

Subject: Please pledge to support agroecological farmers, growers, and foresters in Wales

Dear **Senedd Candidate,**

My name is Teleri Hughes and I am a grower at Fferm Luscious Llyisiau near Llanidlois. I am writing to ask you to pledge your support for Wales' small family and community farms; create more living, working sustainable woodlands; support new entrants into farming and forestry, and help Wales feed itself with a transition to agroecological farming and a food system fit for future generations.

Small scale agroecological farming and sustainable forestry bring numerous environmental, social and economic benefits. **At Luscious Llyisiau we farm with nature and don't use any pesticides. Our farm is teeming with wildlife. We sell locally through a box scheme and have regular volunteer days, which bring the community together.**

Yet to date, except for a few valuable schemes, overall agricultural policy, subsidies, regulations and the planning regime have not favoured our work. If you are elected will you help change this?

As a grower on a diverse and productive 4-acre market garden, I particularly ask you to pledge to support small farms. [Research](#) by Coventry University and the Landworkers' Alliance found that small diverse farms often deliver more environmental, social and economic benefits per unit area compared to larger farms. Despite these many benefits, small farms have historically been discriminated against. With the Basic Payment Scheme based on land size and only available to those above 5 ha, most have had little or, like us, no support. The 5-hectare limit for permitted development for farm infrastructure means many struggle with planning just to get set up. The next Senedd will decide the future of Welsh farming and we have a chance to change this. **Will you commit to removing the 5-hectare limit and supporting small farms?**

I also ask you to raise the bar on environmental standards. Brexit must not be an excuse to abandon much needed environmental regulation. Rather, there must be an inexorable drive towards farming, forestry and land management that tackles the climate and ecological emergencies, and protects our soils. The next Senedd should take the opportunity to develop a rigorous sustainability criterion based on agroecology and progressively raise the bar. **Will you commit to raising the bar on environmental standards?**

The next Senedd term provides important opportunities to transition the food and land-use system in Wales to one that produces good food, timber and fibre, while protecting and enhancing biodiversity and helping address the climate crisis.

Please respond to my letter to confirm your commitment to these matters.

I would also like to **discuss these topics** in more detail after the elections and I would like to invite you to **Luscious Llyisiau** to see our work first-hand.

Yours sincerely,

Teleri Hughes

