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Labour has failed our farmers, says Hopkins

Keighley and Ilkley Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Kris Hopkins has accused Labour Ministers of failing to protect local agriculture after Government statistics showed that 25 per cent of farming households have now fallen below the official poverty line.

“Rural communities in Keighley and Ilkley are struggling after 13 years of Labour disinterest and neglect, and none more so than farmers and their families,” he commented.

“Weighed down by increased regulation and costs imposed by Labour Ministers, many local farming businesses are barely breaking even and a significant number of farmers themselves have left the industry altogether.

“It is a national scandal and a local catastrophe for Keighley and Ilkley.”

Chris Herd, the Conservative local election candidate for Keighley West and a local farmer himself, added: “Agriculture is clearly a vital industry for the local community here in Keighley and a great many people involved in farming feel very angry about Labour.

“The understandable decision of some farming families to quit farming after many generations has decreased the industry’s supply base and left this country more dependent on food imported from abroad – food that we could and should be producing ourselves.

“Farmers want a Government that works with them, not against them.

“Sadly, the Labour Government has not just let down farmers, but entire rural communities.”

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