

Key Policy Area	Conservatives	Labour	Plaid Cymru	Lib Dems	Reform	Green
Funding for agriculture	Increase the UK-wide farming budget by £1 billion over the Parliament, ensuring it rises by inflation in every year. Continue to ringfence agricultural funding so it is passed directly on to farming and rural communities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland alongside a new UK-wide £20 million Farming Innovation Fund. Welsh farmers will benefit from a £1 billion increase to the UK-wide farming budget, ensuring the ringfenced amount directed to Welsh farmers increases by inflation throughout the next Parliament, as well as grants for innovative agricultural projects from the £20 million UK Farming Innovation Fund and the extension of the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Scheme.		Plaid Cymru believes that Wales should be funded according to our needs, not the out-dated Barnett Formula which instead provides funding proportionate to spending on England's needs. We want to see a new needs-based funding formula introduced in place of the Barnett Formula	Accelerate the rollout of the new Environmental Land Management schemes, properly funding it with an extra £1 billion a year to support profitable, sustainable and nature-friendly farming. Ensure reliable funding for the nations of the UK by: Retaining the Barnett formula to adjust spending allocations across the UK and protect the individual nations' budgets from external shocks. Ensuring that the Barnett floor is set at a level that reflects the need for Wales to be funded fairly, seeking over a Parliament to increase the Welsh block grant to an equitable level	Increase the Farming Budget to £3 Billion Focus on smaller farms. Keep farmland in use. Bring young people into farming. Boost rural economy and culture. Increase innovation and diversification. Help farmers to farm, not pay them to leave or retire	Financial support for farmers to be almost tripled to support their transition to nature-friendly farming
NFU Cymru Comment	<i>This commitment is welcome, but not entirely clear how this will work. For example will the budget increase incrementally in each year of the Parliament to give a total additional expenditure of £1bn per annum by c2029, or alternatively will we see the budget increase by £1bn from the first year of the next Parliament? NFU Cymru's calculation is that an uplift of around 30% to Wales agricultural budget is needed just to keep pace with inflation. Assuming CSR 2021 which allocates £3.7bn annually across the home nations to replace EU CAP funds to be the baseline, then we see this figure rise to £4.7bn, and assuming Wales receives an allocation in the same proportion as it did historically (8.9% of the UK overall pot) then the uplift takes us from c£330m to c£418m, about £90m short of the uplift which would keep pace with inflation. The concept of ringfencing doesn't unfortunately mean a huge deal here - It doesn't have any legal standing and should be viewed more as a request from UK Gov't to Welsh Gov't to spend money in a particular way rather than a direction to spend money in a particular way - WG will be able to spend funds received from UK Treasury as it wishes</i>	<i>The Labour manifesto is silent on funding issues in general, that does not of course mean that they don't have views and ideas on which areas to fund and to what extent, but they have not chosen to share them with us in the manifesto. Funding for agriculture will be a key lobbying priority for NFU Cymru with any incoming UK Labour Government</i>	<i>The Barnett formula has been around for almost half a century, and although it is widely acknowledged to have shortcomings, no one has so far reformed or revised it. Plaid Cymru's manifesto does not provide further detail on what might replace the Barnett formula and so it is difficult to know how this would leave agriculture. We do however have to be mindful of the fact that funding for agriculture is not subject to a Barnett calculation, rather our allocation from the UK pot for farm support is based on historical production levels, giving Wales an allocation of 8.9% of any UK budget. This allocation is more generous to Wales than a Barnett allocation.</i>	<i>As with the Conservatives, this commitment is welcome, but not entirely clear how this will work. NFU Cymru's calculation is that an uplift of around 30% to Wales agricultural budget is needed just to keep pace with inflation. Assuming CSR 2021 which allocates £3.7bn annually across the home nations to replace EU CAP funds to be the baseline, then we see this figure rise to £4.7bn, and assuming Wales receives an allocation in the same proportion as it did historically (8.9% of the UK overall pot) then the uplift takes us from c£330m to c£418m, about £90m short of the uplift which would keep pace with inflation. Retaining and re-basing the Barnett floor at a level which is more generous to Wales may well mean more funding for agriculture, but WG is of course free to spend the Treasury block grant and any Barnett consquential as it wishes.</i>	<i>The overall annual budget to replace CAP funds in the UK under the CSR 2021 is £3.7bn, split across the home nations. Assuming that the reference to increasing the budget to £3bn is a reference to the English proportion (65.5% of the £3.7bn = £2.4bn), then by applying the same uplift to Wales's share, the current £330m becomes c£412m</i>	<i>Assuming that the entire CAP replacement funds pot is increased three-fold then £3.7bn becomes £11.1bn, and assuming Wales' allocation to remain the same as before at 8.9% of the UK total then an annual budget for Welsh agriculture of c£988m is implied</i>

<p>Food Security</p>	<p>Introduce a legally binding target to enhance our food security. The target will apply UK-wide alongside our UK Food Security Index, the first of its kind, helping us to determine where best to concentrate farming funds. Environmental production standards. Use our significant investment in R&D to prioritise cutting-edge technology in areas such as fertiliser and vertical farming.</p> <p>We will also build on our new UK-wide food security index by putting a UK-wide food security target into law.</p>	<p>Labour recognises that food security is national security. That is why we will champion British farming whilst protecting the environment.</p>		<p>Introduce a holistic and comprehensive National Food Strategy to ensure food security, tackle rising food prices, end food poverty and improve health and nutrition. Expanding the market for climate-friendly products and services with steadily higher criteria in public procurement policy.</p>	<p>Boost smaller food processors and abattoirs through tax breaks and other incentives.</p>	<p>We will also aim to increase the amount of food grown and traded in the UK, and as locally as possible.</p>
<p>NFU Cymru Comment</p>	<p><i>This move towards a binding target would be welcome, and is something we have called for some time, although it isn't clear how it might intersect with the devolved nature of the UK.</i></p>	<p><i>The recognition of food security as a matter of national security is welcome but there are no targets or metrics as to how food security might be enhanced and how food security might be measured</i></p>	<p><i>The Plaid Cymru manifesto doesn't specifically deal with food security - Although there is a devolved and non-devolved aspect to food security, and so perhaps it could have been covered off.</i></p>	<p><i>This sounds positive but does this engage devolved governments or not? Would there be targets, what would they be and how would they be measured? As with the other parties, public procurement commitment is welcome, but will not be transformational for our sector</i></p>	<p><i>The language around smaller processors and abattoirs is welcome but any commitments are vague.</i></p>	<p><i>This aim is laudable, but there is no target and the language is vague</i></p>
<p>Public Procurement, Labelling, Labour needs</p>	<p>Improve public sector procurement to deliver our goal that at least 50% of food expenditure is spent on food produced locally or to higher environmental production standards. Stick to our plan to support the agricultural sector with the labour it needs to maintain our food security, while moving away from the reliance on seasonal migrant labour with a five-year visa tapered scheme, alongside clear investment in automation and promoting agri-food careers and skills.</p>	<p>We will set a target for half of all food purchased across the public sector to be locally produced or certified to higher environmental standards. We will reform the points-based immigration system so that it is fair and properly managed, with appropriate restrictions on visas, and by linking immigration and skills policy</p>	<p>We will ensure that food labelling accurately reflects country of origin, allowing consumers to choose food that is 'Welsh' and not just 'British' so that they can make an informed choice. Plaid Cymru will continue to promote opportunities to develop local processing capacity and use procurement policy to shorten supply chains, cut food miles and create local jobs</p>	<p>Using public procurement policy to support the consumption of food produced to high standards of environmental and social sustainability, and which is nutritious, healthy and locally and seasonally sourced. Fixing the work visa system and exempting NHS and care staff from the Immigration Skills Charge</p>	<p>Target 70% to ensure food security. Taxpayer funded organisations should source 75% of their food from the UK. Clear labelling for consumer choice. Strict limits on immigration are the only way to relieve the pressure on our housing, public services, increase wages and protect our culture, identity and values. Essential skills, mainly around healthcare, must be the only exception.</p>	<p>Reform procurement rules to give small and medium sized enterprises greater access to government contracts.</p>

<p>NFU Cymru Comment</p>	<p><i>This aligns to the NFU Cymru manifesto seeking increased levels of Welsh/British food used in public procurement. Again, the suggestions that we should automate appears to fail to understand the nature of the tasks involved in agricultural work, particularly livestock tasks but also some of the skilled upstream supply chain tasks such as butchery. In relation to 50% food expenditure target, what is meant by higher environmental production standards?</i></p>	<p><i>This aligns to the NFU Cymru manifesto seeking increased levels of Welsh/British food used in public procurement. Unclear what the implications of the policy on immigration might be for our sector and securing the labour it needs</i></p>	<p><i>This provision around accurate country of origin labelling is welcome. The comments around local processing and procurement are welcome and align with NFU Cymru asks. It would have been helpful to see some targets set with respect to increasing public procurement.</i></p>	<p><i>This aligns to the NFU Cymru manifesto seeking increased levels of Welsh/British food used in public procurement. Unclear what the provisions around immigration might be for our sector.</i></p>	<p><i>This aligns to the NFU Cymru manifesto seeking increased levels of Welsh/British food used in public procurement. A welcome provision around labelling. Provisions on immigration don't appear to recognise the agricultural sector's needs</i></p>	<p><i>We would need more information on this, but it sounds positive and aligns with NFU Cymru asks in NFU Cymru's manifesto.</i></p>
<p>Supply Chain Fairness</p>			<p>We will look to introduce policies to improve transparency within the supply chain and strengthen the powers of the Groceries Adjudicator to more effectively tackle unfair supply chain practices.</p>	<p>Hold (large) businesses to account for their responsibility to the environment: duty of care, transition plans to become 'nature-positive' across supply chain, and nature-related financial disclosure requirements. Strengthen the Groceries Code Adjudicator to protect consumers from unfair price rises and support producers. Introducing robust and clear-to-understand food labelling.</p>	<p>Stop Supermarket Price Fixing. Grant powers to the Competitions and Markets Authority to ensure fair pricing. Help farmers sell their produce directly to the public. Change planning laws to support farm shops with zero business rates</p>	
<p>NFU Cymru Comment</p>	<p><i>Disappointing not to see any comment from the Conservatives on this particularly as they have legislated re dairy contracts</i></p>	<p><i>Disappointing not to see any comment from Labour on this issue</i></p>	<p><i>These proposals are welcome, but we would need more detail in order to comment meaningfully</i></p>	<p><i>How does this fit with net zero? This is probably the current direction of travel anyway for many companies. Concept of strengthening GCA welcome, what does strengthen mean? More powers? An expanded remit to cover all supply chain actors, foodservice, CGA to cover whole supply chain? Robust and easy to understand food labelling provision would be welcome.</i></p>	<p><i>Talk of price fixing here appears predicated on what is presumably Reform's view that supermarkets fix prices to the detriment of consumers, it doesn't appear to engage with the unfair supply chain practices and downward pressure on farmgate prices and the enhanced role for the GCA that we would advocate for.</i></p>	<p><i>There doesn't appear to be anything in the Greens' manifesto regarding supply chain fairness</i></p>

<p>International Trade</p>	<p>Always stand up for farmers when negotiating new trade deals. At the farm to fork summit Conservatives set out our commitments to ensure UK farming is at the heart of UK trade and will always look for the right deal for farmers. Will continue to support UK agri-food and drink attachés in our embassies abroad, pioneering new markets and new opportunities for our domestic food and drink industry. A Conservative Government will faithfully implement all its commitments in the Windsor Framework and the Command Paper.</p>	<p>we will improve guidance and remove barriers to exporting for small businesses. We will reset the relationship and seek to deepen ties with our European friends, neighbours and allies. We will publish a trade strategy and use every lever available to get UK business the access it needs to international markets. This will promote the highest standards when it comes to food production. We will reset the relationship and seek to deepen ties with our European friends, neighbours and allies. Instead, Labour will work to improve the UK's trade and investment relationship with the EU, by tearing down unnecessary barriers to trade. We will seek to negotiate a veterinary agreement to prevent unnecessary border checks and help tackle the cost of food. We will lead international discussions to modernise trade rules and agreements so they work for Britain, promoting deeper trade and co-operation including through the World Trade Organisation and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.</p>	<p>We believe that Wales would be best served by re-joining the European Union at an appropriate point in time, recognising the failure of Brexit. In the meantime, the UK should join the European Single Market and Customs Union as soon as practical. Trade- Placing human rights, labour and environmental standards and protection at the heart of international trade deals. Trade- Making it a clear objective of trade ministers to boost trade by small British businesses. Wales should be enabled to participate in pan-European programmes, supporting our university and creative sectors in particular, and allowing the Freedom of Movement which has been damagingly denied since leaving the European Union. Until then, the Welsh Government should participate fully in the structures governing the current EU-UK relationship, under the Withdrawal and Trade and Co-operation Agreements. Wales should be at the table whenever decisions are made about and for us. We will give Wales a veto over future trade deals that undermine Welsh agricultural communities. In the face of increased threats from new and emerging animal and plant diseases, we will also support steps to strengthen the UK's disease surveillance networks, including protecting the UK's scanning surveillance budget.</p>	<p>Trade- Giving Parliament real power in setting UK trade policy, by ensuring it is properly consulted on and signs off on negotiating mandates and any completed international trade agreements. Trade- Ensuring that all information small and medium-sized enterprises need on trade is readily available from a single point of contact, with tailored support for those who need it. Trade- Placing human rights, labour and environmental standards and protection at the heart of international trade deals. Trade- Making it a clear objective of trade ministers to boost trade by small British businesses. Maintain high health, environmental and animal welfare standards in food production and guarantee that all future trade deals will meet them too, ensuring that Britain's farmers and food manufacturers are not put at an unfair disadvantage. Give Britain's farmers the ability to trade with our European neighbours with minimal need for checks by negotiating comprehensive veterinary and plant health agreements. Renegotiating the Australia and New Zealand trade agreements in line with our objectives for health, environmental and animal welfare standards, withdrawing from them if that cannot be achieved. Ensuring all imported food meets UK standards for health and welfare, and that goods are properly checked. We would aim to place the UK-EU relationship on a more formal and stable footing by seeking to join the Single Market.</p>	<p>Abandon the Windsor Framework. Prepare for renegotiations on the EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement</p>	<p>Re-join the EU as soon as the political conditions are right. We will also aim to increase the amount of food grown and traded in the UK, and as locally as possible.</p>
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<p>NFU Cymru Comment</p>	<p>This appears positive and a change to the approach of previous Conservative Governments. Disappointing there is no mention of a veterinary agreement with the EU</p>	<p>This would be welcome, particularly re the veterinary agreement. We would welcome more information on the provision re the highest standards of food production - Does this mean that imported food will have to be produced to the same standard as domestically produced food?</p>	<p>A lot to unpack here. Rejoining the EU, and rejoining the SM/CU as an interim would certainly greatly facilitate trade with the EU27, but will be a lengthy and difficult process and will also realistically require democratic consent (a referendum). UK Gov't very unlikely to give Wales full participation in structures governing UK/EU relations or a veto over trade deals. The idea of putting labour, human rights and environmental standards and protection at the heart of international trade deals is welcome as is the commitment around biosecurity</p>	<p>Some attractive policies here including an enhanced role for Parliament, the placing of environmental standards and protections at the heart of international trade deals. The maintaining of high health, environmental and animal welfare standards and food production and the guarantee that future trade deals will need to meet them is in line with our policy. Veterinary and plant health agreements with the EU would be very welcome. Renegotiating Australia and NZ trade agreements will be difficult, but would be welcome. Proper checks on incoming foodstuffs would be very welcome as there are concerns about border biosecurity. Rejoining the single market would certainly greatly improve the terms of our trade with the EU, but would be complex, lengthy and require democratic consent (a referendum)</p>	<p>The abandoning of the Windsor framework would put us in breach of our international obligations. Preparing for renegotiation on the T&C agreement would be deeply unsettling and it is questionable what the end point might be - Quite possibly a rupture with EU27 and trading on WTO terms</p>	<p>Rejoining the EU would certainly greatly facilitate trade with the EU27, but will be a lengthy and difficult process. The idea of producing more food in the UK is welcome</p>
<p>Animal Health and Welfare</p>		<p>We will work with farmers and scientists on measures to eradicate Bovine TB, protecting livelihoods, so that we can end the ineffective badger cull. Labour will improve animal welfare. We will ban trail hunting and the import of hunting trophies. We will end puppy smuggling and farming, along with the use of snare traps. And we will partner with scientists, industry, and civil society as we work towards the phasing out of animal testing.</p>	<p>Plaid Cymru will introduce a broader approach to tackling bovine TB which includes controlling the disease in wildlife.</p>	<p>Passing a comprehensive new Animal Welfare Bill to ensure the highest standards possible. Improving standards of animal health and welfare in agriculture, including a ban on caged hens, and preventing unnecessarily painful practices in farming. <i>The manifesto is silent on badger culling</i></p>		<p>The creation a new Commission on Animal Protection. A ban on all blood sports, including trail hunting. An end to badger culling. An end to factory farming, enforcement of maximum stocking densities, and no routine use of antibiotics in farm animals. A complete ban on close confinement in cages and the deliberate and unnecessary mutilation of farm animals</p>
<p>NFU Cymru Comment</p>	<p>The 2019 Manifesto dealt with a number of animal health and welfare issues, the 2024 one doesn't and it's also notable that there is no reference made to the badger cull and its status post-election</p>	<p>The reference to the ending of the badger cull is disappointing - Continuing with it in some form would have maintained pressure on WG. The measures detailed are likely to be England only, snares already banned in Wales and other jurisdictions.</p>	<p>This is a useful re-statement of Plaid Cymru policy in this area</p>	<p>It is likely that these provisions would be England only</p>	<p>The Reform manifesto is doesn't make any commitments regarding animal health and welfare and is silent on any badger cull</p>	<p>These are most probably England only policies</p>

<p>Various other areas of interest</p>	<p>Extend the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for another three years, delivering a further £540 million a year for communities across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Require the Welsh Government to provide annual reports on how ringfenced agricultural funding from the UK Government is spent.</p>	<p>Labour will renew opportunities for the Prime Minister and Heads of Devolved Government to collaborate with each other. As recommended in the Report of the Commission on the UK's future, we will establish a new Council of the Nations and Regions. This will bring together the Prime Minister, the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales, the First and deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, and the Mayors of Combined Authorities. We will strengthen the relationship between the governments in Westminster and Cardiff Bay. The two governments will work collaboratively to deliver Labour's national missions. Labour recognises that the Welsh Fiscal Framework is out of date. We are committed to working in partnership with the Welsh Government to ensure the framework delivers value for money with two Labour governments committed to fiscal responsibility. With Labour, the Wales Office will once again become an advocate for Wales at home and abroad and facilitate closer collaboration between our governments. The Wales Office will ensure on issues under the competence of the UK government the voice of Wales is properly heard.</p>	<p>Plaid Cymru will make the case that independence is not just viable, but desirable, and we will engage with the people of Wales to persuade them of its merits, recognising that recent years have shown a significant growth in the number of people becoming independent and independent-minded, as shown in opinion polls and the growth of pro-independence marches in recent years. We will continue to take the argument for independence to every corner of Wales. There should instead be a duty of co-operation and parity of esteem between the governments within the UK. This would prevent UK Government over-reach: stopping it from legislating or making decisions in Wales without the consent of the Welsh Government and Senedd. There has been a rise in rural crime in recent years, and would work to create a specialist all-Wales rural crime team, seeking to recruit officers from the farming community, building upon the work already done by Police and Crime Commissioners in the North Wales and Dyfed-Powys police force areas.</p>	<p>Creating a United Kingdom Council of Ministers to bring together the governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with regional leaders across England. • Removing the ability for the UK Parliament to unilaterally change the powers of the devolved parliaments or pass laws in their areas of responsibility. • Creating a Joint Climate Council of the Nations to tackle the climate emergency by helping to foster innovation and encourage collaborative action. • Securing cooperation and agreement through common frameworks and a new dispute resolution process, sharing power, resolving differences maturely between administrations and delivering better governance. Improving joint ministerial work on new cross-cutting policies, such as the UK industrial strategy. Completing the next stage of devolution in Wales by implementing the remaining Silk proposals, substantially reducing the number of powers reserved to Westminster, and increasing borrowing powers. • Creating a distinct legal jurisdiction for Wales to reflect the growing divergence in law as a result of devolution. Retaining the Barnett formula to adjust spending allocations across the UK and protect the individual nations' budgets from external shocks. Ensuring that the Barnett floor is set at a level that reflects the need for Wales to be funded fairly, seeking over a Parliament to increase the Welsh block grant to an equitable level</p>	<p>Clampdown on all crime and antisocial behaviour Legislate to scrap EU regulations with immediate effect. Lower fuel duty by 20p per litre for both residential and business users. Scrap VAT on energy bills. Scrap environmental levies.</p>	
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<p>NFU Cymru Comment</p>	<p>This is likely to prove controversial with WG.</p>	<p>Improved relations between London and Cardiff would be welcome but we cannot assume that Labour:Labour Governments will get on, there could well be tensions between them. UK Labour have stated that they are not about to turn on the spending taps, this could give rise to tension between London and Cardiff.</p>	<p>Nothing particularly surprising here given Plaid advocate for Welsh independence. There certainly have been recent instances when UK Gov't have overreached and made decisions for Wales which are at odds with constitutional convention. The commitment regarding rural crime is very welcome</p>	<p>Interesting to see this level of detail from the LDs - Communication between governments has been something of a weakness historically and anything that can improved the dialogue would be welcome. Preventing the UK Parliament from changing the powers of the Senedd, or legislating in devolved areas would require changes to devolution statutes and even then this protection could not become an 'entrenched' protection, i.e. it could still be unpicked by a subsequent Westminster Parliament or indeed by any Westminster Parliament minded to do so. This manifesto provision is probably less salient in a Labour Government in Westminster: Labour Government in Cardiff scenario than one in which there are different parties in power in London and Cardiff. Agriculture and the environment are almost entirely devolved already. Increasing borrowing powers may be a positive as it might allow WG to maintain budgets (including the agriculture one) during 'lean' years. There are arguments which can be made both for and against a unified England and Wales legal jurisdiction - NFU Cymru has not taken a view on this matter.</p>	<p>Clampdown on all crime is vague but may be positive re rural crime. Lowered fuel duty would be welcomed by most rural dwellers. Scrapping EU legislation - We need to be careful here, a lot of legacy EU legislation is critical to food safety, consumer protection we can't scrap areas of law until we know what their function is, if they can indeed be dispensed with or if they ought to be replaced by domestic legislation</p>	
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Barnett is imperfect but has been around since the 1970s when it was introduced as a temporary arrangement! - As the saying goes 'nothing is as permanent as temporary arrangement' - Politicians have always shied at the fence of reforming Barnett although there arguments for doing so. Read in conjunction with the previous point, lifting the Barnett floor so that Wales needs are properly met would be popular with many. We also see an important role here for Welsh Government in advocating for fair funding for Wales particularly around WG's stated ambitions around the Sustainable Farming Scheme