

**VOTE TO**

**LEAVE**

**THE EU**

## **Agriculture**

5 mins 30 secs



**TITLE SLIDE**

**SLIDE 2**

"Many of our farmers might feel that as a major source of income, the Common Agricultural Policy has been good to them in the past and indeed in the distant past it was."

They will all have noticed that there is no longer direct support for lamb or beef and in order to claim the area aid that replaced these schemes there are complications with regulations governing 'Greening' and 'Cross-Compliance'.

**SLIDE 3 (EU FLAG OVER FARM)**

Cross-Compliance refers to the bureaucratic demands for farmers to comply with a set of Statutory Management Requirements and keep their land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition in order to qualify for full payments under the following schemes.

Greening of course will affect those farmers who will be forced to reinstate land currently maintaining crops to it's former grassland status under certain restrictions.

**SLIDE 4 (QUEEN BEE WITH SIGN)**

Over and above that, more EU regulations have been imposed, covering fallen stock disposal, Electronic Individual identification of sheep, asbestos-cement roofing sheet legislation, Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, emissions, pesticides and many others.

Much of this legislation would never have been dreamed up by British or devolved governments. However there remains a mindset amongst a number of British farmers, that despite all the stress and cost of these rules it is still a price worth paying, but only just.

Many, of these farmers are quite unaware of is what is coming down the tracks at them from the CAP.

Financial support to Agriculture will decrease and onerous legislation will increase.

CAP Support will decrease because of four dynamics:

- The Agricultural slice of the EU grant payment cake will continue to diminish because of pressure from other sectors who want a larger slice themselves.

- The cake itself will get smaller as the economies of many Eurozone countries continue to shrink, (because the Euro is the wrong currency for them) reducing their contributions to the budget
- CAP support is set in Euros. As the Euro loses value against Sterling, British farmers receive less.

The Euro is likely to weaken further due to 'Quantitative Easing' by the ECB on a massive scale and the poor performance of Eurozone countries as mentioned above.

#### **SLIDE 5 (NEW EU STATES)**

- New Member States lining up to join the EU are all poor. They will therefore be net recipients of the budget and dilute farm payments to everyone else.

The British Government, supported agriculture financially right up to the day we joined the CAP, many non-EU countries also support their agriculture.

It is reasonable to assume that an Independent Britain would support our own farming industry in the event of us leaving the EU.

Within the EU. legislation will continue to increase.

There are two big areas of worry here.

The first concerns the re-registration and classification of pesticides.

This process has already started and a number of useful products are no longer available as a result. The real issue here is that the EU wish to classify pesticides by the criteria of 'hazard' as opposed to the traditional criteria of 'risk'.

If we extended this logic to fuel, we would not be allowed to use petrol which is highly hazardous, but at present the risk of this hazard causing serious problems is considered acceptable, if petrol is handled correctly.

The concept of 'hazard' seems all the more unrealistic when you consider that even the humble organic blueberry contains 12 chemicals that the EU would classify as hazardous, and five of those as 'toxic'.

It is all a matter of degree .

It seems likely that agriculture will lose at least half of the active ingredients currently benefiting the industry under this new classification.

On top of this is the fact that the considerable cost of re-registering products will deter the manufacturers of minority-use materials from even attempting the process and so these materials will be lost as well.

We could then find ourselves in the position of not growing certain horticultural crops in the UK, only to import those same crops from countries that have used pesticides which are banned here.

There will also be greatly increased use of the pesticides that the EU does allow, which in turn will greatly increase the possibility of resistance building up to these products. Finally the cost of re-registration of existing pesticides will be ultimately borne by the farmer.

The second major legislative headache concerns the emission levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane from farms.

The EU believes that the world's weather will

stabilise if the output of these trace gases is reduced. In practice this means that tractors, (which emit CO<sub>2</sub> in their exhaust) must be used less or the CO<sub>2</sub> must be captured and buried.

Either way this will make life more difficult and expensive for farmers. When one considers that CO<sub>2</sub> is a vital and irreplaceable ingredient for all plant growth this, seems an incredibly retrograde step.

Emissions of methane from farms are mainly from the digestive processes of ruminants. This is an entirely natural function.

The Commission tell us that ruminants will produce less methane if fed cereals and concentrates as opposed to grass and silage.

The expense of this will make it a non-viable option, so the only other alternative is to reduce sheep and cattle numbers on farms to meet Methane emission targets that may well be part of proposed Cross-Compliance regulation.

Reduction in sheep and cattle numbers on British farms could of course result in an increase in imports from countries not hampered by such legislation thus totally negating the whole purpose of CO<sub>2</sub> limits in within the EU farming industry.

It is difficult to convey just how fanatical the EU are about the man-made global warming theory. Britain outside the EU on the other hand would hopefully not inflict such burdens on Agriculture.

Expect further onerous legislation on the rules for organic farming , 'gender balancing' of the farm workforce and increasing difficulty in using futures markets.

British farmers are concerned that Trade will be lost if we leave the EU, particularly lamb exports.

They should be aware that the UK is the EU's single largest customer and we run a trade deficit of at least £60 billion annually with the EU.

They need us far more than we need them. Any attempt to raise tariffs and start a trade war would hugely backfire, but in any case such activity would be against World Trade Organisation rules.

Of more concern to British farmers are the two ongoing EU trade negotiations known as Mercosur ( the South American country trading bloc ) and TTIP ( the secretive trade deal between the USA and the EU)

These are a real threat to the British sucker beef industry in particular. The UK can only sit on its hands and watch it all happen.

For the British consumer the results of the CAP also has far reaching negative consequences resulting in much higher food processor families in this country.

CAP is a double whammy for your wallet. Taxpayers fork out billions in subsidies then pay again when CAP artificially inflates food prices reflected in higher weekly grocery bills in your local supermarket

CAP supporters say this is a price to pay for food security – that's nonsense. With free trade we could import bountiful cheap food from the United States, Canada, China and elsewhere in the globalized world. Food security just isn't a problem.

One last consequence of the CAP is the effect that it has on emerging and third world countries and their farming industries

If surplus food is produced, then the EU intervenes in the market either by subsidising export of the product at below cost price; by storing it, creating the EU 'food mountains'; selling it later; or destroying it.

Such exports are generally dumped on poor countries, especially in Africa thus wrecking the retail markets of farmers in this countries already struggling to survive.

All of the above makes pretty depressing reading, but it is only continued EU membership that will continue to facilitate these horrendously negative aspects of EU regulate food production and only Leaving the EU can prevent it.

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