

# Future Agriculture Policy

## Supplementary evidence from Claire Simonetta

Just to give some context, I made a statement about the benefits of appropriate livestock grazing on peatlands, which was picked up on during the subsequent session and disregarded by the CCC representative on the basis of there not being any scientific evidence to suggest that this is the case.

There is actually some strong scientific evidence but instead of bombarding the committee with various scientific studies (which are available but in some cases rather lengthy), I attach the following link which provides a very summarised overview by NatureScot on the benefits and importance of appropriate livestock grazing on peatlands. <https://www.nature.scot/doc/peatland-action-peatland-management-guidance-grazing-and-muirburn>

If required I am more than happy to submit some actual scientific articles and studies as well if the committee feels that this would be useful but for now I hope that the contents of the link, outlined by the leading Scottish body on environmental matters, gives confidence to the committee members that livestock can indeed play a crucial role in helping to maintain peatlands in the condition needed to safeguard existing carbon stores and, through maintaining the right type of vegetation (i.e. supporting sphagnum mosses whilst suppressing scrub growth), enhance the ability of peatlands to sequester further carbon into the soil.

It is important to remember that not all peatlands are degraded and therefore do not necessarily require restoration. It is also important to remember that restoration alone is insufficient and if restored sites are left unmanaged thereafter, the potential benefits from restoration works cannot be realised. Ongoing and longer-term management of peatland sites is therefore absolutely crucial both for already healthy as well as restored sites.

I hope the above makes sense but if not I am happy to provide a more detailed explanation.

Many thanks  
Claire