

Rebecca Evans AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref:
Ein cyf/Our ref: SF/CS/0292/15

Alun Ffred Jones AM
Chair
Environment and Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales

18 March 2015

Dear Alun Ffred,

Further to the email from the Committee Clerk on 10 March, I am pleased to provide a response to the action points raised during my appearance before the Committee on 4 March.

During the scrutiny session I agreed to provide further information on assurances in relation to feed sources for large-scale dairy farms.

I can confirm that the majority of dairy farms in Wales, both large and small, operate a pasture-based system, either by grazing or through conserved forage. Wales' temperate climate is ideally suited for grass growing and is a relatively cheap and efficient animal feed.

The major source of protein continues to be derived from soya beans which are mainly imported to the UK from the USA and South America. Due to the levels of volatility being experienced in the global markets the need to secure protein and compound feedstuffs has increased.

Farmers are now looking at alternative sources of protein, this will include home-grown high quality silage, or alternative protein-rich crop sources such as peas, beans, clover or lupins.

We also discussed the ongoing engagement with Defra and the levy boards with regard to the redistribution of the red meat levy in Wales.

To bring you fully up to date, a Red Meat Industry Forum was established to consider a solution to the redistribution of the red meat levy. The Forum is made up of representatives from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, Quality Meat Scotland and Hybu Cig Cymru.

They are currently developing an options paper on the potential delivery models for the redistribution of levy that would be deliverable, cost effective and offer value for money to each region.

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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This paper is currently in development and will be circulated to Defra, the Welsh Government and the Scottish Executive once the relevant levy boards have agreed on the proposals.

I will of course keep the Committee updated on this issue and the suggested proposals put forward.

I trust that I have addressed the Committee's queries in full.

Yours,
Rebecca

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