

## House of Lords Agriculture Bill Report Stage Briefing - September 2020

We were pleased to hear the Agriculture Bill Committee Stage debates and the significant attention given to critical issues. We are now asking for your help in supporting specific amendments to the Bill, copied below for the Report stage commencing 15<sup>th</sup> September. These are aimed at improving the Bill and strengthening its positive impact on farm incomes, public health, and the environment. As ever we would be happy to answer any queries you may have on the amendments and the Bill (Links to the [Bill](#), [Explanatory Note](#)).

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Sustain is prioritising the following areas for amendments and asks you to support them in debate and if they come to a division:

### Delivering critical public health outcomes

We support the following amendment on the National Food Strategy **Amendment 58**

**Amendment 58** LORD KREBS BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH BARONESS BOYCOTT BARONESS BAKEWELL OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE Insert the following new Clause— “**National Food Strategy** [rest of amendment not copied here]

We also want to ensure household food insecurity is measured as part of the Food Security review-

**Amendment 53** BARONESS BOYCOTT Page 14, line 22, after “*security*” insert “*and household food insecurity*”

Member’s explanatory statement. This amendment will require the Government's report to consider household food insecurity alongside food security.

### Climate Targets

We support the need to address climate targets in the agriculture sector to deliver the vital reductions needed.

**Amendment 100** BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH BARONESS JONES OF MOULSECOOMB BARONESS BAKEWELL OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE LORD RANDALL OF UXBRIDGE Insert the following new Clause— “*Contribution of agriculture and associated land use to climate change targets* [Rest of amendment not copied here]

### Specific support to encourage whole farm agro-ecological farming and agroforestry

Financial support for establishing and maintaining whole farm agro-ecological systems which would help farmers to produce food whilst restoring the environment, storing carbon in healthy soils, and enhancing biodiversity and carbon storage through systems like agroforestry, **silviculture** (rearing animals with trees) whilst protecting nature on the *whole* farm. [Modelling shows that](#) agro-ecological farming, like organic, can deliver both the food and environmental outcomes needed including climate mitigation alongside other shifts in food consumption and waste.

**Amendment 8** LORD TEVERSON Page 2, line 25, at end insert—

“ ( ) *establishing and maintaining whole farm agroecological systems;*  
( ) *establishing and maintaining agroforestry systems.*”

**Amendment 23** Page 3, line 17, at end insert—

“ “*whole farm agroecological systems*” *include any whole enterprise system for farming or land management which is designed to produce food or fuel while delivering environmental and social benefits, and may include organic farming;*

*“agroforestry systems” means land management systems which integrate trees into productive farming landscapes, and include silvopasture, hedgerows with standards, coppice, orchards and farm woodland.*”

**and Amendment 21** LORD TEVERSON - Page 3, line 2, after “*agroecology*” insert “and *agroforestry*”

Member’s explanatory statement: Agroforestry is separate but allied to agroecology by integrating trees into productive farming landscapes, including silvopasture, hedgerows with standards, coppice, orchards and farm woodland.

We also believe farms should be encouraged to replace imported feed with domestic where possible and sustainable to reduce our overseas land take and the associated biodiversity loss. We would ask you to support this amendment:

**Amendment 55** THE EARL OF DUNDEE BARONESS BOYCOTT Page 14, line 32, at end insert— “*(f) supply sources for livestock feeds as an input to food production and the resilience of the feed supply chain.*”

### **Trade rules and policy must not allow imports to lower standards.**

We need legally binding measures to ensure new agri-food imports are required to be produced to the same food, environment, and animal welfare regulations as our own. There is strong stakeholder and public support for such measures.

**Amendment 93** LORD GRANTCHESTER BARONESS BAKEWELL OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE LORD KREBS BARONESS BOYCOTT Insert the following new Clause— “*Requirement for agricultural and food imports to meet domestic standards* [rest of amendment not copied here]

We ask you to support the amendment on the Trade and Agriculture Commission if it is amended with the second amendment by Earl Dundee

**Amendment 101** LORD CURRY OF KIRKHARLE LORD WALLACE OF TANKERNESS Insert the following new Clause— “*Trade and Agriculture Commission* [rest of amendment not copied here]

but must include the following to ensure an appropriate membership of the Commission

**Amendment 104** THE EARL OF DUNDEE Insert the following new Clause— “*Composition of the Trade and Agriculture Commission* [rest of amendment not copied here]

### **Support for New Entrants into farming, for advice to be provided, for sustaining the agricultural workforce and for encouraging food production on peri-urban land**

**Amendment 11** THE EARL OF DUNDEE BARONESS BOYCOTT Page 2, line 31, at end insert— “*(c) farming opportunities for new entrants and young farmers, including but not restricted to— (i) training, (ii) start-up capital, (iii) facilitating access to land, and (iv) supporting landowners to make land available, for new farm and forestry entrepreneurs.*”

Member’s explanatory statement This new paragraph would add to the purposes for which financial assistance can be given by making it available to young farmers and new entrants into the sector.

**Amendment 29** LORD GRANTCHESTER Insert the following new Clause— “*Financial assistance: duty to provide advice* [rest of amendment not copied here]

**Amendment 70** BARONESS JONES OF WHITCHURCH Insert the following new Clause— “*Duty to sustain the UK agricultural industry workforce* [rest of amendment not copied here]

**Amendment 20** THE EARL OF DUNDEE BARONESS BOYCOTT Page 2, line 36, at end insert— ““*agricultural, horticultural or forestry activity*” includes activity on peri-urban and rural land;”

Member's explanatory statement This amendment would enable Government support for primary production and ancillary activities by peri-urban and rural enterprises and for peri-urban farms supplying food.

Sustain also supports other amendments including on pesticide targets, on guaranteeing long term funding, and on powers for a new regulatory framework as proposed by the [Greener UK coalition](#). We recognise this Bill needs to be focussed but also that improvements, particularly around whole farm approaches and accountability, could ensure it delivers better outcomes. We would welcome the opportunity to talk to you about these issues and can provide briefings which give more detail on the priority areas.

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Sustain: The alliance for better food and farming advocates food and agriculture policies and practices that enhance the health and welfare of people and animals, improve the working and living environment, enrich society and culture and promote equity. We represent around 100 national public interest organisations working at international, national, regional, and local level. [www.sustainweb.org](http://www.sustainweb.org)