



WHAT DID PARTIES COMMIT TO IN THEIR 2024 ELECTION MANIFESTOS? (ON FOOD, FARMING AND LAND-USE)

Although manifesto commitments are not legally binding, they are the promises that the new 2024 Labour Government were elected on, so we can, and should, hold them to account on their pledges. For all other parties, their manifestos are still something we can hold their elected MPs to account on as they are a reflection of their parties' values, ambitions and political priorities.

LABOUR

- Promised to “end the climate and energy chaos”
- Promised to introduce a land-use framework
- Pledged to reform England’s Environment Land Management schemes (ELMS) to make them “work for farmers and nature”
- Committed to publishing a UK trade strategy which will promote the “highest standards when it comes to food production”
- Promised to “help tackle the cost of food” by renegotiating the UK’s relationship with the EU
- Want to end mass dependence on emergency food parcels
- Pledged to fund free breakfast clubs in every primary school
- Committed to establishing ‘Skills England’ to bring together business, training providers and unions with national and local government to ensure we have the highly trained workforce needed to deliver Labour’s Industrial Strategy
- Pledged to plant “millions more trees”
- With regard to migrant workers, they said they “will not tolerate employers or recruitment agencies abusing the visa system”

CONSERVATIVES

- Want to establish binding food security targets linked to the government’s establishment of a Food Security Index.
- Want a £1 billion increase in the UK-wide farming budget to £3.5bn a year
- Want to create a £20m farming innovation fund and planning reform to help farming businesses grow
- Want at least 50% of public food expenditure to be spent on food produced locally or to higher environmental production standards.
- Want to reform the planning system to deliver fast track permissions for the building of infrastructure on farms, such as glasshouses, slurry and grain stores, and small-scale reservoirs
- Pledged to always stand up for farmers when negotiating new trade deals

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

- Wants the UK Government to increase funding for farming to at least pre-Brexit levels and provide certainty through multi-annual funding frameworks
- Commit to pushing for an ‘essentials guarantee’ in UK law, ensuring that, at a minimum, everyone can afford basic necessities like food and utilities

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

- Want to strengthen the Groceries Code Adjudicator to “protect consumers from unfair price rises and support producers”
- Want to establish food security targets
- Want to increase the UK-wide agricultural budget by £1 billion
- Want to ensure farmers receive proper, independent advice about how to transition to new environmental farm payments schemes, with proper funding for advice services
- Call for investment in local infrastructure such as small abattoirs so that they attract more employment especially from younger people
- Want to use 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
- Call for a renegotiation of trade deals with the likes of Australia and New Zealand in order to “give farmers and fishers a fair deal” - and pull out these deals if necessary
- Want to give more power and resources to local authorities to inspect and monitor food production
- Want to see a strategic Land and Sea Use Framework
- Want to plant 60 million trees a year
- Want to improve standards of animal health and welfare in agriculture, including a ban on caged hens, and preventing unnecessarily painful practices in farming
- Call for “clear-to-understand” food labelling.

GREEN PARTY

- Want the UK farming budget to be almost tripled to support a transition to nature-friendly farming
- Want farm payments to be linked to reduced use of pesticides and other agro-chemicals
- Want to increase the amount of food grown and traded in the UK, and as locally as possible
- Want to reform procurement rules to give small and medium sized enterprises greater access to government contracts
- Want to see all children have a free school meal each day and free breakfast clubs for children to Year 6
- Want to see schools involve children in growing, preparing and cooking food, as part of the core curriculum
- Call for the creation of a new Commission on Animal Protection
- Want an end to factory farming, enforcement of maximum stocking densities, and no routine use of antibiotics in farm animals.

PLAID CYMRU

- Want Wales to have a veto over future trade deals that “undermine Welsh agricultural communities”
- Commit to continuing to promote opportunities to develop local processing capacity and use procurement policy to shorten supply chains, cut food miles and create local jobs
- Want to improve transparency within the supply chain and support strengthening the powers of the Groceries Adjudicator to more effectively tackle unfair supply chain practice
- Support food labelling that 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
- Commit to pushing for amendments to the Shortage Occupancy List to ensure producers in Wales have access to the workforce they need