A farmers perspective
Martin Kennedy

NFU Scotland
Lurgan Farm 800ft – 2,500ft
Livestock

30 Continental cross cows
300 Continental cross ewes
150 Pure bred Cheviots
150 Pure bred Blackys
Livestock

30 Pure Highland cows
Why A Farmers Perspective

1. Farmers and Crofters are responsible for land use on 5.7million Ha equating to 73% of Scotland's land mass.

2. There are currently more than 1.5 million Ha of farmland currently managed under agri-environment schemes.
Knowledge and Experience

- Farmers and Crofters have generations of experience and understanding of how not only to produce food but also how to best care for our environment.
Previous Environmental Schemes since early 80’s

- **ESA**  Environmentally sensitive areas
- **CPS**  Countryside premium scheme
- **RSS**  Rural stewardship scheme
- **RP**  Rural Priorities
- **AECS**  Agri environment climate scheme
Times have changed.
The early years
Little interference
Criticism

- Extensive use of chemicals
- Intensive farming systems
- Carbon emissions
- Support payments
We need to be very aware of the fact that too much protection given to only one species in an area can have a huge impact on the survival of many others.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Red Squirrels</th>
<th>Hen Harriers</th>
<th>Otters</th>
<th>Wood Peckers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owls</td>
<td>Curlews</td>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>Hedge Hogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sparrow Hawks</td>
<td>Hares</td>
<td>Rabbits</td>
<td>Oyster Catchers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buzzards</td>
<td>Frogs</td>
<td>Beavers</td>
<td>Lapwings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A farmers perspective
Martin Kennedy

NFU Scotland