21Feb22 AHWPathway Defra policy update zoom attended by 70 ish stakeholders.

Purpose: pre-brief ahead of Secretary of State’s announcement at tomorrow’s (22feb22) NFU conference.

Chaired Richard Watkins, presentation by Michael Seals, questions answered by Martin Jenkins and Fran (PbR, grants)

Insert pics here:

Michael Seals – overview that we’ve probably all heard before – started in 2018 – establish the issues across the sectors (cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry) and ‘how can govt help?’ Co-design at the heart of the pathway.

Insert pics2,3,4

Q&A: a combination of the usual concerns raised…

Phil Stocker raised the point that if it is sonly available to those receiving BPS currently then that may be as few as 40% of sheep farmers.

The Pathway (committed to 3 years of funding at this stage) will start with those receiving BPS as it makes for an easier launch and simpler, familiar admin through RPA initially. Though it will move to a dedicated system for all grants and will include farmers that don’t received BPS, and down to small holders eventually.

The data – farmers will want assurances re who gets to see it and how it is used.

Vet resource for the visits.

Chris Dodds (LAA) – lack of info particularly for beef and sheep farmers (and raised the side issue of CCIR / FCI not getting data back to vendors even after many years and is pathway going to improve this?)

Grants – farmers will get a say via membership orgs and can feed into what items make it onto the list.

[END]