

Suggested responses to Future Farming Consultation

Part 1 – Reform within the CAP

Question	Suggested answer
1. Please rank the following ideas for simplification of the current CAP.	<i>Only complete if you want to</i>
2. Would you like to respond to further questions on reform within CAP?	Yes
Reform within the CAP continued	
1. How can we improve the delivery of the current Countryside Stewardship scheme and increase uptake by farmers and land managers to help achieve valuable environmental outcomes?	<p>Defra needs to –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fix the issues with implementation by making payments, providing agreement offers and responding to application pack requests on time 2. Invest more in Natural England's advice capacity 3. Increase investment in scheme promotion <p><i>These simple steps will make a huge difference for farmers stopped from doing the right thing by unnecessary complexity. Please add your own further views if you have them.</i></p>
2. Do you have any further comments?	<i>Only complete if you want to</i>

Part 2 – An Agricultural Transition

You can leave this section blank unless you have personal views to add.

Part 3 – Farming excellence and profitability

You can leave this section blank unless you have personal views to add.

Part 4 – Agricultural technology and research

Question	Suggested answer
1. What are the priority research topics that industry and government should focus on to drive improvements in productivity and resource efficiency?	<p>(e) Improving environmental performance, including soil health – 1</p> <p>(d) Managing resources sustainably, including agro-chemicals – 2</p> <p>(b) Crop and livestock health and animal welfare – 3</p>
Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences	<p>Integrating environmental land management with efforts to improve productivity will be essential if we are to enhance the natural capital that farming depends upon. Investing in research to understand how this can be achieved is a central role for Government, given the lack of a short-term commercial imperative for this.</p>

Question	Suggested answer
	<i>Many of the other options for research priorities will provide direct business benefits in the short term. The top two options above are likely to lead to longer term benefits only, and also provide significant benefits for the public through more sustainable management of natural resources</i>
How can industry and government put farmers in the driving seat to ensure that agricultural R&D delivers what they need?	<i>Only complete if you want to</i>
Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences	<i>Only complete if you want to</i>
3. Would you like to respond to further questions?	No <i>(unless you have a personal interest)</i>

Part 5 – Labour - a skilled workforce

You can leave this section blank unless you have personal views to add.

Part 6 – Public money for public goods

Question	Suggested answer
1. Which of the environmental outcomes listed below do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support?	(d) Increased biodiversity – 1 (c) Better soil quality – 2 (b) Better water quality – 3
	<i>Biodiversity is the priority for us because it is a ‘pure’ public good – i.e. one that is almost impossible to create a market for. Poor soil and water quality both present significant risks to biodiversity.</i>
Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences	Agriculture is the single biggest driver of biodiversity loss but will also have to play a central role in its recovery, and in achieving the aims set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan.
	<i>Please expand on why biodiversity matters with more personal reasons.</i> <i>The debate about ‘what is a public good’ and which are important is key. Strong support for biodiversity, with good arguments why, will be important when Defra analyses the consultation response.</i>
2. Of the other options listed below, which do you consider to be the most important public goods that government should support?	(c) Protection of crops, tree, plant and bee health - 1 (f) Public access to the countryside - 2 (e) Preserving rural resilience and traditional farming and landscapes in the uplands - 3
	<i>There are some risks with all of these, for example that upland landscapes as a public good could be used to maintain a model of agriculture that in many cases is damaging for wildlife.</i>
Please give a short explanation as to your ranking preferences	Tighter controls and monitoring of imported goods is crucial to reduce alien species introduction. Connectedness with nature (or

Question	Suggested answer
	the lack of) is a key issue that improved public access could help to overcome <i>You may want to tailor this answer to the ranking that you provide.</i>
3. Are there any other public goods which you think the government should support?	Habitat connectivity. A fragmented habitat is not one that can sustain wildlife in the long term.

Part 7 – Enhancing the environment

Question	Suggested answer
1. Which outcomes would be best achieved by incentivising action across a number of farms or other land parcels in a future environmental land management system?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ b. Water quality ✓ c. Flood mitigation ✓ d. Habitat restoration ✓ e. Species recovery ✓ h. Carbon sequestration ✓ j. Woodlands and forestry
Please give a short explanation as to your preferences	Healthy populations of priority species will need action at a landscape scale, as will functioning habitats. Such landscape scale action is still needed to achieve the vision set out in the ‘Lawton Review’ in 2010 of ‘more, bigger, better, joined’ up habitats. <i>You may want to expand on this, taking from your own knowledge and experience.</i>
2. Would you like to respond to further questions on enhancing our environment?	Yes
Enhancing our environment continued	
1. What role should outcome based payments have in a new environmental land management system?	Outcome-based payments should have a primary role in regulating a new environmental land management system. There should be monitoring and ecological assessments to determine the success of outcomes.
2. How can an approach to a new environmental land management system be developed that balances national and local priorities for environmental outcomes?	<i>Only complete if you want to</i>
3. How can farmers and land managers work together or with third parties to deliver environmental outcomes?	Working more closely with NGOs, and a wider engagement with the Third Sector, could potentially provide mutual benefits for all. Engagement with NGOs regarding sites where stewardship for Public Goods has been applied would test the efficacy and impact of the scheme.

Question	Suggested answer
4. Do you have any further comments?	<i>Only complete if you want to</i>

★ **Well done – you’re half way through!** ★

Part 8 – Fulfilling our responsibility to animals

You can leave this section blank unless you have personal views to add.

Part 9 – Supporting rural communities and remote farming

You can leave this section blank unless you have personal views to add.

Part 10 – Changing regulatory culture

Question	Suggested answer
1. How can we improve inspections for environmental, animal health and welfare standards?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Better data sharing amongst government agencies - 1 ✓ Other - 2 ✓ Increased options for self reporting - 3 <p><i>Government environmental agencies like Natural England, Defra and the Environment Agency need the funding to prioritise inspections and ensure that land improvement is effective and subsequently share the data. We champion data collection and analysis to justify environmental mitigation and protection. Farmers should be able to self-report the ecological status of the farm by monitoring basic indicator species to assess changes in biodiversity. We do, however, recognise time and skill restraints will be a factor, therefore wildlife and habitat NGOs may be better placed to consult and conduct surveys.</i></p>
Please give a short explanation as to your preferences	<i>Only complete if you want to</i>
2. Would you like to respond to further questions on changing regulatory culture?	Yes
Changing regulatory culture continued	
1. Which parts of the regulatory baseline could be improved, and how?	<p>Government needs to invest more in enforcement and accompanying advice to ensure existing regulations are effective.</p> <p><i>There are many aspects of the regulatory baseline that could be improved. We’ve singled out enforcement here, but do add to this if you have your own views.</i></p>
2. How can we deliver a more targeted and proportionate enforcement system?	<i>Only complete if you want to</i>
3. Do you have any further comments?	<i>Only complete if you want to</i>

Part 11 – Risk management and resilience

You can leave this section blank unless you have personal views to add.

Part 12 – Ensuring fairness in the supply chain

You can leave this section blank unless you have personal views to add.

Part 13 – Protecting crop, tree, plant and bee health

You can leave this section blank unless you have personal views to add.

Part 14 – Devolution: maintaining cohesion and flexibility

You can leave this section blank unless you have personal views to add.

Part 15 – International Trade

You can leave this section blank unless you have personal views to add.

Part 16 – Legislation: the Agriculture Bill

Question	Suggested answer
1. How far do you agree with the proposed powers of the Agriculture Bill?	Disagree <i>Although all of the powers identified in the consultation will be needed, they do not go far enough.</i>
2. What other measures might we need in the Agriculture Bill to achieve our objectives?	The powers of the Bill are insufficient. As well as those identified in the consultation, the Bill should also set out the purpose of future agriculture policy, a duty on Ministers to set clear environmental objectives and targets and to assess the funding needed to meet these on a regular basis, and allocate funding accordingly. The Bill also needs to include mechanisms that enable citizens to hold Government to account. <i>We believe that the Bill lacks ambition compared to that set out in the consultation paper. These additional powers are need to address this, and they broadly fit into the need for (1) a clear purpose based on public money for public goods (2) targets (for environmental restoration specifically) (3) funding and (4) accountability</i>
3. Do you have any further comments?	<i>Only complete if you want to.</i>

★ **That's it. You're all done! Thank you.** ★