

SNP in Government: Delivering for Scottish Agriculture.

- ✓ £25m aid package to help industry recover from 2007 FMD outbreak after UK Government refused to help
- ✓ Scotland Rural Development Programme delivers £450m and nearly 6000 new projects benefiting many agricultural businesses
- ✓ Successful negotiation of devolution of Animal Health Budget
- ✓ Official TB free status for Scotland and Industry/Scottish Government partnership working keeps out FMD and Bluetongue
- ✓ BVD eradication scheme being taken forward by industry with Scottish Government support
- ✓ Bluetongue vaccination supported with financial contribution from Scottish Government
- ✓ New Entrants Scheme included in Scotland Rural Development Programme
- ✓ Scotland First National Food and Drink Policy delivering 30% increase in sales of Scottish produce across Scotland, England and Wales
- ✓ LFASS payments in the most fragile areas increased by 19% in 2009 and 38% by 2010
- ✓ 5000 fewer inspections and 11% less time on paperwork delivered by SEARS initiative
- ✓ Single Farm Payment paid out in record time
- ✓ Severe Weather Grants and £200k aid for fallen stock introduced after unprecedented severe weather
- ✓ £5m sheep electronic identification (EID) research pilot project unique in UK and some EU concessions secured
- ✓ Inquiry into Future of Agriculture Support chaired by Brian Pack making Scotland's voice heard in Europe
- ✓ Farming for a Better Climate initiative and four Climate Change Focus Farms launched
- ✓ Agricultural and Environment science budgets protected
- ✓ Support for Farmers Markets with three year £200k package
- ✓ Croft House Grants Scheme enabled 120 crofts to be built or refurbished

“At last the value of Scotland’s farms, their land and their produce have been recognised by a political party; over the last 4 years the SNP has been good for Scottish agriculture and I will feel more confident for the future of our farm if the SNP are re-elected in May 2011.”

Freda Scott-Park, Loch Lomond-side farmer and veterinary surgeon

- ✓ Future of Bull Stud Farm for crofters secured with £1.5m budgeted for renovation
- ✓ New funding to support the food education work of the Royal Highland Education Trust and also for charities such as the RSABI
- ✓ Actively supported the campaign to persuade the UK Government to establishment a supermarket adjudicator
- ✓ Delivered first ever control measures to help protect our £100m potato sector from the disease threat of Dickeya
- ✓ Announced new £2.4m of loan support to help farmers and land managers with pre-planning stage risks for renewable energy projects
- ✓ Invested over £4m per year on advice and support for farm businesses including support for LANTRA
- ✓ First administration to introduce dedicated support for young new entrants to farming as part of the SRDP
- ✓ Delivered £25m for 126 successful applicants under the Food Processing and Marketing Co-operation Scheme

“The next few years will be crucial for Scottish agriculture as we negotiate a new CAP regime. Scotland needs continuity of policy and a strong government which understands rural issues and is prepared to fight our corner. The Scottish Government under the SNP has shown what it can do and Richard Lochhead has led a team which has had the interests of Scottish farming at heart.”

Angus McCall, tenant farmer from Golspie in Sutherland

SNP

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Scotland’s farmers, crofters and rural communities will help determine the outcome of the Scottish General Election on May 5th

I have been immensely proud to serve as Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment for the past four years. It’s been a privilege to work closely with the many dedicated men and women that produce our food and maintain our magnificent landscapes. Many farmers and crofters tell me the SNP Government has been good for agriculture and they want that to continue. I know we have the team, track record and vision for agriculture to continue our partnership with the industry in the crucial years ahead.

This special farming manifesto illustrates the SNP’s commitment to act in the best interests of Scottish agriculture and to ensuring food production remains at the heart of government policy. The SNP is also determined to continue providing Scottish agriculture with a strong voice on issues ranging from CAP negotiations to the threat posed by the rising costs of production such as fuel and fertiliser.

As a nation we need to rise to the challenges of food security, energy security and climate change.

Through sustainable food production and agriculture, your contribution is vital to helping our nation meet these challenges and grasp the exciting opportunities for your businesses. Scottish agriculture is, and must remain, part of the solution to these challenges.

The priorities outlined in this manifesto follow extensive discussions and consultation.

Working together we can make Scotland a better country. We can ensure Scottish agriculture and our economy prospers.

I ask for your support to help re-elect the SNP to ensure agriculture remains a priority for the Scottish Government over the next five years.

Yours for Scotland

Richard Lochhead

Richard Lochhead

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FARMING MANIFESTO 2011

The SNP will ensure that agriculture continues to play a vital role in contributing to Scotland's sustainable economic growth and that food production remains the primary aim of agriculture in Scotland whilst recognising the many other public goods produced including maintaining our landscapes, protecting biodiversity and water quality, underpinning the rural economy and infrastructure.

To support that contribution to sustainable economic growth we will:

1. Ensure our successful national food and drink policy delivers the industry's target to achieve a value of £12bn by 2017, including launching a new "Produced in Scotland from Farm to Plate" initiative to benefit primary producers and processors by encouraging more value added to our raw materials here in Scotland.
2. Champion the introduction of country of origin labelling at EU level, ensuring that it reflects the needs of the devolved nations.
3. Seek to strengthen primary producers' power in the supply chain including putting pressure on the UK Government to legislate for a supermarket adjudicator with the necessary powers.
4. Continue to work with the organic sector to drive forward "Our Organic Future: An Action Plan for organic food and farming in Scotland".



A spring in his step. SNP leader Alex Salmond during his recent campaign visit to a Sutherland farm.

"The SNP deserve another kick at the ball!"

John Cameron, Fife farmer, former NFU President, President of the NSA and Scottish Agriculture's "Elder Statesman"

5. Support integrated land use and, as the first action point under our Land Use Strategy, bring together forestry and farming interests and safeguard food production whilst recognising the need to achieve national forestry targets.
6. Develop an agri-renewables strategy to ensure that the industry is able to benefit from the renewables revolution and simplify the planning process to help to achieve this, supporting rural businesses and communities.
7. Reward excellence by continuing to invest in Scotland's world leading research and development in agricultural and environmental science.
8. Work with the arable sector to achieve the efficient use of inputs using soil and crop analysis and GPS monitored applications to help secure financial and environmental benefits.

The SNP will also use its experience of the last 4 years to ensure that Scotland's voice is heard in Brussels so that EU policy is shaped to meet our needs. We will:

9. Press for formal access to vital EU agriculture negotiations similar to what we have achieved for fisheries negotiations. We will also seek to establish a forum that ensures the UK position on EU policy matters fully reflects that of the devolved administrations.
10. Build on the work done in Scotland to date and secure a new CAP that
 - a) delivers ongoing direct support for active Scottish farmers
 - b) secures LFA payments at least at current levels
 - c) provides flexibility for limited headage payments.
11. Seek to maximise Scotland's share of Pillar 1 and 2 funding with previous UK Governments having delivered the fourth lowest share of Pillar 1 for Scotland and the lowest share of Pillar 2 funding in the whole of Europe.
12. Implement post 2013 a more simplified, streamlined and focussed SRDP which addresses the Scottish challenges and press the EU to allow sufficient flexibility in the regulation to enable this. We will continue to listen to the views of Scotland's farmers and adopt a 'continuous improvement' approach.
13. Press for a proportionate cross compliance penalty regime.
14. Improve the targeting of the rural development budget at growing land based skills.

"As one of Scotland's larger beef producers, I can say that the SNP has done more to understand farming challenges in the past four years than I can ever recall from any other Political Party."

Jim Brown, Lanarkshire based leading beef farmer and well known agricultural columnist

"I am backing the SNP for a second term in Government as they have proved themselves to be a full partner in farming, rural issues and especially Scotland at large."

John Kinnaird, partner in a family farm business in East Lothian and past NFU Scotland President.

The SNP will also build for the future, supporting the role of tenant farmers and new entrants to the industry. We will:

15. Work with the sector to increase the amount of land available for rent and bring in the legislative changes already proposed and review the effectiveness of the amended act within 18 months.
16. Work with Government colleagues to ensure fiscal measures are developed which encourage succession and the letting of land to new entrants. We will also set up a new entrants advisory panel.
17. Demand that the new CAP from 2013 delivers equality of access to new entrants from day one.

Having achieved the first ever devolved animal health budget, the SNP will work in partnership with the industry to tailor it to our own national needs. We will:

18. Build on the success of existing effective animal health measures by working with the industry to create a Scottish Animal Health Strategy which reflects Scotland's needs and provides a strong base for a flourishing livestock sector.
19. Investigate the feasibility of establishing an independent meat inspection body for Scotland.
20. Continue to work in partnership with the whole beef industry to explore how we could maximise the benefits of introducing Cattle EID to reduce bureaucracy and cost in cattle traceability.
21. Continue to press the EU for further concessions to make sheep EID more workable and we will invest in and develop the sheep EID database to ease the burden and cost on farmers.
22. Lobby the EU to ensure that any proposed changes to animal transport rules do not disadvantage Scottish livestock farmers, particularly in remote areas.

"Through Richard Lochhead's drive and commitment, the SNP has served Scottish agriculture extremely well over the past four years, particularly in its support for vulnerable livestock production here on the west coast."

Bert Leitch, former Argyll NFU chairman from Mull.



SNP MEP Alyn Smith getting his hands dirty down on the farm. Alyn has earned a reputation as Scottish agriculture's champion in Europe.

To promote sustainable economic development the SNP will also take further steps to reduce the regulatory burden on farmers. We will:

23. Help farmers to free up time for farming by accelerating the SEARs initiative and our current rate of reducing on-farm inspections and bureaucracy by setting up a joint industry/agency working group involving the FSA, local Authorities and Government bodies to report within six months with proposals.
24. Ensure it is easier for successors to build a home on the farm by working with local councils and planning.
25. Over the course of the next Parliament we will carry out a review of the Agriculture Wages Board.

"The SNP Government's track record on farming speaks for itself and given the major decisions that lie ahead, particularly in Europe, we need them back in office to ensure Scotland's voice is heard."

Jim Walker, former NFU President and MD of Argent Energy



Alex Salmond and Richard Lochhead are joined by farmers at the launch of FarmingforScotland.info a group campaigning for the re-election of the SNP Government. Visit the web site and register your support.