



6 September 2018

## Consultation on Brexit and our Land – Securing the future of Welsh farming

In July 2018 I published the above consultation. The purpose of this consultation is to explain we propose closing the Basic Payment Scheme and Glastir and replacing with new schemes. I have spent the summer discussing ‘Brexit and our Land’ with as many farmers as possible.

Our current EU membership means you benefit from access to a very large, tariff-free and frictionless market. Additionally, the external tariffs put in place by the EU prevent large amounts of agricultural products from the rest of the world being imported into EU countries (including the UK).

As yet, we do not know what trade deal we will have after Brexit, so we are unable to make detailed plans. However the different trade deals which we may end up with will bring opportunities and risks to different sub-sectors.

For farm businesses to be able to withstand these changes, we need to invest in businesses differently with targeted investment to improve productivity to diversify into other income streams and to adapt to new market pressures and opportunities. Farming needs to be sustainable, economically, socially and environmentally, if we are to have the prosperous and resilient sector we all want.

If Welsh farm businesses do not adapt to these new pressures, it will become increasingly difficult to compete in the global markets Brexit will expose us to. Current payments made to you do not and will not help you manage.

We have proposed a new **Economic Resilience Scheme** to support our farm businesses to continue to produce high quality food.

Food production alone is not enough to sustain some farm businesses due to declining markets, constraints of topography or a lack of diversification options. Therefore, we have proposed a new **Public Goods Scheme** to create an additional and meaningful income stream for farmers able to supply those environmental services we all depend on but are not currently supported by the market. For example, there is no market to pay farmers to manage their land in such a way as to reduce flood risk.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and responding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Only farmers can supply these goods, so we need to find a way of paying for them **to enable farmers to continue to make a living from the land.**

The consultation can be found here: <https://beta.gov.wales/support-welsh-farming-after-brexit> along with the details of nine open meetings Welsh Government staff will be hosting on the following dates;

DATE	VENUE
17/09/2018	Llanfyllin High School, Llanfyllin, Powys, SY22 5BJ
25/09/2018	University of Wales Trinity St David, Lampeter Campus, College Street, Ceredigion, SA48 7ED
26/09/2018	King Henry VIII Comprehensive School, Old Hereford Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 6EP
27/09/2018	Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3SY
04/10/2018	Withybush Showground, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4BW
08/10/2018	Liberty Stadium, Plasmari, Swansea, SA1 2FA
09/10/2018	Ysgol Brynhyfryd, Ffordd y Wyddgrug, Rhuthun, Denbighshire, LL15 1EG
10/10/2018	Ysgol David Hughes, Ffordd Pentraeth, Porthaethwy, Anglesey, LL59 5SS

Woodland/Forestry themed

- 11/10/2018 Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3SY

New schemes will have some things in common with other parts of the UK, but will also reflect the unique nature of Wales. Wales is different and, therefore, the support we provide to our farmers and foresters should be different.

I enclose a list of common misunderstandings about the consultation and the proposals we have made. I encourage all farmers, foresters and other people who manage Welsh land to respond to the consultation with their views.



**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs