



National  
Trust

# BBC Countryfile Live National Trust Theatre

The hot topics in many fields

Friday 3 August 2018

*11.00 – 11.45*

## Let's meet rural journalist Anna Jones

Anna Jones is a farmer's daughter and she's made the industry her life by reporting on it for the past decade. She's also set up Just Farmers, an organisation that gives farmers a voice by helping them tell their stories to the media.

In this session, Charlotte Smith asks Anna about the future of British farming and where the opportunities lie.



*12.15 – 13.15*

## Farmers: custodians of the countryside?

In this session, we look at how farmers can balance the needs of a growing population with the needs of the environment and its fragile ecosystems.

With farmland bird populations plummeting and soil quality falling, it's clear that something needs to change. But what?

We're joined by Stephanie Hilborne, Chief Executive of The Wildlife Trusts; Guy Smith of the National Farmers' Union, Emma Howard-Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency and David Fursdon, Chair of Beeswax Dyson Farming.





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13.45 – 14.30

## Let's meet JB Gill

JB Gill rose to fame as a member of one of the UK's biggest boybands, JLS.



But, in 2013, JB swapped a life of selling out stadiums for one of mucking out pigs. Join us as he shares his love of the countryside with Charlotte Smith, explaining why he left the hustle and bustle of London – where he'd spent most of his life – to live in rural Kent.

15.00 – 15.45

## How do I get into farming?

For lots of people, farming is a dream job. But the majority of farmers are born into it, simply inheriting the family land.

The good news is that there are other ways to get into agriculture, including food science, apprenticeships, ecology, biology and horticulture.

Our panel of experts talk about what it's like to work the land. Featuring Susan Twining, Country Land and Business Association; Teleri Fielden, scholar at Llyndy Islaf; Sean Rickard, economist; Gareth Wynn Jones, hill farmer; JB Gill, farmer; and George Dunn, Chief Executive of the Tenant Farmers Association.





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16.00 – 17.00

## **Veganism: where's the beef?**

Depending what you read, veganism can help combat climate change, do wonders for your health, and reduce animal suffering.

No wonder that, according to the Vegan Society, there were 542,000 vegans in the UK in 2016 – a 360 per cent increase over 10 years. Add to that the 1.2 million people that class themselves as vegetarian and it's clear that meat-free diets are on the rise. Many people are also cutting back, by becoming so-called 'flexitarians': skipping meat for at least one day a week.

So what's wrong with eating meat, and should farmers be worried by a backlash? Our experts discuss healthy balanced diets and what's really best for the environment. We'll welcome Stuart Roberts of the National Farmers' Union; Grace Dent, columnist, author and broadcaster; Jack Monroe, chef and food writer; and Gareth Wynn Jones, Welsh hill farmer.

