

Anthony Mangnall M.P.



House of Commons

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I am writing to you again, as there have been a number of announcements relating to the Agriculture Bill which I believe are of significant importance to members of the agricultural and rural community.

Last week, the House of Commons considered amendments from the House of Lords. These amendments were rejected, but not before the Government introduced a significant alteration. We now have a Bill that I believe protects farmers from competing against lower welfare standards, as well as providing the opportunity to improve 'at-gate prices', environmentalism and productivity, as well as open the UK up to new export markets.

First, the Trade and Agriculture Commission has now been put on a permanent statutory footing, meaning it will be required to report to Parliament on every one of our future trade deals and ensuring they uphold animal and agricultural welfare standards. Parliament will then be able to debate and vote on these reports, 21 days before any deal is ratified.

This will ensure Parliament will have its full say on each, and every trade deal. The Government would be highly unlikely to be able to pass a trade bill should it lower welfare standards due to the Commission's reports. This Commission has not only been welcomed by the National Farmers Union but colleagues across the House and was something that many MPs, including myself, worked publicly and privately to secure.

Secondly, the need for a comprehensive labelling system. DEFRA Minister, Victoria Prentis MP, has already committed to undertaking a consultation. I believe we now need to shape what our future labelling system might entail. Previously, I have suggested something that covers welfare standards, chemicals used, and miles travelled would be sufficient. This consultation will be open to stakeholders in the agricultural sector and I hope you will consider submitting your views on the matter when the consultation opens.

Lastly, over the course of this year we have seen how demand for our butchers, fishmongers and green grocers have grown. More and more people are taking greater consideration of where they buy their food. This should be welcomed. The next step is to encourage a national 'buy local campaign' to enable us to support those producers, like yourself, who are on our doorstep. Not only will this see greater levels of money kept within the local economy, but I hope it will encourage a new generation to work in this noble and essential sector.

I remain committed to the farmers of South Devon and I hope, like me, you will welcome these developments. I remain fully contactable should you need any assistance.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony Mangnall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Anthony Mangnall MP
Totnes and South Devon Constituency