

UK Farmers' Inheritance Tax Changes: What does the Government's Christmas Announcement Really Mean for Food Security?

Adam Tugwell | 24 December 2025



This morning, I was asked by someone who grew up in farming and knows what I do whether I thought the government's announcement about changes to the farmers' inheritance tax threshold and transfer allowance would be the end of it.

My immediate reply was that, *given the Spring Budget or Statement date had been announced only the day before, the whole thing seemed suspicious to say the very least.*

That's before we even consider the timing: just before Christmas, and only days after the Batters Farming Profitably Review (FPR) was published.

As I suggested [in my follow-up blog](#), the FPR told many truths about the downward spiral that U.K. farming is now in, but it did so firmly within the context and framing that government and the wider establishment have set.

That's only helpful if you believe that having the truth spelled out about the things killing an industry – *and by default, UK food security* – is the same as being heard. And that being heard – *if you actually are* - will lead to meaningful change rather than simply becoming more words added to the pile.

Whilst the news will bring some comfort to those who see the extension of the IHT window as a kind of Christmas gift, the regrettable truth is that even a complete U-turn by the government on this single policy won't change the direction of travel.

Nor will it alter the wide range of influences and pressures – many of which were identified in the FPR – that are tightening like a thumb screw and will ultimately destroy independent and traditional farming methods in this country.

In time, the reason for this 'concession' will no doubt become clear – probably in no small part because it has already generated positive headlines at Christmas, with figures across and around the industry heralding it as *a win*.

The question, regrettably, given that everyone is still moving in the same direction, *when you look at what their legs rather than what their lips are doing*, is this: what will be the real cost of a story that grabs just enough attention to make people believe the farming and food-security crisis is suddenly heading somewhere different?



Further Reading: Understanding the Context and Challenges Facing UK Farming

To help you dive deeper into the issues discussed in this blog - especially the government's inheritance tax changes, the Batters Farming Profitably Review, and the broader crisis in UK food security - here's a recommended list of Adam's articles.

Each summary highlights the relevance of the link to the ongoing debate and the future of British farming.

1. <https://adamtugwell.blog/2025/12/19/a-few-thoughts-on-minette-batters-farming-profitability-review-fpr/>

A critical analysis of the FPR, this post explores the truths revealed about the downward spiral in UK farming, while questioning whether simply acknowledging the problems will lead to meaningful change. It sets the stage for understanding the policy environment and the pressures facing farmers today.

2. <https://adamtugwell.blog/2025/08/14/farm-inheritance-tax-was-always-about-wrecking-independent-uk-food-production-thats-why-it-defies-common-sense/>

This article delves into the history and intent behind farm inheritance tax, arguing that it has long undermined independent food production in the UK. It provides essential background for readers seeking to understand why inheritance tax remains such a contentious issue.

3. <https://adamtugwell.blog/2025/11/22/risk-and-responsibility-why-farmers-must-choose-to-rebuild-the-uk-food-system-before-its-too-late/>

This post emphasises the urgency for farmers to take proactive steps in rebuilding the UK food system. It discusses the risks involved and the responsibilities that fall on those within the industry to drive change before the situation becomes irreversible.

4. <https://adamtugwell.blog/2025/11/23/understanding-who-controls-our-food-controls-our-future-everything-you-need-to-know/>

An exploration of the power dynamics in UK food production, this article explains how control over food systems shapes the nation's future. It's a vital read for those interested in the intersection of policy, industry, and food security.

5. <https://adamtugwell.blog/2025/01/18/the-need-for-a-collaborative-approach-to-the-uk-farming-and-food-security-problem/>

This piece advocates for collaboration among farmers, policymakers, and stakeholders to address the complex challenges facing UK farming and food security. It offers practical insights and solutions for building a more resilient system.

6. <https://adamtugwell.blog/2025/12/22/how-the-trail-hunting-ban-exposes-a-bigger-battle-for-britain/>

Broadening the discussion, this article connects rural policy battles - like the trail hunting ban - to the larger struggle over Britain's countryside, farming, and food systems. It provides context for understanding the wider political and cultural forces at play.

7. <https://adamtugwell.blog/2025/12/18/adams-food-and-farming-portfolio-a-guide-to-books-blogs-and-solutions/>

A comprehensive guide to further reading and resources, this portfolio is ideal for readers who want to explore more about UK farming, food security, and potential solutions.

Further Information

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www.adamtugwell.blog

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