



Call for Spatial Planning minister

A coalition of farmers, nature organizations, academics and administrators has called for an integrated policy for rural areas. According to this group, the new cabinet should deal with the competition for space and the nitrogen problems by prioritizing the production of climate-proof, healthy food in a diverse landscape. The coalition includes a lot of WUR scientists.

The signatories call for a minister of Spatial Planning, Agriculture and Nature and for the appointment of a landscape commissioner tasked with coordinating the designated use of the limited land available in the countryside. They say the government needs to offer farmers, the general public and nature organizations feasible prospects based on a vision that enjoys broad support. Policy goals for

The coalition wants national coordination of the use of the limited land available in the countryside

the climate, living environment, biodiversity, food and agriculture should be worked out using co-creation.

The coalition makes seven recommendations.

It advocates a national agreement with objectives laid down in law for the climate, biodiversity, nitrogen, soil health, water and the landscape. Those objectives should be translated into indicators for regions and businesses. The coalition also calls for a Land Bank for purchasing, exchanging or writing off farmland so that farms can expand and become less intensive. It also wants a Nitrogen Fund that will let the public sector and businesses invest specifically in reductions in ammonia emissions.

The WUR signatories include the ecologist Louise Vet, the agronomist Imke de Boer, the economist Krijn Poppe, the public administration expert Jeroen Candel and the soil scientists Johan Bouma and Lijbert Brussaard. AS