

NFU Scotland: 2026 Manifesto Summary for Members

A Profitable, Sustainable and Resilient Future for Scottish Farming, Crofting and Rural Scotland

Scotland's farmers and crofters manage over 75% of Scotland's land. They produce high-quality food for the nation, care for nature, support rural communities, and contribute billions to the economy. But the next decade will bring major changes in funding, climate, policy and workforce challenges. Our Manifesto sets out NFU Scotland's clear asks to the next Scottish Government and Parliament to secure your future.

This summary document highlights our top priorities and headline asks. You can read our full manifesto at www.nfus.org.uk/manifesto2026.aspx



Our Key Asks

→ Secure Funding and Investment

- Multi-annual, ring-fenced budget
- Direct support for active farming and crofting
- Capital investment for infrastructure, resilience and new entrants
- Transparent reporting on spending and outcomes

→ A Fair Transition to New Agricultural Support

- Co-design of new schemes
- Phased changeover
- New and fairer definitions of eligibility
- Simplified, proportionate compliance

→ Food Security and Fair Supply Chains

- National food production target
- Fair treatment by processors and retailers
- Prioritise Scottish food in public procurement
- Support exports and market development

→ Deliver for Climate and Nature

- Balanced land use policy – food production at the core
- Practical, effective species management
- Fund environmental actions and low-carbon technologies
- Protect prime and productive agricultural land
- Fairly reward upland, hill and crofting systems



→ **World-Class Animal and Plant Health**

- Boost surveillance and response
- Tackle vet shortages
- Work to strengthen border controls

→ **Innovation, Research and Technology**

- Back applied research
- Support genetic technologies
- Deliver universal digital connectivity

→ **Support People, Skills and Rural Communities**

- New entrant and young farmer opportunities
- Invest in education, skills and apprenticeships

→ **Labour, Migration and Workforce**

- Seasonal worker scheme fit for Scotland
- Promote rural careers and best practice in employment
- Scrap the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board

→ **Regulation that Works**

- Simplify farm regulations
- Proportionate inspections and fairer penalties
- Coordinate audits to reduce duplication

→ **Rural Infrastructure, Transport & Services**

- Deliver full rural connectivity
- Invest in transport networks
- Boost local processing and supply chain infrastructure
- Enable rural housing

→ **Support Crofting, Upland and Hill Farming**

- Tailored support for high-cost, high-value systems
- Reward public goods

→ **Trade, Standards and Market Access**

- Protect Scottish standards in all trade deals
- Invest in export opportunities and branding



→ **What we're asking of the next Scottish Government**

- Work in **partnership** with NFU Scotland and our members
- **Back food producers** with long-term funding and fair policies
- **Champion Scottish produce** at home and abroad
- Make farming and crofting the **foundation of Scotland's future**