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NORTHERN IRELAND
GRAIN TRADE ASSOCIATION



General Election
Manifesto 2024

What food supply chain businesses need from the next UK Government

Productivity | Sustainability | Competitiveness



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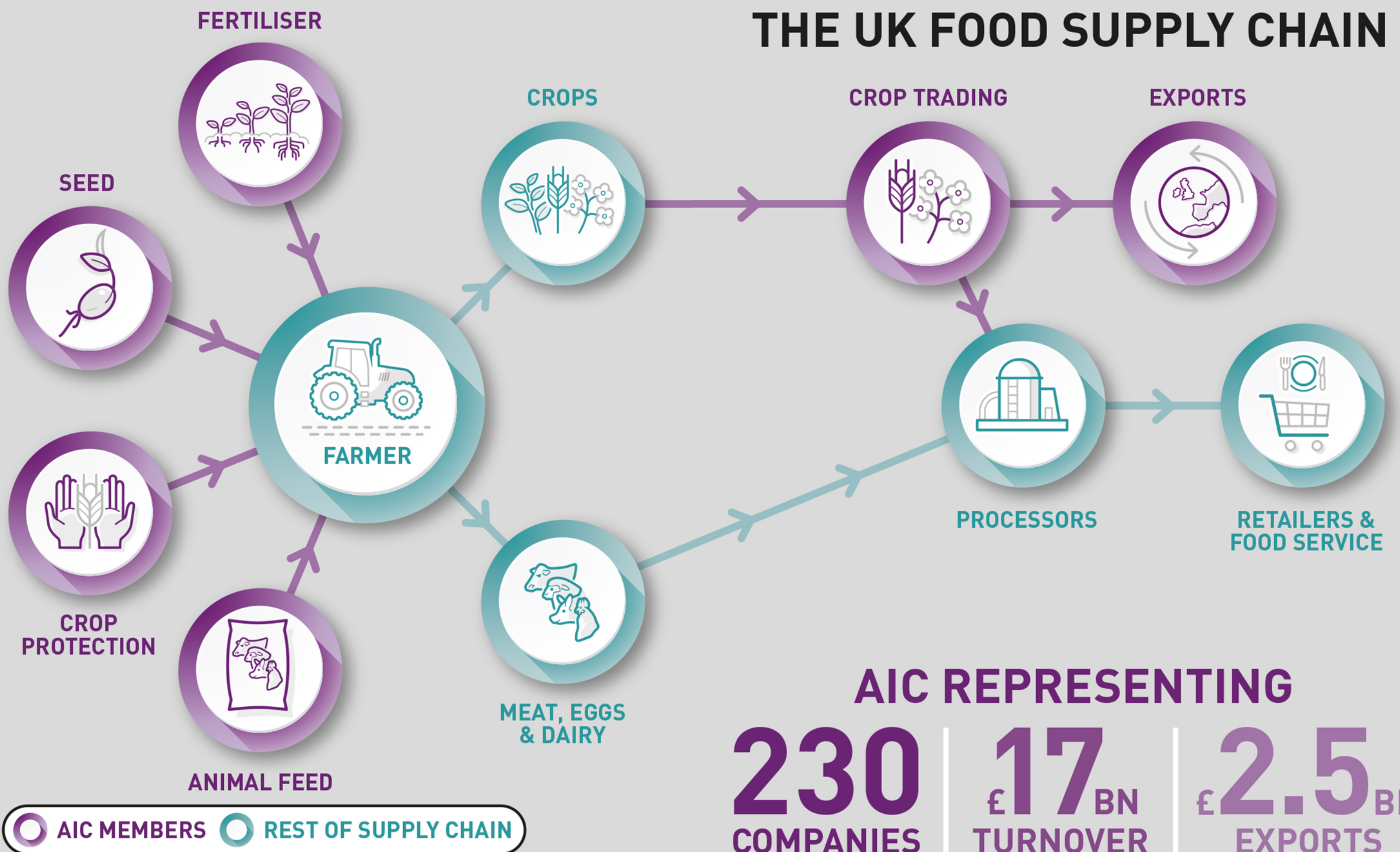
How we support UK food supply chains

The Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) represents businesses in key sectors within the supply chains that feed the nation.

We represent the businesses that supply UK farmers with the animal feed, fertiliser, seed, crop protection products and advice services that are essential to producing food, along with companies which trade crops and agricultural commodities globally.

AIC is a UK-wide voice for the businesses providing the products, services and trade assurance schemes that are vital for the secure supply of - and cast-iron confidence in - our country's food, drink, and animal feed. We are also active members of four European trade associations, and closely follow European and international policy issues.

We are a recognised, knowledgeable and respected partner for government, Ministers, MPs and Peers across all parties. We work with stakeholders and help shape policy to create a productive, sustainable and competitive future for our nation's food supply.



AIC's Election Priorities

What we need from the next UK Government

1

A comprehensive, cohesive, UK Government approach to our food security and land use



What we do with our land resource, and the food we produce with it matters for our economy, our productivity, our environment, and our people. Unlike other countries, the UK lacks a joined-up, cross-Government strategy on land use or food security. To make long term, strategic planning decisions, businesses need to be clear on the next Government's vision for our land and the role of food producers within it.

AIC is calling for an independent, statutory food security committee to be established, considering the food production and land use balances needed for the UK and all Whitehall departments.

Visit AIC's website to read the independent report "Powering Productivity for Sustainable UK Food Security", which was commissioned by AIC to assess the agri-food sector's productivity and make recommendations to sustainably improve UK food security.



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2

Improve trade with the EU, and within the UK nations



AIC needs the next Government to address the barriers that have arisen because the UK-EU trade agreement has made goods harder to import and export. UK regulatory bodies are struggling with the implementation of this, and burdens are leading to costly delays and extra paperwork to trade in goods. This is also impacting the UK internal market, opening up inconsistencies in legislation across the four nations.

Actively track and monitor divergences in policies and standards between the UK and EU, and within England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Currently there is no formal policy or mechanism established by the UK Government to monitor or track the growing policy divergences between the UK and EU, with trade bodies and businesses left to undertake this crucial work themselves.

Negotiate a functioning veterinary or "Sanitary/Phytosanitary (SPS)" agreement with the EU. This would allow goods to be traded more easily with the EU and with Northern Ireland, while respecting the UK's independence in trade and legislation.

3

A consistent approach to sustainability in the food supply chain



Sustainability credentials are being requested at product and business level from consumers and supply system. Access to consistent and accurate information is vital to build credibility and confidence in claims made alongside fairness in the food system.

AIC is asking the next Government to help facilitate this work and ensure UK agriculture is not disadvantaged.

To deliver a net zero transition in our food supply chain, the next Government must commit to a blended public and private finance landscape including tax credits and green transition support. Other countries have made this investment already, and the UK risks being left behind.

Please get in touch
to discuss our manifesto



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