

**REGENERATIVE FARMING IRELAND**  
*offering a progressive vision of farming and food*

# ***FARM 2 FORK 2030***

*a truly green farming, food and rural vision of Ireland*

**FARM 2 FORK 2030** is a new vision for Ireland's farming, food and rural sectors. It is written by a team from Regenerative Farming Ireland. Unfunded, it gives a totally independent viewpoint.

The vision was created after first identifying and accepting the critical issues facing agriculture, food, rural communities and the environment in Ireland. The issues are numerous and include:

**Climate change and soils** - climate change itself, GHG emissions reduction and regulation, greater sequestration of carbon into soils, hedgerows and woodlands and more effectively cycling carbon.

**Biodiversity restoration** - broad-spectrum biodiversity loss on farms and more widely, including losses critical-to-food-security like pollinators and dung beetles and soil-food-web micro-fauna.

**Minimizing pollution** - be it into fresh and marine waters, the soil or the atmosphere. A growing list includes nitrates and phosphates, ammonia and nitrous oxide, and plastic from the food-chain.

**Food producing tools** - restoring soil health, building soil fertility without artificial fertilizers, using fewer fossil-fuel-based artificial and mined fertilizers, agro-chemical effectiveness decline in the face of natural resistances, and tougher regulation over routine agro-chemical and fertilizer use.

**Market-driven demands** - greater demand for 'issues-linked' multi-characteristic products with a strong, genuine back story and the transparency and traceability to match. Improve supply-chain functionality, ethics and communications. Consumer demands for enhanced animal welfare.

**Rural regeneration** - maintaining and rejuvenating family farming and encouraging and enabling generational renewal in both the farming and rural communities. The need to build resilient rural economies around farming and horticulture, local food processing and food-linked tourism.

The family farm must be the central pillar of Ireland's rural communities. They must thrive. They are also the entities that must deliver the change that resolves the many issues highlighted above. Hence, throughout **FARM 2 FORK 2030** the focus is upon supporting farming through what must be a decade of transition. At the end of which they must be economically resilient and self-reliant.

## ***FARM 2 FORK 2030 - taking rural Ireland into a decade of change and transition***

The issues are such that change is inevitable, be it in farm systems, products or route to markets. It is likely that addressing the complexity of issues will especially mean major changes in the way we farm. Thus, the Vision proposes redirecting CAP and government funds to support transition.

In some cases, delivering upon issues-linked objectives will require public funds for public goods. A principle of ***FARM 2 FORK 2030*** is, however, that farming and rural resilience must come from the market and not the taxpayer. The Vision highlights the many ways that this may be achieved.

Major change needs investment. Likewise, delivering public services. Thus, the Vision proposes that support is directly focused upon investment, be it on farm or within the routes to market.

Greater route to market support is also proposed to enable farmers and rural communities to regain some supply-chain control and thus derive sustainable incomes directly from the market.

Resilient farms, and especially small family farms, cannot be built upon continual cost reduction. They must also receive enhanced farm-gate prices and that means being a part of supply-chains that create differentiated, high-value products, not commodities. The Vision focuses upon such.

The Vision retains Ireland's focus on producing nutrient-dense foods but from diverse-species pastures. It foresees a lessening in Ireland's reliance on food imports by catalysing the domestic production of a far greater diversity of foods. Agricultural support, funded by the taxpayer, must promote a high-quality local food supply first and then the export of the finest high-value foods.

Finally, and far from least, ***FARM 2 FORK 2030*** envisages the farming system changes that can restore Ireland's biodiversity and environments. It can be done while enhancing farm incomes. Critically, it removes the misplaced divide between agriculture and Nature. It is about working with Nature and seeing agriculture as only a part of a thriving, biodiverse, nature-filled ecosystem.

## ***FARM 2 FORK 2030 - access to the full report***

***FARM 2 FORK 2030*** has been about research, logic, rational and common sense to identify the solutions and the ways to change. It is a comprehensive document that addresses complex issues. It is available on Regenerative Farming Ireland's website either as a whole or in its chapters.

*The FARM 2 FORK 2030 Vision* can be downloaded at:

[www.regenerativefarmingireland.com](http://www.regenerativefarmingireland.com)