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Professor Sally Shortall is the Duke of Northumberland Chair of Rural Economy in the Centre for Rural Economy in Newcastle University, UK. She is recognised internationally for her scholarship on agriculture and rural development. The Scottish First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, established a Task Force in 2017 to implement the recommendations of the research led by Shortall on women in agriculture in Scotland. Her co-authored report on rural proofing and the Rural Needs Act for Northern Ireland was published in 2018.