



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Payments for arable and horticultural Farmers

Published May 2023

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 and the Sustainable Farming Incentive.
- **apply to one or more of the grants available** – this could be used to pay for equipment, technology or infrastructure, or research and innovation.
- **apply for the second round of Landscape Recovery**, which is open to individuals or groups of land managers looking to deliver 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, including through natural colonisation, on areas as small as one hectare. You could receive up to £13,000 per hectare.

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, including payments to help the environment through Mid Tier, and Higher Tier for more environmentally significant sites. There are also:

- **Wildlife offer** agreements involve targeted options to support wildlife
- **capital grants** available including grants for stonewall restoration, hedgerow restoration and creation
- **more grants** to help create woodlands or to deliver other environmental benefits

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

Countryside Stewardship 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 Countryside Stewardship, providing the land is eligible.

Application timeline and process

- Mid Tier and wildlife offers until 18 August 2023. You can apply online via the Rural Payments service.
- The application window is open all year for Capital Grants and Capital Claims. You can apply online via the Rural Payments service or by application form.
- Applications for Higher Tier are currently closed, and will reopen early next year.

5 reasons to apply for Countryside Stewardship:

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 Countryside Stewardship and Sustainable Farming Incentive at the same time as long as 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 you can do to support your business, protecting and improving the environment alongside food production

The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) pays for environmentally sustainable land management actions that all farmers can do (or might already be doing).

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.

Application timeline and process

The application window is open all year round. This summer we will make more actions available. You can apply online in the Rural Payments service using your existing sign-in details.

As we introduce more actions, you'll be able to upgrade your agreement each year to add more actions and add more land.

5 reasons to apply for SFI:

- 1.** Get paid for helping the environment alongside your usual income.
- 2.** It's easy to apply, Search for 'apply for the SFI' on YouTube to see an example application.
- 3.** Applications are not competitive. If you and your land are eligible, you'll be offered an agreement.
- 4.** You will be paid quickly. Your first payment will be 3 months after your agreement starts, then payments are made quarterly.
- 5.** You can be in SFI and Countryside Stewardship at the same time as long as you are not being paid for the same action twice.

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 opened on 18 May 2023. It 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 Countryside Stewardship 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 Countryside Stewardship agreements) does not involve additional 'penalties' being applied on top of payment adjustments. This moves away from the approach taken under EU-based schemes.

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.

Below CS actions are marked **CS** and SFI actions are marked **SFI**.

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.

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
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

Annual payments for arable, temporary grasslands areas and horticultural crops

		Payment rate per ha unless stated	SFI/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
New in SFI 23 AB1 Variation	Establish and maintain blocks or strips of pollen and nectar flower mix	£614	SFI
New in SFI 23 AB8 variation	Establishing and maintaining in-field flower-rich strips, which will provide habitat for natural pest enemies	£673	SFI
New in SFI 23 AB9 Variation	Establish and maintain blocks or strips of winter bird food	£732	SFI
New in SFI 23 AB15 Variation	Establish and maintain legume fallow	£593	SFI
New in SFI 23 GS3 Variation	Maintain improved grassland to provide winter bird food	£474	SFI
New in SFI 23 GS4 Variation	Establish and maintain legumes	£102	SFI
New in SFI 23 SW1 Variation	Establish and maintain a 4m-12m buffer strip on arable and horticultural land	£451	SFI
New in SFI 23	Establish and maintain grassy field corners and blocks	£590	SFI
New in SFI 23	Adviser visit to assess and advise on integrated pest management and help to produce a plan	£989 per year	SFI
New in SFI 23	Adviser visit to review and improve nutrient use efficiency	£589 per year	SFI
New in SFI 23	Establish a companion crop	£55	SFI
New in SFI 23	No use of insecticide	£45	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
New in SFI 23	Assessing and recording hedgerow condition	£3 per 100m (one side)	SFI
New in SFIBE3 variation	Manage hedgerows, including annual incremental cutting or leaving hedgerows uncut for longer	£10 per 100m (one side)	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

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 enclosure 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