

Symposium on Brexit studies and their findings at farm level

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More than twenty studies have been identified that are directly relevant to assessing the impact of Brexit on UK agriculture, almost all of which have appeared in the last two years. These have been written by or for various organisations, each with particular interests in mind (economic, environmental, farmer, food sector, trade etc.), and using a range of approaches.

Four main elements in the post-Brexit situation are commonly found in these studies:

- The nature of national agricultural policy adopted, in particular what happens to the present system of direct income payments (Basic Payments).
- The trading relations finally agreed between the UK and the EU, which will also affect the UK's trade with the rest of the world. These relations will affect the prices received by UK producers.
- The restrictions placed on migrant labour from the EU, which can be expected to affect the costs of labour faced by UK farmers.
- Not having to comply with EU regulations, which may lighten the burden on UK farmers, with an implication for lowering costs.

Studies differ in many respects: how many of these elements are considered and how they are specified; the data sources drawn upon and periods to which they relate; which UK countries are covered; the sophistication of the models used to assess changes in commodity market prices; how the impacts at farm level are estimated (though some do not involve this stage and stop at aggregate level); the time horizon used, and so on.

However, the three chosen for detailed presentation in this symposium share the following characteristics:

- they use closely-specified scenarios to explore the possible post-Brexit UK situations
- they produce independent and original results, and
- they assess the impacts at farm level, with a breakdown at least by farming types.

These three are:

- The study by LEI, Wageningen, for the National Farmers Union, published as **Berkum, S. van, R.A. Jongeneel, H.C.J. Vrolijk, M.G.A. van Leeuwen and J.H. Jager (2016) Implications of a UK exit from the EU for British agriculture**. This is presented by Lucia Zitte, of the NFU
- The technical report for the AHDB by **Bradley, D. and Hill, B. (2017) Quantitative modelling for post-Brexit scenarios**. (Agra CEAS Consulting. September 2017) that was the basis of the AHDB Horizon publication (October 2017). This is presented by Dylan Bradley.
- Preliminary results from the ESRC [project](#) "Brexit: How might UK agriculture survive or thrive?" which incorporates market-level assessment from FAPRI-UK project, already in the public domain as **Davis, J., Feng, S., Patton, M. and Binfield, J. (2017) Impacts of Alternative Post-Brexit Trade Agreements on UK Agriculture: Sector Analyses using the FAPRI-UK Model**. FAPRI-UK Project. August 2017. This is presented by Carmen Hubbard, University of Newcastle

Presenters will focus on the scenarios employed and the results generated. There will be opportunity in discussions to compare and contrast the approaches and their results.