

Assembly Resource

Read through the information about the proposals and comments found below. Share your thoughts about the scheme. Do you think that younger farmers will be more likely to make changes to how they farm?

Why is the government wanting to make changes to farming?

The government is trying to encourage greener farming methods and believes that the next generation of farmers will be the most willing to make these changes.

It has proposed changes which include encouraging older farmers to retire to make room for younger farmers. They are part of a massive overhaul of farm rules and grants, hoping to inspire farmers to make changes towards protecting the environment and becoming more sustainable.

Farmers in Wales are expected to have similar changes to those introduced in England (plans in Scotland and Northern Ireland will vary).



Shropshire farmer, Malcolm Roberts (pictured left), believes that older farmers are able to adapt to changes to help farms become more sustainable.

Many of us work with our families and that includes the next generation coming through, but the older generation is more than capable of dealing with the challenges ahead as we have dealt with the many issues that have stretched or tested us before.

A fresh perspective can make a world of difference. New entrants are the lifeblood of any vibrant industry and farming is no exception.

Nearly 4 in every 10 UK farmers are over the age of 65. The average age farmer is 59.

Environment Secretary, George Eustice