

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210524-farming.html>

The government in the United Kingdom wants to change its farming industry. It wants younger people to enter the profession. It has a new plan to pay older farmers to retire. Some older farmers could get up to \$140,000 in cash if they retire. One of the reasons the government wants older farmers to retire is to protect the environment. Older farmers use more traditional methods to farm their land. These methods are not as environmentally friendly as they should be. The UK's farming minister believes younger farmers are more open to "green" methods. He said: "A fresh perspective can make a world of difference." He added that older farmers were "standing in the way of change".

The average age of farmers in the UK is 59. Around 40 per cent of them are above the age of 65. The farming minister said: "We need to address the twin challenges of helping new [farmers] fulfill their dream of gaining access to land, while also helping an older generation to retire with dignity." The scheme is popular with many veteran farmers. A farmers' association said 75 per cent of its farmers were interested in the retirement plan. The UK's National Farmers' Union welcomed the government's plan. It said: "We want to see a fair transition which allows farmers who are considering leaving the industry to have sufficient time and information to make those life-changing decisions."

Sources: <https://www.thepigsite.com/news/2021/05/uk-government-publishes-consultation-on-paying-older-farmers-to-retire>
<https://www.thecattlesite.com/news/56944/uk-farming-groups-respond-to-lump-sum-exit-payment-consultation/>
<https://www.ft.com/content/4d4bbf25-97c4-498d-9772-80c0b165f52e>

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. industry | a. A paid occupation, especially one that involves prolonged training and a formal qualification. |
| 2. profession | b. Keep safe from harm or injury. |
| 3. cash | c. A way of looking at something; a viewpoint. |
| 4. protect | d. Money (coins or cash). |
| 5. traditional | e. A particular way of doing something. |
| 6. method | f. Business activity concerned with growing or making things. |
| 7. perspective | g. Something that has been done for a long time. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 8. average | h. Do something about a problem. |
| 9. address | i. To get something done that you wanted to do. |
| 10. fulfill | j. Enough. |
| 11. generation | k. The state or quality of being worthy of honor or respect. |
| 12. dignity | l. All of the people born and living at about the same time. |
| 13. transition | m. A number that shows the most normal or usual of something. |
| 14. sufficient | n. The process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210524-farming.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The farming industry in the UK wants to change the government. **T / F**
2. All UK farmers will get \$140,000 if they retire. **T / F**
3. The UK government said older farmers are less environmentally friendly. **T / F**
4. The government said older farmers are standing in the way of change. **T / F**
5. The average age of a farmer in the UK is 40. **T / F**
6. The UK wants to address two issues related to farming. **T / F**
7. The government's plan is popular with many older farmers. **T / F**
8. A farmers' union said farmers don't need time to make decisions. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. change | a. enough |
| 2. profession | b. thinks |
| 3. methods | c. deal with |
| 4. believes | d. practices |
| 5. perspective | e. long-serving |
| 6. address | f. viewpoint |
| 7. fulfill | g. reshape |
| 8. veteran | h. greeted |
| 9. welcomed | i. business |
| 10. sufficient | j. achieve |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. It wants younger people to enter | a. farmers in the UK is 59 |
| 2. protect the | b. changing decisions |
| 3. These methods are not as environmentally | c. world of difference |
| 4. A fresh perspective can make a | d. environment |
| 5. farmers were standing in the way | e. with dignity |
| 6. The average age of | f. the profession |
| 7. We need to address the twin | g. transition |
| 8. helping an older generation to retire | h. of change |
| 9. We want to see a fair | i. challenges |
| 10. make those life- | j. friendly |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2105/210524-farming.html>

1. Who does the UK government want to enter the farming profession?
2. What is one reason the UK government wants older farmers to retire?
3. What methods does the article say older farmers use?
4. What does the article say younger farmers are more open to?
5. What did a farming minister say older farmers are standing in the way of?
6. What is the average age of a UK farmer?
7. How many challenges did the farming minister he wants to address?
8. How many farmers in an association were interested in the plan?
9. Who does the article say welcomed the government's plan?
10. What kind of decisions to older farmers need time to make?

FARMING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'farm'?
3. What do you think of farming?
4. What is the job of a farmer like?
5. Would you be a good farmer?
6. How much do farmers protect the environment?
7. Should we all grow our own food?
8. What do you think of farms?
9. How difficult or dangerous is farming?
10. At what age would you like to retire?

Older UK farmers to get \$140,000 for retiring – 24th May, 2021
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FARMING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'farmer'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How important is farming?
15. What kind of farming would you like to do?
16. What more can farmers do to protect the environment?
17. Is a job on a farm or in an office best?
18. What was the last life-changing decision you made?
19. What advice do you have for farmers?
20. What questions would you like to ask a farmer?