

Environment and animal health and welfare

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026...
Tests and Trials	Continuing				
Sustainable Farming Incentive	Piloting Early rollout of scheme begins Learning from rollout & implementation				
Local Nature Recovery	Piloting Early rollout of scheme begins Learning from rollout & implementation				
Landscape Recovery	Phased rollout Learning from rollout & implementation				
Farming in Protected Landscapes	Applications open				
Woodland Planning Creation Grant	Open			Incorporated into environmental land management schemes	
England Woodland Creation Offer	Open			Incorporated into environmental land management schemes	
Tree Health	Piloting Existing Countryside Stewardship grants ongoing			Incorporated into environmental land management schemes	
Countryside Stewardship agreements, Wildlife Offers and Capital Grants	Applications open annually until 2023 for 2024				
Animal Health & Welfare Pathway	Applications open				

New prosperity and productivity funding

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026...
Future Farming Resilience Fund	Applications open				
Farming Investment Fund (including slurry investment)	Several rounds of funding over this period				
Farming Innovation Programme	Several rounds of funding over this period				
New Entrant Support Scheme	Piloting				

Direct payments, lump sums and delinking

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026...
Phase-out of Direct Payments	Reductions				Phase-out complete 2027
Lump sum exit scheme	Open				
Delinked payments	Delinking				Ends 2027



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Farming is changing



Farmers and land managers will be rewarded for doing even more to improve the environment whilst producing high quality food and other products.

Find out more about the changes and how you can get involved by visiting <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk>

Content provided for information purposes in May 2022, and may be subject to change as policy is developed. Check our blog for the latest updates and to find out how you can get involved. <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk>



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May 2022

Environment and animal health and welfare

Tests and Trials

So far, 3,000 farmers and land managers covering a range of different geographies, sectors and farm types have taken part in tests and trials to help us understand how the building blocks of the future schemes could work in practice.

Sustainable Farming Incentive

The scheme will pay for environmentally sustainable land management actions that all farmers can do, such as soil and livestock management, integrated pest management and fertiliser use. The scheme will expand to a full range of options and support by 2025.

Eligibility: Initially available to farmers in receipt of Basic Payments. Later the scheme will be opened up to all farmers, including those not currently in a scheme. In the future we expect most of our farmers will be in this scheme.

Local Nature Recovery

For actions that support local nature recovery and deliver local environmental priorities; making sure the right things are delivered in the right places. The scheme will also encourage collaboration between farmers, helping them work together to improve their local environment.

Eligibility: A wide range of farmers and land managers.

Landscape Recovery

For long-term, land use change projects, including rewilding where appropriate. Activities could include creating woodland, restoring wetland and peatland, enhancing bogs, fens or saltmarshes, and creating nature reserves.

Eligibility: Large-scale sites, typically around 500-5000 ha, provided by groups of land managers, individuals, or organisations such as Non-Government Organisations.

Farming in Protected Landscapes

Projects that support nature recovery, mitigate the impacts of climate change, provide opportunities for people to engage with the landscape and cultural heritage, or support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses.

Eligibility: Farmers and land managers in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

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Woodland Planning Creation Grant

This grant provides funding to prepare a Woodland Creation Design Plan that complies with the UK Forestry Standard which can subsequently be used to support further woodland creation grant applications, such as the England Woodland Creation Offer.

Eligibility: Landowners, land managers and public bodies with woodland larger than 5 hectares.

England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)

Administered by the Forestry Commission, supports creation of new woodland, including through natural colonisation, on areas as small as 1 hectare. See: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/england-woodland-creation-offer>.

Eligibility: Owner occupiers, tenants, landlords and licensors who have full management control of the land in the application (or consent from those who do).

Tree Health Pilot

The pilot will trial new elements of a future scheme to support land managers and farmers in taking action against harmful tree pests and diseases. The pilot will offer different support to the existing Countryside Stewardship Woodland Tree Health Grants which will end in 2024.

Eligibility: The pilot is geographically targeted and will be delivered in London, the South East, the North West and West Midlands. Applicants will need to have an eligible tree pest or disease confirmed on their land by the Forestry Commission.

Countryside Stewardship agreements, Wildlife Offers and Capital Grants

Countryside Stewardship will continue to be open to new applications until 2023 (for agreements starting in 2024). This includes four Wildlife Offers available for Arable, Mixed, Upland and Lowland Grassland farms. The Mid Tier offers revenue payments and grants to protect and enhance the natural environment, in particular the diversity of wildlife and water quality. The Higher Tier is for more environmentally significant sites, commons and woodlands. A range of Capital Grants are also available to support improved water and air quality and for hedgerows and boundaries, and for woodland management plans and tree health.

Eligibility: Arable, livestock farmers, forestry/woodland managers, growers.

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Animal Health & Welfare Pathway Funding

Supporting farmers to produce healthier animals to the very highest standards of welfare.

Eligibility: Livestock farmers.

Annual Health and Welfare Review will support improved understanding of health and welfare issues on farm. It will enable farmers to receive bespoke advice on their animals and signpost other financial support to improve health and welfare.

Animal Health and Welfare Grants will help co-fund investments in equipment, technology and infrastructure that contribute to the Pathway's health and welfare priorities.

Endemics support will initially focus on controlling or eradicating targeted diseases and conditions amongst cattle, pigs and sheep.

Payment-by-results will reward farmers for achieving higher animal welfare outcomes.

New prosperity and productivity funding

Future Farming Resilience Fund

Advice and support for individuals and businesses affected by the removal of Direct Payments.

Eligibility: Any farmer or land manager in receipt of Direct Payments.

Farming Investment Fund – Equipment and Technology, and Transformation

For equipment, technology, and infrastructure that improves farm productivity and benefits the environment.

Eligibility: Farmers, foresters and growers (including related contractors).

What happened to the Slurry Investment Scheme?

Instead of delivering a new stand-alone slurry scheme from 2022, we are expanding the slurry offer via the Farming Investment Fund.

New prosperity and productivity funding

Farming Innovation Programme

Funding to support farming innovation and research to increase productivity and sustainability.

Eligibility: Farmers, growers, foresters and land managers.

New Entrant Support Scheme

To encourage new starters into farming.

Eligibility: To be developed in partnership with stakeholders.

Direct Payments, lump sums and delinking

Phase-out of Direct Payments

Progressive reductions will be applied to Direct Payments as we phase them out over seven years, starting with BPS 2021.

We have created a calculator to show how progressive reductions could affect your payment for scheme years 2021 to 2024 (<https://calculate-direct-payment-reductions.defra.gov.uk/>).

Lump Sum Exit Scheme

To help farmers who wish to exit farming, taking a lump sum in place of any further Direct Payments.

Eligibility: It will be necessary to have claimed, and been eligible, under the Basic Payment Scheme in a particular scheme year or years and meet other scheme rules.

Delinked Payments

We intend to replace the Basic Payment Scheme with delinked payments in 2024.

When payments are delinked, it will no longer be necessary to farm the land to receive payments.

Eligibility: Delinked payments will be based on payments during the Basic Payment Scheme 2020 to 2022 scheme years. Applicants must have also claimed the Basic Payment Scheme 2023.