

NFU Scotland

Manifesto for

Scottish Agriculture

NFU SCOTLAND'S PRIORITIES FOR
THE NEXT SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
AND SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Foreword from the President

S **COTTISH** agriculture finds itself in a very new and increasingly demanding political, economic, environmental and social context, compounded by the Covid-19 crisis and the UK's departure from the EU.

Scotland's agricultural sector, as part of the critical national infrastructure for food, has proudly played its part in ensuring food supply chains continued to operate throughout the Covid-19 crisis. Coupled with daunting Brexit uncertainty throughout 2020, and the continuing significance of targeted support beyond the Common Agricultural Policy, Scotland's farmers and crofters must now also step up to deliver even more in the environmental and social interests of Scotland.

It is more important than ever that the next Scottish Parliament and a new Scottish Government enables a sustainable food production sector, which contributes to climate ambitions, improves biodiversity, air and water quality, and allows all consumers access to fresh and affordable local Scottish produce.

Delivering for Scotland's economic, environmental, and social needs however, will be pushed beyond reach unless political will facilitates change. Scotland's farmers and crofters are ready to play their part, but for the last five years, progressive discussion on rural policy in Scotland has been stymied by the Brexit debate.

Moving out of the shadow of the Brexit negotiations, NFU Scotland will look to the new Scottish Government to work collaboratively with UK Ministers on favourable trade deals, and to prioritise standards of production in these, and to ensure the integrity of the UK's internal market is upheld, which is critical to Scotland's agri-food interests. We must also ensure that Scotland continues to attract talented individuals from outside the UK who add value to our farms, processing, and wider food and drink sector.

Closer to home, we need the new Scottish



Government to work with the sector to deliver a new agricultural policy for Scotland that allows the sector to deliver key ambitions.

In this manifesto for Scottish agriculture, NFU Scotland sets out its priorities for the next five years:

- For a green recovery from Covid-19 that enhances sustainability in food production and enables agriculture to play its role in addressing the climate change and biodiversity crises
- For securing a viable and rewarding agriculture sector for current and future generations
- For a transparent supply chain and food system which supports Scottish producers and recognises the public benefits that agriculture provides
- For a resilient and enterprising rural economy that offers opportunities for all. ♦

Martin Kennedy
NFU Scotland President

FOOD & DRINK

1/6th



The Scottish horticulture and potato sector now accounts for **a sixth (16.6 per cent)** of Scottish agricultural output by value, despite using less than **1 per cent** of Scottish farmland.

£208 MILLION

The Scottish potato sector's output is around **£208 million** and we grow **22 per cent of the UK's potatoes**.

70%

Scotland grows **70 per cent** of UK seed potatoes.

80%

Scottish grown seed potatoes make up **80 per cent** of UK exports.

Scottish seed potato exports go to more than

40 COUNTRIES

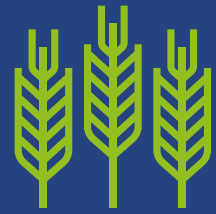


The sector is fundamental to Scotland's Ambition 2030 targets of doubling the value of the food and drink sector by 2030 to **£30 billion**.

£30 BILLION

SCOTLAND'S SOFT FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SECTORS HAVE GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE LAST 15 OR SO YEARS, WITH SOFT FRUIT OUTPUT MORE THAN TRIPLING SINCE 2003, AND VEGETABLE OUTPUT MORE THAN DOUBLING.

SCOTCH WHISKY



90%

Around **90 per cent of the barley**, and around **two thirds of all grain** used to produce Scotch Whisky is sourced in Scotland.

£5.5BN

The Scotch Whisky industry provides **£5.5 billion in gross value added (GVA)** to the UK economy.

Around **£10.50 on every bottle of whisky sold in the UK** goes to the Treasury via duty and VAT.



In 2019, Scotch Whisky accounted for

75%

of Scottish food and drink exports,

21%

of all UK food and drink exports, and

1.4%

of all UK goods exports.

Martin Kennedy
NFU Scotland
President

A PROFITABLE and sustainable agricultural industry that meets society’s needs more than ever before, and embraces sustainable land use and equitable supply chains, offers a clear opportunity for inclusive growth and a green recovery. With the right support, Scottish agriculture can: produce high-quality food and products that its customers want - allowing Scotland’s food and drink sector to grow further; embrace change to enhance productivity and create new market opportunities; lead the delivery of climate ambitions and a flourishing environment; and drive sustainable and diverse rural development to help rural economies prosper and communities thrive.

A green recovery from Covid-19 must be centred on inclusive growth. For Scottish farmers and crofters, a green recovery should create clear opportunities to reward sustainable land use so that Scotland’s agricultural industry meets society’s needs more than ever before. To do this, the agricultural industry needs clear direction and firm commitments on policy development and financial investment from government. The new Scottish Government must step up to enable Scottish agriculture to take on new challenges and deliver Scotland’s needs.

DELIVERING A NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR SCOTLAND

In addition to producing food to the highest of standards, all Scottish farmers and crofters have a responsibility to contribute to climate and biodiversity goals and NFU Scotland believes there is an opportunity through a new package of support to tackle climate change and enhance and restore the natural environment while still delivering on food production aspirations.

Steps to Change

The principles set out in NFU Scotland’s *Steps to Change* policy documents propose a new tiered approach to supporting active farming and crofting by shifting



funding to targeted action-based payments on practical measures to drive productivity while delivering environmental gains. There is an urgent need to accelerate policy development early in the next parliament if Scottish agriculture’s critical contribution to stringent targets is to be secured.

As an urgent priority, the new Scottish Government must develop and deliver effective financial support measures, targeted at active farmers and crofters while also yielding environmental outcomes. This can and should be done by adopting the principles and structure set out by NFU Scotland’s Steps to Change approach, with the result being a new agricultural policy that:

- **Provides financial stability** for agricultural businesses in what will remain a turbulent period post EU departure in return for baseline environmental commitments.
- **Incentivises actions** that deliver **food production, climate and biodiversity** outcomes in complementary fashion – thereby creating a sustainable agricultural system.
- **Supports additional** agri-environment **management and capital** investment to deliver enhanced benefits over and above required food production, climate and biodiversity targets.
- Supports **farmers and crofters in all sectors** to invest in

Agriculture and Green Recovery

innovation and new technology to assist in improving input efficiency and productivity and building resilience.

- **Recognises and rewards** those who have already taken positive steps to adjust their businesses.
- **Integrates diverse land use** through optimising potential and recognising the multiple benefits that Scotland’s varied landscapes yield from active agricultural management.
- Ensures scheme management **processes are fit to deliver** new policy measures and are simpler for applicants and administrators alike.
- Enables farmers and crofters to add value, increase their profitability and **secure equity and fairness in the supply chain** via improved advisory services and investment in processing capacity, infrastructure and cooperative working.
- Includes specific, tailored measures to assist new and

fledgling agricultural businesses to grow and encourages the fluidity required of a dynamic agricultural industry driven by farmers and crofters as innovators and entrepreneurs.

TAKING ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

NFU Scotland recognises that Scottish agriculture must take significant steps if the sector is to meaningfully contribute to emissions reduction targets set by the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.

These targets must be founded on robust and up-to-date scientific evidence and matched with practical measures that are adequately funded and delivered across farming and crofting. Equally important is the political and public recognition of agriculture's value to the Scottish economy and the need to avoid off-shoring Scotland's consumption-based emissions. Change is required, but there must be a just transition.

Efficiency and Productivity

There is an urgent need to shift to more efficient farming systems to drive up productivity while reducing emissions. There is an opportunity through a new package of support measures to tackle climate change and enhance and restore the natural environment while still delivering on food production aspirations.

The principles set out in NFU Scotland's Steps to Change policy documents established a new tiered structure of support for active farming and crofting by shifting support to targeted action-based payments on practical measures to drive productivity while delivering environmental gains.

With the establishment of farmer-led climate change groups by the current Scottish Government, the rollout of new tiered measures must be a top priority if Scottish agriculture's critical contribution is to be secured.

Funding Change

The next Scottish Government must fully commit to financial support

that is effectively targeted at enabling farmers and crofters to deliver on environmental and climate goals. Financial support should provide a basis for management and capital options to deliver benefits over and above those requirements.

Guiding Change

Advice and knowledge transfer will be equally invaluable going forward. Better progress can be made on this if the next Scottish Government fully commits to providing effective advice for farmers and crofters. In the context of green recovery, this is essential. There is also a further need to invest in training and upskilling those directly involved in agriculture.

Research and Technology

Continued research, particularly related to reducing emissions while maintaining production, and establishing robust means of carbon auditing to include sequestration are also equally vital – not least to give confidence that changed practices deliver benefits, and that these benefits will be suitably recognised.

The use of new technologies, including new breeding techniques and gene editing, based on research and evidence must also be promoted to advance the sector's contribution to climate change targets and other environmental goals. Technical improvements to achieve emissions reductions, as well as helping to improve the wider environment, must be enabled. In a similar vein, utilising proven, evidence-based agrochemical technology to reap climate and biodiversity benefits as part of a sustainable arable sector and all that it underpins is also key. Legislation around such plant protection products must be based on objective evidence and applied on a risk, rather than hazard, basis.

Renewable Energy

Farmers and crofters should be further encouraged to use the land to balance emissions through a planning system that builds capacity for on-farm renewable energy generation and wider support for appropriate farm woodlands. Scotland's agricultural landscapes

can and should provide the basis for renewable energy generation and enhanced sequestration.

INTEGRATED LAND USE, BIODIVERSITY AND THE BALANCE OF CONSERVATION INTERESTS

It is essential to ensure that Scotland's land use is optimised. Land use in Scotland is never exclusive – all land provides a multitude of functions. To get the most from Scotland's most valued asset, land use decisions must be carefully prioritised. Policies that coerce a binary choice between forestry, or peatland restoration, and agriculture are myopic at best.

Integrated and Sustainable Land Use

Integrated land use will play an important role in responding to climate and biodiversity crises, but it is equally vital to ensure that future policy decisions relating to land use allow Scottish farmers and crofters to continue producing food and deliver the multiple benefits that Scotland's varied landscapes yield from active agricultural management. Sustainable land use must embrace economic activity as well as environmental and social outcomes.

In that context, the third Land Use Strategy and Regional Land Use Partnerships are critical. In particular, the function, funding and governance of RLUPs must engage agricultural interests in every respect. Those responsible for the day-to-day management of the majority of Scotland's land must be

Continued overleaf



Tackling climate change while still delivering on food production aspirations

→ *Continued from previous*

embedded in the decision making around prioritising outcomes and funding actions.

In addition, tree planting targets in single pursuit of carbon sequestration must be revised. Wholesale land use change to forestry carries significant opportunity costs for food production, biodiversity and rural communities. The emphasis needs to shift to farm woodlands, stitched into the agricultural landscape to add value to the farm business and deliver significant benefits without compromising food production and yielding greater biodiversity benefits.

Biodiversity Through Conservation

Scotland's farmers and crofters have a long track record of working to enhance biodiversity and integrate conservation with sustainable food production. An absolute priority for the new Scottish Parliament and the next Scottish Government must be a commitment to continue and increase agri-environment funding to secure the public goods that will help Scotland's green recovery. Equally, wildlife should also be managed to balance environmental, social and economic objectives.

As with land use, managing wildlife is never a matter of exclusivity. To maximise the value of biodiversity to Scotland's green recovery there must be effective means to manage wildlife, very often in the interests of biodiversity itself when looking at species interactions.

It is vital that the next Scottish Parliament and a new Scottish Government takes a holistic and objective view of species management. The impacts of certain species in terms of agricultural damage and consequences for other wildlife must be fully understood.

Blanket protection of single species does little for conservation and often creates unwanted or unintended consequences. It is vital that Scotland's legal frameworks for wildlife management reflect this and are subject to continuous review and change when necessary – based on objective evidence of species impacts. ♦

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Securing a viable and rewarding agriculture sector for this and future generations

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GRICULTURE is a long-term, inter-generational industry. The sector is also the cornerstone to retaining critical mass in Scotland's most remote and rural areas – underpinning communities both economically and socially. Retention of an economically and socially active population is often the fabric that binds remoter and rural areas. If agriculture is to help deliver a green recovery, it must be viable over the long-term – and thereby underpin a host of other jobs and incomes both upstream and downstream. In the next Scottish Parliament, steps must be taken to instill confidence for this and future generations of farmers and crofters – facilitating pathways into, and options to retire from, the sector.

INSTILLING CONFIDENCE FOR A MORE VIBRANT LET LAND SECTOR

Key to a vibrant and dynamic agriculture sector and fluid let land market is confidence, and NFU Scotland strongly believes that recent legislation on land reform and agricultural holdings should be allowed to bed in before opening up the debate any further. Two decades

of land reform and agricultural holdings legislation under the watch of the Scottish Parliament has largely eroded confidence and trust. The net result is inertia – the very opposite of what is required.

There are numerous non-legislative tools which the new Scottish Government should implement to encourage and inspire confidence for both landowners and tenants. There should be further

progression and government support for new letting vehicles, such as share farming and contract farming which can assist retirees and new entrants alike.

CREATING CAREER PATHWAYS WITHIN AGRICULTURE

NFU Scotland is clear that in the next Scottish Parliament there should be better support and advice available for new entrants seeking a foothold in the sector, as well as for developing businesses and for those seeking to retire.

Access to land, via ownership and tenancies, is often cited as the major barrier to entry but often new entrants are constrained in accessing capital. The next Scottish Government should work with farming and crofting interests in designing accessible finance models that give new entrants a 'kickstart' by offering tailored grant assistance and/or low interest loans – incentivising and leveraging investment into new and expanding agricultural businesses.

Moreover, all future support from Scottish Government offered to new entrants and young farmers should be simpler and fairer in approach and offer built in means of providing weighted support for smaller and fledgling farms and crofts.

While land availability remains a key constraint for new entrants, the next Scottish Government must continue to resource and promote vehicles such as the Scottish Land Matching Service as a one-stop-shop for individuals looking to move in or out of the sector. Equally, the existing Starter Farm project has been successful for businesses that have participated, but an expansion of the project must be accompanied by support for succession once the tenancy comes to an end.

Steps can and should be taken within Scotland to use fiscal measures to incentivise the availability of land – especially for new and developing agricultural businesses.



To improve the churn, and thereby create the opportunities, within the agricultural industry the next Scottish Government must develop an incentive package for retirees, including options to build houses on farmland and releasing equity from capital. The former would also require a shift in approach set out by planning guidance.

MAINTAINING CROFTING FUTURES

Crofting law reform is sorely required if the sector is to sustain itself and remain resilient in the face of new challenges. A root and branch review of the different agencies governing crofting is needed early in the next Scottish Parliament to implement a clear structure to deliver crofting development.

Opportunities for new entrants into the crofting sector can and should also be encouraged by future government action to deal with neglected and abandoned crofts.

Moreover, the Crofting Commission must be better resourced to take a more proactive role in enabling active crofting management and assignment.

As with the rest of Scottish agriculture, a collaborative

approach involving crofters, the Scottish Government and agencies is required to develop a hub for training and mentoring opportunities within the sector.

The next Scottish Government must also consciously 'croft-proof' future agricultural support schemes to ensure such measures are fully accessible and inclusive.

SAFEGUARDING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF ANIMALS

Scotland's farmers and crofters are proud of their strong animal health record and, via the next Scottish Parliament, resources must continue to be put to the monitoring of existing and potential threats to animal health to sustain Scotland's high health status.

Livestock keepers across Scotland also adhere to world-leading standards of animal welfare and, in the next Scottish Parliament, solutions to difficult issues such as live transportation of animals must be resolved to pragmatic effect – given the geography and physical infrastructure of Scotland.

Measures such as improved facilities and capacity for local processing should be considered as potential solutions to these problems, as well as important opportunities to add value. ◆

Supporting future career pathways within agriculture

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A transparent supply chain and food system which supports Scottish producers



THE spectre of Covid-19 exposed weaknesses in Scotland's food system and supply chains. Whilst farmers, processors and distributors all adapted and supply chains realigned to keep Scotland fed, events brought into focus issues of food security, the value of locally produced food, and lack of fairness in many existing agri-food supply chains.

This must be a catalyst for change. NFU Scotland believes a 'Good Food Nation' is one which educates, sustains, and promotes. This means putting farmers and crofters at the heart of a Good Food Nation by valuing the production of Scottish food in domestic and export markets, ensuring a fair return to the producer, and servicing Scotland's USP for quality and high production standards.

EDUCATE AND CONNECT FOOD SYSTEMS

Improving the environmental performance of the agricultural sector provides an opportunity to reconnect Scottish consumers with local food producers and inform all about the real values of the land of food and drink which is Scotland. Policies should be introduced in the next Scottish Parliament to provide better information about what eating seasonally and locally means, through educational measures

in the national curriculum which teach children in their early years about seasonal food production and the environment – as well as health and nutrition.

SUSTAIN AND ADD VALUE TO SCOTTISH PRODUCE

The Covid-19 pandemic underscored the lack of processing capacity across the UK. The issue is particularly acute in Scotland and risks making the Scottish food production system less adaptable and resilient. Further investment in processing would allow value to be added to the primary produce that farmers and crofters provide – with the potential to upscale the market impact of high-value Scottish produce and protect the high food standards and reputation of Scotland's food and drink sector.

The next Scottish Government must work with the whole agri-food industry to create a long-term strategy to invest in the processing

Valuing the production of Scottish food in domestic and export markets



capacity of Scotland and create new opportunities to add value to Scottish produce. This can be done by encouraging new investment streams, pairing investment with promotional campaigns, and encouraging collaboration through Producer Organisations, cooperatives and across processors.

PROMOTE AT HOME AND ABROAD

Cutting food miles, and food waste, just makes sense. The best way to cut food miles is by valuing Scottish produce in a Scotland-first public procurement policy. A step-change in the procurement of local food is needed. Public procurement tendering practices should ensure that ingredient origin is accounted for in local buying and that there is stronger support for local sourcing. As part of this, food producers and processors need help in navigating tendering processes so that they can seek out opportunities to service procurement contracts.

There is also a clear role for the agri-food industry and Scottish Government to work collaboratively in encouraging retailers to promote Scotland-first, as well as examining how the food service sector can improve its record of domestic procurement. This can and should be extended to expand export opportunities by capacity-building and advertising campaigns around 'brand Scotland'. ♦

ENVIRONMENT

15.9%

Scottish agriculture has made progress in reducing emissions. Between 1990 and 2018, agriculture saw a **15.9 per cent decrease in net emissions.**



Methane emissions falling between 1990 and 2018 by **18 per cent.**



Nitrous oxide emissions falling between 1990 and 2018 by **15 per cent.**

LAND MANAGEMENT



5 MILLION HECTARES

Farming is the major land use in Scotland, **75 per cent** of the land area under agricultural management – equating to over **5 million hectares.**

1/2

More than half of Scotland's agricultural land is dedicated to more extensive use by sheep and cattle.



Managed permanent and rough grazing in Scotland holds approximately **172 million tonnes of carbon.**

172 MILLION TONNES

£29BN

In 2018, the natural economy, which Scottish farmers are integral in managing and protecting, contributed more than **£29 billion gross value** added to the Scottish economy and was responsible for employing **11 per cent** of Scotland's workforce.



More than **3,000 farms, crofts and estates** were managing land in 2019 for the benefit of **biodiversity**, the climate and public access under the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme.

3,000

36,000

In 2018, Scottish farmers managed the equivalent of **36,000 rugby pitches** as Ecological Focus Areas.



More productive arable and lowland livestock farmland are also often managed with conservation in mind to sustain **small mammals, birds, insects and rare plant life.**

THE Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the resilience of Scotland's rural and agri-food businesses to adapt and grow in challenging circumstances. Enterprise and commerce are not confined to Scotland's towns and cities, but with the right support, infrastructure, and connectivity a diverse and robust economy can flourish in Scotland's rural areas too.

Green recovery will be reliant on increasing the diversity of Scotland's rural economy, founded on land-based businesses and primary production, but maturing into processing, retail and the service sectors – typified by the growth in Scotland's farm shop, hospitality and agri-tourism sectors.

REFORM THE PLANNING SYSTEM TO ENCOURAGE RURAL ENTERPRISE

The planning system in Scotland is recognised by farmers and crofters as a barrier to both rural enterprise and farm succession. It can limit diversification opportunities, exposing farm businesses to additional risk and diluting the positive role that they can play in service provision in rural areas. The system can also be a barrier to farms being passed on to the next generation, due to the difficult nature of building housing for retiring farmers to move into on farm.

To build on recent legislative changes, the Scottish Government should set out a strategy for planning and agriculture which affords those farm businesses who wish to diversify the best possible chance to do so and which prompts businesses to approach discussions around succession planning.

UPSKILLING THE AGRICULTURAL AND WIDER RURAL SECTORS

To deliver on complementary food, climate, and environmental targets and to build resilience for a future generation of farmers and crofters, agriculture must professionalise. To do this, there should be more progressive partnerships between



Support and increase diversity of Scotland's rural economy

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A resilient and enterprising rural economy

industry, government, agencies and skills providers to help educate, train and develop people Scottish agriculture and other rural enterprises seek to attract.

The next Scottish Government must prioritise opportunities to fill the gaps within skills and training provision through schools and colleges courses on rural skills and enable the delivery of rural and supply chain work placements and apprenticeships.

Equally, especially for established agricultural businesses, there needs to be a far stronger focus on continued professional development. Linked to that is a further need to invest in the training and employment of more agricultural advisers – not least to complement the provision of investment to enable Scottish agriculture to attain food

production, climate and biodiversity outcomes simultaneously.

In addition, there should also be a commitment from the next Scottish Government to review the efficacy of the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board in the context of existing employment and pay legislation and determine whether it continues to have a purpose that adds value.

AN OPEN, CONNECTED AND WELCOMING SCOTTISH COUNTRYSIDE

An unanticipated by-product of Covid-19 has been a significant increase in public access-taking in the Scottish countryside and the rise in demand for Scottish tourism experiences. Going forward, this presents huge potential growth opportunities for enterprise in Scotland's rural areas.



Agri-Tourism

The next Scottish Government must enable the Scottish Agri-Tourism Network, of which NFU Scotland is a part, to expand Scotland’s rural and agri-tourism offering to guests from Scotland and further afield.

Vital to growing prospects for rural tourism, and almost all rural enterprises, is connectivity and infrastructure. Road, rail and sea links are in constant need of investment in Scotland’s rural and remote areas. Without access, Scotland’s rural potential will remain untapped.

A specific, rural-first approach must be adopted as a priority, in recognition that connectivity (and the appropriate infrastructure) is the key to unlocking efficiency improvements and facilitating a connection between Scotland’s communities and domestic food production.

Digital Connectivity

In terms of digital connectivity, evidence suggests that farmers and crofters, in remoter and rural communities, continue to be consistently left behind. In the digital by default era, Scotland’s connectivity rollout must be accelerated if Scotland’s rural businesses are to modernise and upscale – and attract customers and earn their confidence. These

must be urgent priorities for the new Scottish Government.

Public Access

With the 2020 surge in public access-taking, the Scottish Government should commit to work with NatureScot to review the Scottish Outdoor Access Code to ensure that public access is responsible and safe for all. In relation to responsible access, a wholesale review of legislation around the protection of livestock from dogs is also required. Such issues are clearly connected, and both the new Scottish Parliament and the next Scottish Government must act to tie things together.

Likewise, again in light of the increased uptake of enjoying the Scottish countryside, it is equally important that additional resources are dedicated to all of the access infrastructure to ensure the people of Scotland can make the very best of their experience safely.

Rural Crime

Given often remote and challenging environments, keeping Scotland’s rural communities safe must continue to be a priority for the next Scottish Government through collaborative liaison and resource provision with Police Scotland. At the urban fringe, a further priority area must be the scourge of fly-tipping, with the urgent publication of a national strategy with an effective action plan and better assistance for land managers in dealing with the impacts of fly-tipping.

SAFEGUARDING THE WELLBEING OF SCOTLAND’S RURAL COMMUNITIES

Great efforts have been made to cast a light on the wellbeing of those living and working in Scotland’s rural areas and improve on mental health services within such rural areas. In the next Scottish Parliament, NFU Scotland wishes to see continued Scottish Government support for the National Rural Mental Health Forum and for rural charities such as the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RSABI).

In a similar vein, compliance and paperwork burdens are often cited as key factors in poor mental health among the farming and crofting community. This can be compounded in the digital by default world that farmers and crofters must operate in and poor connectivity can be a major source of stress as it makes necessary online tasks, such as the annual Single Application Form (SAF) process, more challenging and can also increase feelings of social isolation. Implementing a new Scottish agricultural policy is a clear opportunity to ensure that paperwork and compliance requirements are user-friendly rather than punitive. In that respect, the new Scottish Government must also have due regard for the higher prevalence of dyslexia in agriculture, which can contribute to mental health problems triggered by paperwork burdens. ♦

Safeguarding the wellbeing of rural communities is essential



GROSS OUTPUT

£3.3 BILLION



Scottish agriculture generates a gross output of **£3.3 billion annually**, directly resulting in a contribution of some **£1.3 billion to the Scottish economy**.

1.4BN LITRES



Around **175,000** dairy cows produce almost **1.4 billion litres** of milk each year in Scotland.

Around **500,000** pigs are produced in Scotland annually with the intention to double the value of the sector to **£500 million** by 2030.

£500M

£1.17 billion

Output from cattle, sheep and pig production totalled **£1.17 billion in 2019** and accounted for just under **35 per cent of Scotland's agricultural output**.



The beef sector accounted for just under

24%

EMPLOYMENT

67,000

Scottish agriculture employs more than **67,000 people** – making it the key employer in rural Scotland.

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