



Countryside at the Cross Roads: Agricultural Change

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ACF/Village Hope October 30th 2021

Productive Agriculture + Environmental Care

Landscape-scale: Dorset, Southern England







Horner ancient woodland, Exmoor



Biblical principles for agricultural policy

- Psalm 150:6 = **agricultural mission statement** +
Psalm 8
- Psalm 115:16 - we are **God's tenants**
- Gen.1:26-28 Creation Mandate or Dominion Covenant → **stewardship, to do what God wants**

Biblical outcomes at farm level

- We are accountable as **managers** (Lk.16:2)
- Providing **bread** for the hungry delights God's heart (Isa.58:7) and is central (Mt.6:11)
- *The Farmer's Hymn*: Psalm 65:9-13
- Needs our **repentance** and **cooperation** (Psalm 67), for His Glory (Rev.22:1-2).

Cereals: The answers lie in the soil!



Soil is a **renewable** resource

- Indian commentator:-



“Soil is like a dependable Bank – you get back what you put in ***with interest***”

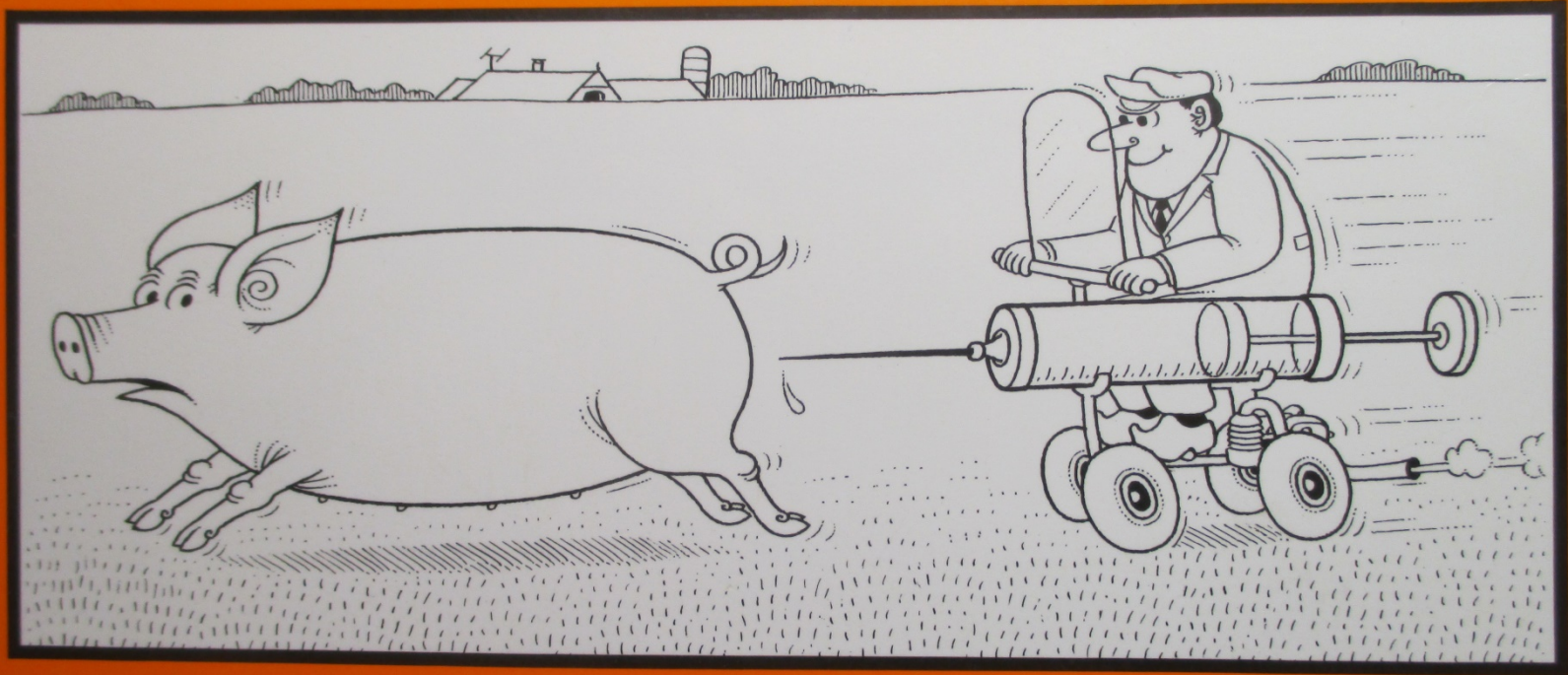
- **Soil Health (Quality)**

Some UK Trends since 1947 Agric. Act

- **Yields quadrupled;**
margins tighter
- **Biodiversity down;**
fewer species
- **Urbanisation;**
farmland loss
- **Farmers fewer;**
stress up



PIGMANIA



EMIL VAN BEEST

Swift (1726) in *Gulliver's Travels*

'whoever could make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together.'

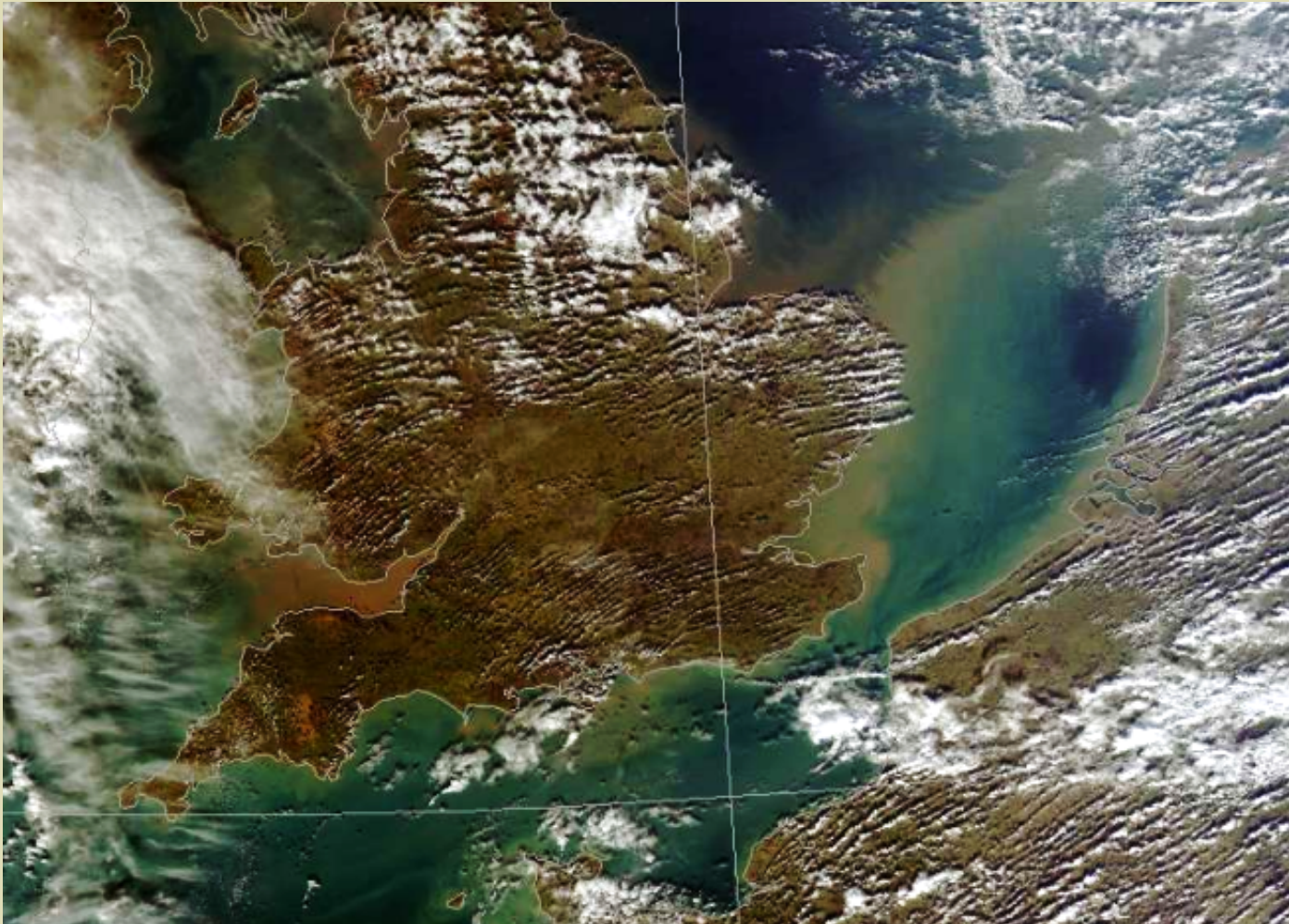
1 person in 8 hungry now...

PUT A TIGER IN YOUR TANK



Aerial view of Soil Erosion from UK

February 16th 2014, University of Dundee



UK Maize



Balance: English Farming adage

*'Live as though you
will die tomorrow;
farm as though you
will farm forever'*

Agro-ecology based on **Soil Biology**
is key to fertility



As in any business,
it is not just the

‘Organic Matter (OM%)
Soil Capital’ *present*
that counts but rather
its **turnover** !

VISION: Ecosystem Security

= overarching objective, via **agro-ecology**



- **Food Security**
- **Water Security**
- **Energy Security**
- **Livelihood Security**
- **Geo-political Security**

UK Agriculture Act 2020

- 1947 Act → post-War **PRODUCTION**
- UK still only **64%** home-grown food
- **2020 Act** based on valuing **Natural Capital**
- → Environmental Land Management Scheme
- **ELMS** → ***“Public Money for Public Goods”***
- 3 parts:-
- **SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES**
- **LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY**
- **LANDSCAPE-SCALE BENEFITS**

Implementation of the UK 2020 Act

- **7-year transition from EU CAP**
- **'Green' consultatively + Defra**
- **Increase productivity sustainably**
- **Increased R&D funding, especially farmer-led**
- **Farmer collaboration urged → landscape scale**
- **Improving soil health, animal welfare, ...**
- **Sustainable production, lower **carbon+** footprint**
- **Risk management & retirees/new entrants (2021-27)**

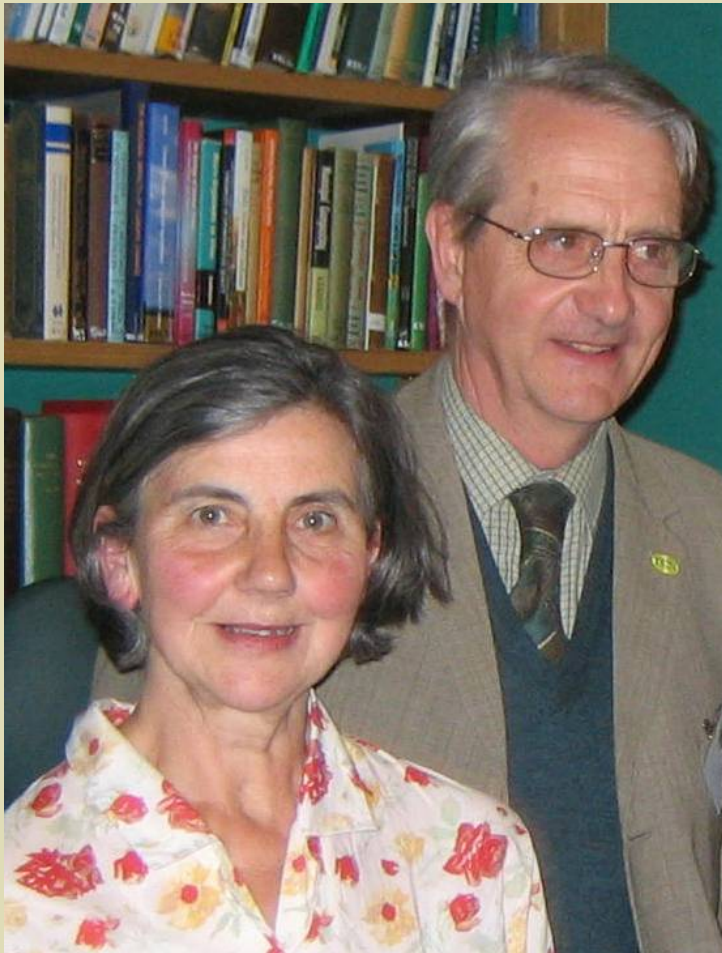
Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) phase out

<u>Annual Direct Payment</u>	<u>% Payment cut in 2021</u>
Up to £30,000	5%
£30,000-50,000	10%
£50,000-150,000	20%
£150,000 or more	25%

FCN 

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

FCN Founder & former **ACF** Coordinator
Christopher Jones MBE & his wife Ita



FCN is Biblically-informed & Christ-motivated for *Whoever* is in need in Farming, of any faith or none

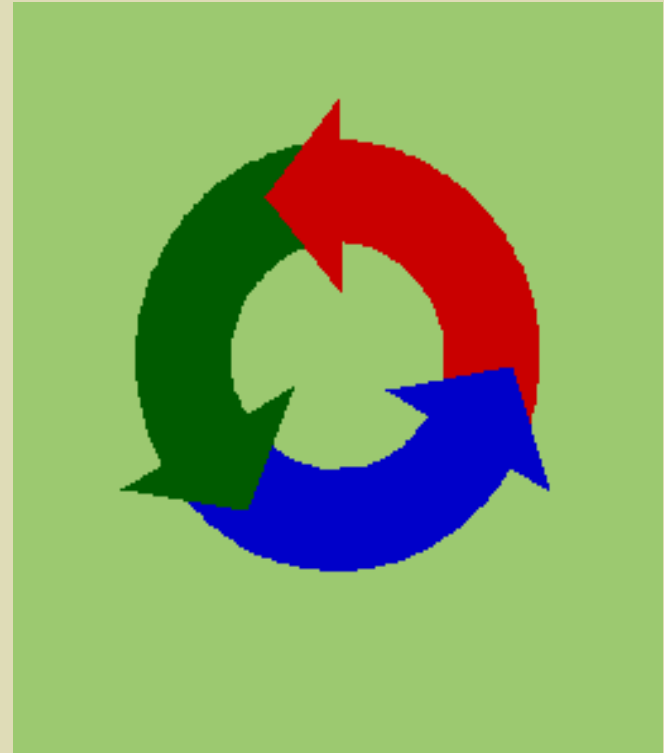
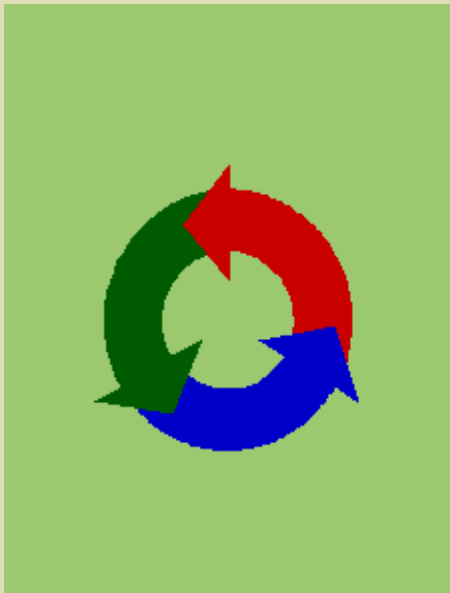


Sustainable Agriculture?

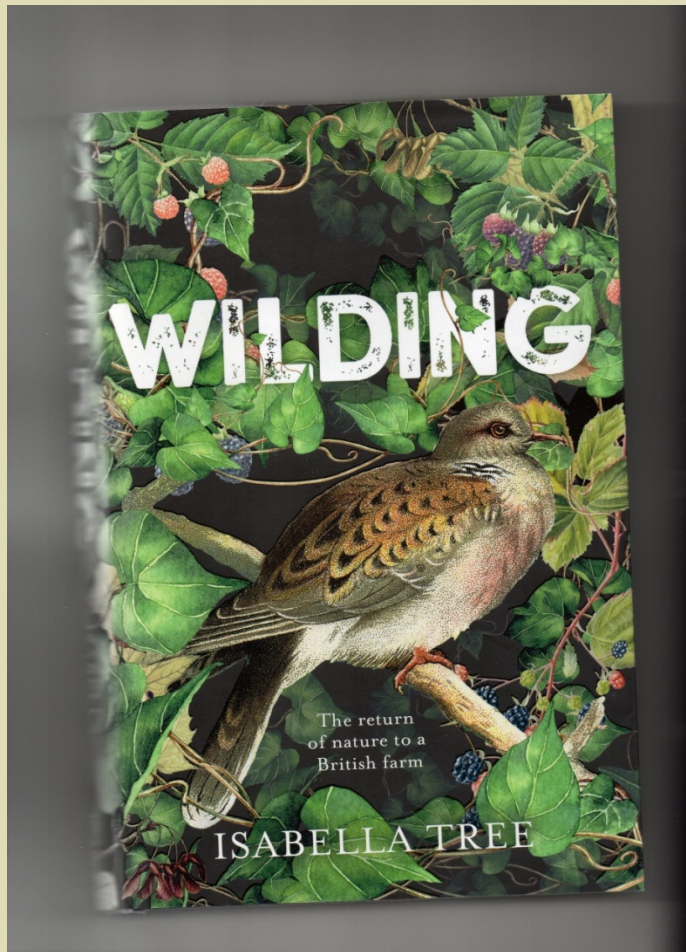
- Maximised output ←--**SA**--→ Rewilded Farms?
- Organic?
- Conservation Agriculture?
- Environmentally-friendly? (*LEAF*)
- Regenerative?
- Climate-SMART? Net Zero Carbon?
- Catchment-sensitive?
- Nature-friendly?
- Circular? - Rotations /Recycling
- **Agroecology** is key to **Manage**

Management for Sustainable Intensification

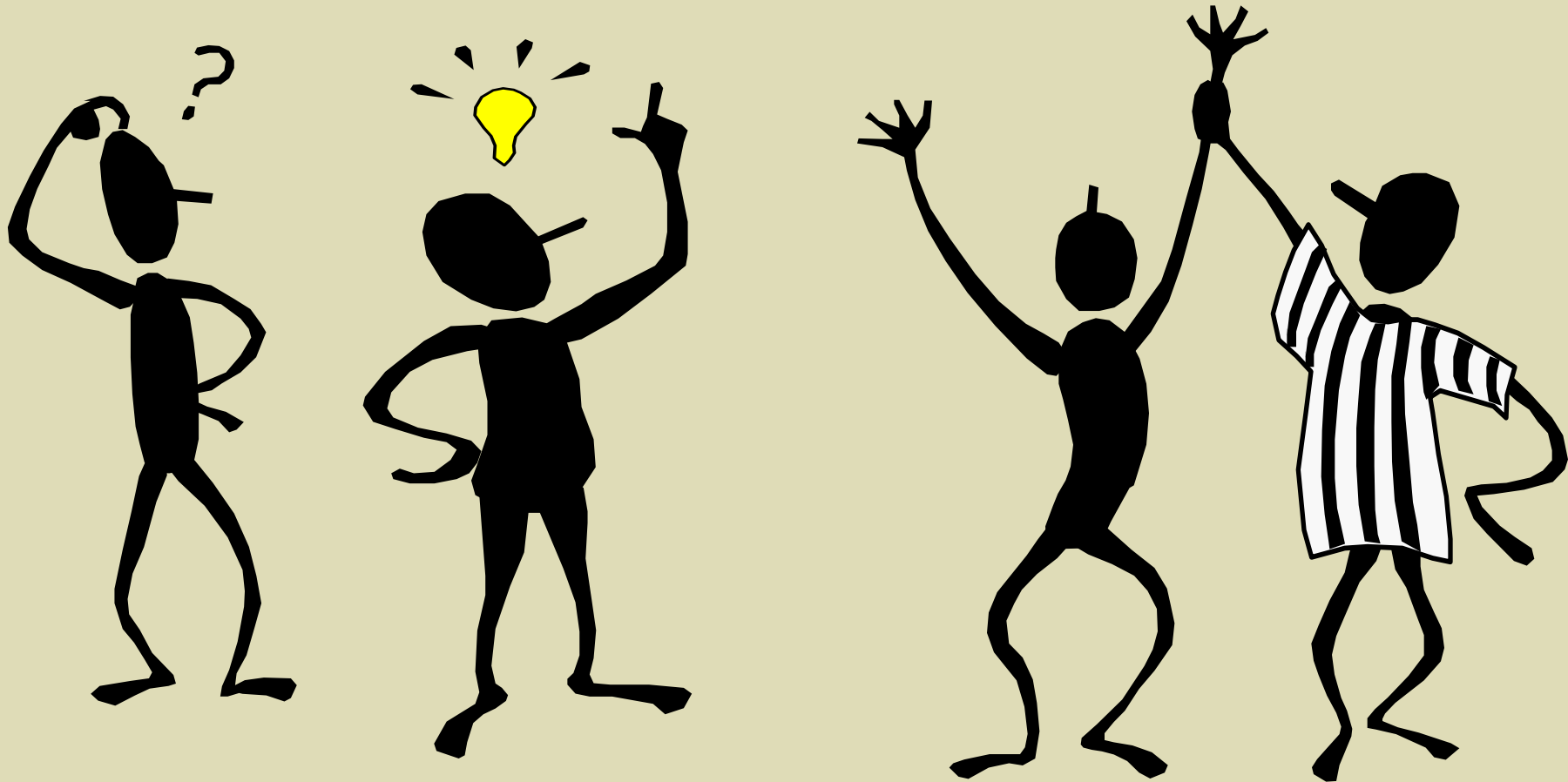
ECOLOGY ECONOMY EMPLOYMENT



Exploring options?



*Why not Join a **FARMS** Group?*
(**F**arm **A**sset **R**esource **M**anagement **S**tudy)



Women's Institute slogan

*'Farming is
Everyone's
business'*

Consumer Choices?



Locavores for Healthy Food & Agriculture



Food Chain links enabling smaller English farms... Veg boxes & Cream



Agriculture is central in future for:-

- **Ecosystem Security**
- **Biodiversity and Landscape conservation**
- **Healthy rural livelihoods and communities**

Opportunities Ahead for Farming

Attitudes → Appreciation → Actions

- **Celebrate now**
- **Change for better**
- **Conserve best**
- **Collaborate with God (1 Cor.3:9)**
- **Psa.150:6**

CONCLUSION:

* Agricultural productivity and **responsible environmental management** are mandated by the **Bible**

* *ELMS* is farming's **opportunity** to help shape policies!

Keep **Wonder**... Psalm 8



Seek **Wisdom** – Proverbs 3:5,6



Please don't



The End

