Sam Northey – Written Evidence (DFI0082)

Farmer, aged 34 from Cornwall, I'm concerned how this tax is going to affect me.

When do I know when my dad is going to die? My dad is 62, I am 34. He's still happy farming, he doesn't want to sign everything over to me yet, but how much longer has he got? No-one knows. How can anyone plan for the business when this tax could come at any time? I want to invest in new buildings and infrastructure to future proof and aid my efficiency, but I'd be absolutely mad to at the moment knowing that everything would have to be sold if the worse came to be.

Farm businesses don't have any money around, I want to buy a new telehandler bucket but it doesn't mask sense, I've had to weld up the old one. Any money that would have to be put aside to pay the tax is money that would have been invested otherwise. Money that would go to the supply industry, environmental projects, the community. Its far more than just farmers that will lose out, it's an attack on the rural community. It has become clear that this tax is not about raising money, as it is going to cost more money than it is going to raise. Just look at the mess of the current farm subsidy scheme.

This tax could affect every farmer. A farm with less than 100 acres isn't a viable farm, and that much land alone is enough to exceed the tax threshold. I think it would be better to tax the first X amount for APR as it's the people with a small amount of land that buy it for the relief, and then just rent the land out opposed to farm it as it isn't viable on its own. It will affect every farmer that is genuinely farming for their living as no one knows when someone's time might be up.

You can't just sell a farm and buy a bit smaller one down the road to raise money. I can't just sell a bit off the side to make a bit. My grandad's family moved here 108 years ago and I can't sleep at night knowing there's no security for my future.

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