

Summary of discussion, Farming the Fringe Roundtable, 14.06.22

0:00 - Vicki Hird, Head of Sustainable Farming, Sustain - the alliance for better food and farming – Slides available [here](#).

10:20 - Gareth Roberts, Founder Member of Regather – co-operative of local people working to improve food and build community in Sheffield

26:00 - Dan Larke, Business Owner of Glebelands Organic Produce - an organic market garden based in Sale, Cheshire, Greater Manchester

40:30 - Daniel Zeichner, Labour MP for Cambridge & Shadow Minister for Food, Farming and Fisheries

43:24 - the 5 ha issue is a really important one [in reference to the minimal 5 ha of land ownership requirement to receive Government support]

44:03 - in terms of the report you've made, thank you, extremely helpful and we'll be looking to what we can learn from examples of people who have really gone through all these hurdles so far, whether we can make it much easier

44:55 - Derek Thomas, Conservative MP for St Ives & Member of the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) committee and member of the APPG on Agroecology for Sustainable Food and Farming

45:35 - desperately recognise that we need food but we also need to create biodiversity etc. - what I hear today actually you can bring those two together and quite successfully

47:23 - I think if we sort out the land ownership and finance the incentives to do it; the skills which I think aren't just the skills for this but also for then prop up the whole of the sector; we will really get to a place where this country won't wrestle so much with having to produce food...so I'm really encouraged by today

48:18 - so I think if we could up-scale it the way you're proposing... you'd do the whole country a great service

48:50 - Lord Ewan Cameron of Dillington, Crossbench Peer, Chair of the House of Lords Land Use in England Committee and member of the APPG on Agroecology for Sustainable Food and Farming

53:53 - it's the overall management in the peri-urban areas that is a problem and needs leadership. This is where we come back to some thinking within our committee [the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs committee]

54:23 - it seems to me that the local authority, I think it has to be local... the local authority will provide that leadership, paying, in my view, for land use enablers

57:10 - Lord John Whitty, Labour Peer, Member of the House of Lords Food, Poverty, Health and Environment Committee and Environment and Climate Change Committee

58:22 - you run up against the price of land, you run up against the pressures of land and you're up, in a sense, the local authority not being prepared to prioritise that

58:50 - I think there is a role for the national planning policy to actually say to local authorities... that they ought to be designating land for agriculture and horticulture use, maybe through

county farms or something similar to that... more generally as well, they ought to have at least a proportion of that land made available for food

59:50 - a big part of the policy ought to be looking at how we can use our land more effectively for sustainable and small-scale remedies

1:01:18 - requires quite steady intervention into the land market by somebody, probably again, it has to be central government

1:03:14 - Jenny Rathbone, Welsh Labour member of Senedd, Member of the Welsh Parliament's committee on Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee & Chair of the Social Justice Committee and Cross Party Group on School Food

1:05:35 - a couple of years ago they [FoodSense Wales; one of our FF partners] piloted a demonstration project to show that very small sums of money could be used to accelerate the growth of horticultural businesses... five food enterprises with no more than 5 ha of production land were awarded grants of between 2,500 - 5,000; they increased their horticultural production and also people's veg consumption; it led to an average 75% growth in sales and an extra 79 families that benefitted from the food box

1:07:36 - at the moment, we only use one in a thousand of our fields on horticulture production and it should be one in fifty if we are going to be serious about the amount of veg that we need to produce

1:08:11 - I think that the ELMS [Defra's Environmental Land Management Scheme that is being designed to replace the EU's Common Agricultural Policy payments for farmers] project post-Brexit is really based on the assumption that food is going to continue to arrive from abroad - that simply isn't going to happen... so we really do have to radically change the way we do things and we haven't got time on our side

1:12:25 - we shouldn't be under any illusion, it's hard work isn't it being a horticulturalist so there are lots of challenges around really making the foundation economy work for Wales