

# Agenda Item 12

Yorkshire and The Humber Rural Affairs Forum

3rd August 2010 - Bedern Hall, York

## Plenary Session - Comments Made / Raised

Quad bikes used by uplands farmers.

Cabs on tractors.

Higher use of organic manure.

Message to consumer - not automatically use hormone implants in livestock farming.

A greater understanding and appreciation is required around hill farms.

**Levels of support to uplands farmers vary from country to country** - ie

In Scotland the agriculture is well respected - well researched.

CHAGAS in Ireland - one stop shop for info / funding (single agency).

Regional level in France - department or local agencies across regions of France.

ALBA (livestock and beef agency) in Canada - Canadian farmers have to pay a levy to ALBA - much more hands off than in the EU.

### **Marketing of local produce**

Farmstay in UK should promote more - Across the EU, in particular France and Italy have regional leaflets promoting rural services, B&B, farmers markets, open farms, farms shops etc - available in leaflet and on websites - one stop shop for local / regional food availability. 25% population buy more regional food than 10 years ago, although it is still fragmented in the UK.

### **How do we make sure it's more productive and more sustainable?**

Raising "national pride in regional produce" as in France and Italy.

Farmers market potential could be exploited more - limited season for production= potential higher on costs / lower profit margins to upland farmers.

### **How can the RAF impact / help the economic and social structures?**

Need to look at "solutions" not problems.

- Strengthening the Rural Voice.

- Positive case studies promoting good practice - ie (planning regulations in upland areas are now more flexible).
- Community - needs a stronger voice to foster good practice.

“Review of Governance of National Parks” at the end of the collation report could be an opportunity for the RAF - leadership / local input from a regional perspective.

Influence support to uplands - change perceptions on the way payments are made - 1 suit fits all - not necessarily true.

Farming / agricultural regulations need to be more informed.

***ACTION: Request for good case studies - re planning, social aspects as well as economic and environmental to be forwarded to H. Wright - For example -Demonstration / model farm at Barnard Castle funded through RDPE - visible example of good practise.***

**Comment made with regard to the South Pennine Area:**

Felt lack of understanding of urban planners to upland farming / landscapes.

RAFs should fit in with local communities - meeting venues / times.

“Right to Build” mechanism in rural communities looks at various options other than housing.

***ACTION: Task and Finish Group to be organised (Janet Thornton) around rural housing and planning.***

**Formal Proposal to Forum made:**

Agree in principle to the report and ask members to give specific positive examples of achievement in response to report and “feed” into the “localism agenda” (*note the possible formation of LEPs is still it it’s very early stages etc*).

**Comment made on the proposal:**

**“Localism agenda”** (*the possible formation of LEPs is still it it’s very early stages*) **is still very fluid at the moment - any response proposed should therefore be more informative and supportive instead of area specific. Also consideration to link in with other affiliated groups so as not to duplicate responses possible being made.**

***ACTION: A task specific group to be convened by H. Wright to look at the formulation of a supportive response to the report.***

