

Living On and Off the Land



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This is a Reform UK Scotland Position Paper

A self-sufficient country is fed by its farmers. The Scottish tradition has largely been that these farmers have lived and worked on family-owned or tenanted farms. The farmer and the land are inextricably entwined.

Any farmer has an intimate relationship with the land and its fauna. It is a necessary pre-requisite for a productive agricultural business but it is also an inevitable consequence of the daily contact with nature. A farmer's livelihood depends upon the good condition of the animals, and that depends on the good condition of the land. Farmers are pragmatic environmentalists.

Family and tenant farmers are self-employed, and are very busy people. To their heavy workload over the past few years have been added an increasing number of onerous environmental regulations, implemented by central government. Well-meaning in their own way, they have added a bureaucratic burden that often just takes up valuable time to confirm what would have happened anyway, or may even enforce a less beneficial outcome than is locally possible.

Reform UK Scotland will presume that family farmers or tenants of single farms habitually operate in the best interests of their local ecology unless proven otherwise. Such farms up to 500 hectares will largely be exempt from close scrutiny and reporting requirements and will be trusted to manage their own affairs to the best advantage of the environment.

To find out more, please visit our websites at <https://www.reformuk.scot> and <https://www.reformparty.uk>. Leave us a message on 01333 670 133. ©2022

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