

DEFRA Payments for Outcomes

In England, Direct Payments are being phased out. They have previously been paid through the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS). The government introduced progressive reductions in 2021 through to 2027. Payments are now being Delinked and there is no longer a requirement to hold land. Delinked payments will be made between 2024 and 2027. Payments will decrease each year as progressive reductions are made.

Set out in the [Agricultural Transition Plan](#), it states money freed up from Direct Payments is being redirected straight back into Countryside Stewardship and their other environmental land management schemes.

The [DEFRA Farming Blog](#) is an online platform used to explain the reforms to agricultural policy in England. DEFRA release all new schemes, updates and resources needed to participate in the schemes. Free webinars are frequently held to explain changes within agriculture and allow for questions to be answered. It is recommended that you subscribe to the blog to receive email updates as things come out. You can sign up to the DEFRA Blog to receive regular emails direct to your phone PC so you can be kept fully up to date. Subscribe today at <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/subscribe/>

Available Advice

Future Farm Resilience Fund

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-free-business-advice-for-your-farm>

The Future Farm Resilience Fund (FFRF) was created to provide business support to farmers and land managers, who are in receipt of the Basic Payment Scheme payments, during the early years of the agricultural transition. Free and confidential support is offered through one-to-one consultations, farm visits, followed by recommendations in a report, access to workshops and webinars, along with networking opportunities to allow farmers to access support from each other. Organisations delivering FFRF are known and trusted in the farming community. Advisors can help with understanding how farming in England is changing, alongside identifying how you can change your business to adapt to changes. The list of organisations providing the free business advice in your area can be found [here](#).

Peaks Farmers group

<https://thefarminglifecentre.org.uk/peak-farmers-group/>

The Peaks Farming group is a collaborative group ran by farmers for farmers. The group is free to join and open to all. It provides a chance to find out what's new that could benefit both you and your farm business. All events held are optional for members to attend and participate in. The group produces a regular newsletter to share news and events keeping its members up to date with industry updates.

Payments and Grants Available

It is always worthwhile having a looking at the Defra page funding for farmers for the latest grant news all in one place.

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

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers-in-protected-landscapes>

The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme is part of DEFRA's Agricultural Transition Plan. It offers funding for farmers and land managers in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This is not an agri-environment scheme. The programme funds projects that support nature recovery, provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage alongside protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape or place. Funding is available to farmers or land managers within an AONB or National Park. The programme is also open to farmers and land managers outside of protected landscapes. To be eligible the project must benefit the protected landscape, or the protected landscapes body's objectives or partnership initiatives. The programme will pay for projects, up to 100% if you will not make a commercial gain from it, that provides value for money and result in at least one climate, nature, people or place outcome. A list to the outcomes can be found [here](#).

The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sustainable-farming-incentive-guidance>

The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) rewards farmers for farming practices that help produce food sustainability and protect the environment. To apply for an SFI agreement you must have been eligible for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) in 2022 or 2023. The Sustainable Farming Incentive agreement runs for 3 years, with a rolling application window. SFI is not competitive. Anyone who applies is eligible for an agreement. There is no minimum or maximum area required to enter an SFI agreement. It is possible to add additional actions to an existing SFI agreement annually. Payments under this scheme are made quarterly in arrears. There is also an additional payment of up to £1,000 as an 'SFI Management Payment' of £20 per hectare, for the first 50ha of land entered into the scheme.

Countryside Stewardship (CS)

<https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2023/04/12/countryside-stewardship-delivering-for-farmers-and-the-environment/>

Countryside Stewardship provides financial incentives for farmer, foresters, and land managers to look after and improve the environment. It aims to protect and enhance the natural environment by increasing biodiversity, improving habitats, expanding woodland areas, improving water and air quality and natural flood management. The main offers in CS are CS Higher Tier, CS Mid-Tier and Wildlife Offers, CS Capital Grants and CS Facilitation Fund. Agreement lengths depend upon the offer chosen, actions can vary in length from 3,5 and 10 years.

Capital Grants

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-grants-2024/applicants-guide-capital-grants-2024--2>

Capital Grants are available as part of a Mid-Tier or Higher-Tier Countryside Stewardship and / or standalone. The Standalone option does not require a CS land-based agreement. New agreements have three years to complete the capital works. Standalone Capital Grants are available with a rolling application window. The Capital Grant offer provides capital item agreements that deliver environment outcomes within four groups, boundaries, trees and orchards; water quality; air quality and natural flood management. There is no limit to the value of capital items in these groups. There are currently 70 options

available. The [grant finder](#) can be used to search through options for both a CS and Standalone agreement.

Animal health and Welfare pathway

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-health-and-welfare-pathway/animal-health-and-welfare-pathway>

The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway was launched in 2023. The pathway provides improvement in farm animal health and welfare by reinforcing 3 stands; financially rewarding farmers who deliver public goods, stimulating market demand for high welfare products and strengthening the regulatory baseline. A list of priorities for each sector have been set out to achieve the primary goal of improving farm animal health and welfare. The pathway has four funding programmes: Annual Health and Welfare Review, Animal Health and Welfare Capital Grants, Disease eradication and control programs, and a payment by results programme. All details can be found using the link above.

The farming equipment and technology fund

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-fetf-2023>

The fund has closed for 2023 but could be worth looking at for the next round of funding which supports small grants for equipment based around specific themes. 2023 themes were for productivity and slurry items alongside animal health and welfare items. For more details of on going and future grants please see the [farming investment fund page](#).

Slurry Grants

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/slurry-infrastructure-grant-round-2-applicant-guidance/about-the-slurry-infrastructure-grant-round-2-who-can-apply-and-what-it-can-pay-for>

The slurry infrastructure grant round 2 closed on 17th January 2023, but there will be further rounds. The grant is available to help replace, build additional, expand or cover existing slurry stores to reach the grant storage requirements. The grant is only available for slurry stores located in England. The grant will also fund items to help you manage your slurry store, such as reception pits, slurry pumps and agitators. For round 2, you can also get a grant towards slurry separators. The grant will pay for the 'reference cost', estimated by the online checker or, 50% of the total invoice costs. Full details of reference costs can be found [here](#).

Calf Housing for Health and Welfare grant

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farming-investment-fund#calf-housing>

The Calf Housing for Health and Welfare grant is available to the beef and dairy sectors. The grant aims to improve the health and welfare of calves (up to 6 months old) by providing a good environment and facilitating social contact through pair or group housing. The online checker is now closed. However, for more information about support please see the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway. Further rounds could come out in the future. Look out for the DEFRA Blog announcements.

Water Management Grant Round 2

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-management-grant-round-2/about-the-water-management-grant-round-2-who-can-apply-and-what-the-grant-can-pay-for>

Round 2 has now closed. The grant funded projects that improve productivity, water sustainability and the environment. More information about what was previously funded can be found using the link above. We are likely to see future rounds of grant.

Improving Farm Productivity Round 2

[Improving Farm Productivity grants: get ready for Round 2 - Farming \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

The grant is open to all farmers and horticultural business. The next round is expected to open in January 2024. It will pay for capital items to improve farm and horticulture productivity through, the use of robotic and automated equipment and systems to aid crop and livestock production as well as the installation of solar equipment to increase energy resilience and the take-up of renewable energy generation on farm.

Woodland Creation and Tree planning

Mersey Forest offer and number of schemes to land owners across the region to get grants towards the planting of trees. <https://www.merseyforest.org.uk/support-we-offer/woodland-advice-and-grants-for-landowners/> The grants cover up to 100% of the project costs and 15 years of Maintenance programme.

They also provide support for communities and schools <https://www.merseyforest.org.uk/support-we-offer/funding-and-resources-for-communities/> .

Defra through the Forestry Commission also offer a number of grants for trees including management plans and woodland creation. Full details of the grants available can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/woodland-grants-and-incentives-overview-table/woodland-grants-and-incentives-overview-table>