



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

New farming policies and payments in England

Updated in July 2022



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A new approach to farming policy in England

Farming in England is now going through the biggest change in a generation.

Food is still the primary purpose of farming, and always will be. The Food Strategy includes plans to support farmers to boost home-grown fruit and vegetable production, and encourage people to buy more locally sourced, high-welfare food.

Farmers also play a crucial role in protecting and enhancing the natural environment. If we want farming and food production to be resilient and sustainable over the long term, then farming and nature can and must go hand in hand.

Many farmers have already moved to this way of operating. We in government need to get behind those who are leading the way, and help others to get involved too.

This means introducing policies that work for farm businesses, food production **and** the environment.

We are doing this by:

- changing how government works with farmers, including improving our approach to regulation of scheme rules and legal standards
- providing funding for farmers to invest in technology, equipment and innovation
- providing regular income for farmers to improve the environment, as part of their farm business
- providing access to information, guidance and free advice

Most importantly, we are changing our approach to working with the farming sector.

We're improving our policies and services to make them more effective, flexible and accessible. We will treat farmers with respect and fairness, and make the way they access funding and advice much more straightforward and dependable.

We are phasing out subsidies so that we can invest the money in farm productivity, the environment, and animal health and welfare.



We are providing farmers with two ways of receiving payments: one-off grants and ongoing schemes. Farmers can choose from a range of grants and ongoing payments to find a package that works for them.

We will make sure that all farm types, regardless of size, location and ownership or the systems they use, can access funding and support that works for them from our new offer. We will make sure we give farmers the time and opportunity to adapt and benefit.

Our strong legal standards for the environment and animal health and welfare will continue. However, we have made changes to our approach, such as introducing more advice led regulation in the EA and a more proportionate approach to cross compliance. We will continue improving so regulation is clear, fair and effective, and will update legal standards over time where needed.





One-off grants

There are grants available to help farmers invest in technology, equipment, and innovation.

This will help farmers:

- improve farm productivity
- try out and adopt innovative technology and practices
- improve the climate, environment, and animal health and welfare

These are things that the public and consumers care about, but which can only be delivered by farmers.

In 2022, you can apply for one-off grants for:

Productivity (through the Farming Investment Fund)

- The cost of equipment and technology to improve farm productivity (£2,000 to £25,000), through the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund
- Large capital items, including slurry storage (£25,000 to £500,000 depending on the type of item), through the Farming Transformation Fund

Research and innovation

The Farming Innovation Programme provides funding for farmers and growers who want to work to develop and use new, innovative methods and technologies.

Animal health and welfare

- An annual health and welfare review for livestock (through the Sustainable Farming Incentive)
- The costs of equipment and technology to improve animal health and welfare

Grants for capital items

Countryside Stewardship Capital Grants provide grants for items covering:

- boundaries, trees and orchards
- water quality
- air quality

Leaving the sector

The optional Lump Sum Exit Scheme provides flexibility for farmers, enabling those who wish to retire or leave the industry to do so in a planned way.

Improving the health of trees affected by disease

There is tree health funding available through a pilot scheme for those who manage certain trees or woodlands affected by some pests and diseases in some regions of England.

Enhancing protected landscapes

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme provides funding for farmers and land managers within an AONB or National Park in England, or the Broads, for projects that:

- enhance nature
- mitigate the impacts of climate change
- provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
- protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape or place

In 2023 and 2024 there will be:

- further rounds of funding for productivity, innovation, slurry management, trees and animal health and welfare
- England's Rural Prosperity Fund, which will support farmers and others in rural areas to diversify and grow their businesses

You can find more information on all our grants by searching for "funding for farmers and land managers" on GOV.UK

One-off payments for:

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026...
Farming in Protected Landscapes	Applications open				
Tree Health		Piloting Existing Countryside Stewardship grants ongoing		Incorporated into environmental land management schemes	
Farming Investment Fund (including slurry)	Several rounds of funding over this period				
Farming Innovation Programme	Several rounds of funding over this period				
Animal Health and Welfare		Applications open			
Lump Sum Exit Scheme		Open			

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Ongoing payments

There are ongoing payments available that pay farmers for producing environmental outcomes. Farmers will need to think not just in terms of food, but also the income they can generate from producing environmental outcomes.

In 2022, you will be able to apply for:

Maintaining and improving the health of improved grassland and arable soils

Farmers who are eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme can apply for money from the Sustainable Farming Incentive to improve arable, horticultural and improved grassland soil health.

Managing habitats, woodlands and flood risk

Farmers can apply for Countryside Stewardship to get paid to look after and improve the environment. You can apply in 2022 for an agreement to start in 2023, or in 2023 for an agreement to start in 2024. 2023 is the last year in which you can apply for Countryside Stewardship.

Planting trees and managing woodland

You can get paid to plant trees and create woodland through the England Woodland Creation Offer on areas that are at least 1 hectare. When the offer ends in 2024, you'll be able to transfer easily into one of our new environmental schemes.

You can also get help with woodland creation, maintenance, management and tree health. Search for 'woodland grants and incentives overview' on GOV.UK. Woodland creation funding is also available regionally through initiatives like:

- England's Community Forests
- Northern Forest England
- National Forest Company
- Northumberland Forest
- Forest for Cornwall
- Woodlands for Water Partnership

Better understanding the condition of our moorland

Moorland farmers who are eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme can apply for money from the Sustainable Farming Incentive to better understand the environmental features of moorland and areas of rough grazing, including on common land.

Restoring peatlands in the uplands and lowlands of England

The Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme provides funding to restore peatlands in the uplands and lowlands of England. It is a competitive grant scheme that will run until 2025.

In future years, you will be able to apply for:

Taking care of the environment, including:

- sustainable approaches to farming through the Sustainable Farming Incentive - actions that, if taken by many farmers, will really benefit the environment alongside food production. We will publish full details of the future Sustainable Farming Incentive standards in 2022.

2023

- nutrient management
- integrated pest management
- hedgerows
- advanced levels of the 2 soils standards

2024 (indicative)

- agroforestry
- low and no input grassland
- water body buffering
- farmland biodiversity
- intermediate and advanced levels of the moorland standard

2025 (indicative)

- organic
- on-farm woodland
- orchards and specialist horticulture
- heritage
- dry stone walls

- enhancing nature

Farmers can apply for payments to enhance nature alongside farming through Countryside Stewardship and then its successor, Local Nature Recovery.

Farmers will be able to apply for Local Nature Recovery funding to get paid for things that help the local environment. It will support local collaboration to make space for nature in the farmed landscape.

In 2023, we plan to make an early version of Local Nature Recovery available to a limited number of people. We will then roll out the scheme across England by the end of 2024.

Farmers will be able to enter into individual agreements to suit them. We will publish the full list of options and payment rates in 2022.

Large scale landscape and ecosystem restoration projects

Landscape Recovery will support large, long-term landscape and ecosystem restoration projects.

Piloting of animal health and welfare ‘payment by results’ from 2023

We are testing the ways in which we can pay farmers to further improve their standards of animal welfare. We intend to start piloting in 2023 and introduce a full-scale offer from 2025.

Joining farming

We want to encourage new starters into farming. We will provide funding for more opportunities to access land, infrastructure and support to establish successful and innovative businesses. We will trial ways to support new entrants from 2022 to 2023.

You can find more information on our schemes by searching for “funding for farmers and land managers” on GOV.UK

Ongoing payments

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026...
Tests and Trials	Continuing				
Sustainable Farming Incentive	Piloting				
	Early rollout of scheme begins				
Local Nature Recovery	Early rollout of scheme begins				
Landscape recovery	Phased rollout				
Countryside Stewardship Agreements, Wildlife Offers and Capital Grants	Applications open annually until 2023 for 2024				
Woodland Planning Creation Grant	Open			Incorporated into environmental land management schemes	
England Woodland Creation Offer	Open			Incorporated into environmental land management schemes	
New Entrant Support Scheme	Piloting				

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Advice

We want farmers to be able to access high quality advice in a way that works for them.

The Defra Rural Service helpline can help you understand what funding you can apply for.

Telephone: 03000 200 301 (Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm)

Through this number, you can talk to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA), Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) or the Farming Advice Service.

Natural England offers farm advice for Countryside Stewardship and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It also offers advice on Catchment Sensitive Farming, in partnership with Defra and the Environment Agency.

Search on GOV.UK for:

- 'Catchment Sensitive Farming' to find your local farm advisor if you need help to:
 - improve water quality
 - improve air quality
 - reduce flood risk on agricultural land

- ‘Countryside Stewardship’ to find your contact to help with scheme advice and options to recover nature
- ‘SSSI’ to find your contact to help with managing a SSSI

Through one phone call to Farming Help, farmers can access free, impartial and confidential support from three farming charities. Call 03000 111 999 (7am to 11pm, every day of the year).

Get business advice for your farm

This advice is free if you get paid through the Basic Payment Scheme. Search for ‘farm resilience fund’ on GOV.UK to find the full list of providers and their contact details.

Get support for woodland creation

For advice on tree funding, contact your local Woodland Creation Officer. Find their name and email address by searching on GOV.UK for ‘Woodland Creation Officer’.

Get help with Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

The TB Advisory Service will remain available until 2024. It gives on-farm and telephone advice to help reduce the incidence and severity of Bovine TB breakouts.

Telephone: 01306 779410

Become a facilitator

The Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund provides funding for a person or organisation to help a group of farmers or land managers work together to improve the natural environment. Search ‘facilitation fund’ on GOV.UK for more information.



Helping us make it work

If you want to help us or have feedback on how we can do things better, email us at **ffcpdesign@defra.gov.uk**

We are working with more than 4,000 farmers to design, test and roll out our reforms.

If you want to keep up to date, search online for 'future farming blog' or 'future farming e-alert' and subscribe.



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June 2022