

Welsh Parliament / Senedd Election 2021

A snapshot of key commitments from the main parties' manifestos affecting animal health and welfare, *and other relevant issues*

Green text highlights where BVA manifesto pledges are mirrored (in full or part) – see [BVA Welsh Manifesto \(Welsh\)](#)

Plaid Cymru [Full manifesto](#)

Environment, animal welfare and agriculture

Nature and the Environment

- Introduce a Nature Act to set a statutory duty and targets to restore biodiversity in both terrestrial and marine environments (p36)

Farming, Rural Wales and Tourism

- Introduce a Welsh Agriculture Bill that will place a greater emphasis on public goods such as decarbonisation, sustainable food production, and enhanced biodiversity (p62)
- Introduce a baseline support payment to offer the industry greater economic stability. This support will be used to encourage the highest standards of public health and animal health and welfare, and to facilitate a greater shift towards more low carbon and high nature value farming (p62)
- Utilise wider investment to support the transition to more sustainable and diverse forms of land use, including organic farming, regenerative agriculture, agroforestry and mixed farming (p62)
- Commit to the full use of the EU 2014-20 Rural Development Programme funding by 2023; also retain a commitment to our share of funding towards what would have been the successor 2021-27 Rural Development Programme (p62)
- Commission an independent review of the effectiveness and value for money of RDP projects thus far which will inform our proposals for future rural support (p62)

Empowering Rural Communities

- Commit to using the most effective measures to control and eradicate TB, utilising lessons from elsewhere in the UK and beyond. We will also support work to tackle other animal health challenges such as Bovine Viral Diarrhoea and Sheep Scab (p62)
- Work closely with Welsh Police and Crime Commissioners and the UK Government to tackle rural crime, particularly to seek the devolution of powers to take greater action on attacks by dogs on farm livestock (p62)
- Invest in rural science and technology to research, develop and promote more sustainable methods of meeting needs. We will particularly focus on innovation relating to climate change adaptation, resource use efficiency, waste reduction, livestock and crop improvement and the control of pests and diseases (p62)
- Work with farmers to reduce the use and impacts of fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides, antibiotics and the extent of nitrate run-off (p64)
- Aim to considerably increase the level of organic farming in Wales and significantly grow the horticulture sector (p64)
- Commit to working with rural mental health charities, farming unions, Wales YFC and others to ensure that support and advice is available and accessible to those who need it (p64)

- Work with the industry, Natural Resources Wales and other stakeholders to repeal Labour’s NVZs Nitrate Vulnerable Zones and introduce better targeted regulations within our first six months in Government. This will be complemented by a robust voluntary approach elsewhere, based on schemes that have clearly demonstrated success in reducing levels of nitrates (p64)

Fisheries, Seafood and Aquaculture

- Commit to introducing a Wales Fisheries Bill. We will work with industry stakeholders to develop fisheries and aquaculture policy, backed by a strategy that has sustainability, investment and industry engagement at its core (p64)

Animal Welfare

- Work with stakeholders to build upon the high level of animal welfare standards already in place in Wales (p64)
- **Improve the enforcement and delivery of licensing requirements relating to dog breeding establishments in Wales, building on the recent review of regulations by the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group (p64)**
- Improve horse welfare by taking action on equine tethering (p64)
- Review pet vending, focusing especially on the regulation of animals sold online (p64)
- Issue model tenancy proposals on pets in social housing and work to reduce barriers between homeless pet owners and homeless shelters (p64)
- Support the development of statutory codes of practices for the keeping of exotic pets in Wales (p64)
- **Ban the keeping of primates as pets (p64)**
- End the giving of pets as prizes.

A Welsh Food System

- Develop a food system strategy for Wales by establishing a cross sector Food System Commission, to be tasked with developing a roadmap towards a food System that’s fit for future generations (p65)
- Increase Welsh processing capacity across the board. Reversing the loss of local processing capacity will be a positive move for the communities who live and work in rural areas, for animal welfare, for tackling climate change and for the rural economy (p65)
- All public procurement of food should prioritise the purchase of Welsh-produced food (p65)
- Promote ‘Made in Wales’ on Welsh food products, working with producers to create high value products to appeal to a wider market (p65)
- Support the development of urban farms in creating ultra-local food systems in our cities (p65)

Welsh Conservatives

[Full manifesto](#)

Environment, animal welfare and agriculture

Building back greener

- Tackle climate change by ensuring Wales meets our net-zero carbon emissions target by 2050 (p29)

Promote a green recovery

- Create the Independent Office for Environmental Protection and Climate Change for Wales, to hold the Welsh Government and other public bodies to account in tackling climate change and protecting our environment (p30)
- Increase penalties and improve enforcement for fly-tipping, dog fouling, graffiti and littering to ensure that those responsible pay for their actions (p30)
- Ban single use plastics for nonmedical use such as plastic wet wipes, straws, stirrers, disposable cups and cotton buds to reduce harm to wildlife and blocked sewers and drains (p30)

Enhance animal welfare and protect wildlife

- Establish an animal offender register in Wales (p30)
- **Ban the keeping of primates as pets (p31)**
- **Review pet breeding standards and registration requirements to ensure adequate protection for animals** and bring forward the ban on the third party sale of cats and dogs (p31)
- **Promote honest labelling to enhance consumer choice, including distinguishing between stunned and non-stunned slaughter methods and introduce CCTV in abattoirs (p31)**
- Establish a £20 million Wales Wildlife Fund to support conservation efforts across Wales (p31)

Back farmers

- **Introduce an Agricultural Bill for Wales setting out how our farmers and land managers will be supported with public money for public goods**, whilst helping the sector to invest in new technology, become more productive and receive a fairer price for their produce (p31)
- Use our exit from the EU to encourage the public sector in Wales to 'Buy Welsh' to support our farmers and reduce environmental costs (p31)
- Work with the sector to invest in meat freezing facilities to improve the shelf life of key exports, such as Welsh lamb, to sell Wales to the world (p31)
- Guarantee financial support for Welsh farmers at a level of no less than that previously provided by the EU for every year of the next Welsh Parliament and work with farmers to create a new support scheme for Wales (p31)
- Reverse the Wales-wide Nitrate Vulnerable Zone and work with farmers on the voluntary code already agreed to reduce pollution (p31)
- Create comeback support for the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show to ensure it remains Europe's second largest celebration of rural life (p31)

Revive the Welsh fishing industry

- Increase funding for fisheries across Wales throughout the next Welsh Parliament and support the regeneration of our coastal communities (p31)
- Work with stakeholders to deliver a new fishing strategy for Wales which would be based on the principle of 'maximum sustainable yield' (p31)
- Place a legal duty on the Welsh Government to maintain fish sustainability for every stock (p31)

Work with the UK Government

- Maximise the benefits for Welsh producers of new trade deals struck with countries around the world (p31)

Welsh Labour

[Full manifesto](#)

Environment, animal welfare and agriculture

A Green Energy and Environment

- Create a new system of farm support that will maximise the protective power of nature through farming, requiring food production in Wales takes place within environmental limits. Farmers will only receive public subsidy for producing food that delivers additional environmental outcomes. We will develop a Wales Community Food Strategy to encourage the supply of locally sourced food in Wales (ch 5)
- **Develop a national model for regulation of animal welfare, introducing registration for animal welfare establishments, commercial breeders for pets** or for shooting, and animal exhibits (ch 5)
- Improve the qualifications for animal welfare inspectors to raise their professional status (ch 5)
- **Require CCTV in all slaughterhouses (ch 5)**
- Ban the use of snares (ch 5)
- Restrict the use of cages for farmed animals (ch 5)
- Not allow the culling of badgers to control the spread of TB in cattle (ch 5)

Welsh Liberal Democrats

[Full manifesto](#)

Environment, animal welfare and agriculture

Farming and agriculture

- Ensure that the Basic Payments Scheme is replaced by a system based on public money for public goods, including: sustainable land management for biodiversity gain and for improvements in water quality and pollution levels (p30)
- Ensure that transition from the Basic Payments Scheme to the Sustainable Farming Scheme leaves no farmer without financial support during the process (p30)
- Increase resources for Natural Resource Wales to enable investigation and prosecution of incidents of pollution, supporting targeted interventions based on the polluter pays principle (p30)
- Work with the UK Government to ensure that it only enters into trade agreements under which imported goods meet the high environmental, food quality and animal welfare standards expected of home-produced food (p30) *[Aligns with BVA policy]*

Nature and Biodiversity

- Declare a Nature and Biodiversity crisis, setting out the cross-government and societal actions needed to leave a thriving planet for future generations (p31)
- Agree Nature and Marine Recovery Plans, to clean up our environment and our waters, protect species, and ensure that our environment can thrive (p31)

Animal welfare

- Ensure that animal welfare standards are as least as good if not better than those we enjoyed as members of the European Union (p33) *[Aligns with BVA policy]*
- Pass a Wildlife Act for Wales, creating clarity and consistency on the policy and legislation that protects wildlife (p33)
- Work with the sector to improve the welfare of farm animals, including live exports, and wider issues such as public sector food procurement and labelling (p33)
- Regulate all animal sales to protect the welfare of any pet traded, bought or sold in Wales (p33)
- Issue guidance to local authorities ensuring they do not use their powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in a way that compromises animal welfare (p33)
- Work with Police and Crime Commissioners to take action against growing instances of dog thefts (p33)

Wales Green Party

[Full manifesto](#)

Environment, animal welfare and agriculture

- Appoint a new Welsh Government Commissioner for Biodiversity and Animal Protection (BAP) to reverse the decline of biodiversity in Wales. The Commissioner will develop a task force and set of plans for the recovery of Welsh ecologies, landscapes, animals and plant life (p19)
- Propose that the BAP Commissioner will also strengthen animal welfare laws to ensure that both farmed and companion animals enjoy high welfare standards from the beginning to the end of their lives (p19)
- Help farmers to reduce the artificial-input-based agriculture that accounts for a large proportion of the pollution of watercourses with nitrates, phosphates and sediments from fertilisers, all of which pose threats to biodiversity (p19)
- Support sustainable fisheries in the transition to operation within biologically safe limits, and the development of local processing with communities in charge of the supply chain (p19)

- Regulate pollution of all kinds – industrial, agricultural and consumer-based pollution will be subject to stricter regulation with an increase in monitoring capacity. Regulation will be rapidly phased in with support available to clean and improve industries (p19)
- Bring in a Green New Deal for food and farming, designed by the farming communities and people of Wales, to deliver a 10-year transition to agroecological food production and nature restoration, helping farmers work with nature (p20)
- Bring an Agriculture Bill to the Senedd that has been developed with farmers, communities and food movements in Wales. This bill would set out a roadmap for MORE food and farming (p20)
- Hold a Citizens’ Assembly on food and farming in Wales, to consult on our proposals and develop the policy so that it truly reflects what people across Wales want and need (p20)
- **Strengthening animal standards in abattoirs and ensuring effective monitoring systems are in place (p20)**
- Maintain Wales GM Free status including imported maize. Bio-security will be increased to ensure control of the import of animal materials preventing new diseases emerging which threaten both indigenous species and human health (p20)

UKIP Wales Full manifesto

Environment, animal welfare and agriculture

Agriculture

- Overturn Welsh Labour’s decision to designate all of Wales as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) and implement a localised, evidenced-based approach to tackle nitrate pollution in collaboration with farmers and stakeholders (p23)
- **Launch a new and balanced Bovine TB Eradication Programme. UKIP’s Bovine TB eradication programme will promote effective biosecurity measures, review the stringent controls on cattle movements and directly address the transmission of the disease from wildlife to cattle by tackling the disease in the wildlife population (p23)**
- Uphold Basic Farm Payments for a minimum of five years. Subsidies must focus on re- equipping farmers and improve land management. Upland farms will continue to receive financial support for economic, social and cultural reasons to support the rural economy (p23)
- Strive towards greater self- sufficiency. On average, the UK is only 65% self-sufficient in temperate agricultural products. UKIP will implement a “Buy Welsh Campaign”, targeted at consumers to purchase locally sourced and reared produce (p23)
- Abandon re-wilding schemes and prevent farmland from reverting to scrub (p23)

Fishing

- Establish Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) and No Take Zones, which are for vital hatcheries and fish stocks (p23)

Animal Welfare

- Ban non-stun slaughter in all slaughterhouses (p23)
- Increase the maximum jail sentences for animal cruelty (p23)
- **Install CCTV in every slaughterhouse in Wales (p23)**
- Ensure the UK Government fully implements UKIP’s policy to ban all live animal exports(p23)
- **Ensure all meat products are accurately labelled to include the method of rearing and slaughter (p23)**