



St Helena
Government

ST HELENA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE 1

ENVIRONMENT NATURAL RESOURCES & PLANNING
PROGRESS REPORT TO IMPLEMENT FARMING
RECOMMENDATIONS (PROGRESS AT SEPTEMBER 2024)

Laid on the Table 5th Dec 2024

Select Committee 1 Recommendations

ENRP Progress Report to Implement Recommendations (Progress at September 2024)

2. Agriculture		
Recommendation	Update on Progress with Recommendation at August 2024	Rag Status
<p>1. Now that the ban on prohibition, on the import of poultry and poultry products originating from South Africa has been lifted, we also recommend there is an immediate review on the importation of day old chicks, with an update provided to the public. An indicative timescale for this action to be completed, should be provided by end of July 2024.</p>	<p>Completed. Applicants for day-old chicks were made aware that there would be no imports of day old chicks until after the winter period.</p>	GREEN
<p>2. The Animal Census requires chickens to be declared therefore we recommend this data be analysed as soon as possible, from which the Portfolio should consider establishing a register of Poultry Producers. Also six monthly meetings should be reinstated with Poultry farmers to gauge what has worked well, or what needs to be improved.</p>	<p>ENRP have a list of the key poultry producers already and this was used to establish the poultry producer group. However, no new meetings has been established with the group as the last meeting saw them have no interest in being involved in options for continuing the supply of chicks for replenishing layers for local egg production or subsequently, no interest in being involved in the take up of renovated poultry premises for continued and expanded poultry enterprise.</p>	YELLOW
<p>3. We recommend that the ENRP consult with the public as soon as possible to gauge interest in restarting a parent-stock breeding facility and put together options as to the operation of the facility.</p>	<p>This initial recommendation has been completed. There was interest submitted from one person with limited poultry experience and the keeper of less than a dozen chickens for one of the 2 poultry units advertised for parent stock breeding and egg production. However, the submission did not allow the unit to be awarded for either of the two poultry uses. Options are now being developed for consideration by the ENRP Advisory Board with respect to how SHG can further incentivise take up of the units to ensure</p>	GREEN

	the capital funding spent to renovate the units provide VFM benefits.	
4. We recommend the Portfolio ensures that the review of the policy relating to the release of Forestry land is completed in a timely manner and furthermore that work currently underway relating to the Options Paper is completed and the new Agricultural Policy is drafted. The Committee should be updated by the end of July on whether the aim to approve the overall main strategic policy by the second quarter of financial year 2024/25 is still on target.	This policy is currently under review as it is a 2 fold policy – both for forest land and for agricultural land and buildings to be completed by March 2025. This policy will have to take into account the operational requirements related to high level agricultural land and building provisions included in the new Agriculture Policy (AP). This AP is in progress via an Options Paper currently being consulted on with the agricultural sector.	YELLOW
5. We recommend that under the new policy that is being developed, lease schedules need to be formed in a more specific manner. An indicative timescale for this action to be completed should be provided by the end of July 2024.	This recommendation will be established as part of the AP Action Plan once the AP progresses to this stage of development.	RED
6. We recommend the Portfolio should consider establishing a register for Full-time and Part-time farmers who are using Crown land, as well as Private lands. Any level of subsidy or grant should also be recorded.	This recommendation will be included as above at 5.	RED
7. We recommend that the Animal Husbandry Fund (AHF) Policy, under the Pasturage (Government Lands) Ordinance, 1938, is reviewed to extend support to pigs and other animals. An indicative timescale for this action to be completed should be provided by the end of July 2024.	Completed and AHF Policy updated with this recommendation in July 2024.	GREEN
8. We recommend that training in the safe use of pesticides, evidenced with a certificate, should be available to farmers every two to three years.	Options are being considered as to how this recommendation can be funded for a trainer to visit.	RED
9. We recommend that provision is made for collecting data in order that this can be published annually, especially from those producers in receipt of subsidies and other support from SHG. Data should be published in a manner that demonstrates how support provided is translated into productivity.	This recommendation will be fully established as part of the AP Action Plan once the AP progresses to this stage of development. New policy/legal requirements are needed to ensure we can secure robust data and metrics for agricultural support and build on the limited data producers are willing to provide for SHG.	RED

10. We recommend the Portfolio ensure that policy is developed in a manner that empowers compliance and enforcement by the relevant Portfolio Officers, in relation to the utilisation of land and buildings owned by the Crown. An indicative timescale for this action to be completed should be provided by the end of July 2024.

The new AP will include provisions for improved compliance and enforcement functions for utilisation of land and buildings specifically for agriculture purposes.

RED