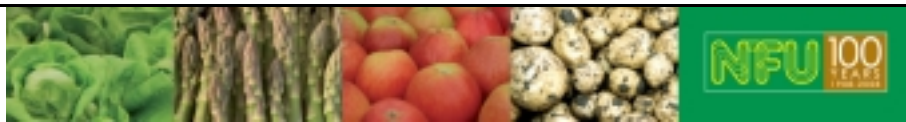




Growing Food for London 30th June 2008

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



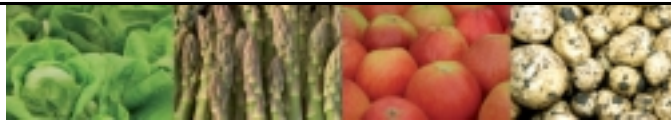


Issues for farms in the green belt

- 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...”

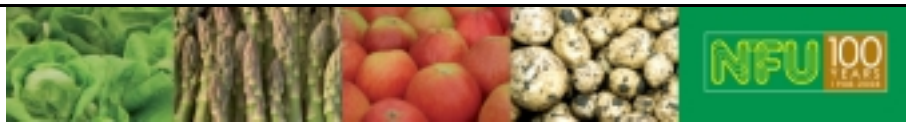


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Issues for farms in the green belt

- 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



Recommendations to support fringe farmers

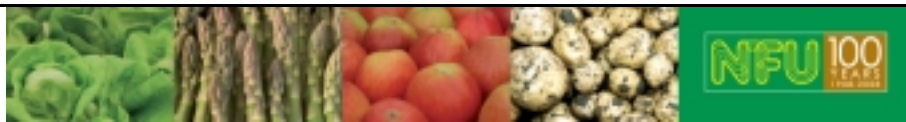
- Policy objectives
 - Joined up
 - Don't create a green oasis and export the issues
- Planning
 - Training for urban planners
 - Planning system should help businesses adapt
 - Recognise farming as a business
 - Take into account existing businesses before granting PP
 - Rural policy in the London Plan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





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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