

MEET THE NFU TENANTS' FORUM



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1 Championing the tenanted sector in a new agricultural era

We will promote to Government and the wider audience the importance of the tenanted sector for existing farming businesses and new entrant farmers. Tenant farming makes up at least 30% of total land area in England and Wales and so contributes significantly to agricultural output. We will make sure that tenant farmers are aware of their rights going forward and have the tools to do so. Making better use of Farm Business Tenancies, share farming and contract farming agreements.

2 Agriculture Bill

The NFU believes it is essential that the policy framework for agricultural tenancies is fit for the future and that tenant farmers are able to access any new agricultural and land management schemes as we move away from the Common Agricultural Policy. Any future policy development must take tenant farmers into account. Such schemes will enable productivity and improve competitiveness and sustainability within the sector.

3 Working together

The Tenants' Forum recognises that working internally with other NFU work streams on areas such as ELMS, productivity and the Agriculture Bill will ensure that the tenanted sector is not disadvantaged by any NFU proposals that are put forward. Such work streams ideally need to have some form of tenant representation within them.

4 Tenancy Reform

We agree with Defra and Welsh Government that the aim should be for agricultural tenancy policy and legislation to:

- Provide an enabling environment for sustainable productivity, improvements and investment
- Facilitate structural change and support new entrants and the next generation of farmers so the sector has the skills and talent needed to thrive in the future.
- The NFU believes strongly that any proposals taken forward to reform tenancy legislation from these consultations should be applied consistently across England and Wales.

The NFU will push for these outcomes at the next TRIG meeting. The NFU can see that the proposals to tenancy law could enable greater flexibility within the tenanted farming sector allowing tenants to make more of their farming businesses.

5 County Farms

The NFU would like Defra and wider Government to support county council farm estates to encourage them to retain and invest in their farm estates going forward. The NFU will highlight the importance of the Agricultural Minister having renewed powers to improve the scrutiny of current local authority rural estate plans which in turn will provide for a sound, reasoned and tested approach to the strategic approach of local authorities in their proposed management and investment. The NFU is therefore fully supportive of the 2017 TRIG recommendation to Defra on this matter.