# UK Food Security Plan Critiqued Amid Global Geomagnetic Storm Concerns



### Summit on UK Food Security and Recent Geomagnetic Storm

**Farm to Fork Summit at No 10: Food Security Plan Critiqued**

On May 14, 2024, Rishi Sunak hosted the UK's second annual Farm to Fork summit at No 10 Downing Street. The summit gathered 70 food and farming businesses to discuss food security enhancements. Sunak unveiled a plan focusing on increasing fruit and vegetable production, including easing planning laws for greenhouse construction and doubling funding from the former EU horticulture resilience scheme to £80 million annually.

Tom Bradshaw, President of the National Farmers’ Union (NFU), critiqued the plan, arguing it does not address immediate challenges, citing a projected decline in food production for the upcoming year. He highlighted lingering issues such as phasing out EU subsidy schemes and the impact of extreme weather on farming confidence.

The government also introduced its first food security index, revealing the UK produces 17% of its fruit and 55% of its vegetables, while being more secure in lamb and milk production.

**Geomagnetic Storm Causes Aurora Displays and Raises Infrastructure Concerns**

On May 11, 2024, a significant geomagnetic storm caused notable aurora displays observed globally, including Christchurch, New Zealand. The storm's intensity raised concerns among homeland security and emergency management professionals about potential disruptions to satellites and power grids.

Bob Kolasky, a senior figure in critical infrastructure analysis, emphasized the potential severity of such events, which could affect power, water services, transportation, and communications. Despite minimal impacts this time, a National Security Memorandum on Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience (NSM 22) signed by President Joe Biden in April underscores the importance of joint efforts to bolster infrastructure security and resilience against space weather events.

Preparedness helped mitigate effects during this event, but the need for ongoing vigilance and enhanced resilience measures remains critical, including addressing both natural and man-made risks, such as a potential electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack.

**Key Takeaways**

* The Farm to Fork Summit highlighted new plans to boost UK food security but faced criticism for not addressing immediate farming challenges.
* A significant geomagnetic storm sparked global aurora displays and raised awareness about the potential risk to critical infrastructure systems.

Both events underscore the importance of proactive security and resilience planning to address future risks.