

WHAT FUTURE FOR FOOD, FARMING AND FARMWORKERS AFTER BREXIT?



Calderdale Trades Council
Public Meeting

Thursday 1 March

7.00 - 9.00 pm

Maurice Jagger Centre

junction Lister St & Winding Road, Halifax, HX1 1UZ

Tea, coffee and refreshments available

Speakers:

Nicola Verdon Sheffield Hallam University History lecturer whose book *Working the Land - a history of the farmworker in England from 1815 to the Present Day* has just been published. Nicola is a regular guest on radio and TV programmes.

Charlie Clutterbuck, soil scientist and Unite member, whose book *Bittersweet Brexit The Future of Food, Farming, Land and Labour* was listed as one of openDemocracy's 'best political books of 2017'.

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Britain's food system faces huge challenges and food security is becoming a vital issue.

We can easily produce much more food cheaply. At present, EU subsidies of around £3 billion go to landowners for doing nothing. The more land they own the more they get.

Similar amounts could go to people working the land. Some 300,000 additional land and farm based permanent jobs could be created by subsidising each one by £10,000 annually. Local farms could produce food for markets, shops, cafés, restaurants and hotels - the UK's largest economic sector - linking town and country.

This could bring food prices down, provide living wages, supply fresh local food, stimulate our rural economy and reduce Britain's £30 billion annual food trade deficit.

None of this is currently under discussion by any of the major political parties, farming organisations such as the NFU or the national media.

These issues cannot be ignored as Britain faces doubts about our future ability to feed everyone - other countries are just as keen to find food from overseas for their own citizens.

There will be plenty of time to ask questions and debate these issues with the speakers and members of the audience.

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