FOOD + FARMING: SECURITY & RESILIENCE

Should we be concerned?



British Farmers are warning the public about an imminent food emergency

UK Government is paying farmers NOT to grow food: WHY?

35 to 40 % national food self-sufficient

2nd worst harvest on record

30 % of farms operating at a loss

Fragile just in time supply chains

Production to consumption of native crops is now down to 73%. This was at 95% in 1985. Native crop production has therefore been falling at an average rate of 5.5%/decade for the last 4 decades. Source DEFRA UK Food Security Index 2024

Return on investment in the farming sector is on average 0.5%. Output prices are so low and input costs so high that very little money is being made. Every £1 million pounds worth of asset will only generate an annual profit of £5k. Source DEFRA Balance Sheet Analysis 2022/2023 Nov 2nd 2024.

The percentage of agricultural holdings NOT making a profit has tripled in 3 years. In 2022 10% made a loss, in 2023 it increased to 17% and in 2024 it was reported at 30%. Source DEFRA Agriculture in the UK 2022 report, DEFRA Farm Business Income by Type of Farm in England 2022/2023 Nov 14th 2024.

Government policy & legislation under the influence of global corporations & interests is making traditional farming unviable.

Why, in 2024, were farmers protesting across 47 countries?

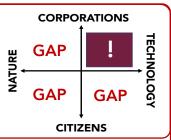
A SERIOUS GAP IN STATE THINKING The UK Government Resilience Framework has next to no focus on either food or the role of the public in civil food resilience. The omission or downplaying of risks does NOT match what specialists or the food industry think is possible

UK food resilience gap report, January 2025 for the National Preparedness Commission

Three regional Councils found NOT FIT for EMERGENCY PLANNING

SERIOUS ORGANISATION FAILURES IDENTIFIED:

Advisory + Planning + Audit, Scrutiny & Governance SCENARIO PLANNING ADVISED



Seven Concerned Citizens www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk

Addressing problems from Central Government policies together with the failures & gaps of regional councils concerning EMERGENCY PLANNING

Town & Parish Councils must declare a Food Security Crisis and Local Authorities must create Food Systems Resilience Committees as an 'Emergency' measure to urgently improve food security.

A template is provided by www.farmersmovementcornwall.co.uk



CONCERNED CITIZENS ADVISORY ASSEMBLY

INITIATING A SCENARIO PLANNING approach for the Southwest region.

Over 100 people gathered near Exeter in January 2025 to explore food security & resilience. Seven highly informed citizens spoke at the event. A paper capturing the event has been produced together with podcasts by some speakers. Reference links and related videos can be found on:

www.ccadvisoryassembly.co.uk

7 ADVISORY CONSIDERATIONS & INSIGHTS

Food security & resilience is at a crisis and should outrank any other political agenda or emergency.

- CORPORATIONS
 TECHNOLOGY
 CITIZENS
- > A TARGET of 85% food self sufficiency by 2030
- TO ACHIEVE THIS: a 'partnership of support' is necessary between the people and the farmers. This includes closer connections, buying direct from markets and farm shops, community growing projects, allotments, home growing and land sharing.
- > Regenerative & no dig farming are promoted as best practice.
- Independent public education about the health effects from production intensive farming, chemicals, GMO's and artificial foods.
- Re-direction of public sector emergency powers, funding & resources
- > FULL SCENARIO PLANNING FOR THE REGION

COMMUNITY CALL TO ACTION

Conversations at family, community, parish and regional levels. This is an imminent emergency that will impact everybody.