

Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) Information Sheet

Website for all government funding for farmers: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers>

Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) will open in 2 windows in 2026.

1. June 30th 2026:
 - for farms 3ha - 50ha **and/or** farms not currently in any ELMS (including SFI, Countryside Stewardship and ELS/HLS)
 - budget of £60 million (surplus will be carried over)
2. September 2026:
 - exact date will be announced closer to the time,
 - all farms are eligible,
 - budget of £180 million plus any leftover from the June SFI window
 - Farmers with expiring schemes (SFI, CS, CSHT, ELS/HLS) should also be able to apply in this window with a function to set their start date to coincide with when their current scheme ends. More details on this will be published before the September window including a cut-off point for expiring schemes.
3. Details on scheme guidance can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-farming-incentive-2026-sfi26>
This includes information on how to apply, guidance, rules, terms and conditions and actions available.
4. You will need to submit an annual declaration each year and keep any evidence for your scheme for 7 years after your scheme ends.
5. There are 71 actions available- a full list of actions and criteria are available:
<https://www.gov.uk/find-funding-for-land-or-farms>
6. For SFI26 agreements, caps will be placed on:
 - no SFI26 agreement can be worth more than £100,000 per year.
 - Each farm business can have only one SFI26 agreement.
 - Agreement holders will not be able to increase the area or value of rotational actions beyond what they included in Year 1. Farmers will still be able to move rotational actions between fields to match their crop rotation. They will also be able to increase or reduce the area from year to year, if they do not go above the Year 1 level.
7. The 10 area limited actions (these actions cannot be done (individually or in combination) on more than 25% of the total agricultural area of the farm) are:
 - CIPM2/IPM2: Flower-rich grass margins, blocks or in-field strips
 - CAHL1/AHL1: Pollen and nectar flower mix
 - CAHL2/AHL2: Winter bird food on arable and horticultural land
 - CAHL3/AHL3: Grassy field corners or blocks
 - CIGL1/IGL1: Take improved grassland field corners or blocks out of management
 - CIGL2/IGL2: Winter bird food on improved grassland
 - WBD3: In-field grass strips
 - AHW7: Enhanced overwinter stubble
 - AHW9: Unharvested cereal headland
 - AHW11: Cultivated areas for arable plants

8. Payment rates reduced for:
 - CSAM3: Herbal leys from £382/ha to £224/ha
 - CAHL2: Winter bird food from £853/ha to £648/ha
 - CNUM3: Legume fallow from £593/ha to £532/ha
9. Removed options include:
 - All management plan options- CHRW1, CNUM1, CSAM1, CIPM1
 - CHRW3- in hedge trees
 - BFS2, BFS3, BFS4, BFS5- Buffering ponds and trees
 - AHW1- Bumblebird mix
 - GRH6 and GRH11- Species-rich grassland and cattle grazing supplement
 - OFA3 and OFA6- Organic supplementary winter bird food and undersown cereal
 - SOH2 and SOH4 – spring sown cover crop and winter cover following maize
 - WBD5, WBD8, WBD9 – managing nutrients on land near watercourses

Capital Grants will open in July 2026 (exact date to be confirmed)

1. Details on scheme guidance can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-grants-2026>
This includes eligibility criteria, supporting documents required and guidance on how to produce maps for your application.
2. Items in the offer are divided between 6 groups:
 - air quality items, for example slurry scrapers (£25,000 max)
 - assessments items, for example a wildfire checklist
 - boundaries, trees and orchards items, (£35,000 max)
 - improvements items, for example educational access visits
 - natural flood management items, for example leaky woody dams (£25,000 max)
 - water quality items, including fencing (£25,000 max)
3. Criteria for items can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/capital-grant-finder>
4. Capital Grant agreements last 3 years and can be claimed in sections as needed.
5. You must start work after your agreement start date and take before and after photos as well as any other supporting evidence required (e.g. invoices).

If you have any questions about the above please contact Sally (07495 457132) or Izaak (07469 118922) by phone or at land.advice@wkw.org.uk