



PARTY MANIFESTOS ON FOOD - 2024



Introduction

This document pulls together any food-specific promises made by the four main parties in the UK general election - taking place on 4 July 2024:

- **Conservative - page 3**
- **Green - page 5**
- **Labour - page 8**
- **Liberal Democrats - page 9**

Other party manifestos can be read in full here:

- **Alba Party**
- **Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)**
- **Plaid Cymru**
- **Reform**
- **Scottish National Party (SNP)**
- **Sinn Féin**
- **Social Democratic Party**
- **The Workers Party of Britain**

We encourage people to read the manifestos in full and do further research if necessary.

The words on the following pages have been lifted directly from each party's manifesto.

Conservative

To continue backing our farmers, we will:

- Increase the UK-wide farming budget by £1 billion over the Parliament, ensuring it rises by inflation in every year. Farmers will be able to spend every extra penny on grants to boost domestic food production on top of maintaining our approach to Environmental Land Management Schemes. In England, nearly half of all farmers have now signed up to schemes, choosing what works best for their business to invest in food security and sustainable agriculture. We will build on work to date to ensure our schemes work for all farmers, from tenants to the uplands and beyond.
- Continue to ringfence agricultural funding so it is passed directly on to farming and rural communities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland alongside a new UK-wide £20 million Farming Innovation Fund.
- Introduce a legally binding target to enhance our food security. The target will apply UK-wide alongside our UK Food Security Index, the first of its kind, helping us to determine where best to concentrate farming funds. This will also feed into the development of the Land Use Framework.
- Improve public sector procurement to deliver our goal that at least 50% of food expenditure is spent on food produced locally or to higher environmental production standards.
- Reform our planning system to deliver fast track permissions for the building of infrastructure on farms, such as glasshouses, slurry and grain stores, and small-scale reservoirs.
- Use our significant investment in R&D to prioritise cutting-edge technology in areas such as fertiliser and vertical farming.
- Stick to our plan to support the agricultural sector with the labour it needs to maintain our food security, while moving away from the reliance on seasonal migrant labour with a five-year visa tapered scheme, alongside clear investment in automation and promoting agri-food careers and skills.
- Always stand up for farmers when negotiating new trade deals. At the 2023 UK Farm to Fork Summit, an event which we will continue every year, we set out our commitments to ensure UK farming is at the heart of UK trade. We will always look for the right deal for farmers. We will continue to support UK agri-food and drink attachés in our embassies abroad, pioneering new markets and new opportunities for our domestic food and drink industry.

- We will replicate the £100 million UK Seafood Fund to continue to support the sector to thrive. The fund could be used to invest in harbour and fish market upgrades, provide new equipment and technology for fish processing or to support our growing aquaculture sector. We will particularly concentrate funding on small and medium sized businesses and the inshore fishing fleet. Recognising competing pressure on marine space, we will also seek opportunities to back the inshore fleet when making marine planning decisions.
- We will support Scotland's fishing and farming industries. We have extended the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme until 2029, introduced a new UK-wide Food Security Index and will increase the UK-wide farming budget by £1 billion over the next Parliament, ensuring the ringfenced amount provided to the Scottish Government rises by inflation each year. We will use powers in the Scotland Act to require the Scottish Government to provide annual reports on how this funding is being utilised and work with them to put a UK-wide food security target into law.
- We will establish a UK Farming Innovation Fund to deliver grants for innovative agricultural projects directly to farmers in Scotland, promoting economic development in rural areas. Only the Conservatives and Unionists will support Scotland's fishing communities, with a further £100 million for the UK Seafood Fund to support small businesses and inshore fleets and a steadfast commitment to taking back control of our waters, negotiating the best quotas possible and remaining out of the hated Common Fisheries Policy.
- We will also build on our new UK-wide food security index by putting a UK-wide food security target into law, adopt a consistent approach to biosecurity across Great Britain and require the Welsh Government to provide annual reports on how ringfenced agricultural funding from the UK Government is spent.
- We will bring forward our landmark Tobacco and Vapes Bill in our first King's Speech. We will continue to tackle childhood and adult obesity and will legislate to restrict the advertising of products high in fat, salt and sugar. We will gather new evidence on the impact of ultra-processed food to support people to make healthier choices.
- Introduce a legally binding target to enhance our food security. The target will apply UK-wide alongside our UK Food Security Index, the first of its kind, helping us to determine where best to concentrate farming funds. This will also feed into the development of the Land Use Framework.
- Improve public sector procurement to deliver our goal that at least 50% of food expenditure is spent on food produced locally or to higher environmental production standards.

Green Party

A cross-governmental approach to health. There are a range of interventions across this Manifesto that support healthier lives, from improved food labelling, free school meals, active travel and local government investment in sport.

Elected Greens will:

- Almost triple support to farmers over the next 5-year parliament to support the transition to nature-friendly farming.
- Conserve and improve the health of the soil and the wider environment, which in turn would lead to cleaner rivers.
- Offer sustainable employment, decent livelihoods, career opportunities, good working conditions and ongoing training to those involved in growing food.
- Better educate the population about food and health and build links between farms, schools and the wider community.
- Encourage a move to mixed farming along with a reduction in meat and dairy production and implement new horticulture support for fruit and vegetable production.
- Link farm payments to a reduction in the use of pesticides and other agro-chemicals.
- End unfair trade deals

Green MPs will work with farmers and other stakeholders to transform our food and farming system, so we are producing healthy, nutritious food at fair prices for consumers and with fair wages for growers. We will also aim to increase the amount of food grown and traded in the UK, and as locally as possible.

Elected Greens will push for:

- Financial support for farmers to be almost tripled to support their transition to nature-friendly farming.
- Biodiversity and soil health to be conserved and improved, leading to cleaner rivers.
- Farm payments to be linked to reduced use of pesticides and other agro-chemicals.
- All children to have a free school meal each day and free breakfast clubs for children to Year 6.
- Schools to involve children in growing, preparing and cooking food, as part of the core curriculum.
- Policies that ensure that good quality surplus food is not wasted.

With 15% of all households experiencing food insecurity and millions of people struggling to put food on the table.

Elected Greens will push for:

- All children to have a daily free school meal, made from nutritious ingredients and based on local and organic or sustainable produce and free breakfast clubs for children to Year 6.
- Everyone to have sufficient income to make healthy sustainable food choices.
- Schools to involve children in growing, preparing and cooking food, as part of the core curriculum, so that they recognise and understand how to use basic fresh produce.
- A food partnership in every area, and for a Local Food Enterprise Fund to be set up.
- Policies that ensure that good quality surplus food is not wasted. Rebuilding national food security

In a world where supply chains are becoming less secure and commodity prices more volatile because of our changing climate and geo-political risks, greater domestic food security is critical. Rather than relying on imports of fresh fruit (80%) and vegetables (50%) we need to build local fresh food networks and bring horticulture back into our urban fringe. Such schemes are already providing a good alternative to processed food in cities such as Copenhagen. Green MPs would draw on examples of good practice elsewhere and campaign for:

- Increasing domestic food production and expanding local horticulture.
 - Incentivising growing a much greater variety of plant food types to protect sourcing and enhanced nutrition.
 - Rebalancing the power dynamic between big food manufactures and local alternatives such as local food networks, community-supported agriculture and other co-operatives.
 - Tackling the unfairness in the system through revitalising the abandoned National Food Strategy.
 - Strengthening the powers of the Grocery Standards Adjudicator and the Food Standards Agency.
 - Reducing the vulnerability of the small-scale farming suppliers relative to the oligopolies in retail and food manufacture, by regulating for fairness in negotiation and new legally binding codes of practice.
 - Putting farmers, including smaller and family farms, back in the room so they are part of developing new farming policy, including a new Fairer Farming Charter.
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- An immediate end to the emergency authorisation of bee-killing pesticides.
 - An end to factory farming, enforcement of maximum stocking densities, and no routine use of antibiotics in farm animals.
 - A complete ban on close confinement in cages and the deliberate and unnecessary mutilation of farm animals.

We will commit to a National Cancer Control Plan to include:

- Reducing cases through investment in public health measures, such as interventions on food, alcohol and tobacco.

Access the full Green Party manifesto [here](#)

Labour

- We will reduce food prices by removing barriers to businesses trading. We will make housing more affordable, expand access to childcare, and make work pay. We will support families with children by introducing free breakfast clubs in every primary school.
- Labour recognises that food security is national security. That is why we will champion British farming whilst protecting the environment. We will set a target for half of all food purchased across the public sector to be locally produced or certified to higher environmental standards. We will introduce a land-use framework and make environment land management schemes work for farmers and nature. And we will work with farmers and scientists on measures to eradicate Bovine TB, protecting livelihoods, so that we can end the ineffective badger cull.
- Labour is committed to reviewing Universal Credit so that it makes work pay and tackles poverty. We want to end mass dependence on emergency food parcels, which is a moral scar on our society.
- We face a childhood obesity crisis. So, Labour is committed to banning advertising junk food to children along with the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to under-16s.
- Instead, Labour will work to improve the UK's trade and investment relationship with the EU, by tearing down unnecessary barriers to trade. We will seek to negotiate a veterinary agreement to prevent unnecessary border checks and help tackle the cost of food
- We will publish a trade strategy and use every lever available to get UK business the access it needs to international markets. This will promote the highest standards when it comes to food production.

Access the full Labour manifesto [here](#)

Liberal Democrats

- Taking an evidence-led approach to preventing and treating eating disorders, and challenging damaging stigma about weight.
- Protecting children from exposure to junk food by supporting local authorities to restrict outdoor advertising and restricting TV advertising to post-watershed.
- Extending the soft drinks levy to juice-based and milk-based drinks that are high in added sugar.

Liberal Democrats will stand up for British farmers and ensure everyone can get affordable, healthy and nutritious food, produced to high welfare and environmental standards.

We will:

- Introduce a holistic and comprehensive National Food Strategy to ensure food security, tackle rising food prices, end food poverty and improve health and nutrition.
- Accelerate the rollout of the new Environmental Land Management schemes, properly funding it with an extra £1 billion a year to support profitable, sustainable and nature-friendly farming.
- Maintain high health, environmental and animal welfare standards in food production and guarantee that all future trade deals will meet them too, ensuring that Britain's farmers and food manufacturers are not put at an unfair disadvantage.
- Give Britain's farmers the ability to trade with our European neighbours with minimal need for checks by negotiating comprehensive veterinary and plant health agreements.
- Support farmers properly in restoring woodland, peatland and waterways, creating new natural flood protections and managing land to encourage species recovery and carbon storage, while producing food for the table.

In addition, we will:

Give farmers and fishers a fair deal by:

- Introducing a range of other 'public money for public goods' programmes, such as nature recovery, planting trees and protecting wildlife, contingent on farmers and land managers opting into an Environmental Land Management scheme.
- Exploring additional funding options to ensure an intelligent transition to better farming practices.
- Investing in rural and coastal infrastructure and services, including local abattoirs, so that communities are viable and can attract and retain workers, particularly from younger age groups.
- Using public procurement policy to support the consumption of food produced to high standards of environmental and social sustainability, and which is nutritious, healthy and locally and seasonally sourced.
- Renegotiating the Australia and New Zealand trade agreements in line with our objectives for health, environmental and animal welfare standards, withdrawing from them if that cannot be achieved.
- Ensuring that sustainability lies at the heart of fisheries policy, rebuilding depleted fish stocks to achieve their former abundance, including a ban on bottom trawling in marine protected areas. Fishers, scientists and conservationists should all be at the centre of a decentralised and regionalised fisheries management system.

Strengthen the Groceries Code Adjudicator to protect consumers from unfair price rises and support producers.

Ensure our farming and food system is on an environmentally sustainable footing by:

- Ensuring farmers receive proper, independent advice about how to transition to new environmental farm payments schemes, with proper funding for advice services.
- Supporting farmers to reduce the pollution of rivers, streams and lakes.
- Working with and rewarding farmers to reduce the use of costly imported and environmentally harmful artificial fertilisers and pesticides, helping to protect bees and other pollinators.
- Introducing a Research and Innovation Fund to support new and emerging technologies in the sector including the development of alternative proteins in which the UK can become a world leader.

Give consumers confidence in the food they eat by:

- Providing local authorities with greater powers and resources to inspect and monitor food production.
- Ensuring all imported food meets UK standards for health and welfare, and that goods are properly checked.
- Introducing robust and clear-to-understand food labelling.

Ensure Britain continues to be a world leader in animal welfare and standards by:

- Passing a comprehensive new Animal Welfare Bill to ensure the highest standards possible.
- Ensuring that no animal product that would be illegal to produce in the UK can be sold here, including foie gras and food produced with antibiotic growth promoters.
- Developing safe, effective, humane, and evidence-based ways of controlling bovine tuberculosis, including by investing to produce workable vaccines.
- Improving standards of animal health and welfare in agriculture, including a ban on caged hens, and preventing unnecessarily painful practices in farming.
- At least matching the EU's stricter rules on preventative use of antibiotics, and introducing a comprehensive plan to tackle antimicrobial resistance in farm animals.

Access the full Liberal Democrats manifesto [here](#)