



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 [defra.farming.blog.gov.uk](https://defra.farming.blog.gov.uk)

## Environmental land management schemes

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-2028
Tests and Trials	Started 2018				Ongoing
Sustainable Farming Incentive	Pilot applications open/piloting				Ongoing
Local Nature Recovery	Early rollout of scheme begins				Learning from rollout & implementation
	Piloting				
Landscape Recovery	Phased rollout				Ongoing
	Piloting				
Farming in Protected Landscapes	Starts			Ends	
England Woodland Creation Offer	Open (started June 2021)				Leads into future environmental schemes
Tree Health Pilot	Pilot applications open			Pilot ends	Leads into future environmental schemes
	Existing Countryside Stewardship Woodland Tree Health grants ongoing				
Countryside Stewardship agreements, Wildlife Offers and Capital Grants	Applications open annually until 2023 for 2024			CS will close for new applications in 2023 and lead into future environmental schemes	
Animal Health & Welfare Pathway	Applications open				
Slurry Investment Scheme	Applications open				tbc

## New prosperity and productivity funding

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-2028
Future Farming Resilience Fund	Applications open			Ends	
Farming Investment Fund	Applications open			Ends	
Innovation R & D Scheme	Applications open				Ongoing
New Entrant Support Scheme	Applications open				

## Direct payments, lump sums and delinking

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-2028
Phase-out of Direct Payments	Reductions start				Phase-out complete 2027
Lump sum exit scheme	Consultation	Applications			
Delinked payments	Consultation			Delinking	Ends 2027

Content provided for information purposes in June 2021, 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. [defra.farming.blog.gov.uk](https://defra.farming.blog.gov.uk)



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June 2021

# Environmental land management schemes

## 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 2024.

**Eligibility:** initially available to farmers in receipt of Basic Payments (BPS). 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.

## 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: [gov.uk/guidance/england-woodland-creation-offer](https://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.

## Animal Health and Welfare Pathway Funding

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

**Eligibility:** livestock farmers.

## Slurry Investment Scheme

Helping farmers invest to reduce pollution from slurry.

**Eligibility:** livestock farmers. Scheme may focus on locations where environmental impact of slurry is greatest.

# 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 & Technology, and Transformation

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

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

## Innovation Research & Development Scheme

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:** we propose that 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. We are consulting on these rules.

## Delinked payments

To replace BPS until the end of 2027. When payments are delinked, it will no longer be necessary to farm the land to receive payments.

**Eligibility:** we propose that it will be necessary to have claimed, and been eligible, under the Basic Payment Scheme in a particular scheme year or years. We are consulting on these rules.