




Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

FUNDING FOR SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT FOOD PRODUCTION

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If your business is looking for ways to become more resilient to the challenges presented by climate change and a volatile market, these **Defra funding schemes** could be for you.

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE

Funding farmers for a **more sustainable business**

Sustainable Farming Incentive

Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) is an Environmental Land Management scheme, with over 21,000 farmers who have already applied. It rewards farmers for farming practices that help produce food sustainably and protect the environment.

How does it work?

It's a flexible scheme that gives you a choice of actions. Payments are quarterly which can help with cashflow, and agreement holders receive a £2,000¹ management payment for participating in the scheme.

Why is it important?

A healthy, functioning natural environment goes hand in hand with food production and helps ensure your business' resilience now and into the future.

Whether you choose to add legumes into your grass sward to reduce your reliance on fertilisers, preserve your soil's fertility through cover cropping, apply precision farming techniques to reduce herbicide costs or integrated pest management to reduce reliance on pesticides, SFI offers actions that make good business sense and help protect domestic food production and the environment.

Additionally, some of the actions will support flood preparedness, helping businesses to become more resilient to the changing climate and challenging weather conditions.

To boost sustainable food production on your farm, you should review the actions available in the expanded SFI offer – there are over 102 actions to choose from².

Every farm is different, we have a wide offer so there will be lots of choice for everyone, some of the actions that directly enable resilient food production include:

SFI action name	SFI action code	Payment	Benefit
Assess soil, produce a soil management plan and test soil organic matter	CSAM1	£97+6/ha	Understanding the condition of your soil and in particular your soil organic matter levels can help you effectively plan how to increase your long-term productivity
Multi-species winter cover crop	CSAM2	£129/ha	Protecting your soil biology and minimising nutrient leaching, soil erosion and runoff guards against future dips in productivity
Herbal leys	CSAM3	£382/ha	Producing a high volume of forage with minimal use of inorganic fertiliser at the same time as protecting your soil
No-till farming	SOH1	£73/ha	Improving soil health, fertility and structure whilst reducing soil runoff looks after future productivity
Multi-species spring-sown cover crop	SOH2	£163/ha	Adding organic matter to the soil and minimising nutrient leaching, soil erosion and runoff looks after future productivity
Multi-species summer sown cover crop	SOH3	£163/ha	Providing root growth that benefits soil structure, supports soil biology and minimises nutrient leaching, soil erosion and runoff guards against future dips in productivity

Winter cover following maize crops	SOH4	£203/ha	Helping the take up of nutrients and reducing the risk of soil erosion to increase productivity for your next crop
Variable rate application of nutrients	PRF1	£27/ha	Improves yields from more consistent crop growth and quality
Camera or remote sensor guided herbicide spraying	PRF2	£43/ha	Maintains productivity levels whilst reducing input costs from the decrease in the volume of herbicide applied
Non-mechanical robotic weeding	PRF3	£101/ha	Improving productivity and reducing input costs by controlling weeds so there's minimal use of herbicides
Mechanical robotic weeding	PRF4	£150/ha	Improving productivity and reducing input costs by controlling weeds so there's minimal use of herbicides
Assess integrated pest management and produce a plan	CIPM1	£1129/year	Planning how to adopt a range of integrated pest management methods appropriate to your farm to improve productivity
Flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips	CIPM2	£798/ha	Reduce input costs whilst maintaining yields by encouraging natural crop pest predators
Companion crop on arable and horticultural land	CIPM3	£55/ha	Providing a habitat for pollinators and using as a trap crop for pests or weed suppressant to benefit productivity
No use of insecticide on arable crops and horticultural crops	CIPM4	£45/ha	Supporting natural crop predators, to manage crop pests in a way that reduces the cost and reliance on insecticides
Assess nutrient management and produce a review report	CNUM1	£652/year	Planning how to increase productivity through increasingly efficient nutrient usage
Legumes on improved grassland	CNUM2	£102/ha	Builds soil fertility, reducing the need for artificial fertilisers. It reduces the risk of soil erosion to increase productivity
Legume fallow	CNUM3	£593/ha	Increases productivity by reducing grass weeds and, if located close to cropped areas, encouraging natural crop pest predators

SFI annual health and welfare review	Farmers who keep cattle, sheep and pigs can get funding to pay for a vet to visit their farm and carry out a health and welfare review of their livestock.
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Great for tenant farmers

We've designed SFI with tenants firmly in mind. All of the actions we list above are three years in duration, so they will work for shorter-term tenants.

There's no requirement for you to confirm landlord permission as part of application process - only a tenant can enter land occupied under a tenancy into SFI.

What should I do next?

Thousands of farmers are already being rewarded for these actions and reaping benefits such as reduced input costs and improved crop or livestock health.

Learn more about SFI, choose actions that are right for your farm and get ready to apply: farming.campaign.gov.uk

5 other funding sources that will help with resilient food production

1. Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF)

This grant helps you purchase specific equipment to boost productivity and animal health and welfare. It helps cover the cost of innovative technologies designed to enhance your farm's efficiency. The grant covers a substantial percentage of costs, helping make new technology more accessible.

For example, a poultry farm in Buckinghamshire was awarded £24k to install a drinking water delivery system.

2. Farming Resilience Fund (FRF)

You can access free business support or receive funding if you've suffered uninsurable damage to your land due to flooding, from the Farming Resilience Fund. The fund has benefitted over 19,000 farmers to date.

Through the FRF, we've also committed to make up to £500k available to deliver projects that support mental health in the farming sector. We are now pleased to announce that Lincolnshire Rural Support Network, YANA and The Farming Network and Company will benefit from this funding.

3. Farming Investment Fund (FIF)

These grants improve productivity and profitability, the environment and animal health and welfare on your farm.

For example, a dairy farm in Somerset was awarded £448k to install 12 milking robots for the herd and a horticultural farm in Lincolnshire was awarded £500k to install wavelength specific LED lighting for crops.

4. Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier

This grant will offer funding for farmers, foresters, and other land managers to carry out CS Higher Tier actions on their land, alongside producing food or timber. These grants will be directed at the most environmentally important sites such as sites of special scientific interest, woodlands, coastal habitats or lowland peat. CS Higher Tier actions will be tailored to the specific land and contribute to delivering important outcomes for the environment and climate.

5. England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)

This grant is for planting new woodlands. 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.

Learn more about the different schemes and grants available to farmers, search 'Funding for farmers' on GOV.UK

¹In the first year, the management payment will pay £40 per hectare for up to the first 50 v hectares entered into an eligible agreement and £20/ha for the first 50 hectares for years 2 and 3.

²Sustainable Farming Incentive will continue to be expanded and additional actions will be added later this year. Your farm and land must meet eligibility criteria.