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# THE AGRICULTURE (WALES) BILL: FUW Key Amendments

The Agriculture (Wales) Bill was laid before the Senedd on the 26th of September 2022. This is the first time that a Bill focussed specifically on farming in Wales has been published and represents the legal mechanisms and framework on which future agriculture support will be delivered.

The FUW has outlined numerous key amendments which we believe are essential to ensure that the economic stability and viability of farming families in Wales are protected in future support schemes. As part of our lobbying activities, the union gave evidence to Members of the Senedd at the Environment, Trade and Rural Affairs (ETRA) Committee on the 12th of October. In addition, we recently submitted a 27 page response to the ETRA Committee call for written evidence on the general principles of the Bill.



## The 8 Key Amendments to the Bill proposed by the FUW include:

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- 1** Widening the definition of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) to recognise the interconnectivity and interdependence of land management and farm livelihoods.
- 2** Adding a 5th SLM Objective which explicitly seeks to ensure the economic sustainability of farming families in Wales, the provision of safe traceable food and the protection of global food security.
- 3** Expanding the list of purposes by which support for agriculture in Wales may be provided to secure financially viable food production alongside the wider social, cultural and environmental benefits of farming.
- 4** Making provisions in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to prepare a multi-annual financial plan in order to provide certainty to the agricultural sector and to provide the evidence base for funding from the UK Treasury at a time of diminishing resources.
- 5** Ensuring that agricultural input costs are fully considered alongside the price received for produce when defining 'exceptional market circumstances'.
- 6** The provision of proper and thorough safeguards relating to data disclosure to provide a safety net for producers offering a significant amount of farm business data under future support schemes.
- 7** Narrowing the definition of 'ancillary activities' to ensure that funding streams are only provided for activities performed by those undertaking farming activities on agricultural land in Wales.
- 8** Including both National Minimum Standards and Civil Sanctions within the Bill to ensure that they are offered the scrutiny and transparency afforded by changes to primary legislation.

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