

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’.

Cover photo:
Sunset or sunrise over path through countryside field
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# 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 lower costs, while protecting and improving the environment.

From August this year, farmers will be able to apply for a total of 23 paid-for actions in the SFI.

## 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 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.

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
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# 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 opens 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 |



Cabbage field
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