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Farming and the Impact of Brexit

The Current situation.....

The EU creates a common market for Europe's farm produce, laying down rules governing farmers. Most farms in the UK are small but some wealthy landowners get more than £1m in subsidy from the EU. This is because the EU believe around 30% of grants theoretically protect the environment. Although green groups say most of the measures are ineffective.

The EU have Common Agricultural Policy, CAP for short. This policy was launched in 1962 and has dramatically mended to suit the needs of farmers. CAP is in place to support and improve agricultural productivity. This is to ensure farmers in the EU make a reasonable living, sustain management of natural resources and maintain rural areas and landscapes. The EU policy covers an even range of areas, including food quality, traceability, trade and promotion of EU farm products. The EU financially supports its farmers and encourages sustainable and eco-friendly practices, while also investing in the development of rural areas. In figures, the EU has an income support fund of 41.74billion, a rural development of 14.37billion and a market measures fund of 2.7billion (Figures from 2018).



Will Farmers thrive or struggle to survive with the new Brexit challenges?

The Pros of Brexit on Farmers -

Although there will be never be any hard evidence of what will happen when Brexit happens, however, there are things for certain.

- Leaving would allow the UK to design its own agricultural policy.
- The ability to negotiate own agreements with the non-EU Countries.
- 60% of the UK's trade is with countries outside of the European union.
- British farmers will be more competitive as they wont tied down by the EU rules.
- Same subsidies could be payed to farmers from the government as those provided by the EU. This will be beneficial to the British tax payer as they will be paying half as much tax per year.
- Freedom from existing EU regulations and policies.
- New policies.
- UK will still be able to enjoy and have access to EU trading freely.





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The Cons of Brexit on Farmers -

Many believe that Brexit will have a very negative impact on farmers believing we should stay in the EU. These are the reasons why they believe this -

- Accessing EU labour - skilled European workers will not be as easily accessible.
- Subsidies provided by the EU will no longer be available to businesses within the agricultural and farming industries.
- Support from the government may not be as plentiful without the funding from the EU—money may be used for other issues impacting the government.
- Timely process to secure and renegotiate new trade contracts, it could take up to 10-15 years with some countries.

