

Jobs before Beauty?

THE
CORNWALL
LECTURE

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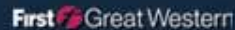
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*Jobs Before
Beauty?*

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Cornwall Lecture Away Day

Presentation by Catherine Mead

Chair of the Cornwall Agri Food Council





cornwall
agricultural council

Key aspects governing food security

- Land use
- Demography
- Fossil fuel
- Dietary change
- Climate change
- Water
- Urbanisation



Issues for Agriculture in Cornwall to address

- Increased pressure on Cornish farmers to produce more...BUT
- Agriculture's dependence on fossil fuels, agri chemicals and fertiliser will inhibit this – but not necessarily improve profit
- Adverse effect on the environment
- Farmers must harvest infinitely free sunshine a low grade energy
- Reduce use of fossil fuels and create alternative energies
- Improve our soils and our animal health



Issues for Agriculture in Cornwall to address

- We must reconnect with the consumer to promote the importance of farming in the 21st century
 - The Governments' leave it to Tesco' strategy will come back to haunt us.
- .Food is becoming scarcer and food poverty a reality



Not something that is going to happen - it is happening now

- Rationing rice in our supermarkets
- Chicken prices have risen 23 %
- Pork farmers are going out of business daily
- Grain prices have more than doubled
- Pasta prices are up 116%

But we still require diversity in our diet

For the Love of Meat

- A heavy footprint: grain/ water/land/carbon emissions
- Increasing demand
- Impossible to produce sufficient meat to match current demands of 9 billion people

Just one of the many lifestyle changes we will have to make (ref. Cuba missile crisis)



Great Opportunities

- Small extensive farms
- Agricultural holdings that have truly reduced the dependency on fossil fuels
- Large self sustaining units (although less suited to Cornwall's geography)
- Organics
- Allotments (transition towns)
- Community supported agriculture – with potential for public procurement.
- Alternative forms of energy



Cornwall Focus

- To be self sustaining
- To protect our population from food poverty
- To export the rest
- As a result to create a vibrant and wealthy economy

To have land, water and the ability to create alternative energy will add wealth to our economy



The progress in Cornwall so far

- Small scale Anaerobic Digesters are in sight
- Alternative energy plants in place
- Supply chain efficiencies
- Soil improvement projects and better use of grazing



The Effects on the landscape and Environment in Cornwall

- More extensive farming
- Less agri chemicals and fertilisers
- Greater bio diversity
- Improved soils
- Better use of grazed grass
- Unlikely to see bio fuels
- Conservation of water
- Development of near market supply
- Less of heavy plant and machinery

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