

### Proposals for Public Goods Payments for Farm Animal Welfare – Summary Paper

The Farm Animal Welfare Forum (FAWF) brings together a group of influential organisations concerned with improving farm animal welfare. Our vision is for all farm animals to have a good life and a humane death.

After our departure from the European Union, the long-term success of UK farming will depend on being able to meet rising customer expectations on animal welfare and to compete at the top of the value chain.

In order to help farmers transition to a higher welfare, higher value market where British farming will be able to secure a distinctive market position, FAWF is calling for a fundamental restructuring of the system of subsidising farming. The current system does not incentivise farmers to move to higher welfare practices. Judicious application of government funding to counteract market failures can position the industry to be global market leaders at higher levels of welfare and at the same time reduce unnecessary animal suffering.

The principles of the proposed Defra-supported Animal Welfare Pathway create an ideal opportunity for investment to secure evidence of the UK's position as a world leader in profitable, high welfare farming. FAWF members have therefore outlined a series of detailed, costed proposals to realign public subsidies for farming and to bring about sustainable change within a limited timeframe. In summary, these are:

#### Laying hens

1. Capital funding for cage free farming and reduced stocking densities
2. Outcome payments for ensuring intact beaks and good feather care.

*With the aim of 8.5m laying hens having more space to live a better life and an end to beak trimming for 34m UK laying hens by 2025.*

#### Meat chickens

3. Outcome funding for using higher welfare breeds
4. Capital funding for reduced stocking densities

*With the aim of at least 30% of one billion meat chickens being produced per year from higher welfare breeds and at least 30% of meat chickens being reared at stocking densities of 30kg/m<sup>2</sup> by 2025.*

#### Pigs

5. Capital investment in free farrowing systems
6. Outcome payments for intact tails

*With the aim of an end to confinement for 220,000 pigs kept in farrowing crates at any one time and an end to tail docking for 7m pigs per year by 2025.*

#### Dairy cattle

7. Investment to achieve higher welfare
8. Farmer-led action research and lameness improvement action.

*With the aim of 1.8m dairy cows being reared in higher welfare systems and with greater access to pasture, as well as a significant reduction in lameness in dairy cattle by 2025.*

FAWF broadly estimate that our plan would require a switch of current subsidies to these proposals of around £200m capital investments per year for five years and temporary annual subsidies growing to a peak of a little over £300m pa.

We envisage that the costs of establishing the UK as the world leader in standards would then taper off as new practices became accepted, standards in welfare schemes were raised and limited regulatory changes introduced.