



Agri-Brexit Coalition Meeting

AEA Offices
Samuelson House
62 Forder Way
Hampton
Peterborough PE7 8JB

12 October 2018

Attendees

Ruth Bailey	(AEA)	Sarah Nightingale	(GAFTA - for
David Caffall	(AIC)		Jaine Chisholm Caunt)
Penny Maplestone	(BSPB)	Duncan Russell	(NAAC)
Jeremy Moody	(CAAV)	Dawn Howard	(NOAH)
Sarah Mukherjee	(CPA)	Julia Corr	(Secretariat)

Guests

Paul Rooke	(AIC)	Geoff Dodgson	(for AIC)
Ellie Randall	(Defra – guest of CPA)		

1. Introductions and Apologies

David welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Ruth for hosting the meeting

2. George Eustice \ Teagle

Dates offered are 14 Dec and 25 Jan. All agreed 14 Dec – Ruth will relay to Teagle who in turn will advise George Eustice. Ruth will lead and Chair the visit of approx. 5 members of the Coalition. David is unable to attend.

Following the next seminar on 30 Nov, the Coalition will meet to ensure that all points are to be considered during the meeting. Sarah noted however that we may be pressed for “questions” before this.

A draft agenda will then be put forward in a letter to George Eustice to ensure he is aware of the points to be discussed

Ruth to write to Teagle to thank them for the opportunity of the meeting, and to confirm arrangements nearer the time.

3. Agriculture Bill

Generally described as a “clothes horse” upon which the government can hang whatever it wishes upon it. Its progress will need careful monitoring as the devil will be in the detail

The UK has an opportunity to be seen as the R&D capital of Europe and the Coalition believe that we have a role to play in promoting this aspect.

Geoff D to write a one pager on our lobbying position in order to support an effective industry response to this.

DC told the group of a meeting that he attended, in which the principal farming organisations proposed a mass lobby in support of getting Government guarantees of support beyond 2021. He said that the AIC position was likely to be that as Productivity and R and D must be our key priorities, we would show support for the farming income initiative, but it could not be our top priority. The group agreed with this stance, and there was general support for Jeremy's expressed view that in any case, this aspiration was understandable, but unrealistic.

The Labour Party was seen to be very 'on message' regarding the Agri industry. Suggestion that we write to Sue Hayman (Shadow Secretary of State) – topics to be along the line of 'the proficient use of land to produce food' and 'Farmers of the Future' – invite to seminar?

4. November seminar

Similarly to the previous seminar our speakers need to be those who are directly affected – “this is what the Agriculture Bill looks like to us and this is how Brexit is going to affect us” – format worked well last time and seemed to resonate with the audience

Target audience to include Defra, but also attendees from BEIS, DExEu and DiT if possible this time. All to consider speakers and audience invitations as soon as possible. Julia to coordinate

5. Stockpiling

We need to get Government understanding on our lack of options for stockpiling, except in certain very specific product areas. Need also to explain the potential damage to food production that will be caused to farming if there is an interruption to supplies and work together with the aim of finding the solution. This must be a topic at the George Eustice meeting in Cornwall.

6. AHDB Review

A general discussion took place. It is outside of the Coalition's current remit, but an exchange of views was helpful.

7. Future Meetings

Next seminar is at The RAF Club on 30 November – 0945 Registration \ 1030 Start and will conclude with lunch. JC has extended the booking of the meeting room at The RAF Club until 1530 for the Coalition to meet for a wash up and all points for consideration for the George Eustice meeting.