

# The future of livestock production post Brexit

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# A broken food and farming system

Intensive livestock production has been fuelled by the intensification of crop production, which – with its monocultures & agro-chemicals – leads to water pollution, soil degradation and biodiversity loss;

- The current system is not working – for human health, the environment, or animal welfare.

# Detrimental impact of industrial livestock on environment largely stems from its use of cereals as animal feed









Do these products



Come from her?

Or her?



**You have no way of knowing**

# Meat too must be labelled as to farming method so that consumers can help drive enhanced welfare standards



Free range



Intensive indoors



Extensive indoors

**Mandatory labelling as to farming method would stimulate the market for higher welfare products**

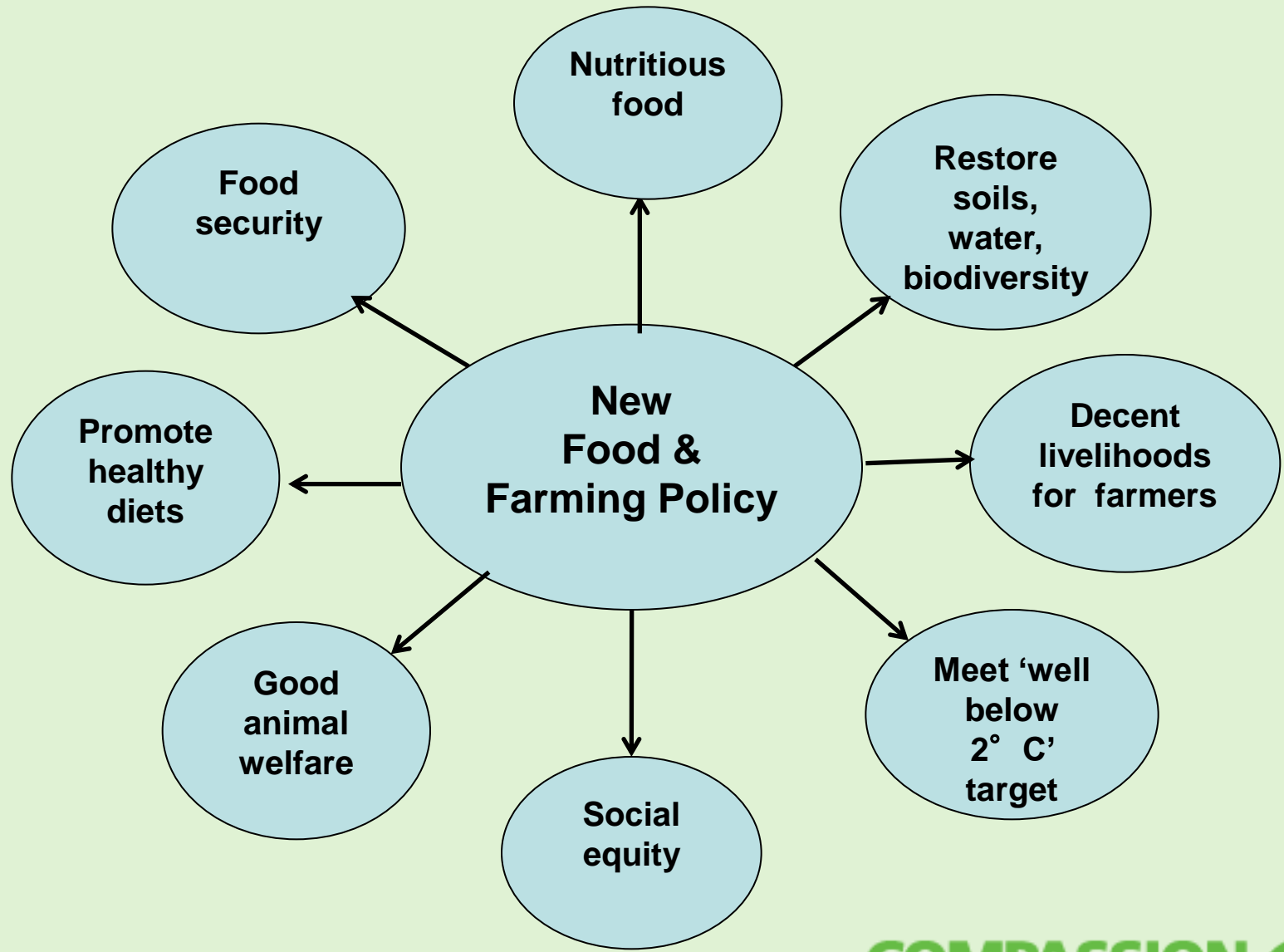


# Industrial livestock production with its huge demand for crops: a key driver of biodiversity loss



There has been a marked decline in pollinators including bees & farmland birds in UK with intensive farming being a leading driver in these declines: Parliamentary Office for Science & Technology; Defra , 2013





**Many recognise that feeding cereals to animals is wasteful**

**Chatham House: “staggeringly inefficient”**

**International Institute for  
Environment and**

**Development: “a colossally inefficient use of resources”**

**FAO: Further use of cereals as animal feed  
“could threaten food security by reducing  
grain available for human food consumption”**

# Reduce use of cereals as animal feed

- Rearing animals on pasture - grazing ruminants:
  - convert grass into food that we can eat
  - produce food from land unsuited to other forms of food production
- Integrated rotational crop-livestock systems: use of crop residues
- Use of by-products as feed
- Unavoidable food waste subject to strict safeguards

## UK dairy sector is rapidly industrialising



Greater support should be given to pasture-based dairy farmers  
Post CAP subsidies should encourage pasture-based farming.

# New approach to use of subsidies

- Solely or mainly for public goods i.e. to purchase benefits that market cannot, or can only partially, deliver;
- For example: animal welfare or environmental improvements such as supporting move away from caged hens and non-pasture diary.

# Defra should ban routine preventive use of antibiotics – no longer needs to wait for EU

- Most livestock antibiotic use is in intensive sector;
- Need to “develop health-orientated systems for rearing of animals”: The Lancet Infectious Diseases Commission, 2013

# Defra should phase out 'enriched cages'

Once UK leaves EU it will be able to improve welfare in UK & protect UK farmers by banning import of lower welfare products.

Provided that in new trade agreements UK insists on inclusion of clause enabling it to require imports to meet UK welfare standards



51% of UK hens still kept in enriched cages



# Defra should ban live exports

- Once UK is no longer bound by EU rules, it will be free to ban live exports - provided that in any new trade agreement with EU it insists on inclusion of clause permitting it to do so.



## Eat less and better meat

- High levels of consumption of red & processed meat contribute to heart disease, diabetes & certain cancers
- New *Eatwell Guide* by Public Health England says “Eat less red and processed meat”
- New *Eatwell Guide* has lower environmental impact than the current UK diet
- Reduced meat & dairy consumption would allow animals to be farmed extensively to high welfare standards

## **Conclusions:**

### **New food and farming policy must deliver:**

- Reduce use of cereals as animal feed
- Animals fed on things that cannot be eaten by people
- Restore water, soils & biodiversity
- Require a good life for farm animals
- Encourage a reduction in consumption of meat & dairy
- Subsidies should be used for public goods.

# Thank You

Compassion's UK Charter for Fair Food and Farming available on our stand and at

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