

Title: NRMM decarbonisation

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DESNZ / DfT / Defra call for evidence Non-road mobile machinery: decarbonisation options

England and Wales (NFU) would like to make the following key points in response to this consultation:



for all machinery and use cases, so several different options should be available to ensure that farmers are able to adapt in the most suitable manner for their farming styles.

Q32. Do you agree that these are the main technical barriers [limited commercial availability, unsuitability] to the deployment of NRMM decarbonisation options?

We agree that, at present, there is low commercial availability of much agricultural machinery with alternative powertrains. Only small electric tractors and a limited choice of biomethane tractors are currently available, together with a wider choice of electric telehandlers. Some

machinery and other processes for at least the remainder of this decade - and that significant increases in on-site energy

The NFU notes that much of this Call for Evidence is not relevant to agricultural NRMM, so we request a future dedicated consultation on the government's policy proposals for agriculture – which should include an impact assessment covering the specific machinery requirements of all farming sectors, farm sizes and types. Given the national importance of food security, it would be appropriate and important to conduct a discrete consultation for agricultural machinery independent of the construction sector.

Lastly, many farm businesses rely upon the second-hand export market as a mechanism for selling on existing machinery and upgrading, to ensure that the farm can keep up with the latest developments in technology, efficiency and productivity. The NFU notes that in the longer term, new decarbonised machinery will need to be suitable for the second-hand export market. If this is not an option, such machinery will be significantly devalued, affecting business cashflow. It is therefore important that UK policy on agricultural NRMM is aligned with trends in other countries.