

# What has the EU done for our farmers?

- Our farmers benefit via the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which was introduced in 1962 - prior to the UK joining the EU - and helped to make the original six Member States self-sufficient in agriculture within a decade.
- The goals of the CAP are: to increase agricultural productivity; to ensure a fair standard of living for the agricultural community; to secure food supply; to stabilise markets and to provide consumers with reliable supplies of food at reasonable prices.
- The CAP was most recently reformed in 2014 and this was implemented in 2015. It is split into two pillars: Pillar 1 relates to direct support payments, such as the Single Farm Payment which is currently worth about £0.5bn a year to Scotland's farmers, whilst Pillar 2 supports the Rural Development Programme.
- The reformed CAP ensures that payments only go to active farmers by strengthening the link between payments and farming activity. The 'Scottish clause' allows the Scottish Government to set a minimum activity level that will help tackle the practice of 'slipper farming'.
- Without CAP, few of Scotland's farm businesses would be viable and much of Scotland's land would be unproductive.
- Under the Scotland Rural Development Programme, the CAP provides support for other land managers such as the forestry sector, rural communities and rural businesses, environmental actions and to the food and drink industry.
- CAP reforms now include a requirement for 'Greening' which intends to make the agricultural sector significantly more sustainable, with farmers receiving payments to deliver public goods to their fellow citizens - 30 per cent of direct support to farmers (Pillar 1) will be conditional on 'greening' their businesses.
- The EU opens doors to trade for Scottish agriculture thanks to tariff-free trade across the EU's market of 500 million citizens.
- Whisky, probably Scotland's best-known export, relies on Scottish grain - and, therefore, Scottish farmers.
- Exports in food and drink are hugely important to the Scottish economy and the EU provides Scottish producers with a platform to reach important global markets.

- Scotland's farming industry produces output of £2.3 billion each year and contributes £400 million to our food exports. Agri-food is now the largest manufacturing sector in the UK economy.
- 65,000 people are employed directly in agriculture in Scotland making it the third largest employer in rural Scotland - 8% of the rural workforce.
- A further 250,000 Scottish jobs are estimated to depend upon agriculture - that is 1 in 10 jobs. These jobs are mainly found in the agricultural supply chain or in food and drink processing.