

Agricultural Industries Confederation looks to the next UK Government to...



Deliver a Brexit outcome that recognises the strategic importance of UK agriculture to produce high quality food, animal feed and non-food products; as well as providing environmental and resource protection, and supporting leisure and tourism industries.

Support a growth agenda which lays the foundation for a competitive commercial and business sector driving growth, jobs and productivity.

Recognise the potential damage to the UK agri-business sector that will stem from a 'no-deal' outcome.



Specifically on Brexit, AIC calls on UK Government...

To work constructively with EU partners to develop a bilateral approach to agricultural trade which recognises existing and historic trading patterns as well as the desire of industries and their customers to see existing trade patterns preserved.

Agribusinesses in both the UK and elsewhere in the EU are expressing a clear wish to see as little disruption as possible to existing trading activities in the substantial two way flow of goods and products. Finding simple solutions is a request from business and income generators.

To recognise the strategic importance of timely and accurate data on trade flows once existing EU structures end. The focus must be on the 'to manage it you must be able to measure it' mantra.

Leaving the EU means losing input and access to valuable sources of trade data. Recently UK Government has been continually withdrawing from producing agricultural statistics and is therefore at risk of being 'blind-sided' and unable to react properly to events.

To focus on a practical and workable solution to replace the customs union which removes the threat of delay and financial loss by developing a process based on mutual recognition of standards and quality criteria.

Introducing a physical border between the UK and EU means a seven-fold increase in customs clearance requirements. The focus must be on establishing border clearance and administration (especially in N Ireland) to minimise both the physical delays and administrative burden on business.



The Agricultural Industries Confederation was formed in 2003 to create a unified trade body for the agrisupply industries.

The sectors it represents are:
Animal Feed;
Crop Protection and Agronomy;
Fertilisers;
Grain and Oilseed Marketing;
Seed Production and Processing



AIC is a founding member of the Agri-Brexit Coalition which focuses on the specific issues that Brexit raises for those involved in the supply of goods, services and trade within UK agriculture.

Within the UK

AIC calls on UK Government to...

Ensure the financial commitment within the agri-tech funding programme delivers real benefits beyond what industry would otherwise have financed.

There is speculation about Research, Innovation and AgriScience development being boosted by the UK decision to leave the EU. To deliver the necessary confidence to potential investors, Government must first ensure that its current funding programmes deliver on their promises rather than simply supplanting existing work and jobs.

Recognise the value of and the need for collaboration with the private sector in the provision of professional on-farm advice and changing on-farm practice.

AIC is updating its Value of Advice report which, when first published in 2013, set out the ways in which farming practices are influenced through both industry and government sources. This work clearly sets out benefits from a partnership approach in delivering messages for change. To date, Government has disappointingly not sought to capitalise on this.

Develop a coherent strategy on science and innovation in agriculture to send a clear message to the commercial providers of R&D funding.

AIC welcomes views from Ministers that the UK should continue to be involved in programmes such as Horizon. To instil the necessary level of confidence in longer term private business investment, however, it is imperative that a clear message is given that the UK is a natural home for agricultural research.

The 240 strong AIC membership comprises businesses which are responsible for over £7.5bn of trade at the farmgate.

In addition, there are 4,000 participants in the Trade Assurance schemes operated by AIC's subsidiary AIC Services which ensure food and feed safety as well as fertiliser security.

The Confederation membership employs some 43,000 people, directly and indirectly, and is a vital part of the whole food and drink industry worth an estimated £100bn.

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