

## Older UK farmers to get \$140,000 for retiring

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The government in the United Kingdom wants to change its farming industry. It wants younger people to enter the profession. It has a new plan to pay older farmers to retire. Some older farmers could get up to \$140,000 in cash if

they retire. One of the reasons the government wants older farmers to retire is to protect the environment. Older farmers use more traditional methods to farm their land. These methods are not as environmentally friendly as they should be. The UK's farming minister believes younger farmers are more open to "green" methods. He said: "A fresh perspective can make a world of difference." He added that older farmers were "standing in the way of change".

The average age of farmers in the UK is 59. Around 40 per cent of them are above the age of 65. The farming minister said: "We need to address the twin challenges of helping new [farmers] fulfill their dream of gaining access to land, while also helping an older generation to retire with dignity." The scheme is popular with many veteran farmers. A farmers' association said 75 per cent of its farmers were interested in the retirement plan. The UK's National Farmers' Union welcomed the government's plan. It said: "We want to see a fair transition which allows farmers who are considering leaving the industry to have sufficient time and information to make those life-changing decisions."

Sources: [thepigsite.com](http://thepigsite.com) / [thecattlesite.com](http://thecattlesite.com) / [ft.com](http://ft.com)

### Writing

We should only buy vegetables grown using green farming methods. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / industry / retire / farmers / cash / traditional / environment / green / address / challenges / dream / dignity / veteran / transition / time / information

### True / False

- 1) The farming industry in the UK wants to change the government. T / F
- 2) All UK farmers will get \$140,000 if they retire. T / F
- 3) The UK government said older farmers are less environmentally friendly. T / F
- 4) The government said older farmers are standing in the way of change. T / F
- 5) The average age of a farmer in the UK is 40. T / F
- 6) The UK wants to address two issues related to farming. T / F
- 7) The government's plan is popular with many older farmers. T / F
- 8) A farmers' union said farmers don't need time to make decisions. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>change</b>      | a. enough       |
| 2. <b>profession</b>  | b. thinks       |
| 3. <b>methods</b>     | c. deal with    |
| 4. <b>believes</b>    | d. practices    |
| 5. <b>perspective</b> | e. long-serving |
| 6. <b>address</b>     | f. viewpoint    |
| 7. <b>fulfill</b>     | g. reshape      |
| 8. <b>veteran</b>     | h. greeted      |
| 9. <b>welcomed</b>    | i. business     |
| 10. <b>sufficient</b> | j. achieve      |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of farming?
- b) What is the job of a farmer like?
- c) Would you be a good farmer?
- d) How much do farmers protect the environment?
- e) Should we all grow our own food?
- f) What do you think of farms?
- g) How difficult or dangerous is farming?
- h) At what age would you like to retire?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. It wants younger people to enter         | a. farmers in the UK is 59 |
| 2. protect the                              | b. changing decisions      |
| 3. These methods are not as environmentally | c. world of difference     |
| 4. A fresh perspective can make a           | d. environment             |
| 5. farmers were standing in the way         | e. with dignity            |
| 6. The average age of                       | f. the profession          |
| 7. We need to address the twin              | g. transition              |
| 8. helping an older generation to retire    | h. of change               |
| 9. We want to see a fair                    | i. challenges              |
| 10. make those life-                        | j. friendly                |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important is farming?
- What kind of farming would you like to do?
- What more can farmers do to protect the environment?
- Is a job on a farm or in an office best?
- What was the last life-changing decision you made?
- What advice do you have for farmers?
- What questions would you like to ask a farmer?

## Spelling

- change its farming nidrutsy
- younger people to enter the srfesionpo
- ctperot the environment
- Older farmers use more atdrlaiton methods
- The UK's farming mesirnit
- A fresh irpsscveete
- The vegeaar age of farmers
- We need to rsdaesd the twin challenges
- their dream of gaining casesc to land
- The mecseh is popular
- many ranveet farmers
- have uisfctein time and information

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. i	3. d	4. b	5. f
6. c	7. j	8. e	9. h	10. a

## Role Play

### Role A – Growing Things

You think growing things is the best thing about being a farmer. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): being with animals, a healthy lifestyle or money.

### Role B – Being with Animals

You think being with animals is the best thing about being a farmer. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): growing things, a healthy lifestyle or money.

### Role C – Healthy Lifestyle

You think a healthy lifestyle is the best thing about being a farmer. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): being with animals, growing things or money.

### Role D – Money

You think money is the best thing about being a farmer. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these (and why): being with animals, a healthy lifestyle or growing things.

## Speaking – Farmers

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about being a farmer at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| • Being on the land | • Animals           |
| • Growing things    | • Driving a tractor |
| • Having no boss    | • Healthy lifestyle |
| • Beautiful views   | • Money             |

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.