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Generational Renewal in the new CAP: The Future for Young Farmers

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Across EU Member States

- A **third** of farmers (**4.5 million**) are over the age of **65**
- **7%** of farming population under the age of 35
- Demographic 'crisis' in farming on the horizon...

What are the barriers?

- Access to land
- Access to credit
- Low return on investments during the first years after installation
- Low retiring population
- Loss of County Council Farms
- Consolidation of businesses



£

Farmland in England and
Wales now costs an average
of **£7,440 an acre**
compared with £2,400 an
acre in 2004

Future Of Farming Review

“Nothing is more critical to farming’s success than ensuring that those who work in the industry are ambitious and skilled. This means attracting the best people to work in farming and then supporting them so that they can build their skills and experience and have successful, rewarding careers. We cannot afford not to plan ahead for the future; we need to be concerned with who the future of farming is”

Boyington Court Farm, Kent

- Family farm since 1760
 - MoD Compulsory Purchase 1939
- Successions of Tenure (AHA) looking to FBT
- 180 acres permanent pasture; 50 acres arable
 - HLS Grassland
 - Hay production
- 200 breeding ewes but expanding flock
 - Romney tegs sired by Lleyn rams
 - Kent Halfbreds put to high index Texel tups
- Lambs sold through Ashford market and box scheme
 - Farm Business Plan and 5 year strategy

Funding the Next Generation

Regional financial support for shepherding competitions
Sponsorship of Young Entrants at Sheep Breeders Round Table
NSA Ambassador Group: knowledge support and networking
Programme of Young Shepherds events across the UK



Skills Training and Professional Development



es!
Opportunity
Under 26?
Networking
Generations

inance
Attitude
Resilience
Motivation
Energy
Realism
Support

YOUNG FARMERS



Genetic Gains

Health and Welfare



Sheep
Genetics Unit

SUFTEX, TEXEL, MATERNAL

KNOWLEDGE CREATING
MEASURABLE DIFFERENCE



Marketing strategies

Improved performance



Profit from Sheep

Cost of
production

Sustaining Efficient Production

Price
stability

Security of
Tenure

Output
(kg/ha)

Health and
Disease

Reducing
losses



CEJA proposals for Young Farmers post-2013



- Pillar 1 top up payment in addition to direct payments
- Pillar 2 co-financed budget should comprise 20% from member states and 80% from EU
- Market stabilising tools eg. Insurance system, public intervention, public & private storage

CAP Young Farmers Scheme

- 2 % of funding available for direct payments
 - Criteria for skills and training
 - Clear business plan
- Entitlements from national reserve available to new entrants

"There is real value in having young people and new entrants from outside the industry come in with a fresh set of skills, gained in different industries and seeing how they are implemented and applied in agriculture"

Damian Murphy, Nuffield Scholar, Australia

“The Future is Bright; The Future is Farming”

With thanks to CEJA and
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