

Scottish Parliament Elections

Summary of Party Positions on Agriculture, Food and Land Use

By the Landworkers' Alliance

April 2021

On the 6th of May 2021, people living in Scotland will vote to elect their 129 members of Scottish Parliament. The next term of the Scottish Parliament will be crucial for the future of Scotland's system for agriculture, food and land use. Below you will find excerpts from the manifestos of the following political party, in relation to agriculture, food and land use:

1. [Scottish National Party \(SNP\)](#)
2. [Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party](#)
3. [Scottish Labour](#)
4. [Scottish Liberal Democrats](#)
5. [Scottish Greens](#)

Please note that there will be other party- or individual candidates in your area. Check their proposed policy actions and pledges at: <https://whocanivotefor.co.uk/>

To learn more about the policy asks of the Landworkers' Alliance for the upcoming election, please download the document '[Policy Asks for Scottish Parliament Election Candidates](#)'.



The Landworkers' Alliance is a union of farmers, growers, foresters and land-based workers with a mission to improve the livelihoods of our members and create a better food and land-use system for everyone. We operate across the UK and represent more than 1500 small and medium-scale farmers and landworkers, and a growing base of supporter members. We have been active in Scotland since 2018, and our policy and campaigns work is supported by a committee of members with representatives from 9 regions.

Scottish National Party (SNP)

Title: Scotland's Future

Party Leader: Nicola Sturgeon

Full text of the manifesto is available here: <https://www.snp.org/manifesto/>

"We will support farmers to produce more of our own food needs sustainably and to farm and croft with nature, including through enhanced animal welfare and health approaches and better adoption and deployment of technology and innovation, as recommended by the recent work of farmer-led groups set up in the last parliament." (p. 55)

Overarching Vision and Objectives

- Independence
- Wellbeing economy
- Net Zero by 2045
- Just transition
- Good Food Nation

Biodiversity and Climate Change

- Publish a document, called 'Scotland's contribution to the Paris Agreement – an indicative NDC', which will centre on Scotland's world-leading target to reduce emissions by 75% by 2030.
- Publish a new biodiversity strategy within 12 months of the biodiversity COP, and remain committed to protecting at least 30% of Scotland's land by 2030.
- Invest an additional £500 million in our natural economy to help tackle the biodiversity crisis.
- Support crofters and their communities to play a bigger role in peatland restoration and woodland creation. We will ban the sale of peat related gardening products.
- Support farmers to produce more of our own food needs sustainably and to farm and croft with nature.
- Maintain our status of GM free cultivation and continue to adhere to EU standards and rules on pesticides and fertilisers. In particular, we will work to limit their use in domestic and community gardening.
- Review and reform urea fertiliser use to minimise it and cut ammonia emissions and encourage more conversion of slurry into biofuel.
- Invest in, trial and promote the use of suitable methane inhibitors, particularly those which harness and use natural resources.
- Increase our targets for new woodland creation by 50%, from 12,000 hectares up to 18,000 hectares per year by 2025.

(Local) Food Production

- Enshrine the Right to Food in law as a key part of our ambition to be a Good Food Nation.
- Create a single independent Scottish Food agency to promote food, drink and horticulture, attract investment, help increase processing capacity and improve supply chains and infrastructure.
- Ensure Breakfast, Out of School and Holiday Clubs provide local healthy produce.

- Produce a local food strategy which supports locally based production and circular supply chains. Encourage every local authority to be part of the Food for Life programme so that more of the food they provide for children and older people is locally produced and sourced, and healthy.
- Increase the use of healthy Scottish produce and explore how to embed a Food for Life approach in the new National Care Service, in the NHS, in prisons and in the further and higher education sectors.
- Work with food retailers to offer more Scottish produce and fresh, healthy products and support the growth of local food markets and renovated pop-up and retail outlets, starting in disadvantaged city areas, to bring fresh affordable produce closer to where people live and work.

The Future of Agricultural Support and Rural Development Payments

- With independence, we would advocate rejoining the EU and therefore return to CAP where we will play our full part as a small nation with huge natural capital and resources to contribute to making farming more sustainable.
- Stay broadly aligned with new EU measures and policy developments, like the Farm to Fork Strategy, while transforming how we support farming and food production in Scotland.
- Remain committed to supporting active farming and food production with direct payments. By 2025, however, we will shift half of all funding for farming and crofting from unconditional to conditional support and there will be targeted outcomes for biodiversity gain and a drive towards low carbon approaches which improve resilience, efficiency and profitability.

Land Reform and Rural Housing

- Improve Scotland's system of land ownership, use, rights and responsibilities, so that our land can contribute to a fair and just society while balancing public and private interests.
- Introduce a new Land Reform Bill with a pre-emption in favour of community buy-out. It will ensure that the public interest is considered on any particularly large scale land ownership and introduce a pre-emption in favour of community buy-out where title to land is transferred.
- Double the Scottish Land Fund, increasing it to £20 million per year by the end of parliament.
- Introduce Land Value Capture to make sure changes of land use lead to a proportion of the increase in the price being reinvested in the local community.
- To stop depopulation and support our communities, we will give local authorities the powers to manage the numbers of second homes in their area and will work with Community Land Scotland so we can find the right land to deliver more housing in our rural areas.
- Work with public agencies to make more land available for community market gardens, orchards and allotments.

New Entrants, Tenant Farmers and Sector Diversity

- Provide more support for women in agriculture and for new and young entrants into farming, including a specific new entrants fund.

- Legislate to ensure equal rights of succession for women in agriculture.
- Reform the law and develop crofting to create more active crofts.
- Seek to remove barriers to tenant farming, including resumption, rent levels, tax treatments and lease lengths.

Other Support for Local Communities and Economies

- Support our communities to become 20 minute neighbourhoods: the creation of liveable, accessible places, with thriving local economies, where people can meet their daily needs within a 20 minute walk.
- Build on the Scotland Loves Local campaign which encouraged people to think local first by piloting local loyalty schemes alongside a national Scotland Loves Local loyalty scheme.
- Review the Community Empowerment Act and consult on ways in which it could be expanded to put more power in the hands of people and communities.
- Maintain the Small Business Bonus for the lifetime of the parliament – ensuring 100,000 business properties pay no rates.
- Invest £100 million to help small and medium sized businesses get access to the right digital skills and equipment.
- Create a new, £20 million Rural Entrepreneur Fund – this will provide grants of up to £10,000 to support the creation of 2,000 new businesses.

Training and Education

- Our National Transition Training Fund will support workers whose jobs are at risk and provide retraining opportunities for high tech, high skilled jobs and the provision of green skills to support Scotland's transition to net zero.
- We will establish a new Green Jobs Workforce Academy.
- Undertake a root and branch review of land-based education from early years to adulthood to provide opportunities and qualifications through school, college, university and apprenticeships for more people, and specifically more women, to work with and on the land, particularly in green skills.

Inclusiveness and Participation

- Establish a single implementation board with representation from all farming sectors and types, to support farmers to produce more of our own food needs sustainably and to farm and croft with nature, including through enhanced animal welfare and health approaches and better adoption and deployment of technology and innovation

Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party

Title: Rebuild Scotland

Party Leader: Douglas Ross (and Ruth Davidson as leader in the Scottish Parliament)

Full text of the manifesto is available here:

<https://www.scottishconservatives.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Digital-Manifesto-Final.pdf>

“Scotland’s new agricultural policy must allow farmers to farm, while also supporting the sector to become more sustainable and meet the Ambition 30 target for Scotland’s farming, fishing, and food and drink sectors to double their turnover by 2030.” (p 44)

Overarching Vision and Objectives

- UK Union
- A trading nation (economic recovery driven by Scottish exports)
- Skills revolution
- Farm to Fork Review

Biodiversity and Climate Change

- Bring forward an ambitious Nature Bill to strengthen environmental protections on land and sea for Scottish species and their habitats.
- Establish Nature Networks across Scotland to better safeguard protected areas, allow species to move between habitats and ensure that our natural assets are treated as part of our national infrastructure.
- End peat extraction for use in compost.
- Increase new tree planting in Scotland to 18,000 hectares annually by 2024-25. However, quality and biodiversity are also important, so we would increase the proportion of new planting that is of native species, while ensuring that Scotland’s forests are productive.
- Strengthen protections for Green Belts, both to protect the land and encourage the development of brownfield sites in cities and towns.
- Showcase Scotland as a world leader in tackling climate change and on environmental delivery, in light of COP26.
- Make sure that our transition to a renewable Scotland is fair and creates opportunities, rather than leaving a legacy of unemployment and damaged communities.

(Local) Food Production

- Launch a comprehensive ‘farm to fork’ review of Scotland’s food policy as a key part of Scotland’s economic recovery from COVID-19. It should be led by an independent figure and report by summer 2022. Its remit should include ways to strengthen producers’ bargaining power, support them to upscale and export, better label Scottish produce, ensure public procurement utilises Scottish produce wherever possible, promote Scottish produce at home and abroad, including in our schools, reduce food waste and boost food and agri-tourism.
- Deliver a ‘Scotland First’ approach to procuring goods and services with public money. That means taking into account local jobs, skills development, environmental

and social impacts and support for the Scottish economy alongside costs. Our 'Scotland First' procurement policy would encourage public services to prioritise local healthy food.

- Develop a new National Food Strategy to promote local produce.
- Ensure that ongoing support for the hospitality sector includes a focus on promoting local healthy food,
- Drive a national exporting campaign, encouraging companies to expand internationally, and establish a Scottish Exporting Institute.

The Future of Agricultural Support and Rural Development Payments

- A blueprint for consultation [on agricultural subsidies] must be published within 100 days of the May election.
- Work to improve the Basic Payment System, remove the Crop Diversification requirement and amend the Scottish Suckler Beef Support Scheme, Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme and Beef Efficiency Scheme must continue. In addition, the Permanent Grassland requirement should be removed and a review of Ecological Focus Areas should be carried out.
- Reverse cuts to the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme and agree a multi-year extension until the new agricultural policy is implemented.
- Review the value of the Agricultural Transformation Programme, while ensuring the funding is spent effectively to support low emission farming.
- Support the diversity of farms in Scotland, particularly those in less favoured areas, by ensuring a basic level of funding is provided to all farmers and crofters who are carrying out responsible agricultural activity.
- Ensure Regional Land Use Partnerships sufficiently represent the agricultural sector and support the delivery of the new agricultural policy
- Introduce a 10-working day national standard for all grant applications.
- Simplify the interface for businesses to access government support, both for COVID and non-COVID related funding.

Land Reform and Rural Housing

- Invest £50 million through the Rural Housing Fund, to support building and renovations in remote and rural parts of Scotland.
- We are opposed to any regulation that does not put local choice at its heart and fails to distinguish between established accommodation providers and the recent boom in short-term lets.

New Entrants, Tenant Farmers and Sector Diversity

- Reinstate the Young Farmers and New Entrants Start Up Grants as well as the New Entrants Capital Grant Scheme.
- Encourage intergenerational partnerships via mentoring schemes, with a focus on supporting women in the sector.
- Support succession planning and ensure farm tenancies work for tenants and landowners.

Other Support for Local Communities and Economies

- Bring forward a Communities Bill to introduce fair funding for our councils. This would deliver a new financial framework that ensures councils automatically receive a set percentage of the Scottish Government budget each year
- 25 per cent rates relief to businesses in 2022-23.
- Retain the Small Business Bonus Scheme and introduce a more tapered scheme on rates relief for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 and £20,000 to remove the cliff edge on relief.
- Undertake a wholesale review of the business rates system before the end of the Parliament.

Training and Education

- Review of the qualifications available in Scotland's schools and colleges should be carried out to ensure high-quality options, from full-time courses to apprenticeships, to attract young people to work in agriculture.
- Launch a national agricultural Institute of Technology to bring together farmers, colleges and universities to deliver short modular training courses for farmers, online and face-to-face.
- Invest an additional £10 million a year in agricultural research and development and support pilot farms to trial new ways to improve farm efficiency and spread best practice.
- Embed issues such as nutrition and climate within the curriculum from an early age.
- Rebalance the relationship between academic and vocational education, by reviewing the post18 education landscape in Scotland.
- Replace the current school leaving age of 16 with a new skills participation age of 18. Introduce paid internships for every S4 pupil.
- Right to Retrain Account for every single Scottish adult, containing £500 to be spent on training every year.
- New system of Rapid Retraining Courses - short, sharp courses tailored to employment opportunities.
- Remove the £15,000 artificial cap on government support for an employer for apprenticeship places. We would ensure that apprentices under 25 are required to receive 'off the job' training through day or block release.
- Create a national database to make it easier for people across Scotland to find volunteering opportunities in their local area and for organisations to access willing volunteers.

Inclusiveness and Participation

- The development of the new agricultural policy must be farmer-led and we would work with the sector to design it, prioritising simplicity at every stage.

Scottish Labour

Title: National Recovery Plan

Party Leader(s): Anas Sarwar

Full text of the manifesto is available here: <https://scottishlabour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Scottish-Labours-National-Recovery-Plan.pdf>

“We recognise the link between the reform of food production and sustainability, including energy use, water, biodiversity, soil, food waste and land use. Scottish agriculture is responsible for nearly a quarter of Scottish greenhouse gas emissions, and it will not be possible to achieve our legal targets for reduction unless we reduce these emissions from agriculture. We support the principle of public money for public goods, such as clean water and air, beautiful scenery, and biodiversity provision.” (p 85)

Overarching Vision and Objectives

- UK Union
- Wellbeing economy
- Community recovery and community wealth building
- Just transition to net zero
- Good Food Nation

Biodiversity and Climate Change

- Tackle the climate and nature emergencies while reducing the inequalities that Covid-19 has exposed and made worse. T
- Plant at least 15,000 hectares of trees a year and increase peatland restoration to 20,000 hectares each year, alongside measures to end commercial peat extraction.
- Scottish Labour’s Just Transition Commission would be key to driving forward new jobs and skills ensuring that no workers and communities, in any sectors, are left behind as we transition to net zero as rapidly and fairly as possible.
- Amend the Planning Bill to give individuals and environmental organisations the right to challenge decisions that will severely impact the environment.
- Develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for land, air and sea, with adequate funding.
- Support an ambitious Environment Act that includes legally binding targets for nature’s recovery, together with proper funding and a Nature Network for Scotland through the National Planning Framework.
- Develop Regional Land Use Frameworks by 2023, with input from a wide range of stakeholders to set out regional land use priorities and funding requirements.

(Local) Food Production

- To improve access to healthy food, Scottish Labour will deliver a comprehensive Good Food Nation Act based on proposals by the Scottish Food Coalition. We would invest in councils to create more food growing places. We are also committed to ensuring the Right to Food is included in legislation for a National Food Plan.
- Work towards a transparent supply chain and food system which supports Scottish producers and recognises the public benefits that agriculture provides

- Prioritise local procurement by having a 'local first' approach to all procurement. We will encourage local authorities to do the same to ensure that local businesses get the best opportunity to bid for local contracts.
- Where local suppliers don't exist, the Scottish National Investment Bank would be used to invest to help existing companies diversify or support the creation of new local supply chains. Support would be tied to our Good Work criteria and would promote cooperative business models.
- Through our Better Business Scotland certification we will ensure that every business that wants to work with the public sector has a clear carbon reduction plan and a commitment to achieving net zero.

The Future of Agricultural Support and Rural Development Payments

- Maintain current levels of funding until 2024 and from then we will put in place a new scheme that gives farmers and crofters certainty. The new financial support must recognise farmers' knowledge, recognising their experience in reducing emissions and protecting Scotland's landscape and work towards sustainable farming practices. We believe that the new agricultural support package offers a valuable opportunity to deliver on baseline environmental commitments, and incentivise actions that deliver food production, climate and biodiversity outcomes in a complementary fashion.
- Support the principle of public money for public goods, such as clean water and air, beautiful scenery, and biodiversity provision.
- Consider further incentive schemes to ensure all major landowners play their part. Land justice measures, such as those recommended by the Scottish Land Commission and Community Land Scotland, should also be reflected in climate action plans.

Land Reform and Rural Housing

- Adopt a new approach to development that puts public health and the environment first.
- Create a National Housing Agency to implement our long-term house building strategy, both private and social, across all tenures and to bring empty homes back into use. [...] The new agency will address the absence of sufficient, genuinely affordable housing in rural areas - where jobs exist and people want to live - which is leading to the near collapse of the structure of rural economic life in Scotland.
- Develop a stronger regulatory framework for short term lets, including the licensing provisions and taxation of Airbnb after the chaos of SNP attempts at reform.
- Introduce new crofting legislation to support crofters' access to housing, to financial support, and to legislation that actually works for them, written in conjunction with them.
- Ensure more land is in the hands of local communities to help create a fairer, sustainable Scotland. We will legislate to ensure that no one individual can acquire large swathes of Scotland's land and prevent land ownership via offshore tax-havens.
- Increase funding for the Scottish Land Fund, using the revenue from seabed licensing, and intervening when land is not used in ways that serve the public interest.

- Public sector agencies should be enabled to participate in land markets with the aim of transferring the land into local vehicles of sustainable local ownership, as a basis for local wealth building and income retention. This will empower local communities and repopulate our rural places to help them thrive.

New Entrants, Tenant Farmers and Sector Diversity

- We must work together to build the more equal society we wish to see. That means listening, but more importantly means taking the necessary actions to challenge structural inequalities.
- See pages 95-99 for general actions on increasing equality in Scotland.

Other Support for Local Communities and Economies

- Existing communities can't be neglected. We would invest in councils to create urban and rural safe active travel routes, green spaces and food growing places.
- Work with local authorities to promote alternative business models including cooperatives, social enterprises, and in-house provision. Establish a Workers Ownership Fund with the aim of doubling the number of cooperatives and supporting alternative business models, including social enterprises.
- Ensure that rural areas and small businesses get their fair share of public procurement and will support measures to tackle unfair delivery charges.
- Support the establishment of a Business Restart Fund to continue to support businesses facing financial hardship as a result of restrictions. We will also support businesses to transition into new markets or online through the establishment of a Business Transition Fund.
- Support local communities and reinforce their strengths through Community Wealth Building programmes, which are currently being put into practice by Scottish Labour councils. Community wealth building is a people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.
- Offer a Business Transition Fund which will provide growth opportunities for SMEs to flourish and identify new markets to increase business productivity levels.

Training and Education

- Continue funding of "A Future in Food", to support a pipeline of highly skilled recruits to enable food and drink companies to grow and prosper.
- Deliver funding for the UK-wide Kickstart scheme to include a further six month subsidisation of wages and establish 5,000 new apprenticeship places in the next financial year.
- Work with local authorities to establish localised 'share an apprentice schemes' within priority sectors - initially construction and agriculture that will formalise opportunities to 'work share' apprentices either within a week, or on short duration contracts, without impacting their training.
- Support lifelong learning, including union learning, to ensure workers are not left behind in a period of technological change, prioritising the development of skills needed for low-carbon jobs.

- Strengthen life skills education, including the 'Unions into Schools' programme, emotional learning, cooperative models, and enable the climate change emergency to be addressed in the curriculum.

Inclusiveness and Participation

- Introduce a 'rural-proofing' process so that all our laws, policies and programmes consider their impact on rural communities. Our rural policy framework will engage with all stakeholders
- [Parliament] Committees need more autonomy so we believe that conveners should be elected by the whole Scottish Parliament, not appointed by their own party, and committees require stronger powers to compel witnesses to appear and give evidence.
- Reform the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act to support a robust transparency and accountability culture, with more proactive publication and to force government departments to be fully transparent over public finances.

Other

- Support a Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill during the next Parliament, making all public bodies set objectives towards sustainable development outcomes, ensuring that they positively impact people and the environment here in Scotland and low-income countries.

Scottish Liberal Democrats

Title: Put Recovery First

Party Leader(s): Willie Rennie

Full text of the manifesto is available here: <https://www.scotlibdems.org.uk/manifesto>

“We will work with the farming and crofting communities to develop a new system of farm support to replace closing EU schemes. We will provide new incentives to help farmers transition to a more sustainable agriculture, provide support for high quality food production, ensure fairness in the supply chain and help young people into the industry.” (p 23)

Overarching Vision and Objectives

- Building a robust and diverse economy
- Net zero carbon and nature recovery
- Education as an essential investment
- Good Food Nation consultation
- Keeping pace with EU policy

Biodiversity and Climate Change

- Increase biodiversity and restore peatlands to create scientific, technical and engineering opportunities in remote areas.
- Support Scottish farming to match the [livestock] sector in England and Wales which has committed to carbon neutrality by 2040.
- Declare a nature emergency to tackle the loss of species in Scotland.
- Use nature to help fight climate change and foster biodiversity through restoration of peatlands and woodland.
- Propose a Nature Recovery Law to set legal targets across government to clean up our air, soils, seas and rivers.
- Set legally binding nature recovery targets, with an action plan and financial support for delivery.
- Protect and restore carbon-rich habitats while phasing out harmful practices.
- Expand woodland using at least 50 per cent native species, increasing Scotland’s forest cover by an additional 36 million trees every year.
- Set a national target that 30 per cent of all publicly owned land should be used for rewilding.
- Protect green belts and gaps between settlements for the long-term benefit of local communities, the climate and nature.

(Local) Food Production

- Support the target to double Scottish food and drink turnover to £30 billion by 2030.
- Consult on a Good Food Nation Bill to bring together reforms needed to promote food and drink as a resilient part of our economy.
- Include measures to cut food miles by valuing seasonal Scottish produce in a Scotland first public procurement policy.
- Help food producers and processors navigate the tendering processes so that they can seek out opportunities to secure procurement contracts.

The Future of Agricultural Support and Rural Development Payments

- Develop a new system of farm support to replace closing EU schemes, matching the scale of resources from the old schemes.
- Provide new incentives to help farmers transition to a more sustainable agriculture, provide support for high quality food production, ensure fairness in the supply chain and help young people into the industry.
- ‘Croft proof’ future agricultural support to make sure active family farmers and crofters are properly supported.

Land Reform and Rural Housing

- Expand the Scottish Land Fund to help further community ownership across Scotland, empowering sustainable communities to repopulate.
- Prioritise land acquisition for communities by developing a localised service to assist self-builders and communities in securing land to meet housing demand, coordinating with local authorities, landowners and housing associations.
- Institute a First Time Builders Fund, modelled on the Scottish Government’s First Home Fund, to support population growth in rural areas where there is no existing housing stock available for purchase.
- Extend and expand the Rural Housing Fund and the Islands Housing Fund, and reduce the barriers for communities to access them.
- Make it much simpler, through permitted development rights, for urban derelict land and rural farm buildings to be used for zero emission homes.
- Give adequate powers to local authorities to manage the numbers of second homes in their area where there is evidence of problems.

New Entrants, Tenant Farmers and Sector Diversity

- Give the Scottish Land Commission the power to legally enforce the voluntary Rights and Responsibilities Protocols that govern the relationship between landowners and communities, like the mandatory codes of practice overseen by the Tenant Farming Commissioner.
- Support landowners and managers to stimulate innovation, diversification and support new entrants.
- Take steps to make it easier for people to move into farming, and for people to pass on farms through their family.
- See also pages 47-51 for general actions on increasing diversity in Scotland.

Other Support for Local Communities and Economies

- Overhaul public sector procurement policies to ensure they support local suppliers, micro-bidders, fair employment practices and to take note of the level of state aid in nonScottish bids.
- Establish a right for communities to protect threatened community facilities through different ownership or the use of shared premises as hubs. Community groups or cooperatives should be given a fair chance to purchase or acquire these assets.
- Support the development of a “Made in Scotland” quality standard, beyond food and drink, to support consumer choice and aid exports.
- Reform business rates to take the burden off high street retailers, who are unfairly hampered compared to purely online retailers who have lower premises costs.

- Support a land value element for this new tax to avoid penalising businesses which improve their properties, install renewables or made their customers safer from the virus.
- Review the rates relief system to give more support to shops on local high streets which have low turnover but a high rateable value.

Training and Education

- Expand and diversify the Farm Advisory Service to provide new jobs, training and skills, that support sustainable land use.
- Support people to access retraining and further education with a new Training Bond to cut back the financial barriers in their way.
- Create a new national programme for 2,000 paid graduate internships with small businesses.
- Encourage colleges to become rural enterprise hubs, meeting local skills needs and supporting innovative new businesses.
- Guarantee that every primary and secondary school pupil has at least one week away at an outdoor centre, as well as taking regular classroom lessons outdoors.

Inclusiveness and Participation

- Afford rural communities enhanced consultation rights and consideration by public bodies, similar to the Islands Act, to ensure that the unique challenges facing rural communities in mainland Scotland are addressed.
- Support a fully independent Environment Standards Scotland to keep government on the right track.

Other

- Work with the UK Government to resolve as many red-tape related problems in time for autumn lamb exports.
- Ensure that high UK food standards are not undermined in new trade deals.
- Work for a level playing field in the UK single market which takes nearly 70 percent of Scottish food exports.
- Develop simpler governance of crofting with the Crofting Commission enabled to be the leader in the active management of crofting.
- Continue Scottish Government support for the National Rural Mental Health Forum.
- Commitments from industries including food and drink, agriculture, energy, construction and facilities management sectors, along with major public sector resource consumers such as the NHS, to adopt circular economy approaches and reduce waste and environmental impact.

Scottish Greens

Title: Our Common Future

Party Leader(s): Lorna Slater & Patrick Harvie

Full text of the manifesto is available here:

https://greens.scot/sites/default/files/ScottishGreens_2021Manifesto_Full_web_version.pdf

“We will [...] ensure that farmers, crofters and land managers are financially rewarded for delivering public goods.” (p 30) *“We will [...] deliver a new Agriculture Bill that enshrines the principles of climate and nature recovery into a new agricultural support scheme.”* (p 35)

[Please note that due to the great number of manifesto points relevant to the production of food, fibre and fuel and land use, we have had to make a strict selection in this summary].

Overarching Vision and Objectives

- A good life within planetary boundaries
- Independence
- Just transition
- Net Zero

Biodiversity and Climate Change

- Ensure that farmers, crofters and land managers are financially rewarded for delivering public goods, including rewilding and species reintroduction projects.
- Establish Land Management Contracts to reward farmers and land managers financially for delivering natural flood management solutions.
- Ban peat extraction and sale for horticultural use. Ban the burning of peatlands and license any other proposed burning. £145m to restore peatlands, Scotland’s most important carbon store, putting us on target to restore all peatland by 2030, creating 414 jobs and the same again indirectly.
- £150m for the nature restoration fund to restore key habitats, such as wetlands, rivers and our coastlines, creating 428 jobs directly and indirectly.
- Introduce legally binding nature recovery targets.
- Establish Regional land use partnerships in every part of Scotland by 2023 to help deliver nature networks and restore our environment.
- Target the Scottish Forestry Grant programme at native woodland creation.
- Support community ownership by encouraging the transfer of ownership from Forestry and Land Scotland and Local Authorities to communities via a simplified Community Asset Transfer Scheme.
- Maintain EU bans on bee-harming pesticides, and phase out the use of neonicotinoids in the forestry sector.
- Deliver a National Nitrogen Strategy to cut down excessive use of inorganic fertiliser, prevent air and water pollution, improve soil health, and slash greenhouse gases.
- Maintain the ban on Genetically Modified foods and production in Scotland.
- Deliver a £20m per year Land Advisory Service, supporting the roll out of climate-friendly farming practices and diversification of farm businesses to maximise public benefits including carbon sequestration, soil health, and biodiversity.

(Local) Food Production

- Bring forward a Good Food Nation Bill that establishes an integrated food policy, tackling the health, social and environmental impacts of food. It will enshrine the Right to Food in Scots law, oblige the Scottish Government to deliver a statutory National Food Plan, and reform procurement law to oblige public kitchens to source food from more small local businesses and organic producers.
- Establish a statutory Food Commission, charged with a duty to ensure the right to food is maintained and that decisions in areas such as health, planning, and education contribute towards a positive food environment.
- Develop a carbon food labelling scheme.
- Increase direct support for horticulture and market gardening businesses, including community and social enterprises.
- Establish a local food development fund, building distribution networks between rural and urban areas, and establishing direct to consumer markets such as box schemes.
- Make prime sites available in towns and cities for farmers markets, local food hubs, and other innovative ways to build short supply chains.
- Use public procurement contracts to support local sustainable food producers, building on the Food for Life model developed by the Soil Association.

The Future of Agricultural Support and Rural Development Payments

- Deliver a new Agriculture Bill that enshrines the principles of climate and nature recovery into a new agricultural support scheme.
- Make emission reductions and climate mitigation measures a compulsory requirement for all subsidies, delivering significant change at no extra cost.
- Replace current grants with Land Management Contracts, which will support farmers to deliver a range of public benefits including organic farmland conversion, agroforestry, agroecology, soil conservation and peatland restoration, flood management, wetland creation, landscape restoration and public access, renewable energy, rewilding and species reintroductions.
- Make environmental measures compulsory for basic farm payments, such as the roll out of whole-farm carbon audits and soil testing.

Land Reform and Rural Housing

- Bring forward a Land Reform Act to tackle monopolies, promote fairer management of land and regulate the sale of land.
- Commission a review of taxation and subsidies relating to land ownership.
- Regulate the sale of land of national or community significance.
- Require significant landholdings to produce a transparent land management plan and be subject to a public interest test.
- Introduce restrictions on overseas ownership of land.
- Give Scotland's Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement a statutory footing, requiring large landowners - private, public and third sector - to act responsibly.
- Carry out a review of succession law to ensure the inheritance of landholdings does not contribute further to Scotland's land problem.
- Set up a Land Directorate to assess and help meet demand for land to support housing development and local livelihoods.

- Transform the land registers into a free and transparent national land information service, covering the ownership, use, and designations of land.
- Reinvigorate crofting by introducing greater incentives, enabling local authorities to identify land for crofting, and encouraging the establishment of new crofting townships on estates or farms.
- Establish a community right to buy for the purpose of new croft holdings and crofting townships with common resources.
- Reactivate common good law to allow local authorities to designate common land.
- Increase funding for Rural and Islands Housing Fund, Rural Housing Scotland and other facilitators of volunteer-led community housing initiatives.
- Secure a fair share of housing investment, ensuring that 11,000 homes are built in rural areas between 2021 and 2026.
- Ensure that rural communities are not damaged by tourism through reserving certain rural areas/ properties exclusively for permanent residencies.
- Establish a Green Rural Homes service, bringing together engagement, enhanced support and advice services for homeowners and landlords in rural areas that are off the gas grid.
- Ensure that short-term holiday lets are regulated and require planning consent for second homes.
- Review the taxation of vacant and derelict land to ensure landowners are incentivised to bring it back into use.
- Support housing co-operatives through providing financing options and targeted relief from Land and Buildings Transaction Tax.

New Entrants, Tenant Farmers and Sector Diversity

- Establish a National Farm Land Trust to support generational change in farming and provide new entrants with access to land.
- Extend the powers and role of the tenant farming commissioner, including the power to impose penalties for breaches of the code of practice.
- Introduce a new rent test for agricultural holdings to ensure a fair rent is paid.
- Ensure tenant farmers are able to participate in tree planting and natural regeneration and receive fair benefit from such schemes.

Other Support for Local Communities and Economies

- Provide funding to establish community and crofter led wool processing and manufacturing businesses.
- Roll out a network of mobile abattoirs for rural and island communities, to support crofters whilst minimising live animal transportation.
- Establish local crofter and producer food co-ops to sell direct to the public and the hospitality and tourist trade.
- Align public procurement, enterprise agencies and other business support and grant schemes, including Business Gateway services, behind supporting good business.
- Encourage community ownership through business rate reductions for social enterprises and employee-owned businesses.
- Ensure that short-term holiday lets are regulated and require planning consent for second homes.

Training and Education

- Restore funding to Scotland's renowned agricultural research institutes, with a focus on developing farming techniques, plant breeds and soil science that tackles the climate and nature emergencies.
- Make agroecological and regenerative agriculture techniques the standard curriculum in rural education institutions.
- Offer qualifications in crofting and sustainable farming in Scotland's rural schools, with partnership programmes with colleges available in urban areas.
- Retain and grow the Green Jobs Fund and Green Jobs Workforce Academy.
- Provide new multi-year funding for skills development, training and apprenticeships to expand and upskill the workforce.