

# The FARMING SHOP WINDOW

The NFU is a membership organisation that provides professional representation for 46,000 farmers and growers in England and Wales. Its main offices in Stoneleigh, Builth Wells, Brussels and London are home to specialist sector advisers. County advisers based in its regional offices also offer direct support to members on the ground.

The NFU would like to introduce you to this Farming Shop Window. It is aimed at foodservice buyers, chefs and procurement professionals, and this simple snapshot gives you a glimpse of British agriculture, and the work streams of the NFU.

We recognise how important the foodservice market is to British agriculture, and we want to reach out and invite you to meet us.

**UK FOOD AND FARMING**  
is worth  
**£112 BILLION**



and employs  
nearly



**4**  
**MILLION**  
people



**THE RED TRACTOR LOGO**  
**APPEARS ON**  
**£12 BILLION OF FOOD**

PESTICIDES & HEALTHY MARKET  
 100% OF PROFESSIONALS WORKING FOR YOU  
 LEARNING IN CARDIFF, WESTMINSTER AND BRUSSELS  
 IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES  
 DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
 POLICY  
 AFFAIRS AND REPRESENTATION  
 ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE  
 FOOD CHAIN  
 HORTICULTURE  
 POULTRY AND EGGS  
 CROPS  
 MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE  
 RESTRICTED AND HEALTHY HARVEST CAMPAIGN  
 THE FIRST  
 ASSISTANCE  
 SCIENCE AND REGULATORY

**DAIRY**  
 ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE  
 FOOD CHAIN  
 HORTICULTURE  
 POULTRY AND EGGS  
 CROPS  
 MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE  
 RESTRICTED AND HEALTHY HARVEST CAMPAIGN

**SUPPLY CHAIN**  
 ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE  
 FOOD CHAIN  
 HORTICULTURE  
 POLICY  
 AFFAIRS AND REPRESENTATION  
 LEGAL ASSISTANCE  
 ORGANIC ASSISTANCE  
 ECONOMICS  
 EU EXIT AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
 ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES

**THE ECONOMICS OF BRITISH FARMING AND ITS SUPPLY CHAIN**  
**WATER**  
 LIVESTOCK  
 LAND MANAGEMENT  
**RED TRACTOR**  
HELP PROFESSIONALS REACHED FOR YOU  
 SKILLS  
 IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES  
 RURAL SURVEYOR  
 BREXIT

**SUGAR PLANT HEALTH**  
 RENEWABLE ENERGY  
 CAMPAIGN FOR THE FARMED ENVIRONMENT  
 LOBBYING  
 IN CARDIFF, WESTMINSTER AND BRUSSELS  
**FLOOD MANAGEMENT**  
 NFU CALLFIRST  
 LABOUR

**SOIL HEALTH LABELLING**  
 EXPERT FARMING AND SUPPLY CHAIN KNOWLEDGE  
 EXCLUSIVE MEMBER PUBLICATIONS  
**ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**THE NFU - EXPERT ADVICE FROM ACROSS THE BRITISH FARMING SUPPLY CHAIN**

# Environment

Farmers are proud custodians of the countryside and manage 70% of land in England and Wales. No-one knows better than farmers how important it is to look after the environment that gives them their livelihood. British farmers and growers enter into a variety of voluntary schemes to maintain and improve the quality of their farmed environment.

## Renewables

Nearly 20% of farmers and growers have already invested in some form of renewable energy production for self-supply or for export to other users. Uptake among poultry producers is an astonishing 72%. Solar panels remain by far the most popular technology, installed by nearly one-third of all farmers, followed by medium-sized installations of biomass boilers and wind turbines.

The NFU estimates that farmers own or host nearly 70% of Britain's solar power capacity, over half of anaerobic digestion (AD) capacity and the majority of wind power, while playing a significant role in the supply or fuelling of renewable heat.

## Greenhouse Gases

Greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture have decreased by 16% since 1990.

## Impacts of climate change

Almost two-thirds of farmers noticed an increase in severe weather events over the 10 years from 2005-2015.

Over half of farm businesses were affected by at least one severe weather event in that same decade.



### FARMERS PROTECT WATER VOLUNTARILY

CFE options that directly or indirectly benefit water cost farmers **£53 million** in 2014/15

Farmers have created **37,000KM** of grass margins



### Soil and water stewardship

Farmers invested more than **£182 million** on farm infrastructure, match-funding Catchment Sensitive Farming or Countryside Stewardship capital grants to improve water quality

Farmers have planted

**10,000**  
**FOOTBALL PITCHES**  
worth of wildflowers



**30,000km** of hedgerows have been planted and cared for by British farmers, providing shelter for wildlife

One third of farmers have diversified into

**RENEWABLE ENERGY**



**FERTILISER APPLICATION RATES CONTINUE TO DECREASE, WHILE PRODUCING MORE**

# Plant protection

For farmers and growers to produce safe, affordable and plentiful supplies of food and other crops, they need the right tools. Pesticides are an essential, but often misunderstood, part of current food production. Strict pesticide legislation is in place to protect the public and the environment, and to support productive and competitive farming. This legislation and best practice in pesticide use is then reinforced through the requirements of a world-class food assurance system, which independently checks and audits British farms.

Farmers use pesticides as a last resort and in the smallest amounts necessary to deal with a problem. They use a range of other actions to control crop pests, weeds and diseases. These actions include crop rotation, different cultivation methods, and pest-resistant seeds and plants, and fall under the banner of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Farmers have been regularly using many of these IPM techniques for decades and now record these actions by completing IPM Plans.

Under current pesticide regulation, British farmers are losing the tools they have relied on at a far greater rate than they are being replaced by even safer, more effective and lower risk pesticides and alternative technologies. This harms our ability to produce crops. The result is that production is simply done elsewhere; possibly using pesticides no longer available to our farmers and to lower standards than those met by our farmers and growers .

# Animal health and welfare

The health and welfare of animals is integral to productivity and farmers work hard to ensure their livestock is healthy and their welfare maintained. UK legislation relating to animal welfare is more comprehensive than most other major exporting countries. Equally pivotal to good animal welfare, and something that British farmers are well versed in is good stockmanship, whichever production system is employed.

The health and welfare of animals is very important to farmers and as such it is vital that there is access to veterinary advice and medicines when animals are sick. Strict guidelines enforce the use of any medicine, with the industry group RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance) also laying out best practice for the responsible use of medicines.

Industry initiatives are driving a reduction in common livestock diseases.

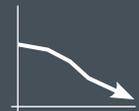


## PESTICIDE USE IS HIGHLY TARGETED

**50%** less active ingredient applied since 1990  
Average weight applied per area decreased by **73%** since 1990  
Average weight of metaldehyde applied per area decreased by **80%** since 1990

## PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP IS HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL

The Voluntary Initiative provides schemes that ensure responsible use of pesticides such as National Register of Sprayer Operators (NRoSO) and National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS).  
Over **20,000** members on the National Register of Sprayer Operators  
Around **90%** of the UK sprayed area covered by 'National Sprayer Testing Scheme' tested sprayers



## ANTIBIOTIC USE continues to reduce

## DID YOU KNOW?

Antibiotic Growth Promoters were phased out by the EU between 1997 and 2006 and are now illegal in Europe. The UK was one of the first member states to implement the ban.



# UK FARMING SECTORS

## Livestock (Beef and lamb)

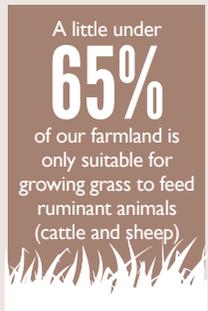
The sector is underpinned by family farms, sometimes raising both beef and lamb due to their natural synergies in production.

The UK provides a good climate for grass growth and livestock is able to turn this grass into a high value, highly nutritional protein, with the majority of livestock production from a grass-based system.

Grazing cattle and sheep have a huge role in maintaining and enhancing our fantastic iconic British landscapes, as well as utilising these lands to feed our growing population.

Red meat is far lower in fat now than it was 20 years ago. On average, fully-trimmed raw lean beef contains just 5% fat and fully-trimmed raw lean lamb 8%.

Good animal welfare is paramount and a trained and skilled workforce is vitally important for good standards of stockmanship.



## Dairy

British dairy farmers produce high quality dairy products making good use of the grass that grows abundantly in this country. The industry-wide Dairy Roadmap has reported a marked improvement in the sector's environmental footprint, not only reducing the emission of greenhouse gases, waste, and other pollutants but also improving the efficiency at which it consumes water, energy, and other resources.



The UK dairy industry employs around

**80,000  
PEOPLE**



**30%**

of milk produced in the UK is processed into cheese

The value of cheese sold in the UK was

**£2.75  
BILLION**



**51%**

of this came from

**CHEDDAR  
SALES**



**98%**

of the milk produced is under Red Tractor standards

## Pigs

What's good about pig production in this country? It is traceable right through to slaughter. All Red Tractor pigs are visited five times a year by a vet and an independent assessor as standard. Two to three times per year, welfare outcomes monitoring takes place on all finishing farms. UK production differs to EU and elsewhere in that there is no castration, no blood plasma in feed and no sow stalls. In addition, 40% of our sow herd is housed permanently outdoors and around 80% of sows and 66% of finishing pigs are housed indoors on straw.

Pig farmers work with water companies, other farmers and the Environment Agency to manage water, soil and air quality and ensure that the environment is properly managed. Pig and arable farmers work together to provide muck for the land and straw for the animals. Outdoor pigs also form a crucial part of arable rotations, providing much needed organic matter, fertiliser and a useful break crop.

**2000**

Red Tractor Assured Farmers

Proportion of pigs which are Red Tractor

**94%**



Antibiotic use has dropped by

**50%**

over the past 2 years against a target of a 62% drop over 5 years

**7.5**

**MILLION**

pigs



# Poultry

British poultry farmers use a range of production methods for eggs – free-range, organic, barn and colony cage.

Skilled and dedicated farmers from 2,500 farms across the UK produce free-range, organic and standard poultry meat. Poultry meat refers to all fowl including turkeys, chickens, ducks and geese.

In both egg and meat production, animal welfare is a priority. The entire food chain has worked hard to mitigate the impact of campylobacter, with incidents in decline year-on-year. The poultry sector has developed a bespoke poultry apprenticeship scheme to attract new people into the sector as well as providing career progression and development.



The UK produces  
**11 BILLION**  
eggs per year

Approximately  
**1 BILLION**  
birds reared for  
food in the UK  
each year



The UK poultry  
sector employs  
**47,000**  
people directly

Over

**90%**

of egg producers  
are part of  
assurance schemes  
such as the  
Lion Scheme or  
Laid in Britain

**90%**

of poultry meat  
producers are  
Red Tractor  
Assured

Staff are  
thoroughly  
trained in  
poultry welfare,  
biosecurity and  
health and safety

# Sugar

Beet production occupies over 100,000 hectares of UK farmland, supported by four manufacturing plants in the East Midlands and East Anglia.

The sugar beet rotation has a positive impact on biodiversity, especially for birdlife. In fact, during autumn and winter, more than a quarter of the world's population of pink-footed geese feed and forage on sugar beet tops and stubble in eastern England.

British Sugar factories avoid waste by turning process outputs into inputs for a wide range of products. Specifically, the production process produces virtually zero waste with less than 200 grams of waste for every tonne of sugar produced.



supplies  
**60%**  
of the UK's  
demand for sugar



supports up to  
**9,500**  
UK jobs in the  
wider economy

# Crops

The UK has some of the highest crop yields in the world, thanks largely to our maritime climate. However, our ability to compete in the global market is undermined by the risk of uncompetitive policy and exporting of production.



**11 MILLION**

The equivalent of 11 million loaves of bread are produced every day in the UK and 85% of the wheat used is British

**20 MILLION TONNES**

Every year, the UK produces over 20 million tonnes of grain providing home-produced raw materials for a vast number of applications in the food and animal feed manufacturing sectors



**5 MILLION**



UK produces over 5 million tonnes of flour per year

# Horticulture

The NFU *Plants and Flowers Pledge* and the NFU *Fruit and Veg Pledge* help deliver fairness and transparency across the supply chain which can improve confidence and investment in the sector. A number of major retailers have signed up to the pledges which includes a commitment to increasing the proportion of British Fruit and Vegetables on supermarket shelves. This is in response to a growing demand from consumers for quality British produce.



Over **300**

types of UK fruit, veg and potato



UK production of **5.5 MILLION** tonnes of potatoes

**3.4 MILLION**

tonnes of fruit and vegetables a year

Employs around **60,000** seasonal workers every year



plus around **37,000** permanent workers



# NFU FOOD CHAIN TEAM

Our primary focus is to promote the use of all British food throughout the retail, brands, food service, government and wholesale sectors to help shorten supply chains and enable fair terms of trade.

The team's portfolio also includes, labelling legislation and representation for our 2,000 organic farmer and grower members.

*You can contact us at*

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