

How I See The Challenges Of British Farming In 2022

A black and white cow stands in a lush green field in the foreground. The background features rolling green hills under a clear blue sky, with a small farmstead visible in the distance.

**A presentation to the Dorset LNP Annual Forum
14th March 2022**

What are our key drivers?

- ❖ **A new world order**
- ❖ **Changing markets**
- ❖ **The environment – soil health**
- ❖ **Water availability**
- ❖ **Labour**
- ❖ **Climate change**
- ❖ **Biology not chemistry**
- ❖ **Profitability**

Political



- **World peace**
- **Brexit and trade deals**
- **Increase in red tape tick-box culture**
- **The Government current support for agriculture – daunting, confusing and time consuming**
- **Risk averse public sector**

Economic

- **Inflation**
- **Pressure on cash flows**
- **Availability of raw material such as fertilizer**
- **The collapse of UK GDP**
- **Routes to market changing**
- **New markets are appearing**

Social

- **Will demand for more food of higher quality remain with rising cost of living**
- **Food security**
- **The power of internet communication**
- **Labour availability: Inspire young people to join the industry**

Technological

A yellow Krone harvester and a red combine harvester are shown working in a field. The harvester is on the left, and the combine is on the right. The background is a bright, hazy sky.

- **Mitigate the greenhouse gas emissions**
- **Invest in technology to offset labour shortage**
- **Use technologies to reduce cost of production such as microbes replacing fertilizer**
- **Improve business decision making**

Legal



- **Clean air and water acts, an environmental bill and potential soil quality legislation**
- **Controls result in**
 - **added cost of production**
 - **restricted activities and timeliness**

Environmental

- **Climate change affects the ability to grow crops**
- **Decline in biodiversity**
- **Carbon sequestration - a new income?**
- **Mitigate greenhouse gases**
- **Changing what is grown**

What does all this mean?

- **Profitability will be under pressure**
- **Cash will be king**
- **We must be flexible and adaptable**
- **Learn to handle our fear of change and uncertainty**
- **Loneliness and stress to be avoided - farmers' suicide rate is twice the national average. Seek help before it is too late**

In summary:

- *We need to think, plan and review constantly*
- *Doing the same as last year is not an option*

