

* Rather than simply badging food as British, a new approach to food labelling will create a genuine gold-standard metric for food and farming quality, says Mr Gove.

Lowering animal welfare or environmental standards in any post-Brexit trade deal would be foolish and undercut the UK's reputation for quality, he says. Instead, success should come by competing at the top, not trying to win a race to the bottom.

This is likely to see a single, scaled, measure of how a farmer or food producer performs against a sensible basket of indicators, taking into account things such as soil health, control of pollution, contribution to water quality as well as animal welfare.

Mr Gove says the government has already held talks with a number of farmers and food producers about how such a scheme will work.

* Farmers will continue to receive Basic Payment Scheme payments for five years after the UK leaves the European Union in March 2019 – although this doesn't mean all farmers will continue to receive the same amount as now.

The 2019 basic payment will be paid on the same basis as at present. And the government has guaranteed that the amount allocated to farming support – in

cash terms – will be protected up until the end of this Parliament in 2022.

But basic payments to the largest recipients will be reduced. Mr Gove says he will decide following a consultation whether this could be through a straight cap at a maximum level – yet to be set – or through a sliding scale of reductions to the largest payments first.