



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Payments for arable and horticultural farmers

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There is lots on offer for arable and horticultural farmers to benefit your farm business, food production and improve the environment.

Funding is straightforward to apply for and you can choose the combination of actions that work for your business.

Our new farming schemes and payments are **now open**.

In 2023 you can:

- **get paid for many actions** in Countryside Stewardship (CS) and the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)
- **apply to one or more of the grants available**, including for equipment and technology
- **apply for the second round of Landscape Recovery**, for projects that support net zero, protected sites and habitat creation across areas of 500ha or more
- **apply for the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme**, if you are in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, National Park or the Broads
- **apply for support through the England Woodland Creation Offer** to create new woodland – you could receive up to £10,200 per ha, plus up to a further £8,000 in Additional Contributions for public benefits

## How to find more information

If you receive direct payments, you can get free support to help you make the right business choices for the future. Search 'Farming Resilience Fund' on GOV.UK to find a local advisor.

For more information on anything mentioned in this leaflet, please go to GOV.UK and search for 'funding for farmers'.

# Ongoing schemes available this year – the Environmental Land Management schemes

There is a full list of the scheme options available to arable and horticultural farmers at the back of this leaflet, page 8.

## Get paid to manage habitats, woodland, flood risk and reduce water pollution through Countryside Stewardship

There are a number of offers within Countryside Stewardship (CS), including payments to help the environment through Mid Tier, and Higher Tier for more environmentally significant sites. There are also:

- **Wildlife offer** agreements involving targeted options to support wildlife
- **capital grants** – 3-year agreements offering capital items within 3 groups: 'Boundaries, Trees and Orchards', 'Water Quality' and 'Air Quality'
- **more grants** to help create woodlands or to deliver other environmental benefits

Help is also available through Catchment Sensitive Farming to improve water and air quality, and reduce flood risk on agricultural land. Search on GOV.UK for 'Countryside Stewardship' to find all funding.

CS agreements can be on land already in an Higher Level Stewardship agreement, so long as all the actions and items are compatible, there is sufficient space for them, and they are not being funded twice.

## Eligibility

Any farmers, woodland owners, foresters and land managers can apply for CS, providing the land is eligible.

## Application timeline and process

- Mid Tier, including the Wildlife Offers until 18 August 2023. You can apply online via the Rural Payments service.
- You can apply for a Capital Grants agreement at any time of year – there is no application window. You can apply online via the Rural Payments service or by application form.
- Applications for Higher Tier are currently closed.

## 5 reasons to apply for CS:

1. Get paid for helping the environment alongside your usual income.
2. Updated payment rates to reflect changes in costs.
3. Straightforward application.
4. You can be in CS and Sustainable Farming Incentive at the same time as long as the land is eligible, the actions are compatible and you are not being paid for the same action twice.
5. It's popular – there are currently over 30,000 agreements across Mid Tier and High Tier.

# Straightforward actions that work for the environment, food production and your business

The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) offers payments for actions that support food production and can help improve farm productivity and resilience, while also protecting and improving the environment. We expect to start accepting applications in a controlled rollout from August this year.

## Eligibility

You must be eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme to apply. This requirement will be removed in later years, but that's unlikely to happen before 2024.

SFI offers a management payment to cover the costs of taking part, an extra payment for farmers on common land, flexible requirements, and fair and proportionate controls.

For tenant farmers, along with other improvements we've made in response to Baroness Rock's review, there are shorter agreement lengths that do not require landlord consent.

## Application timeline and process

To make the change from our initial offer to the new one smooth, we have temporarily closed applications and will reopen them in August.

When the online application opens again in August, we will have a controlled rollout like our approach last year. During this initial period, when you sign into the Rural Payments service, you'll either be able to apply online or we'll ask you to contact the Rural Payments Agency who will arrange for you to start your application.

Farmers can apply when they want and start the month after they accept their offer – and payments are paid quarterly, starting 4 months after that.

## 5 reasons to apply for SFI:

1. Get paid for actions that support your business, food production and the environment.
2. It's straightforward to apply and manage your agreement. We have changed the way we check delivery to make it more flexible and pragmatic - we don't apply penalties and where things go wrong, we will first seek to help you to fix it.
3. Anyone who applies and is eligible will get an agreement. You can enter as much land as you choose and you can choose how many actions you do. Once you're in SFI, you can add more land and actions to your agreement each year.
4. You will be paid quickly. Your first payment will be 4 months after your agreement starts, then payments are made quarterly.
5. You can be in SFI and CS at the same time as long as the actions are compatible and you are not being paid for the same action twice.

To ensure farmers are able to make the most of our schemes, we've published a new SFI Handbook giving farmers all the detail they need in a single document, including how CS and SFI actions can be combined.

Search GOV.UK for 'SFI guidance' to see the latest information, including the handbook.

# Large-scale landscape and ecosystem restoration projects

**Landscape Recovery** helps large-scale projects to produce environmental and climate benefits through bespoke, long-term agreements.

The majority of round one projects involve groups of land managers and farmers, including tenants, working together to deliver a range of environmental benefits across farmland and rural landscapes.

## Eligibility

For landowners and managers with projects of at least 500 hectares. Projects can involve groups of land managers and farmers, including tenants.

## Application timeline and process

Applications for round two close in September 2023. Round two will focus on projects targeting net zero, protected sites and habitat creation. This could include projects creating and enhancing woodland, peatland, nature reserves and protected sites.

Projects will be selected in rounds, which will involve a competitive application process.

## 5 reasons to apply for Landscape Recovery:

1. Projects will enhance the natural environment alongside food production.
2. Development funding is available to help projects prepare for delivery.
3. Provides secure, long-term funding.
4. Agreements are bespoke and designed with the project leads.
5. You can secure sustainable funding streams from public and private sources.

# One-off grants available this year

More than £168 million in grants is available to farmers this year.

## Investing in equipment, technology and infrastructure

You can get funding towards equipment, technology and infrastructure through The Farming Investment Fund. It offers grants between £1,000 and £500,000 to improve productivity, the environment and animal health and welfare.

The fund is done in themed rounds.

## Research and innovation

You can get funding through the Farming Innovation Programme to:

- explore an idea and develop a team
- check if an idea works in practice
- develop a new product or service
- work on longer-term innovations

## Planning, creating and maintaining new woodland

Planting trees doesn't have to come at the expense of food production. Trees grow well in less productive soils. Well-designed and well-managed woodlands support the foundations of food production: healthy soil, cleaner water, and biodiverse ecosystems.

Trees and woodlands can help farm businesses become more economically and ecologically resilient. They can provide new streams of income from timber, carbon units, and through recreation.

Find out about grants and advice by searching for "woodland creation campaign" online.

## Enhancing protected landscapes

The Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme is for farmers and land managers within an AONB, the Broads or a National Park in England.

Get funding for one-off projects that:

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

The programme will run until March 2025.

## Animal health and welfare

Through the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway you can get funding for:

- an annual health and welfare review for livestock
- the costs of equipment and technology to improve animal health and welfare

# It doesn't end here. 2024 and beyond...

We'll keep expanding the SFI until the full range is available by 2025. You can add actions to an existing agreement.

We will continue to improve CS by:

- offering more actions, covering a wider range of outcomes
- transforming the administration to make it more accessible, fair and workable for farmers
- increasing our ambition, including targeting actions and spend to incentivise the right things in the right places and encourage local join-up
- possibly introducing an element of payment by results

Eventually you will be able to apply for SFI and CS through one streamlined application.

## Monitoring and Compliance

We have worked in collaboration with farmers to develop a better regulatory system that improves outcomes for everyone. We are improving the way farm regulation works to make it fairer, clearer and more proportionate and effective.

Schemes are less prescriptive, allowing you flexibility to focus on delivering outcomes that matter. For example, SFI actions explain what we want the farmer to achieve but give you leeway to decide precisely how to do it.

Inevitably, there may be cases where it has not been possible for a farmer to complete an action, and a payment adjustment needs to be made. Where things go wrong, we will first seek to help farmers to fix it, on a starting assumption of good faith rather than wrongdoing.

SFI (as with the domestic CS agreements) does not involve additional 'penalties' being applied on top of payment adjustments. This moves away from the approach taken under EU-based schemes.



Lapwing near Cley, Norfolk  
© Natural England/Julian Dowse





# Actions you can apply for in Countryside Stewardship and the Sustainable Farming Incentive

We've listed the relevant actions for arable and horticultural farmers on the following pages. These are grouped by theme to help you find the actions that might best suit your farm. All capital payments are listed on the last page.

You can be in the SFI and CS at the same time if the actions you're doing are compatible and you are not paid for the same action twice. For more information on how CS and SFI actions can be combined, read the new SFI Handbook.

SFI applications are temporarily closed – but we will open for applications again in August, with a phased rollout like our approach last year. During this initial period, when you sign into the Rural Payments service, you'll either be able to apply online or we'll ask you to contact the Rural Payments Agency who will arrange for you to start your application.

**Don't forget** – the SFI offers a management payment to cover the administrative costs of participation. It is particularly helpful for smaller businesses. It is £20 per hectare, for up to 50 hectares of land entered in the scheme.

There is also an additional common land payment of £6.15 per ha if a group of 2 or more people apply for an SFI agreement on common land.

## Annual payments for arable, temporary grasslands areas and horticultural crops

		Payment rate per ha unless stated	SFI/CS
AB1	Establishing and maintaining nectar flower mix	£614	CS
AB2	Basic overwintered stubble	£58	CS
AB3	Establishing beetle banks	£667	CS
AB4	Creating skylark plots	£10.38 per plot	CS
AB5	Creating nesting plots for lapwing and stone curlew	£587	CS
AB6	Enhanced overwinter stubble	£522	CS
AB7	Establishing spring cereal crops and harvesting as a whole crop	£584	CS
AB8	Flower rich margins and plots	£673	CS
AB9	Winter bird food	£732	CS
AB10	Leaving cereal headlands unharvested	£822	CS
AB11	Cultivate areas for arable plants	£550	CS
AB12	Providing supplementary winter feed for farmland birds	£669 per tonne for every 2 ha	CS
AB14	Harvested low input cereal	£236	CS
AB15	Two year sown legume fallow	£593	CS
AB16	Autumn sown bumblebird mix	£637	CS
AHL1	Pollen and nectar flower mix	£614	SFI
AHL2	Winter bird food on arable and horticultural land	£732	SFI
AHL3	Grassy field corners and blocks	£590	SFI
BE1	Protecting in-field trees on arable land	£503	CS
GS3	Ryegrass seed-set as winter food for birds	£474	
GS4	legume and herb-rich swards	£382	CS
SW1	Creating and managing 4-6m buffer strip on cultivated land	£451	CS
SW3	Having In-field grass strips	£658	CS
SW4	Creating and managing 12-24m watercourse buffer strip on cultivated land	£612	CS
SW5	Carrying out enhanced management of maize crops	£172	CS
SW6	Establishing winter cover crops	£129	CS
SW7	Arable reversion to grassland with low fertiliser inputs	£326	CS
WT2	Buffering in-field ponds and ditches on arable land	£594	CS

## Annual payments for soils

		Payment rate	SFI/CS
SAM1	Assess soil, test soil organic matter and produce a soil management plan	£5.80 per ha and an additional payment of £95 per agreement	SFI
SAM2	Multi-species winter cover crops	£129	SFI
SAM3	Herbal leys	£382	SFI

### Annual payments to create and maintain field boundaries and field edges

		Payment rate per ha unless stated	SFI/CS
BE3	Management of hedgerows by rotational cutting and leaving some hedgerows uncut	£10 per 100m for 1 side of a hedge	CS
HRW1	Assess and record hedgerow condition	£3 per 100m – one side	SFI
HRW2	Manage hedgerows	£10 per 100m – one side	SFI
HRW3	Maintain or establish hedgerow trees	£10 per 100m – both sides	SFI

### Annual payments for integrated pest management

		Payment rate per ha	SFI/CS
IPM1	Assess integrated pest management and produce a plan (agreement level SFI action)	£989	SFI
IPM2	Flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips	£673	SFI
IPM3	Companion crop on arable and horticultural land	£55	SFI
IMP4	No use of insecticide on arable crops and permanent crops	£45	SFI

### Annual payments for nutrient management

		Payment rate per ha	SFI/CS
NUM1	Assess nutrient management and produce a review report (agreement level SFI action)	£589	SFI
NUM3	Legume fallow	£593	SFI

### Annual payment for buffer strips

		Payment rate per ha	SFI/CS
AHL4	4m to 12m grass buffer strip on arable and horticultural land	£451	SFI

### Annual payments to create and maintain trees and woodlands

		Payment rate per ha unless stated	SFI/CS
BE4	Management of traditional orchards	£264	CS
BE5	Creating traditional orchards	£373	CS
BE6	Veteran tree surgery	£379 for each veteran tree	CS
BE7	Supplement for restorative pruning of fruit trees	£113 per tree	CS
WD1	Woodland creation – maintenance payments	£350	CS
WD2	Woodland improvement	A minimum of £1000 per year	CS
WD3	Woodland edges on arable land	£402	CS
WD6	Creation of wood pasture	£544	CS
WD7	Managing successional areas and scrub	£88	CS
WD8	Creating successional areas and scrub	£149	CS
WS1	Managing and controlling deer	£90	CS
WS2	Restoring plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites supplement	£70	CS
WS3	Managing and controlling grey squirrel	£50	CS
WS4	Improving access to woodlands supplement	£50	CS



### Annual payments to manage historic sites and educational access

		Payment rate per ha unless stated	SFI/CS
ED1	Farmers hosting tours of their farms for school pupils and care farming visitors	£318 per visit	CS
HS1	Maintaining weatherproof traditional farm or forestry buildings	£4.42 per square metre	CS
HS2	Take historic and archaeological features currently on cultivated land out of production	£476	CS
HS3	Reduced depth, non-inversion cultivation on historic and archaeological features	£92	CS
HS4	Controlling scrub on historic and archaeological features	£175	CS
HS5	Managing historic and archaeological features on grassland	£44	CS
HS6	Maintaining designed or engineered waterbodies	£2,129.00	CS
HS7	Managing historic water meadows through traditional irrigation	£808	CS
HS8	Maintaining weatherproof traditional farm or forestry buildings in remote areas	£6.93 per square metre	CS
HS9	Restricted depth crop establishment to protect archaeology under arable rotation	£211 per hectare	CS

### Annual supplement payments to plan, create, restore and manage sites of high environmental value

		Payment rate per ha	SFI/CS
SP9	Supplement for threatened species	£171	CS
SP10	Administration of group managed agreements supplement	£6.07	CS

### Annual payments to improve water quality

		Payment rate per ha	SFI/CS
SW12	Making space for water	£781	CS

## Countryside Stewardship Capital payments

The below table lists the capital item payments you can apply for currently. These are grouped by theme.

Payments for management of bracken and specific features		Payment rate
SB4	Chemical bracken control	£270.90
SB5	Mechanical bracken control	£190.90
WN2	Creation of scrapes and gutters/sq m	£2.23 per square metre
WN3	Ditch, dyke and rhine restoration/m	£5.72 per square metre
WN4	Ditch, dyke and rhine creation/m	£13.63 per square metre
WN8	Timber sluice/unit	£451.50 per sluice
WN9	Brick, stone or concrete sluice/unit	£2,901.40 per sluice
Payments to create and maintain field boundaries and field edges		Payment rate
BN1	Capital grants to repair stone-faced hedgebanks	£67.25 per metre
BN2	Capital grants to restore stone-faced hedgebanks	£163.26 per metre
BN3	Capital grants to create earth banks	£20.59 per metre
BN4	Capital grants to restore earth banks	£10.54 per metre
BN5	Hedgerow laying	£13.52 per metre
BN6	Hedgerow coppicing	£5.33 per metre
BN7	Hedgerow gapping-up	£17.22 per metre
BN8	Hedgerow supplement – casting up	£4.39 per metre
BN9	Hedgerow supplement – substantial pre-work	£7.06 per metre
BN10	Hedgerow supplement – top binding and staking	£5.82 per metre
BN11	Planting new hedges	£22.97 per metre
TE1	Planting standard hedgerow tree	£19.06 per tree
BN12	Stone wall restoration	£31.91 per metre
BN13	Top wiring-stonewall	£5.54 per metre
BN14	Stone supplement – stone from quarry	£164.50 per metre
BN15	Stonewall supplement – difficult sites	£15.91 per metre
FG1	Fencing per m	£6.34 per metre
FG3	Permanent electric fencing/m	£5.66 per metre
FG4	Rabbit fencing supplement/m	£5.65 per metre
FG5	Fencing supplement - difficult sites	£3.98 per metre
FG7	Anti-predator combination fencing/m	£13.76 per metre
FG8	Anti-predator temporary electric fencing/m	£2.84 per metre
FG12	Wooden field gate/gate	£489.90 per gate
RP15	Concrete yard renewal	£33.64 per square metre

## Payments to create and maintain trees and woodlands

		Payment rate
AC1	Capital grant for providing access to woodlands	Up to 100% of actual cost
AC2	Capital grant for accreditation for staff carrying out countryside educational access visits	£277.26 once per agreement
FG10	Temporary deer fencing	£8.09 per metre
FG11	Deer exclosure plot	£212.56 per unit
FG14	Badger gate/unit	£61.81 per gate
FY1	Deer high seat	£265 per unit
FY2	Woodland Infrastructure	40% of actual costs
FY3	Squirrel traps and maintenance	80% of actual costs
FG10	Temporary deer fencing	£8.09 per metre
FG13	Stone gate post/post	£651.42 per post
TE2	Planting Standard parkland tree	£123.94 per tree
TE3	Planting fruit trees	£28.07 per tree
TE4	Supply and plant	£1.72 per tree
TE5	Supplement for use of individual tree-shelters	£2.43 per unit
TE6	Tree guard – tube & mesh	£3.95 per guard
TE7	Tree guard – (wood post and rail)	£109.64 per guard
TE8	Tree guard – (wood post and wire)	£132.16 per guard
TE9	Parkland tree guard – welded steel/tree	£402.73 per tree
TE10	Coppicing bankside trees	£53.95 per tree
TE11	Tree surgery limb up to 20cm	£73.36 per tree
TE12	Stump grinding	£96 per stump
TE13	Creation of dead wood habitat on trees	£285.58 per tree
TE14	Identification of orchard fruit tree varieties	£20 per variety
SB1	Scrub control & felling diseased trees - Machine cut < 7cm, under 50%	£375
SB2	Scrub control – difficult sites	Up to 80% of actual costs
SB3	Tree removal	£155.17 per tree
SB6	Managing and controlling rhododendron: Level or gentle slope (0 to 11 degree incline) - Average height is less than 2.5m tall	£3500
WB1	Small wildlife box	£11.95 per box
WB2	Medium wildlife box	£27.91 per box
WB3	Large wildlife box	£38.28 per box

## Payments to plan, create, restore and manage sites of high environmental value

		Payment rate
HE1	Capital grant for historic and archaeological feature protection	Up to 100% of actual costs
HE3	Removal of eyesores	£500.47 per item
FM1	Management of geodiversity features	Up to 100% of actual costs
FM2	Major preparatory works for Priority Habitat (creation and restoration) and for Priority Species	Up to 100% of actual costs
PA1	Implementation plan	£1,200 per plan
PA2	Feasibility study	Up to 100% of actual costs
PA3	Producing a woodland management plan	minimum payment £1,500







