

Date: 17 April 2002

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE: PROGRESS REPORT

Purpose

1. To advise the Committee on current progress against each of the 52 action points set out in *Farming for the Future: a new direction for farming in Wales*.

Recommendation

2. The Committee is invited to note the position. A further update report will be provided to the Committee in July.

Background

3. *Farming for the Future: a new direction for farming in Wales* was published on 21 November 2001. It sets out the Assembly Government's vision for the future sustainability of Welsh agriculture. At the heart of the strategy is a vision for an industry which produces high quality, value added branded products; is responsive to consumer needs; working collaboratively in the food chain; is environmentally responsible and an integral part of the wider rural economy.

4. The strategy contains 52 action points which the Assembly Government and its partner organisations are committed to delivering.

Progress to date

5. Annex 1 sets out the progress to date on each of the 52 action points. It should be noted that the strategy is supporting longer term action on restructuring, diversification, marketing, developing new skills and removing regulatory burdens. A summary of the position is as follows:

- 49 or 94% of measures have either started or been completed. This includes 8 (15%) commitments where action has been achieved and a further 41 (79%) actions on which work has either started, is partly achieved or is almost complete.
- 3 (6%) actions where work has yet to begin.

Spreading the message

6. A copy of the Executive Summary of the strategy was sent to every farmer in Wales at the time of the launch. The first edition of *Gwlad*, the monthly farmers' magazine published by the Assembly Government, also had extensive coverage of the new strategy. Subsequent editions of *Gwlad* have continued to focus on the new direction and options available to farming families to help move in this direction.

7. In addition since the launch of *Farming for the Future*, the key messages within the strategy have been regularly reiterated to key industry interests. At a higher level this has been done through Ministerial and senior official speaking engagements at industry forums. Farming Connect remains the main means of communicating the key messages to the farming community on the ground. There is on-going work with Farming Connect facilitators to increase the awareness of farming families to the contents of *Farming for the Future* and the support that is available to help them adapt.

Monitoring

8. Paragraph 2.9 of *Farming for the Future* sets out the quantifiable indicators against which progress will be monitored. At Annex 2 are our preliminary thoughts on the baseline data that could be used. Further work is necessary to ensure they mirror wider strategic data, particularly on sustainability, currently being collected by the Assembly Government. Accordingly, the baseline information will be refined further as we develop our thinking in discussion with partner organisations. Further details will be submitted in the next update report in July.

9. The Farming Futures Advisory Group will be reconvened in the Autumn to review progress and advise on what further initiatives or action may be needed to achieve the new direction for agriculture.

Conclusion

10. The Committee is asked to note where we currently stand against each of the 52 action points. Underpinning this is the need to do more to ensure that farming families, collectively and individually, understand the importance for the industry in Wales to adapt to meet the increasing challenges of the future.

Contact Point

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ANNEX 1

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE – ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 1	<i>Assembly Govt will work for an effective international trading and labelling system; and lobby for tighter meat import rules</i>	<i>AHD/ Colin Williams Also FFDD/Mike Dunn</i>	ON GOING	<i>Inter departmental working group on illegal meat imports led by DEFRA established. ARAD is a member. Action Plan published on 26 March containing a range of measures for tackling illegal imports of meat and animal products. Further work in hand.</i>
ACTION POINT 2	<i>Assembly Govt will work for reform of CAP-subsidies which are decoupled from production levels; equal balance between CAP/RDP</i>	<i>AFPD/ Rory O'Sullivan</i>	ON GOING	Working closely with DEFRA and other devolved administrations to ensure that Welsh interests are taken into account in developing UK negotiating position to MTR of CAP.
	<i>- improves the basis for funding agri-environmental schemes</i>	<i>FFDD/ Mike Dunn</i>	ON GOING	<i>An Agri Environment Working Group has been established which includes industry interests. Two working group meetings have been held, the first on 4 February 2002. Draft paper to be circulated</i>

ACTION POINT 3	<i>Assembly Govt will establish working group of industry interests to advise on mid term review of CAP</i>	<i>AFPD/ Rory O'Sullivan</i>	ACHIEVED	<i>Working Group's first meeting held on 1 February 2002</i>
ACTION POINT 4	<i>Assembly Govt will establish working group of industry interests to advise on Tir Mynydd 2</i>	<i>AFPD/ Rory O'Sullivan</i>	ACHIEVED	<i>First meeting of Working Group held on 1 February 2002</i>

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/ OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 5	<i>Assembly Agriculture & Rural Affairs Dept will appoint permanent member of staff in Brussels</i>	<i>AFPD/ Rory O'Sullivan</i>	ACHIEVED	<i>Appointment made on 15 October 2001</i>
ACTION POINT 6	<i>Assembly Govt will press UK Government to review Supermarkets' Code of Practice</i>	<i>FFDD/ Mike Dunn</i>	ON GOING	<i>Minister wrote formally to Lord Whitty on 24 January 2002. Regularly raised with DEFRA Ministers – formally and informally.</i>
ACTION POINT 7	<i>Assembly Govt will press UK Government to commission research jointly with major retailers on alternative distribution systems</i>	<i>FFDD/ Mike Dunn</i>	ON GOING	<i>As per action 6</i>
ACTION POINT 8	<i>Assembly Govt will take all necessary steps to eradicate FMD and minimise the risks of animal health diseases. Plus press the UK government for strict meat import controls</i>	<i>AHD/ Colin Williams</i>	ON GOING	<i>Interim Regime for animal movements promulgated and discussion on successor regime under way. Review of Contingency Planning and import controls also underway. DEFRA announced on 26 March an action plan for tackling illegal meat imports.</i>
ACTION POINT 9	<i>Assembly Govt will work with other UK Agriculture Depts and FSA to maintain strict measures to eliminate BSE</i>	<i>AHD/ Colin Williams</i>	ON GOING	<i>Incidents continuing to fall in Wales much as predicted by scientific models. Continuing to work with other Government Departments eg current FSA review of controls. Assembly Govt represented on Stakeholder Group.</i>

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/ OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 10	<i>Assembly will work with other UK Agriculture Depts and the farming industry to eradicate scrapie. Assembly led industry working group being set up.</i>	AHD/ Colin Williams	ON GOING	<i>Industry/Assembly Group recommendations approved by Ministers in February. Actions required before package can be announced, including securing EU clearance. Assembly Govt a member of DEFRA review process</i>
ACTION POINT 11	<i>Assembly Govt will work with DEFRA and Scottish Executive to introduce sheep identification</i>	AHD/ Colin Williams	ON GOING	<i>IGER project looking at methods of electronic ID due to report in May 2002.</i>
ACTION POINT 12	<i>Assembly Govt will continue to support the strategy for controlling bovine TB through trials and testing and keep research under review</i>	AHD/ Colin Williams	On going	<i>Post- FMD, resources being concentrated on tackling the overdue test backlog to minimise the spread of infection between herds. DEFRA funded research into the spread of bovine TB will concentrate on the nature of the disease in cattle, the spread of the disease between cattle and between cattle and wildlife and the role of wildlife, including badgers.</i>
ACTION POINT 13	<i>Assembly Govt will secure the extension of farm assurance to all sectors of Welsh production</i>	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	<i>Farm- assured meat scheme is one of the key issues in the discussions over the new red meat promotion company ANTUR CIG CYMRU. Main partners WDA/MLC and WLBP and Assembly Govt as facilitators will meet shortly to begin negotiations</i>
ACTION POINT 14	<i>Assembly Govt will consider how delivery of food related studies in schools can be enhanced. To work closely with FSA, amongst others.</i>	SPD/ Keith Davies	ON GOING	<i>Meeting held with FSA in February and agreed action to be taken forward via Wales Science Year and NGfL (National Grid for Learning) Cymru</i>

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/ OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 15	<i>Farming Unions will work with WLBP to encourage all Welsh lamb and beef farmers to become farm assured</i>	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	<i>As per action 13.</i>
ACTION POINT 16	<i>WDA will establish a food accreditation scheme with a distinctive kite mark</i>	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	<i>Accreditation Scheme likely to take 6-12 months owing to procedures implemented by UK accreditation agency.</i>

ACTION POINT 17	WLBP will review criteria for Farm Assured Welsh Livestock and consider potential commercial merit of incorporating new standards of animal health	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	As per action 13.
ACTION POINT 18	Bespoke standards will be specified where appropriate to realise the market potential for niche products such as Welsh Black Beef	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	Awaiting report on proposed marketing strategy for Welsh Black Beef currently being prepared by WLBP.
ACTION POINT 19	Assembly Govt to consult on how more integrated organisational arrangements dedicated to Welsh livestock industry can be created	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ACHIEVED	Proposals for creating single meat body – Antur Cig Cymru – issued for industry consultation on 24 January 2002.

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 20	Assembly Govt to encourage Welsh public sector organisations to consider writing farm assurance standards etc into their tender specifications	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	Discussions, led by the WDA Agri-Food Partnership, are ongoing with public sector organisations on procurement tender specifications.
ACTION POINT 21	WDA will work with WTB through the Taste of Wales scheme to encourage/promote hospitality, food festivals and food trails using top quality Welsh produce.	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	WDA launched 1st ever TRUE TASTE [of Wales] awards to be held in November 2002. Interest growing across Wales. 35 food festivals to be supported this year.
ACTION POINT 22	Assembly Govt will monitor the farm machinery ring initiative to see if worth expanding	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	Assembly Government officials contributed to the preparation of an operational contract between the WDA and the Machinery Rings which came into effect 1st January 2002, and continue to monitor this initiative.
ACTION POINT 23	Assembly Govt and the WDA will support the Agri-food partnership in working up an industry action plan to develop horticulture in Wales	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	Horticulture Strategy Group established. Action Plan expected by June 2002.
ACTION POINT 24	Farming Connect to promote good practice on developing a more sustainable approach to the management of Welsh woodlands	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	Farming Connect offers free woodland management advice (funded by Forestry Commission) and free timber processing advice (funded via the WDA). Proposals also in hand to further develop the promotion of sustainable woodland management through the Farming Connect local facilitators and through the Farming Connect Development Centres/ Demonstration Farms network.

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 25	<i>Assembly Govt will co-ordinate production of a biomass strategy</i>	<i>FFDD/ Mike Dunn</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	<i>A Woodlands development and Biomass strategy Group has been established and is scheduled to produce a draft action plan by June 2002.</i>
ACTION POINT 26	<i>Set up two industry-strategy groups for sea fishing and inland fisheries to develop potential for industry and tourism</i>	<i>AFPD/ Rory O'Sullivan</i>	<i>ACHIEVED</i>	The sea fishing strategy group held its first meeting in February, and the inland fisheries group will hold its first meeting 23/24 April. Both groups aim to produce draft strategies by the middle of the year, and these will form the basis for an overarching Welsh Fisheries Strategy which the Assembly Government aims to publish by the end of the year
ACTION POINT 27	<i>Assembly Govt will in consultation with WLGA investigate potential for farmers to generate income through recycling of organic waste</i>	<i>FFDD/ Mike Dunn supported by EnPD/ Bob Macey</i>	<i>NOT YET COMMENCED</i>	
ACTION POINT 28	<i>Assembly Govt and WDA will work with partners to put Farming Connect into practice</i>	<i>FFDD/ Mike Dunn</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	<i>The business planning and FIG/FEG grant schemes, along with the network of local facilitators was launched in September 2001. Bespoke IT and business management training (fully funded by ELWa) is coming on stream in April 2002 and May/ June 2002 respectively. Development centres and network of demonstration farms will substantially be in place by May 2002.</i>

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 29	<i>ELWa will review skill needs of agri-food sector and identify action to be taken to meet these needs</i>	<i>FFDD/ Mike Dunn in conjunction with LLD/ Neil Thomas</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	Tender document currently being prepared by ELWa. Project to be completed by end 2002.

ACTION POINT 30	<i>Assembly Govt will take steps to promote the Rural stress helpline to the farming community</i>	<i>Rural Policy/ Jasper Roberts</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	<p><i>The helpline will be promoted to all farmers via a notice in Gwlad magazine. Action has been held pending finalisation of the Rural Stress Scheme under the Rural Recovery Plan. In addition, the Rural Stress Information Network has been funded to facilitate schemes on the ground including the promotion of helplines to farmers.</i></p> <p><i>In the meantime, Rural Stress leaflets and cards are distributed to known agencies every time the information base is updated. Flyers invite agencies to apply for further leaflets, cards and posters as required. GPs in selected areas have been alerted to this facility and further contact is planned through the local health groups.</i></p> <p><i>Health authorities are also raising the profile of this service so that the rural community is aware of what is available.</i></p>
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NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 31	<i>ELWa will review the provision of initial vocational education and training for those entering into the industry</i>	<i>FFDD/ Mike Dunn in conjunction with LLD/ Neil Thomas</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	<i>Steering group (including ACCAC, ESTYN, Lantra, WDA, WAG, NFU, FUW, YFC representation) established to undertake review. Further education and private training providers also having input. Aim is to complete the review and report outcomes by June 2002.</i>
ACTION POINT 32	<i>Farming Connect will provide specialist provisions for the YFCs, such as Young Farmers Angels, to help them prepare business plans</i>	<i>FFDD/ Mike Dunn</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	<i>Preliminary discussions have taken place with partner organisations to consider how to take the matter forward with a view to piloting the initiative in Autumn 2002.</i>
ACTION POINT 33	<i>Assembly Govt proposes to give top priority to young farmers in allocating sheep and suckler cow quota</i>	<i>AFPD/ Rory O'Sullivan</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	<i>Proposals were the subject of consultation in 2001. Currently considering details of regional ring-fences with other UK Agriculture Departments. Aiming to implement in 2003 quota year provided agreement is reached.</i>
ACTION POINT 34	<i>Young farmers angels to promote share farming and help young farmers reach suitable agreements</i>	<i>FFDD/ Mike Dunn</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	<i>Preliminary discussions have taken place with partner organisations to consider how to take the matter forward with a view to piloting the initiative in Autumn 2002.</i>
ACTION POINT 35	<i>Assembly Govt and CCW propose to award young farmers additional points in Tir Gofal scoring system, to help them gain access to the scheme</i>	<i>FFDD/ Mike Dunn</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	<i>Modification to RDP which includes a proposal to allocate young farmers an additional 10 points now with the Commission for approval.</i>

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 36	<i>Assembly Govt will publish new planning policy guidance for rural areas</i>	<i>Planning Division/ Kay Powell</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	<i>Aiming to publish Planning Policy Wales by 19 April 2002.</i>
ACTION POINT 37	<i>Assembly Govt will revise and publish the 'Farmers Guide to the Planning System'</i>	<i>FFDD/ Mike Dunn</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	<i>In the process of revising the "Farmer's Guide to the Planning System". This revision will take into account DEFRA revisions to the previous DOE/ Welsh Office/ MAFF version. It will also reflect recent Wales Planning Guidance. The latter is due to be published by 19 April. In addition Assembly Govt will be preparing a shortened guidance note to farmers on how to set about seeking planning permission.</i>
ACTION POINT 38	<i>Publication of a progress report and updated action programme on improving Assembly services to farmers</i>	<i>CAPM/ Gareth Jones</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	<i>Updated action programme and progress report to be published by August 2002.</i>
ACTION POINT 39	<i>The introduction of a new IT system in the Assembly's Agriculture Dept. to improve speed and efficiency of payments</i>	<i>CAPM/ Gareth Jones</i>	<i>ON GOING</i> <i>First phase to be completed May 2002 and final phase by April 2003.</i>	<i>Testing phase of the new IT system has begun (April 2002). New IACS forms have been designed including the pre-printing of information and format for scanning. These were issued to farmers in March. The first phase, for IACS and related schemes, will go live in May 2002. Remaining schemes will migrate across to new system during remainder of 2002.</i>

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 40	<i>Introduce the new independent Appeals system for farmers</i>	<i>CAPM/ Gareth Jones</i>	<i>ACHIEVED</i>	<i>Relevant legislation came into force on 1st August 2001. Membership of independent appeals panel announced on 5 October 2001.</i>
ACTION POINT 41	<i>Introduce E-business opportunities in the form of electronic claims submission.</i>	<i>CAPM/ Gareth Jones</i>	<i>ON GOING</i>	<i>This is scheduled for implementation early 2003. There is a dependency on Government Gateway to provide secure access to our systems.</i>

ACTION POINT 42	<i>The Farming unions will work with the Assembly to ensure that the proportion of farmers using BACS reaches 90%</i>	CAPM/ Gareth Jones	ON GOING	<i>BACS form now included in the IACS and Livestock Subsidy application forms. All new customers will be asked to complete a BACS form when providing their customer details.</i>
ACTION POINT 43	<i>Assembly Govt will work with the unions and others to ease the burden of red tape without compromising standards</i>	CAPM/ Gareth Jones But also cross Group & Assembly	ON GOING	<i>New, flagship IACS form launched in March 2002, streamlines to reduce the volume of information sought from farmers. Other forms to follow for subsidies.</i>
ACTION POINT 44	<i>Decision on whether to implement the pilot Small Farmers scheme to simplify CAP payments</i>	AFPD/ Rory O'Sullivan	ON GOING	<i>ARAD is working closely with other UK agriculture departments and the Rural Payments Agency in order to identify scheme practicalities. Subject to consultation, the aim remains to launch the scheme in January 2003.</i>

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/ OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 45	<i>Assembly Govt in consultation with Farming Connect will define environmentally-friendly best practice models of sustainable farming.</i>	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ON GOING	<i>Environmental Strategic Action plan at final draft stage.</i>
ACTION POINT 46	<i>Recommendations from the stocktake of the Tir Gofal scheme will be published. Also scheme kept under review</i>	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	ACHIEVED	<i>Recommendations were presented to Agriculture and Rural Development Committee on 7 November 2001 In addition, scheme is being kept under review as part of CAP review work by the Agri-environment sub Group (see action point 2).</i>
ACTION POINT 47	<i>Assembly Govt will continue to prioritise the promotion of suckler cow beef production and the growth of crops in upland areas</i>	AFPD/ Rory O'Sullivan	ON GOING	<i>Being actively pursued through the CAP working groups (see action points 2 - 4). Subject to EU approval, aiming to implement in 2003 SAP scheme.</i>
ACTION POINT 48	<i>Assembly Govt will press UK Government to bring forward effective commons management associations legislation</i>	Planning Division/ Kay Powell Supported by Mike Dunn,FFDD	ON GOING	<i>Working with Planning Division and DEFRA to bring forward legislation. Awaiting decision on whether to have a Wales only bill or an England and Wales one.</i>
ACTION POINT 49	<i>The WTB and the CCW will work with local authorities and national parks to develop exemplar integrated countryside and tourism development projects</i>	EPD/ Emyr Roberts & Countryside Division/ June Milligan	ACHIEVED	<i>The new support programme for integrated leisure and tourism projects - Adfywio - was launched by CCW and WTB on 28 March. The scheme has £5 million over two years to fund appropriate projects across Wales, but especially in areas which have been hardest hit by foot and mouth</i>

NUMBER	ACTION POINT	LEAD ORGANISATION/ OFFICER	STATUS OF ACTION	COMMENTS
ACTION POINT 50	<i>Assembly Govt will take advice from the CCW in considering the future evolution of Welsh land use.</i>	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	NOT YET COMMENCED	
ACTION POINT 51	<i>Assembly Govt will commission research to identify ways in which changes to farming and forestry practice may reduce green house gas emissions.</i>	FFDD/ Mike Dunn	NOT YET COMMENCED	
ACTION POINT 52	<i>Assembly Govt will continue to operate the most restrictive policy for GMOs within the framework of EU legislation.</i>	Countryside Division/ June Milligan	ON GOING	<i>Assembly's action on separation distances between GM and non-GM crops triggered notification to the EC. This has generated discussion on co-existence within EU. Rural Affairs Minister had productive meeting with EU Officials. No FSEs in Wales in 2002.</i>

Annex 2

Farming for the Future – Progress Report April 2002

Performance Indicators – Baseline Information

1 Value added in Farming and related food processing net of CAP subsidies							
Value added in Farming							
£million		1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	
Gross Value Added (excluding subsidies)		441.4	314.9	153.1	214.9	191.8	
(Due to changes in methodology, figures for 1995 are not comparable, so have not been presented)							
Value added in food related processing and manufacture							
£million		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Gross Value Added		721.8	830.5	736.4			
Nothing available beyond 1997 at present							

- A change in methodology means that the time series for farming is only available from 1996
- ABI data for these is only available until 1997. There is a considerable time lag in the production of this series.
- Gross Value Added is used to facilitate the comparison with the Food Processing figures.
- Figures from the Welsh Agricultural Account and ONS ABI data

2 Value added per person employed in Farming and related food processing in Wales

Value added per person employed in Farming

£ per person	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Gross Value Added	13,296	10,690	6,991	6,945	7,026
(Less subsidies)					
Gross Value Added	8,658	6,248	2,725	3,956	3,726

Value added per person employed in Food Processing and Manufacture

£ per person	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Gross Value Added	60,269	66,263	58,196			

3 Total Employment in Farming and related food processing

Total Employment in Farming

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total Full time Equivalent	50,783	50,989	50,392	56,163	54,324	51,481

Total Employment in Food Processing and Manufacture

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Food and drink processing and manufacture employment	11,977	12,533	12,653	13,549	13,219	14,101

- Full Time Equivalents. A change in methodology in counting the number of workers in 1998 should be taken into account when viewing figures.
- Data sourced from Farm Income calculations and WRME

4 Amount of Income Farming Families derive from Non farming sources

£million	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
On farm and off farm non Farm Income	59.7	75.9	81.4	81.3	83.8

- Data series from DEFRA. Based on approximation of 17,600 IACS registered in Wales

5 The proportion of Agricultural land under Agri-environment agreement, or which is organic or in conversion to organic status

	1999	2000	2001
<i>% of agricultural land covered by an agri-environment agreement or which is registered as organic, or is being converted to organic status</i>	17.3	20	22.6



*increasing or

decreasing trends are significant at the 5% level Source: BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey

Note: The data presented here are outside the scope of National Statistics. They are an alternative to the wild bird indicator showing data from 1970 that was originally planned. Recently work was commissioned by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to produce long-term wild bird indicators for the regions of the UK. This work used the results of the Common Birds Census (CBC) and various other data sources. Unfortunately it was concluded that the results for Wales were not sufficiently representative due to lack of available data. The CBC ended in 2000 so in future regional indicators are expected to incorporate data from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) which started in 1994 and covers a large number of representative sites. This should provide sufficient coverage for indicators for Wales to be produced in the future.

The above chart contains data from the Breeding Bird Survey 2000 and shows the number of widespread breeding bird species that are estimated to have increased or decreased in abundance in Wales between 1994 and 2000. The species are grouped into the major habitat groups-farmed, woodland and urban. Other habitats (coastal, wetland and not classified) are also shown as a separate group.

Note that in 2000, over 200 plots were surveyed in Wales in the BBS-the results shown only relate to 53 species that were detected in at least 30 plots. Therefore these data cannot be described as representative of all birds in Wales as less abundant (including many farmland species) or rare species are not included.

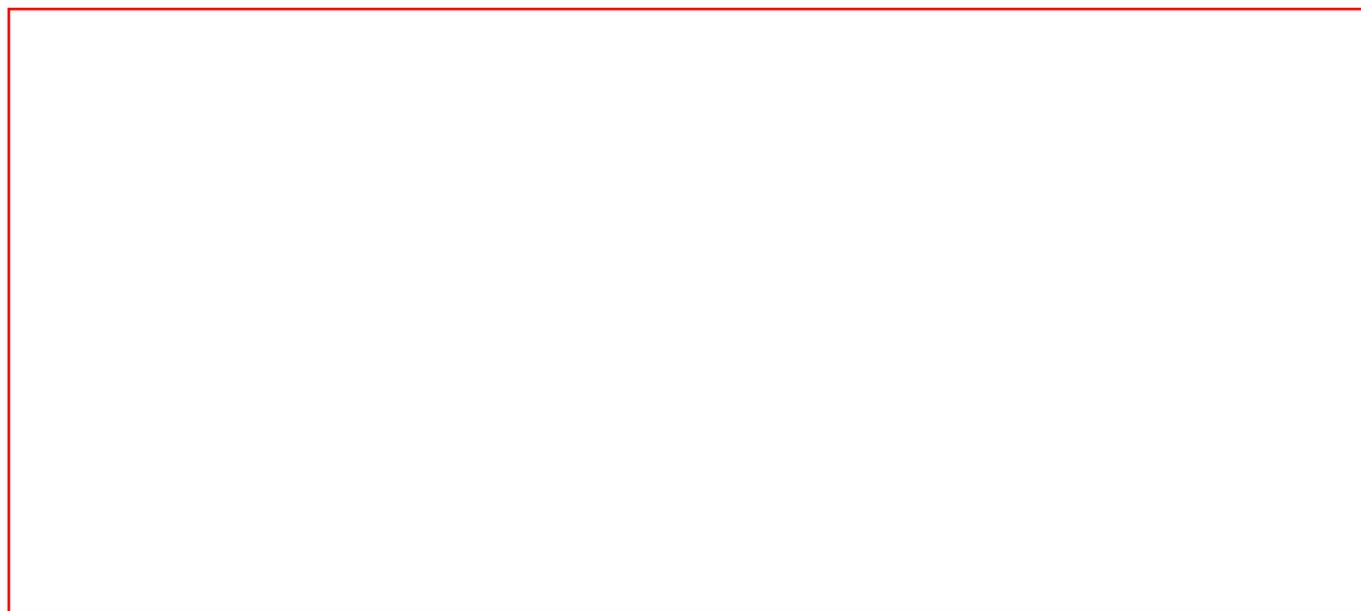
Also, at the start of the BBS in 1994, populations of many farmland and woodland bird species had already shown steep declines over the previous 25 years. Hence current trends need to be interpreted carefully.

In Wales, 19 species (36 per cent) increased and 4 species (8 per cent) decreased in abundance between 1994 and 2000.

'A Plan for Wales' contains the following target for 2010: 'The populations of wild birds that are now in decline must have stabilised or started to rise'.

Number of species

	Increasing	Stable	Decreasing	Total
Farmed	5	9	2	16
Woodland	8	14	1	23
Urban	2	2	0	4
Coastal	2	0	0	2
Wetland	0	1	1	2
Not classified	2	4	0	6
Total	19	30	4	53



*Range is stable if less than or equal to 5% change in number of 10 km squares occupied Source: BTO/RSPB

The above chart contains data on the long-term changes in the breeding ranges of birds in Wales from the 1968-1972 and the 1988-1991 BTO Breeding Bird Atlases. It is included here to supplement the data on recent abundance changes between 1994 and 2000 (shown on the previous page), providing an indication of earlier trends. It shows the number of bird species in Wales with ranges that are estimated to have increased, decreased or remained stable over the 20-year period.

The results relate to 125 different species in Wales, grouped into major habitats of farmed (including farmland and upland), woodland and urban following the 1988-1991 Breeding Bird Atlas. Other habitats (coastal, wetland and not classified) are also shown as a separate group.

In Wales, 18 per cent of species increased and 43 per cent decreased in range between 1968-1972 and 1988-1991.

Of the major habitats, over half the birds of farmed habitats decreased in range over the 20-year period.

In the UK, 45 per cent of species increased and 18 per cent of species decreased in abundance between 1994 and 2000. However these percentages are not directly comparable with those for Wales as more species (100) were included in the UK results due to a larger number of plots being surveyed.

In the UK, the long-term 'Quality of Life' indicator identifies similar long-term declines in the range of farmland birds to those suggested by the above chart.

Number of species

	Increased	Stable	Decreased	Total
Farmed	7	14	23	44
Woodland	4	23	10	37
Urban	2	2	1	5
Coastal	2	0	9	11
Wetland	6	5	4	15
Not classified	1	5	7	13
Total	22	49	54	125

7	Farming for the Future: Populations of key farmland species other than birds
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Note: Discussions are still ongoing with partner organisations on the way forward in selecting suitable indicators. Consequently it has not been possible to provide any meaningful hard data at this time. It is hoped to submit more substantive proposals in the next update report in July. In the meantime, our preliminary proposals for monitoring include the following farmland species:

Marsh Fritillary Butterfly

Indicator of extensive management of wet and semi-improved pastures using heavy livestock such as cattle.

Lesser Horseshoe Bats

Indicator of landscape structure/habitat condition such as semi-improved and unimproved pasture, thick hedges, woodland, etc.

Otters or Salmonids

Indicator of general health of freshwater aquatic systems.

Higher Plants

Indicator of agricultural improvement/ increasing fertility.