

Future of Farming Review – Call for views

March 2013

Introduction

The Future of Farming Review is an industry led initiative, in partnership with Government, that aims to assess the workforce that will be needed by a sustainable, productive and resilient agriculture sector now and in the future. It is vital that the agriculture industry attracts the right number and calibre of enthusiastic, entrepreneurial and environmentally aware people and that these people can continue to develop their skills.

The review will therefore examine the issues faced by the industry and people selecting and entering into careers in farming and the wider agricultural sector, and how they might be supported in beginning their careers successfully.

Call for views

We are seeking views from all interested organisations on the issues that the industry, young people and new entrants face. We therefore invite you to submit your ideas, with supporting evidence where possible, on the questions posed below.

Please send in your views **by Friday 5 April 2013** to greenfoodproject@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Q. Broadly, what are the challenges and opportunities that *young people and new entrants* face when selecting and beginning their careers in the agriculture sector? And how may they overcome those challenges?

Q. What are the key challenges that the *farming industry* faces in attracting and keeping the right number and calibre of people to work, manage and own agri-businesses in the future?

More specifically, we would welcome views with supporting evidence in relation to the following particular areas (with illustrative examples if possible). Please give your views and evidence on the areas that relate to your experience or interest and include details of any existing initiatives that you are aware of that operate in this arena:

Image of the sector

E.g. perceptions of the whole sector or parts of it, what can be changed

Education and skills

E.g. School, Further Education, careers advice, qualifications, career structure and progression, apprenticeships, jobs, further training

Routes into the sector

E.g. tenancies, succession planning, contracting, share farming, Limited Liability Partnerships and other alternative structures, mentoring, County Council farms, new entrant co-operation, matching schemes

Finance

E.g. access to loans and capital, security, single payment/entitlements and other public funding, private equity, earning potential, investment

Legislative framework

E.g. Tax, regulation

Wider agriculture – beyond direct farming

E.g. engineering, research, agronomy - what are the challenges that these sectors face and what actions can be taken

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www.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/farm-manage/future-review/

Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to us at:

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