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Considering Livestock policies after Brexit

Farming, sustainability and diets

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New policies for agriculture and food in the UK after Brexit

- Will be needed outside the CAP
- Will be influenced by the UK's trade and EU relationship
- Will potentially diverge between the four countries
- Will require fresh objectives
- Will face strong budgetary pressures
- Will be an opportunity for fresh thinking
- Will be the occasion for wider issues to be addressed

The livestock sector

- Accounts for around 70% of the agricultural land in the EU and about 40% of the output in economic terms, while depending on large scale protein imports
- In addition to food production has a sizeable economic role
- Is a major source of employment and important segment in the food chain
- Contribution to sustainable farming and environmental management of grazed habitats primarily by more extensive producers, including HNV and organic
- Is also the source of a range of environmental pressures including water and air pollution, significant GHG emissions, damage to biodiversity etc
- Is in the public health spotlight as dietary advice suggests a shift to lower consumption of meat (70g a day of red and processed meat to “eat well”)

New livestock policies need to look longer term

- Towards new models of food security
- Supporting a transition to sustainable, lower carbon, more resource efficient agriculture, including a larger contribution to carbon sequestration within a new matrix of farmland and wooded land
- Whilst also contributing to more active biodiversity conservation
- And establishing new levels of farm animal welfare reflecting UK priorities
- Working alongside public health goals and policies
- Generating more public goods in relation to expenditure
- Created within a new institutional dynamic

Policy tools to consider?

- More targeted and tailored farm support rather than broad brush direct payments
- Rewarding high public good provision eg on extensive farms and selected systems rather than higher yielding producers
- Other tools for risk management
- Environmental dimension to trade rules where possible
- Increased investment aid for meeting sustainability and welfare standards where needed

Policy Tools to consider ? (2)

- Greater use of results based payments schemes
- Support for innovation in a sustainability context including for example agro-forestry
- Removing coupled payments for livestock unless there is a strong environmental rationale
- Focussing official promotional budgets for foods on sustainable diets
- Public health scrutiny for agricultural support policies
- Accepting that lower carbon agriculture may result in a yield penalty and there are options to reduce emissions through lower waste and altered diets
- Securing sufficient funds for a significant period of transition



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