

# JERSEY FARMERS' UNION

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MRS M A RONDEL  
Executive Secretary

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CHANNEL ISLANDS

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Ms. Kay Tremellen-Frost  
Scrutiny Officer  
Agri-Environment (Countryside Renewal) Scheme  
Scrutiny Office  
States Building  
St. Helier  
**JERSEY JE1 1BA**

26 May 2004

Dear Ms. Tremellen-Frost,

**Re: Agri-Environment Scheme / Countryside Renewal**

We write to thank you for your letter dated the 04 May 2004 and the Terms of Reference in relation to the above; the contents of which we have noted.

As you are aware, the Agri-Environment Scheme was part of the Agriculture and Fisheries Policy Report 2001 which was debated by the States of Jersey in July 2002. The States did adopt the Policy Report but failed to agree to the necessary funding to implement the new policies contained in the Report, on the final day of the debate. The lack of commitment shown by States Members at that time showed very poor government.

There are clearly insufficient funds in the existing Agriculture & Fisheries Committee's Budget to implement an Agri-Environment Scheme. This fact was recognised by the then President of the Agriculture & Fisheries Committee, Senator Jean A. Le Maistre when he presented the Policy Report to the States. I quote from a letter addressed to Mr. R. Thomas, President, from Senator Le Maistre, dated the 17 July 2002, (a copy of which is attached, for your perusal) :-

**Quote:**

**"I have no intention of introducing any elements of the new Policy being proposed by the Committee, until such time as the additional funding is available. As an example, it would clearly be impractical to seek to introduce a new agri-environment plan without the necessary government funding particularly at a time when the industry is under severe pressure financially"**

**Unquote:**

Unfortunately, nearly two years later, the situation has not changed; the Agricultural/Horticultural Industry is still in a depressed state and there are no surplus funds in a reduced Agricultural / Horticultural Budget to pay for a new Agri-Environment Scheme.

The Jersey Farmers' Union was supportive of Senator Jean A. Le Maistre and his Policy Report – 2001 in its entirety and should additional funding be voted for the implementation of an Agri-Environment Scheme in the future, we would welcome the introduction.

We note from the proposed Payment Summary Sheet for the first year of the Scheme that there are several items for which growers already have to comply in relation to the supermarket protocols – Assured Produce or similar; which are mandatory. We feel that these items should be revised so as to avoid any duplication.

We would welcome the opportunity of giving evidence to the Scrutiny Panel and/or meeting with Senator Ted Vibert to discuss the issue in greater detail.

We look forward to hearing from you further in this respect.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. A. Ronnel'.

**MAUREEN A. RONDEL**  
**SECRETARY**

Enc.



States of Jersey

FROM:

Senator J. A. Le Maistre,  
La Maison de la Trappe,  
Millais,  
St. Ouen,  
Jersey, JE3 2AL.

17<sup>th</sup> July 2002

Mr R. Thomas,  
President,  
Jersey Farmers' Union,  
22 Seale Street,  
St. Helier,  
JE2 3QD

Dear Roger,

Further to our telephone conversation I am pleased to be able to confirm that, as President of the Committee, I have no intention of introducing any elements of the new Policy being proposed by the Committee, until such time as the additional funding is available. As an example, it would clearly be impractical to seek to introduce a new agri-environment plan without the necessary government funding particularly at a time when the industry is under severe pressure financially.

I believe that the proposals, if adopted, will lead to the long term benefit of the Industry and the Island community as a whole and it is my earnest hope that the States will accept the proposals.

May I take the opportunity to express my personal appreciation to you, to the members of your Council and the Industry, for your support throughout a very long and frustrating process leading up to the debate on the Policy proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Jean A. Le Maistre  
President,  
Agriculture and Fisheries Committee