



Towards a Citizens' Agricultural Policy

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Why are we here?

- To (re) start a conversation about the purpose of agriculture in the EU (and Scotland)
- To explore how food and agriculture policy should be governed –
- “people-centred food governance”

Scotland and the EU

Scotland

5m population

1200m² arable land per person

2800 m² pasture per person, plus rough grazing

European Union

500m population

2000m² arable land per person

1200m² pasture per person

220m² orchards, olive groves and gardens per person

Food and farming disconnect

- 40% UK oilseed rape (the stuff we just have to spray with neonics) is exported to Europe for biofuels production
- Up to 2.2mt UK wheat used to make bioethanol
- More than half of Scotland's arable land produces barley for whisky and cattle feed
- In Scotland we eat almost none of the wheat we grow

So what's wrong with the CAP?

- Fighting the last war: 50 year policy inertia
- Drives a system of:
 - commodities not food
 - serving agri-food industry not human nutrition
 - environmental degradation in Europe and globally through soya etc. imports
- Reinforces market forces (bigger farms, longer supply chains) rather than promoting public goods

It could be about..

- Good jobs
- Tackling climate change
- Restoring and enhancing biodiversity
- Transforming animal welfare
- Safeguarding soils and water, in EU and globally
- Public health and nutrition
- Thriving rural communities, urban farming

But who cares?

- Policy-making process captured by vested interests
- Most citizens not interested in agriculture, and 'don't know where their food comes from'
- Supermarkets are the opium of the people: subsidies are the opium of the farmers
- Alternative farming movements, greens, and urban food movements need to connect
- Horses and camels