidence that customs controls are being properly implemented

## Supply chains

- Extend the powers of the Groceries Adjudicator to allow decisive actions to be taken which address unfair practices throughout the entire supply chain and not just for the very small number of producers on retailer aligned contracts.
- Expand the powers of the Groceries Adjudicator to cover significant retailers that would otherwise be excluded from this remit on the grounds that their turnover is less than 1 billion pounds.
- Review current UK competition rules, with a view to redressing the imbalance of power that exist along the domestic supply chain in a manner that benefits primary producers.
- Introduce changes akin to those instigated in the EU which promote a better functioning, more equitable and transparent supply chain

## Our farmed environment

- Recognise and affirm the key role agriculture plays in maintaining our landscape and environment
- Ensure that environmental and other targets set for the UK farming industry do not result in unfair competition and increased imports from countries which have far poorer standards than those which exist in the UK
- Recognise the key contribution the industry makes in terms of local food production, carbon sequestration and food security
- In light of Brexit, and alongside devolved administrations, review all environmental regulations which fall within its scope to ensure they are proportionate and realistic
- Redouble efforts to develop means by which farmers can be rewarded by the public sector for delivering environmental goods

## Farming and forestry

- Work with national administrations to ensure farmers can play a part in storing carbon, including by planting woodland without undermining farm capacity
- Invest in further research into agro-forestry
- Ensure the damage done to ecosystems and communities by previous large-scale afforestation is not repeated
- Create supply chains which improve the market for timber from sustainably managed farm woodland
- Support conservation while opposing large-scale rewilding projects in order to prevent environmental and economic damage to rural areas

## Bovine TB

- View current levels of TB as a serious economic risk to successful trade negotiations and undertake a formal risk assessment of the implications of current levels of Bovine TB across the whole of the United Kingdom, irrespective of devolved animal health responsibilities
- Work with the devolved administrations to develop a new UK eradication programme that provides assurances to other countries that TB vectors in both cattle and wildlife are being tackled such that the UK will be TB free within an acceptable time period
- Revoke the Badger Act and introduce new legislation which affords badgers proportionate protection, while also ensuring badgers can be controlled in either England or Wales in order to prevent disease in cattle
- Continue to roll out the English badger cull in order to enhance the positive impacts measured to date in England
- Regularly publish detailed statistics relating to TB incidences in badger culling areas
- Implement annual testing across England in order to improve disease monitoring and reduce the risk of infected animals coming in to Wales

## A UK framework for agriculture

- Work in genuine partnership with the agricultural industry and devolved administrations to develop a framework of common principles which should underpin further policy development, whether this is undertaken jointly or in each of the four nations
- Ensure that the economic and environmental sustainability of family farms and rural communities, and fair and safe food supply chains are foremost amongst those principles
- Introduce a new or revised Agriculture Bill which takes proper account of these principles and in particular social outcomes, and is not overly focussed on the delivery of Public Goods

## A fair funding framework

- National allocations of rural funding should remain at least at current levels
- A multiannual financial framework must be established which minimises annual fluctuations in rural budgets and allocations
- A fair funding formula must be agreed with devolved nations which objectively and fairly reflects regional needs without distorting markets
- Rural funding must be ring-fenced, and uniform spending thresholds for common priorities should be agreed with devolved nations which provide flexibility to reflect devolved powers and varying national priorities, while also ensuring relative uniformity in order to minimise the risk of market distortion

## Climate change and renewable energy

- Recognise the key role agriculture and grazing livestock should continue to play across the UK in terms of the sustainable production of food, and the environmental and economic damage likely to be caused by public misapprehensions about red meat in particular
- Seek to redress public misapprehensions about the contribution of UK red meat production to climate change
- Increase funding for research into sustainable farming which reduced greenhouse gas emissions without compromising productive capacity or productivity
- Reintroduce attractive renewable energy production schemes which incentivise farmers and local communities to invest in schemes that will restore the previous growth in local renewable energy production

**The full manifesto can be found  
on the FUW website:  
[fuw.org.uk/policy/policy-reports](http://fuw.org.uk/policy/policy-reports)**