



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin



Agricultural Strategy Consultation Results Summary

John Harrison
Head of Agriculture

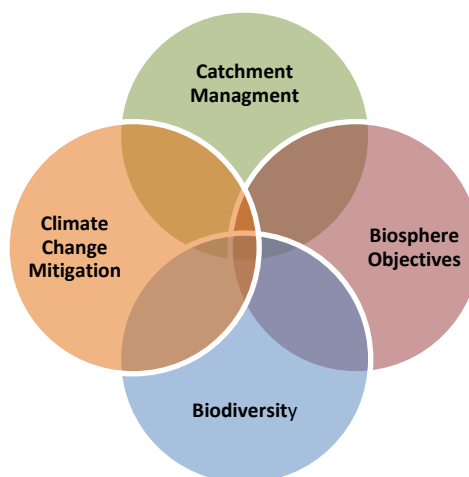
Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Agriculture Strategy Consultation

Introduction

Following his appointment as Minister for DEFA, the Hon. Geoffrey Boot, MHK, made the decision to review the way agricultural support is delivered, principally to ensure that Schemes support active farmers and production, ensuring that economic activity is maximised and that the processors, particularly the Meat Plant, are viable.

Since the spring of 2018 the Department has been working collaboratively with the industry, the MNFU and other stakeholder representatives to develop the proposed changes to current Agricultural Support payments that were outlined in the consultation documentation. These changes are intended to help foster a sustainable, productive, agricultural industry; which has a strong commitment to deliver **Biodiversity, Catchment Management, Biosphere objectives and Climate Change mitigation.**



The Consultation exercise

A six week web based consultation was launched at a public meeting held at Bemahague Lower School on 26th of February 2019. Current claimants of the Agricultural Development Scheme (ADS), Stakeholders and the Manx National Farmers Union (MNFU) were invited to this meeting.

Attendees to the meeting were encouraged to complete and participate in the on-line consultation and this was reinforced using the DEFA website and farm texts. Hard copies of the consultation were available from DEFA to ensure that all interested parties had a chance to express their views on the proposals.

The image overleaf graphically depicts the words most prevalent within the consultation responses.

Word map of the words most prevalent in the comments received in the responses

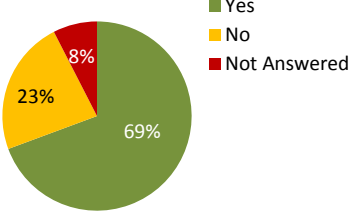
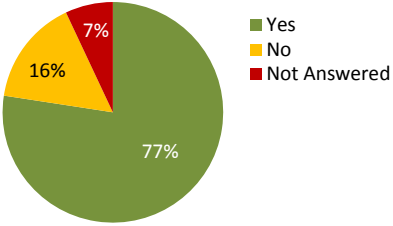
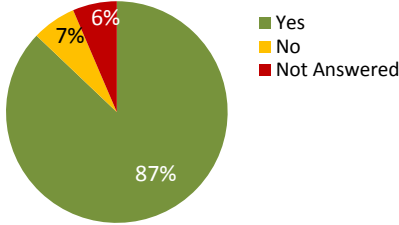
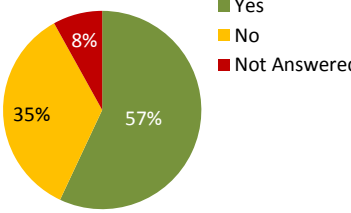
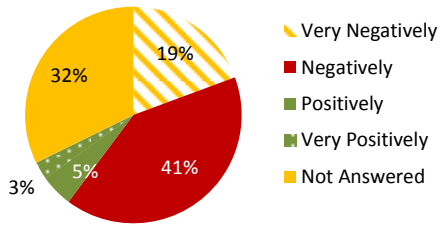


Summary of Responses to Consultation

One Hundred and Eighty Six (186) responses were received and are summarised below

<p>Do you agree with the Vision statement that wants a reliable and profitable food chain, an enhanced environment and opportunities for new and existing businesses to flourish through investment in infrastructure?</p>																			
<p>Do you agree with the Vision Statement that wants a reliable and profitable food Chain, an enhanced environment and opportunities for new and existing businesses to flourish through investment in infrastructure?</p>	<p>Question 9</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Question 9 Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>91%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	91%	No	5%	Not Answered	4%	<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scheme needs to support qualifying active farmers only. • Delivery needs to be practical and focused • All outcomes will be subject to detail changes • This is a disgraceful scheme which just tries to enrich land owners and farmers who do little to enrich the Isle of Man or its citizens. 								
Response	Percentage																		
Yes	91%																		
No	5%																		
Not Answered	4%																		
<p>Do you agree that the 4 main objectives are important for securing a sustainable agricultural industry?</p>																			
<p>The environment- Providing support for targeted initiatives that produce conserved and cherished landscapes, enhance biodiversity, sequester carbon and, improve water quality and reduce flood risk?</p>	<p>Question 10a</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Question 10a Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>87%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	87%	No	9%	Not Answered	4%	<p>Supporting active farmers – ensuring that financial support is targeted at businesses producing food, protecting the environment and catchment and landscape management.</p>	<p>Question 10b</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Question 10b Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>86%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	86%	No	10%	Not Answered	4%
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<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, we need to make environmental changes now. Education, encouraging and MAKING changes NOW will ensure good practices start and continue. Good environmental management should help improve the much needed public perception of Agriculture (farmers & DEFA) • Our environment and landscape is as farmers have naturally farmed so there is no need to interfere. 	<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The present support scheme is not benefiting either the economy or farmers • Yes, supporting active farmers who produce FOOD is vital.. • Tax cuts yes, direct subsidies no. Stop financing industrial agriculture: it only makes things worse. Allow nature to work for us: forest gardens and permaculture. 																
<p>Productivity – supporting marketing, efficiency, knowledge, benchmarking and advice to sustainably improve farm profitability and secure the long-term viability of the industry, post BREXIT.</p>	<p>Question 10c</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Question 10c Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>86%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	86%	No	8%	Not Answered	6%	<p>Investment – increasing investment through capital grants, business confidence and profitability.</p>	<p>Question 10d</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Question 10d Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>82%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	82%	No	11%	Not Answered	7%
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<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes its all important with or without Brexit. Improving knowledge on environmental management would help everyone in the industry. Efficiency is fundamental to modern agriculture in our climate. Efficiency correlates with profitability and secures the long term viability of our industry. 	<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No grants for empty fields • We need to continue investment to keep business moving or possibly expanding to remain profitable. • Capital grants need to be made so that a far better approach can be made to things like biodiversity enhancement, animal welfare, water management, carbon sequestration and soil management. 																

<p>The funding strategy seeks an additional £1M of financial support for the industry, with an increased focus on on-farm investment and improving the environment. To deliver these investments, Below Mountain Line (BML) area payment levels will be reduced and Above Mountain Line (AML) area payments replaced with an agri-environment scheme.</p>																			
<p>Do you agree that increasing the budget by £1M over three years provides an appropriate funding level for the industry?</p>	<p>Question 11a</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	36%	No	56%	Not Answered	8%	<p>Do you agree that increasing the overall budget, but reducing the area payment component to fund specific initiatives focused on paying more to active farmers is an appropriate measure?</p>	<p>Question 11b</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>75%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>19%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	75%	No	19%	Not Answered	6%
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<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We believe an extra £4M of new funding will be required for Active farmers to manage the environmental services of the ew Agri-environment element of the new scheme for BML over the net 10 years to achieve the best outcomes for the Biosphere, Environment and the Island I think you are referring to the wrong industry. The £1M would be better spent developing food production and new product development. Farming is not the industry; they are one part of the supply chain. 	<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If it can be done then yes, I was always told that this would create all the wrong production behaviours with farmers once again being enticed to produce what government thinks the market needs rather than relying directly on the market to influence farmers; production behaviours. If you've cracked that issue then who could argue against? We acknowledge that any reduction to acreage flat rate has been match funded by the increase in the overall agricultural budget for active farmers. 																
<p>Do you agree that removing the Above Mountain Line payment and replacing it with an Uplands Agri-environment scheme can deliver better targeted upland management whilst retaining the viability of farming in the hills</p>	<p>Question 11c</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>69%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	69%	No	20%	Not Answered	11%	<p>Do you agree that paying farmers to provide environmental services will improve the Island's environment?</p>	<p>Question 11d</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>78%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>17%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Yes	78%	No	17%	Not Answered	5%
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<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable areas of the uplands could be properly managed with a focus on habitat protection and restoration and measures to mitigate carbon released by erosion and degradation of peatlands. Upland stock could be restricted to areas that are not covered by deep peat, thereby reducing damage and enabling restoration of blanket bog habitats. Returns on AML are so low that environmental work would need payment over and above acreage payment for viability of farming in the hills. Also labour shortage – shortage of fencing contractors willing to work on tough ground, very few wallers etc. 	<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It should do, but any new agri-environmental scheme needs to be more accurately assessed for improvements than the last scheme was. There were some really excellent participants in the previous agri-environmental scheme who genuinely wanted to make a real and lasting contribution, but there were also others where payments resulted in very little lasting environmental benefit. Who was supposed to be checking up? Farmers should be paid to do farming and not bowing to pressures from the environmentalists. The business and activity of farming as it maintains and enhances the environment. 																

<p>Do you agree that paying farmers to provide environmental services will improve the public perception of funding for farming?</p>	<p>Question 11e</p>  <p> ■ Yes ■ No ■ Not Answered </p>	<p>Do you agree that increasing investment in farm business advice and education will help deliver improved farm efficiency and profitability?</p>	<p>Question 11h</p>  <p> ■ Yes ■ No ■ Not Answered </p>
<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is key to improving public perception. This is why we need to measure progress and hold ourselves accountable to deliver public good. This needs to be balanced with ensuring that the services required are deliverable and measurable. Food and the environment are part of this and not just environmental services. • The public will only improve this perception when the tangible biosphere and economic benefits of increased local food supply and exports are realised. 	<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm business advice and education will improve farm efficiency and profitability especially if field officers advise on an individual business basis. • If the Department were to provide soil sampling this will gauge what the land actually requires and lessen waste, avoid overdosing (more environmentally friendly) and untimely improve efficiency and profitability. • Advise and education is an acceptable method, a far cry from benchmarking only if targeted, benchmarked and measured.
<p>Do you agree that the farming industry can play an important role in delivering a wide-range of Government objectives e.g. Biodiversity, Biosphere, catchment management, bathing water quality, carbon sequestration?</p>	<p>Question 11i</p>  <p> ■ Yes ■ No ■ Not Answered </p>	<p>Comments received from the consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for environmental services provided by farmers is key to the implementation of much of the Biodiversity Strategy. • Farming offers the low hanging fruit for almost all of these objectives. • We already do! Achieved Biosphere status mainly due to a result of what the farming industry does. • Farmers receive far too much in grants which are not justified economically and treat the general public with contempt. 	
<p>The strategy recognises that maintaining a functioning Meat Plant is an important part of successfully delivering this strategy, with its impacts reaching far wider than just the livestock sector.</p>			
<p>Do you agree that the Meat Plant is a vital part of the islands agriculture industry?</p>	<p>Question 12a</p>  <p> ■ Yes ■ No ■ Not Answered </p>	<p>How would your business be impacted if there was no longer a functioning Meat Plant on the Isle of Man?</p>	<p>Question 12b</p>  <p> ■ Very Negatively ■ Negatively ■ Positively ■ Very Positively ■ Not Answered </p>
<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meat plant is vital for local food production and animal welfare and economic benefits to the Island cannot be ignored. But the meat plant needs to market itself better both locally and internationally in order to sell the amount of product that the Island is currently producing. It is also vital that we as an Island strive for self-sufficiency • No as easier to export when the animals are ready than wait for the meat plant to take them when they have gone past their best grade. 	<p>Comments received from the consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would potentially finish our livestock business. Live shipping welfare and the threat of being held to ransom over the prices in foreign markets make sending livestock off Island very risky and would dramatically reduce the economic benefit to me as a producer and the Island. • I currently export and more export would undoubtedly led to lower cost and a more organised export enterprise. • The support paid to run the plant could be used to support agriculture.

<p>The UK has issued a draft Agricultural Bill to set out its post-Brexit Agricultural strategy. Do you think it is important that the Isle of Man Agricultural Strategy should broadly follow the UK?</p>		<p>Do you think it is important that average funding for the Agriculture industry in the Isle of Man is broadly equivalent to that received in the UK?</p>																	
<p>Question 14a</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for Question 14a</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Response	Percentage	Yes	23%	No	65%	Not Answered	12%	<p>Question 14b</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Data for Question 14b</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>31%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>58%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not Answered</td> <td>11%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Response	Percentage	Yes	31%	No	58%	Not Answered	11%
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<p>Comments received from the consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should be far more proactive when it comes to correct and fair payments for farmers working towards a better environment than the uk. • It should ensure that it meets the needs of the Island above all else • Like all Manx laws the strategy should flexibly follow English law by being altered to fit our needs as an Island. We have extra excessive import and export costs to adhere to as an Island therefore making routes to market a lot more challenging. 		<p>Comments received from the consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isle of Man solutions for Isle of Man problems. • Needs to be higher to cover extra costs of production in the IOM. We need a Manx Ag policy that supports the Farmers, Manx nation and our environment. • Funding should be designed to meet the needs of the Island. 																	

Conclusions

As has been outlined in this report the proposed strategy and its four (4) main themes gained widespread support.



Two questions that weren't supported Therefore, following on from the positive responses received for the proposed initiatives outlined in the consultation, the Department will be drafting a new Strategy with the intention of placing an 'Isle of Man Agricultural Strategy for 2020-2030' before Tynwald for its approval later in 2019.

The Department has taken on board the widespread support received from the consultation for the introduction Agri-Environment initiatives however it is mindful of the great diversity of views within the Agricultural industry and wider stakeholder groups regarding what good Agri-Environment initiatives should deliver. As Agri-Environment is a key part of the new strategy, current ADS claimants, NGO representatives and the MNFU were invited to attend a workshop on 20th of June which was intended to shape the direction of farm based environmental initiatives.

Many additional comments were submitted as part of the consultation process these are included as an appendix to this report. They have been copied verbatim as submitted

John Harrison - Head of Agriculture

Agriculture and Lands Directorate

XX July 2019

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agriculture@gov.im

Appendix 1**Agricultural Strategy Consultation – Full list of responses**

Headage on beef cows, targeted support
A genuine commitment to green agriculture and a sustainable island economy
Consultation with environmental organisations like the Climate Change Coalition, MWT etc. They could also be used to deliver education.
Support for re-wilding and nature friendly farming.
A little better, but not by much. A complete overhaul is needed. See above for specifics.
A council of farmers and producers to have regular meetings with government.
Forget the link with the UK. I am disappointed with the Brexit connection. This would have something to do with the Minister's views, would it?
Not assuming that Brexit will happen, or if it does, that there will be any significant changes in agricultural strategy in the UK as a result
Stop funding an unsustainable loss making meat plant.
weighting it more to business than environment this does not mean to the detriment of the environment
Definitive clarity on each initiative as to what it includes and to whom it can assist. A closer working relationship between the department, farmers/ landowners to ensure a positive and focused strategy is implemented on a individual basis. Department should take on board all comments from the consultation to increase synergy between department, farmers and the general public to make sure equivalency is at the forefront of delivering the new agricultural strategy.
Demonstrate to the public that this is not just another charity donation to the farming community
Honesty. List of those involved with conflicting interest in supporting this plan should be included on every public document
Farmers should not receive so many generous grants and treat current planning law with impunity.
They are milking the Manx Economy with the exception of small farmers who possibly should continue to be supported
A greater appreciation of the role that landowners and farmers have to play in not just sequestering carbon, but also taking steps to move their production to a low or zero carbon cost basis.
Use of the word Sustainable without an accompanying definition is open to multiple differening interpretations that are not helpful.

<p>Please include all relevant landowners or caretakers of this Isle - the farmers are there to make a profit and maintain practices that suit just those individuals alone- the biodiversity strategy includes all persons who are investing in supporting and managing our resources and that includes Govt departments as well!</p>
<p>More farmers input they know the industry</p>
<p>Common sense, flexibility, focus, direction and vision delivered with leadership and enthusiasm,,,,,,</p>
<p>Very strong rules on pesticides to avoid adverse effects on pollinators</p>
<p>you need to start with consumer need, food new product development and thus what we should be producing ourselves.then carry out a Gap analysis of what we need. your funding system should then be tailored to this.</p>
<p>More information on what is happening in the industry so farmers could confer with each other to produce what is needed for the local market each month eg in the meat sector there are gluts at certain times which Leads to Iom meat being sold across at a loss . If the meat plant coordinated this there could be more local high quality meat available for Iom consumption and less need to import cheaper inferior meats. We also need to educate public both on and off isle of the fantastic benefits of eating grass fed Iom high quality meat. In the veg and horticultural section we need more producers and more financial support to encourage this both for capital investment and labour and training for newcomers.</p>
<p>Just a final comment as there was nowhere for this as such. The money for the Advisory Scheme and Education, should not be frittered away on dead wood none working chiefs. It should be paid to Advisers and Teachers only. There has been in the past too many who sit in offices and pontificate.</p>
<p>Recognition of the urgency to understand the effects of invertebrate losses on the environment (particularly insects). Encourage input from Isle of Man beekeepers.</p>
<p>Some services like assessing and removing potentials dangers from overhanging vegetation along highways could be offered for free. This would assist landowners limiting bureaucracy. Of similar assistance would be free highway mirrors along field entrances to and their maintenance.</p>
<p>A firm commitment from Government to provide support to those farmers who have forgone substantial support payments over the years by voluntarily undertaking environmental improvements on their farms. Areas of farmland that have been planted up with trees and rough habitats created have been excluded from area payments. It is well past time that Government recognise and financially support those farmers with a track record of good environmental practice.</p>
<p>The compilation of a Natural Capital Index, if Scotland can do it then so can we. Once a base has been created better informed decisions will be made.</p>
<p>Science including climate change should come into planning in order to make sure the IOM does not head off in the wrong direction. It would be better to delay implementation to get it right with a full and broad integrated IOM climate change etc plan, than speed things through. However, the farming community needs to understand that the potential change that may occur will be far greater and far reaching than ever before. I would also guess, permanent.</p>
<p>Hard for me to admit that anything could be better than the previous strategy I worked so hard to develop, but this does look as though you're moving in the right direction and times change.</p>

I think a scheme could be included to help younger people who want to farm but don't have access to land, this scheme could help younger people by introducing them to older farmers that don't have anyone to pass their farm onto but want to step back a bit from farming and still see their farm running to its full potential, part of this scheme could be finding suitable matches for both the young people who want to farm and the older farmers that want to step back but not vacate the industry completely, the scheme could also help these people set up an agreement whether it be share farming, a profit share agreement or a lease agreement and provide an advisory role throughout the partnership, I feel this would really help the younger farmers wanting to farm in their own right and also help the sustainability of Manx agriculture
More clarity please
Our green hills by the sea are not as green as they should be. They are yellow and brown due to bracken and gorse. This is a result of the previous scheme and increased size of machinery that cannot safely work in these areas. Maybe the introduction of deer to the island that could be eventually managed through sport and recreational activities should be considered. Ultimately how much livestock currently on uplands actually enters the food chain in local shops?
- Less internet based consultation. A genuine want to hear the needs of those affected by any decision that might occur.
- an increased respect for intellectual, rational and appropriate knowledge, appropriated by peer review, contextual enquiry and with economic strategy and ability to innovate and imagine in order to operate outside of govt targeted initiatives.
More incentive for older non active farmers to give up land sooner. Active farmer status should be harder to attain. Easier access to ADS Grant's. Less AML support.
More talk with the farmers
More dialogue with young people who want to join the industry. Annual feedback on how the strategy is performing to members of the agricultural industry.
the outcome of BREXIT needs to be seen before we can progress with a proposed strategy.
Hard to comment until we see how it works through the industry.
Lack of detail makes 15 impossible to answer.
everything I have said prior to this is what I believe should be considered before passing this new strategy!
Wait till after Brexit , and publish details of proposed scheme not just broad brush promises .This would mean the scheme would have more chance of having its intention
need to see more details of the scheme before you could comment further.
Need further details to answer Questions 15 and 16.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New funding for providing extra environmental services by active farmers. • An educational budget to teach Ag sciences and the value of food security in schools as well as to the general public on how the agricultural strategy can affect our biosphere and environment.
Why have you put a strategy together and then sought the views of the Farming Sector, surely it should have been the other way around.
Consult first, digest the feedback, and then put a strategy in place.
Wall and hedge building assistance is great as hundreds of miles need attention including mine! Any farmer be glad to receive help fix those as is useful, as well as happily leaving them for the wildlife. Make sense to me to concentrate on those areas than bringing experts from across who have no experience of how the island is and it's climate.
more in incentivised farming. Defa and the manx government should be helping young farmers by utilizing there own land to help them get stated with a reduced rent. instead of them renting it out to the biggest ranch man to knock hell out of it, and not put anything back for the next person.
Listen more to the farmers who are working day to day in farming.
Q13; The MNFU don't have data for individual businesses on transition windows but believe 3 years is an appropriate amount of time to allow farmers to adjust as required.
Q13 C; Please define Brexit. Island finances that have already been spent preparing for Brexit, a lot of other good work could have been done on the Isle of Man in many areas including healthcare, education, poverty and the environment. Brexit has already Very negatively affected all sectors of the Isle of Man due to the uncertainty and until the outcomes of Brexit are clear we cannot comment.
Q15; In general terms we support the strategy and believe the Department can put together a policy that supports the active farmer, a profitable food chain, an enhanced environment and provides opportunities for new and existing businesses to flourish. This Policy direction was encouraged by the MNFU and we will actively support the Minister with all items that support and enable the Active Farmer.
We need to be consulted with details from the department to comment further.
2019/2029 await Brexit
You are never going to get a system that pleases everyone. But I do feel the current and future plan has been more aimed to winning support from the general public rather than helping the agricultural industry. I feel there has been to much say given to current claimants that will not be involved in the next ten years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New funding for providing extra environmental services by active farmers. • An educational budget to teach Ag sciences and the value of food security in schools as well as to the general public on how the agricultural strategy can affect our biosphere and environment.
Until we have details of the strategy we cannot comment further.
Work with the NFU, without their support any new scheme is likely to fail
Better overall ability to measure how the strategy is being implemented. More training.
AES and habitat payments too small a percentage
Should be some focus on preserving/enhancing soil fertility and structure, particularly diversity of

soil organisms (see Newton again)
communication
More funding!
More details
more field officers
More information
More consultation on the details at an appropriate time
Allow strategies to run their course - ADS is only on its first year!!
Educate the general public more on farming, environment and the countryside
KPI's for the Government to set for themselves to measure effectiveness of the strategy and if it is achieving them? - A measure of new entrants ? Young farmers taking up grant opportunities?
Part of the marketing budget to include advertising Agriculture as a career path in the IOM. With an ever aging farmer population this is a problem not only on the island but UK, Europe wide. At the beginning of this consultation it talked about encouraging the next generation, together with their thinking into the industry however it is not clear how the strategy intends to do this.
Supporting hedge and wall repair, and tree planting doesn't go far enough. MANAGEMENT OF FIELD BOUNDARIES FOR WILDLIFE is needed especially diverse flower-rich vegetation, as this also provides food for invertebrates (including important pollinators, especially bees), mammals and birds, which in turn feed bats, other birds and mammals. Critical to healthy vegetation is not damaging hedgebanks with fertilisers, herbicides or manure (requiring more precise and efficient farming methods). WATERSIDE BUFFERS of other habitats other than woodland – wetlands, grasslands and strips planted for pollinators (incl early forage for bees) and declining farmland birds (especially tree sparrow, wintering twite, brambling and yellowhammer –reintroduction as now extinct?). The scheme needs to accommodate INNOVATIVE PROPOSALS which groups of farmers agree to undertake, allowing broader scale changes to have a greater positive effect on biodiversity.
In relation to q 15 it will depend on the detail.
I think a shipping grant for breeding stock should also be available. How it is currently costing at least £100 per head to ship any breeding cattle makes it incredibly difficult to compete with UK markets. We have great stock on the island and every chance to excel, just let down by the cost of the boat!
Positive engagement. I think possibly, in the past, government may have talked at, rather than listen to, the farming community. This strategy needs everyone involved to feel respected and have their opinions valued. Ways need to found to alleviate any individual concerns, then hopefully it will all work well.
Improved native tree cover and better protection of existing woodland and wetland. A major review of upland management. To seriously consider becoming a totally organic Island with regards to farming. Support farmers in recognising and encouraging wild flowers, insects and birds on their farms.
More emphasis on local trade.

Emphasis organic and high welfare as these are environmentally sound and good selling points. Locally produced fertiliser from waste? This would reduce imports of chemicals. Campaign to buy local wherever possible.

In general terms we support the strategy and believe the Department can put together a policy that supports the active farmer, profitable food chain, an enhanced environment and provides opportunities for new and existing businesses to flourish. We need to see details of the scheme to comment further.

- New funding for providing extra environmental services by active farmers.
- An educational budget to teach Ag sciences and the value of food security in schools as well as to the general public on how the agricultural strategy can affect our biosphere and environment.

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I cannot comment on milk, potatoes, pigs and poultry may be
But the Beef and Sheep industry is in the doldrums and has been for the last 3 years

- An extra emphasis on encouraging new entrants. People should have the option of getting their foot on the ladder with a block of land <100acres to build equity. The fact that Knockaloe was leased to the highest bidder shows how out of touch the department is with this.
- An educational budget to teach Ag sciences and the value of food security in schools as well as to the general public on how the agricultural strategy can affect our biosphere and environment.
- The active farmer clause should also have an encouragement for the older generation to blood new entrants or younger farmers into their business if they have no succession already. Even ones that do have succession lined up should be helped with this and guidance and advice they need should be available.

If you want a scheme that will assist our Biosphere status and our biodiversity – it must take these types of farming 'management' into account. We need to change what we use by way of chemicals on farms, other ways of managing fields and crops. Look at best practiced guidelines from elsewhere. We then need to acknowledge that the better our biodiversity, the better mitigation to the effects of climate change we will have as well.

<http://www.manxwt.org.uk/what-we-do/advocacy-policy/policy>

Further support across tiers of delivery for an agri-environment scheme to adequately fund strategy outcomes for biodiversity. As details are thin, it requires further detail to comment in full, but much of our focus is on delivery for wildlife and the environment. Please see our further submission for detail, but in particular we think:

1. Investing in nature represents a great return on investment. It should be part of long-term Government strategy and planning.
2. Sufficient and ring fenced budget, of £1.5m a year plus monitoring and specialist costs.
3. An independent monitoring and advice service should be set up, ideally integrating ecological with agricultural advice.
4. Targeted and outcome based strategic approach for an Agri-environment scheme, and involvement in future consultation to develop the details.
5. Best use of cross compliance and a clear definition of environmental condition based on positive status of ecological features.
6. Support to achieve positive conservation status, incentivise action and innovation at local to national levels, tiers of payment that both enable targeting and equitable access with a move to High Nature Value farming.

There needs to be more incentives for young farmers and assistance to help them progress in order to secure the future for farming moving forward

I would like to see a caveat in place to ensure that monies stay in the ADS Scheme and is not consistently reduced as has been the case in the past

A good section on animal welfare which includes welfare labelling on Manx products. For instance method of slaughter, outdoor breeding and rearing information. Consumers need to know what they are buying. Just saying something is Manx is not sufficient.

As a tenant farmer I am concerned that more money is being put forward for tree planting etc tenant farmers may not be allowed by their landlords to do this sort of thing so could be worse off than current scheme. Likewise if money is taken off main area payment for grants some tenant farmers may not be able to get any use out of the grants so again will be worse off

Please see Manx BirdLife's written response. We would advocate commitment to:

- Partner the representative environmental and wildlife NGOs in developing the delivery plan (including goals), its implementation and resulting initiatives/programmes
- Working collaboratively with the NGOs to agree priority species and habitats for targeted expenditure and initiatives (e.g. a set of SMART biodiversity objectives and a biosphere management plan that delivers worthwhile outcomes for nature)
- A commitment to seeking the very best third-party environmental advice from organisations such as RSPB and using this to set up, monitor, review and improve pilot schemes on the Isle of Man. Detail on how the environmental aspects of the strategy will be delivered, examples of top up environmental options that will be available and how the scheme will be facilitated and how the provision of advice will be delivered need to be addressed.

There must be provision for monitoring. The efficacy of environmental measures cannot be assessed without a baseline and monitoring. If it cannot be assessed then there is no way of making improvements or evidencing that the use of public funds is justified. Obviously, monitoring every landholding is impossible, but a sample of landholdings is achievable. DEFA have a great Ecosystems team, further investment in this team would allow for the undertaking of monitoring.

There is also a desire for transparency. All agricultural support comes out of the public purse, and is contributed to by tax payers money. Therefore I think it is imperative that tax payers are able to see where there money is going and if it is being used effectively. It also places more accountability on recipients to ensure they are delivering what they are being paid to do.

Some services like assessing and removing potentials dangers from overhanging vegetation along highways could be offered for free. This would assist landowners limiting bureaucracy. Of similar assistance would be free highway mirrors along field entrances to and their maintenance.

Remove land-based subsidies.

Detail!

We need to avoid silo thinking and a tick box response. The industry as a whole needs to work together to develop a strategy that is at the heart of a vibrant industry. The delivery of this strategy is therefore crucial and the more joined up initiatives are the more rewards are possible.

Better environmental outcomes are achieved from profitable farming and that should be at the forefront of the delivery of this strategy.

A data base and key targets should be identified to ensure that the initiatives are delivering the desired outcomes. The scheme needs to benchmark its self!

Young farmers are key and any scheme needs to ensure that they are encouraged and not disadvantaged.

There also needs to be consideration to the impact on the processing plants. A holistic view of the industry is required to ensure as much benefit is delivered at every opportunity.

DEFA can share some of the load by engaging with the Industry and working collaboratively rather than in isolation.

Funding local advisory work to deliver as much of the strategy as is possible also ensures that government headcount, staff budgets and pensions are kept to a minimum and as a result greater value and impact will be generated from the private sector.

More money and less interfering, any chance? Thought not.

Dont follow. Use this for good, show we can improve our environment and farming secors in tandem and prove Unesco worthy. Let us be inovators as we are in many industries not followers, make future generations proud

The Isle of Man could do worse than adopt the new Welsh Public Goods scheme, with its acceptance of the principle of 'proxy outputs' (Ch. 6, para 11) in order to calculate payments for climate change mitigation and 'healthy and functioning habitats and ecosystems'.

Many of the outcomes will require a long-term commitment from land managers and Government.

Although the proposed Manx scheme mentions carbon sequestration, there is little about trees. The Isle of Man should aim for sufficient tree-planting to mitigate the carbon emissions of the whole agriculture sector by 2050. There should be woodland, copses, planting next to boundary hedges (where shade would have additional animal welfare benefit), in association with streams and rivers, as a development of glens, etc..

As previously stated there is a total lack of detail available upon which to base an informed opinion. In this regard, the answers to many of the questions are just a shot in the dark. I feel that as farmers we will be asked to sign up to a Scheme in May 2019 without knowing the terms and conditions? This is not at all satisfactory.

More funding for environmental protection.

Some details of the proposed scheme.

This consultation is more like a policy consultation then scheme consultation due to lack of detail on how the scheme will be implemented.

I think it would be improved by catering for and supporting young farmers and those wanting to enter the industry. There is little incentive to join this industry for people not currently in a farming family.

The farming industry is aging and there is currently no incentive for older farmers to pass on or even rent their land to the younger generations.

The age of a 'young farmer' could be raised since not many under 40's are in a position to take advantage of the young farmers grants.

Those who rely on the agricultural industry for their own livelihoods should also be supported and given assurance that their work is secure, such as hauliers!

A scheme that provided an incentive for older farmers with nobody to pass on the farm but keen to share their knowledge to pair up with a younger person who has no access to a farm or land to either work together possibly in the direction of share farming.

More work for less pay

Stop the reduction of payments to farmers. This strategy seems to be far more work for reduced insensitives. This is not encouraging young people to go into the industry
Some parts are overly complex and technical. Make it as understandable as possible to all citizens whether involved in agriculture or not as it effects us all. Some objectives are multi faceted . Keep it simple with very clear anticipated results on environment , biodiversity, countryside protection , access to landscapes that matter to all and make the island what it is
Copy whatever our nearest trading partner does and stop trying to make things difficult. Copy the UK.
I find the majority of these questions very one sided and i feel lead towards the answer you want How can i answer confidently when you have not produced any detail for me to consider?
If Dept. of Environment took a greater interest when a strong risk of land pollution is reported to them, rather than waiting until such pollution has occurred & then stepping in too late for the contamination to have been avoided - thus threatening nearby streams, ponds; lakes & rivers
The incorporation of more detailed structure with the opportunity for further contributions as the strategy moves towards implementation
Some sort of tax benefit to landowners to encourage new young entrants to have a fair chance to become involved in Agriculture.
There needs to be some serious thinking massive changes to try to get young farmers a chance to establish without senior established farmers taking more land.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding could be index linked. 2. Funding needs to be guaranteed for a period of say ten years into the next government administration when there may be a new Minister. 3. There needs to be flexibility if Brexit goes pear shape to adjust elements to ensure the agricultural sector is not left high and dry. 4. Assurance needs to be given that the 'goal posts stay on the same pitch' where a business has committed to a scheme. 5.
Hard to give a fair review of the strategy when there is so little in the way of detailed information.