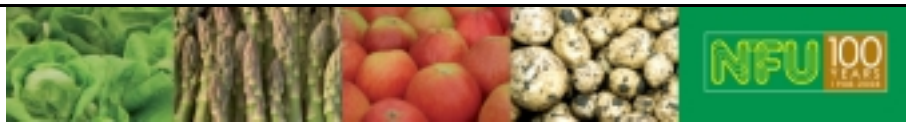




## Growing Food for London 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Overview on issues for farms in the green belt  
Recommendations to support fringe farmers

Terry Jones



## London hasn't got any farmers!

- 400 famers in the GLA area covering 30,000 acres (15%)
- Lots of small units (average holding size 70 acres)
- An important group of farmers
  - Productive agriculture (food and fuel)
  - Green space provision
  - Educational resource
  - Employers
  - Under the media spotlight



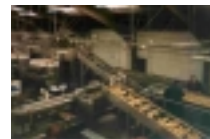


## Issues for farms in the green belt

- Positives
  - Opportunities for diversification/direct marketing
  - Close to markets
- Farming in the green belt is like farming elsewhere
  - CAP changes
  - Environmental expectations – the single issue auction
  - Reduced competitiveness on a world stage
  - Downstream supply chain consolidation



The NFU champions British farming and provides professional representation and services to its farmer and grower members



# BUT

*“...like farming in a war zone...”*



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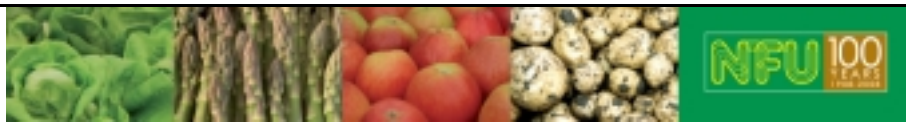


## Issues for farms in the green belt

- Labour more difficult to obtain and more costly to house
- Land more fragmented and access difficult
- Public access greater and more utilised
- Complaints from neighbours higher
  - eg pig farm in Bromley
- Planning permission
  - eg diversification
- Crime and anti-social behaviour greater
- Unauthorised occupation of land



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## Recommendations to support fringe farmers

- Policy objectives
  - Joined up
  - Don't create a green oasis and export the issues
- Planning
  - Training for urban planners
  - Planning system should help businesses adapt
  - Recognise farming as a business
  - Take into account existing businesses before granting PP
  - Rural policy in the London Plan and SSFF need consideration by LPAs



The NFU champions British farming and provides professional representation and services to its farmer and grower members



## Recommendations to support fringe farmers

- Rural crime is not a minority sport
  - Targets for rural crime
- Markets
  - LEZ and food policy join up
  - Supply chain development
  - Get real farmer involvement in London Food Strategy
  - Clear market signals eg public procurement
  - London Food Strategy needs to support all types of farming
- Education
  - YFF and FACE need adequate funding/access



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